

Columbus State University



The new home for Columbus State University's College of Education and Health Professions is the architectural embodiment of its role in the community. "An important goal of the interior design package is bridging the gap between the historically significant 1930s renovation and the larger addition. Color, finishes and furniture help to accomplish a cohesive, contemporary look while maintaining balance between the old and new buildings," stated Paul Gibson, architect at Barnes|Gibson|Partners.

GOALS

- Bridge the gap between the 1930s renovation and the new addition
- Create a cohesive, contemporary look
- Maintain balance between the existing and new buildings



STRATEGIES

- Provide unique product configurations
- Maximize natural light
- Use light wood finishes, neutral tones and slight pops of color

Kimball®

Named after a former CSU president, Frank D. Brown Hall anchors a prominent corner and acts as the “front door” of CSU’s expanded presence in Uptown Columbus. As such, it was critical that the building be vibrant and contemporary while still embracing Columbus’ rich architectural history. The College of Education and Health Professions fits perfectly into CSU’s vision of equipping their students to “be catalysts for change” in their communities; therefore, the complete presence of the building, including the interiors, needed to represent this vision.



In order to achieve a contemporary design, the furniture selected needed to meet this aesthetic requirement while still being completely functional for each of the specified areas. Kimball’s product portfolio gave CSU a breadth of products to choose from that would meet their design aspirations and maintain the overall appearance they wanted to achieve.



All the materials selected for these areas needed to be cohesive, while still being inviting to those who occupied the space. Maximizing natural light was also a big consideration in the design of the building. Pops of yellow and green color on the seating with the selection of the light wood finish on the desks helped magnify the effect of the natural light while contributing to the bright, welcoming feel of the building. The furniture provided by Kimball elevated the design of the interiors of the College of Education and Health Professions structure with a beautiful, vibrant product mix with complete technology integration built in.



“The faculty, staff and students really love the functionality of the furniture. The ability to re-position the pieces within the open areas and the built-in outlets for charging electronics are two features that support students’ use of the furnishings. Overall, the furnishings are an important part of creating the appearance and atmosphere that make faculty, staff, students and visitors feel energized.”

- Deirdre Greer, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Education & Health Professions at CSU