Case Study | Michigan Tech

Reception station with Contrada Tiles

Customer: Michigan Technological University
Keweenaw Research Center

Architect: Upper Peninsula Engineers & Architect

Designer: Harley Ellis Devereaux, amd Jennifer MacDonald, Trendway

Dealer: Office Express

Location: Houghton, Michigan

The Challenge:

- Create a light-filled, flexible work environment that supports the varied needs of clients, researchers, educators and students
- Create a place to host potential clients that is attractive, welcoming and projects a positive image of the facility
- Allow exterior views of the beautiful Upper Michigan landscape

The Solution: Contrada®, Trendway Seating, Intrinsic® Freestanding

The Keweenaw Research Center (KRC) serves many important functions for Michigan Technological University (Michigan Tech). It provides engineering research services for private and military customers. At the same time, it's a facility for teaching, collaboration and mentoring students.
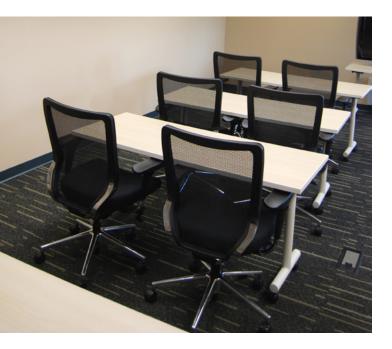
Trendway.

In planning the interior of the KRC's new facility, designers had to balance a wide range of user needs. "The design needed to focus on image to support visits by clients, make good use of natural light, and most importantly, support research efforts", said Jay Meldrum, Director at the KRC. The project includes a reception area, administrative offices, research space, conference rooms and areas for student design collaboration.

As a revenue-generating hub, the KRC hosts many client and potential client visits at the facility. The reception area is designed for visual impact to create a positive first impression. Contrada System components form the basis of the work station. Intrinsic Freestanding casegoods lend a distinguished ambience to the nearby Director's offices.

Trendway Designer Jennifer MacDonald understood efficient space utilization and the development of areas for sharing and mentoring. High-functioning executive conference rooms support professional consultative meetings. Smaller conference rooms in the research areas are designed around Choices mobile conference tables, allowing easy mobility for impromptu reconfigurations that encourage discussion, sharing of ideas, and collaboration — critical to research. Marker boards facilitate engagement and problem solving.

Versatile Choices training tables accommodate collaboration and mentoring by Senior Engineers. "Mentoring junior engineering students is a very important element of ongoing research and training Michigan Tech. students for private industry needs,"

Trendway.

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>
> *-Jay Meldrum*

Choices panels incorporate glass to expand access to daylight and exterior views.

says Meldrum. Choices freestanding, Code seating and Pack storage are used throughout the Center.

The 11,000-square-foot Engineering Design Center has an open office concept. Light and transparency are important factors. The layout utilizes low-profile Choices System panels incorporating glass to expand visual access to the full glass south wall and its picturesque view of the Keweenaw Peninsula, surrounded by Lake Superior. As Meldrum puts it, "we wanted to bring the Keweenaw into the facility". The design also allows the warmth of the sun to reach adjacent offices along the south wall – an advantage in an area where winter temperatures can go as low as 20 degrees below zero.

Practical concerns were just as important as design details. Trendway, Great Lakes Contract Group and Office Express handled the project from design to installation to ongoing customer support. "I was

so impressed by Trendway's designer, who worked seamlessly with our team to achieve a space that accommodates our business and engineering research needs", Meldrum adds. "This facility is an essential element of our business. Working with Trendway and their team assured this project shipped and installed on time."

Trendway.