

Let Your Office Furniture Speak For You

When people think about their business and all things that play a role in the success of the business, very seldom will anyone mention the office furniture. After all, office furniture is just - furniture, right? Inanimate - though useful - constructs meant to hold computers, files, prints and various accessories. It doesn't really do anything. Wrong. Think about it. Have you ever walked into someone's office to find a basic (and ugly) metal desk, uncomfortable (and ugly) foldout chairs for visitors to sit on and the standard (and ugly) metal filing cabinets? What was your first impression? Be honest - was it positive? Did you get the impression of "here is where important things happen"? Office Furniture Psychology Believe it or not, how your office looks plays a heavy role in how clients and partners see you and your business. It even figures in to how you see yourself. Drab walls, lifeless colors, flickering fluorescents and flat dirty carpet can overwhelm even the most cheerful, bubbly person. If this describes your office, it's time for an overhaul. A nice office isn't a luxury; it's a necessity, both for your productivity and the impression of success that you need to give your clients. Remember the office, described above, with nothing but metal in it? Metal is all well and good - in moderation. In fact, many modern/contemporary styles of office furniture use metal. However, when metal is used, it's generally in conjunction with other materials. Metal is cold; sterile; functional. In a medical lab, it makes a great statement. In an upscale business office, not so much. Quality furniture uses metal as an accent, with wood or glass as the main material. For instance, many modular desks have stylish, brushed-metal legs and supports, with warm, glowing, wooden tops. This type of furniture provides the viewer with a sense that the individual is modern, productive, professional and competent. Without a doubt, wooden furniture speaks of power. Deep, rich tones provide warmth to the office, while given the undoubtedly strong impression that "the buck stops here". Several types of wood, as well as different staining colors, gives wood the versatility to match any office coloring. Successful Furniture; Successful Office What does your office say about you? It's time to take an honest look around, from floor to ceiling and yes, include the walls. The walls are frequently overlooked, but the colors can make a lot of difference. For instance, soft grays, warm tans and silver blues are perfect for people who write, because they inspire deep thought and daydreaming. Carpets are also something to think about, and not just the colors. For functional offices, such as those in manufacturing facilities, you would want a carpet that cleans easily, such as Berber carpets. For high-end businesses, corporations, etc, a thick, plush carpet or decorated area rug can enhance the feeling of "success". The type of office furniture, it's said "you are what you sit in". One might as well include what you sit at and what surrounds you. When choosing quality furniture, you first need to decide what you want your furniture to say. For instance, slightly oversized furniture gives a definite impression of power and strength, while some modern furniture styles give the impression of productivity, forward thinking, etc. No matter what impression you want your office to give, decide before you begin the overhaul; you want everything to be a continuance of one theme rather than hints of several. Beautiful, lean lines, warm wood tones, clean desks, soft lighting - all can make a difference on how clients and employees see you. Let your office say "success"!

About the Author

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