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Designing with Tech Allows Teamwork to Thrive

Boardrooms are super important spaces in almost all businesses. They are the “make-it-happen” room – the place where employee bonds are strengthened, game-changing ideas are formed, and deals are made.

In order for boardrooms to meet these challenges, they must stay current, reflect the club’s brand, and keep up with the demands of today’s increasingly tech-savvy workers and clientele.

CONFERENCE ROOM DESIGN 101

Every boardroom should promote the company’s or club’s philosophy/mission, products and services. If it has a reputable history, it should be celebrated, acknowledging awards and milestones. Colors, acoustics and lighting should all carefully be chosen to represent the brand and support room activities. Furniture should also reflect the club’s look/style/brand.

A small area for coffee and refreshments is a necessity, as many meetings require “fuel.” When these design basics are overlooked, then employees and clients can find themselves sitting in an “I-could-be-anywhere-boardroom, USA.” What a lost opportunity!

In addition to these vital design tenets, there are the pertinent technological components. No modern-day boardroom is without some high-tech bells and whistles.

STAYING CURRENT WITH TECHNOLOGY

Complementing a well-designed meeting room with technology can foster meetings that are more constructive and creative, leading to more home run ideas, more productive employees, and more satisfied clients. Here are some examples:

Digital whiteboards provide a canvas for workers to explore their ideas without boundaries while recording everything written upon them. Having all of your brainstormed ideas noted on the wall and sent immediately out to attendees’ personal devices when the meeting is finished saves time and keeps records accurate.

Hands free, voice-control speakers, such as Amazon Echo, allow for more streamlined, uninterrupted meetings. For example, employees can save time by asking the speaker for solutions, or to define words, provide data or even read articles or business reports out loud.

It can be used to keep employees on task by memorizing and adding to a to-do list, which can be emailed out to all pertinent parties following the meeting.

Smart Glass technology can transform transparent windows or glass into opaque walls with the flip of a switch, allowing boardrooms the flexibility to be either open or confidential.

Boardrooms that are fluid and adaptable will easily meet the fluctuating needs of various users throughout the day. For instance, installing tunable white LEDs provides users complete control over the lighting in a space.

With a simple adjustment on an app, lighting can be adjusted to cooler tones, which increase employee concentration and alertness by mimicking bright natural light. Are you

meeting with a prospective client? Adjust the lighting towards warmer hues to create a welcoming, calming environment.

Ask Amazon Echo to dim the lights, change the music, drop the window blinds or adjust the temperature. And Sage window glass – smart electrochromic glass that becomes darker when sun is bright – eliminates the need for window shades entirely.

Need to change the aroma to lift the energy in the room, or to provide a calming atmosphere when negotiations are tense? Send a subtle mist of jasmine into the air to energize or lavender to calm, all via a remote control switch.

An adjustable sit-to-stand conference table can provide employees with wonderful health benefits and help them stay alert during meetings. Some conference tables even have ping pong nets that rise from the middle with the touch of a button

Give your employees a chance to work AND play together, and you’ll find that creative ideas will literally be bouncing back and forth.

Technology creates a more agile workspace that enables workers to have power over their environment, subsequently changing it to fit their needs or the needs of their clients.

This ability can make every space user a bit more positive and productive. And that’s good for the bottom line. **BR**

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