



conference
rooms



glass
walls



A Fresh Start

Armstrong Teasdale, a legal firm with nearly 235 lawyers in offices across the U.S. and China, decided that they needed to upgrade their headquarters. They moved from a facility in which they had been for the past 20 years, into a newly constructed building in the heart of bustling, Clayton, Missouri. Working with NorthStar, the project manager for this endeavor, Innovative Technology Group (ITG) worked together with Armstrong Teasdale, the architect, and electrical and general contractors at monthly meetings and through negotiations. Once the integration planning was completed, the project was laid out into a tiered system. According to Tim Pyatt, Director of IT for Armstrong Teasdale, “The first few months of 2009, we worked on a theoretical design with a budget in mind and an idea on what we wanted to accomplish. ITG was chosen as a partner and did a very impressive job of walking us through our theoretical design, identifying areas where we might have

problems, helping us correct those areas, and working directly with our architects and construction company to make the room design a reality.”

Room Designs

In designing the new rooms, there was a strong emphasis on video conferencing and audio conferencing as a means of better accessibility for Armstrong Teasdale’s clients, as well as a way to reduce travel costs. With that focus being a key part of the technology plan for the new facility, five different room types were created to fulfill these needs.

The first room type is a very basic conference room with a flat screen and both HDMI and VGA connections. With a skyline backdrop surrounded by ceiling to floor windows, these rooms at times are a bit of a challenge with the sunlight, but

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easily fixed with classic, pulldown shades.

The next level of Conference rooms contain electric screens, projectors and wireless touch panels located at

the back credenza with audio conferencing capabilities and microphones in the tables. Although, these are just presentation rooms with analog and digital connections, they are almost always booked. Explains Greg Hardy, Account Executive for Innovative Technology Group, “One of the highlights of this room is the ability to hide the projector in a soffit cubby. The cubby has a hole cut out of it, so you don’t see the projector, creating a clean, finished look. This took significant coordination between ITG, the architect, the contractor, and the electrical contractor.” An access panel was added to the bottom of each casing to allow

ITG's QAP techs to get to the projector for service and bulb replacements.

Professional Integration Specialists

There is only one training room located on the 14th floor. This room is used by the training department to conduct new attorney training and administrative training. A 22" diagonal SMART podium was installed along with a DVD player, Crestron control, flip up touch screen to attach a laptop, a dedicated PC, projector and screen.

This was one of the last rooms to get completed because the core drills, where the computer tables were placed, were put in the wrong locations. The core drills had to be re-filled and re-drilled with concrete, but the general contractor had already left the project. To solve this dilemma, Innovative Technology Group stepped up to the plate, researching costs and contractors that could complete the job. Coordinating with Guarantee Electric, the holes were filled, re-drilled, and the project was finished on time. As Greg Hardy explains, "The training room turned out well and we were able to solve a problem for the client that wasn't even related to our scope of work."

Two, state-of-the-art video-conferencing suites are located on the 18th floor. They consist of dual, 65" LG LCD's, Tandberg C60 codecs, high definition cameras, analog and digital laptop connections, and microphones in the table. These are show-piece rooms that have allowed Armstrong Teasdale the ability to supply videoconferencing points for their Kansas City, Jefferson City, Reno and Las Vegas offices. "Since the installation, we have also moved forward with some Tandberg infrastructure products that will help them to reverse their firewall and network settings to do off-site calls with clients and other law firms more easily," explains Mr. Hardy.

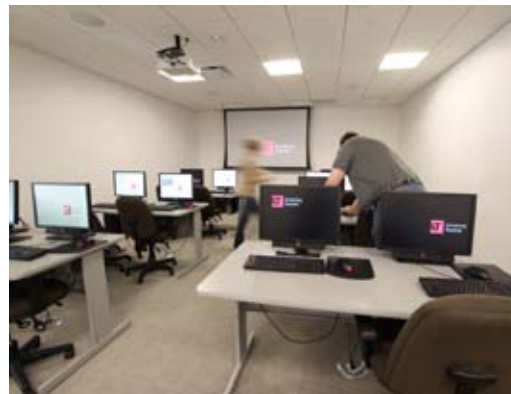
The final room is a large, multi-purpose media room with dual screens, dual projectors, videoconferencing and audio conferencing system capabilities. Wireless mics can be spread around the tables throughout the room, and a podium houses a Crestron touchpanel, laptop inputs, a dedicated PC, DVD player, and a mic at the podium which works for conferencing and in-room audio reinforcement. At the rear of the room is a second touch panel that can control the system. This allows the meeting to be run by a second party at the back of the room so the person at the front podium doesn't necessarily have to worry about running the technology. Integrated lighting and shade control is operated at the touch panel.

The Results

Armstrong Teasdale was the first to move into the 18 story building and has been functional since June 2010. Although the ideas seemed good on paper, the project has definitely seen some tweaking along the way. Explains Tim Pyatt, "ITG has been terrific with project managing and changing direction on the fly when we have changed our minds about something. They've been a very good partner, the rooms are beautiful, and we are glad that we made the decision to work with Innovative Technology Group."



presentation rooms with projectors hidden in the top cubby



training room



multi-purpose media room



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