

Project Case Study:

Education – Clinton Middle School



Project Name	Clinton Middle School
Project Location	Clinton, Iowa
Building Type	Educational facility
Project Size	Two common areas
Project Team	Clinton Middle School
	Norix Furniture
Product List	Hondo Nuevo® Lounge Furniture



CASE STUDY

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DESCRIPTION

Clinton Middle School (CMS) in Clinton, Iowa is the educational facility for the town's 6-8 graders who go by the names of the River Kings and River Queens due to the school's proximity to the Mississippi River which is just a short drive away.

The town used to be home to two middle schools. But as the structures aged and it became apparent that they would need to be replaced, the school district decided to merge the two schools at a new location with new facilities.

The new building has a modern design, with a sleek metal exterior and an abundance of windows which provides illuminating natural light to the inside of the school. The facility was finished in 2014 and students and staff began using it in December of that year.



OVERALL PROJECT GOAL/PHILOSOPHY

With any new school, there is a need for new furniture. Although CMS had furnished most of the facility by the time they moved in, two areas on the ground level which serve 8th graders still needed products to help maximize the environment.

These spaces – which feature common areas surrounded by lockers and classrooms – are known as “learning pods.”

“We had two nice common areas in the learning pods that were aesthetically pleasing and we just needed furniture that matched the space,” said 8th grade math teacher Lori Lofquist, who was part of the leadership team that managed the merger of the two schools. “We wanted something different and something that the students could interact with.”

The common areas had the potential to provide students and staff multi-functional spaces that could be used for a variety of activities. But the right furniture product was essential in finishing the project.

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Aesthetic Goals – Lofquist said since the new school had a modern design on the inside and outside, they wanted furniture that matched that aesthetic and offered a selection of different hues. In particular, they wanted furniture that came in red and black – the school’s colors.

Functional Goals – To allow students to interact and arrange the furniture for different purposes, the school also sought out products that were modular in design and offered unique shapes and sizes.

Durability and Safety Goals – Since middle schoolers can sometimes be tough on furniture – along with the fact that the products would be in constant use – Lofquist said it was imperative that the school purchase pieces that were nearly indestructible and that featured rounded edges for safety and security. They also wanted furniture that was heavy and that couldn’t be easily moved or picked up by one person.

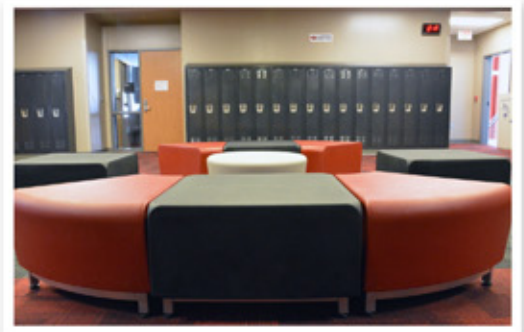
Sanitation and Cleaning Goals – Lofquist envisioned students sitting cross-legged on the furniture, scuffing it with their shoes and possibly even standing on it. For that reason, the school needed furniture that was easy to clean by janitorial staff and that could be moved with a little effort in order vacuum the carpet underneath the product.

SELECTION

In the early stages of the research process, Clinton Middle School Principal Dan Boyd conducted a variety of web searches for education furniture that was modular and modern.

“I came across Norix Furniture’s Hondo Nuevo® Series of Lounge Furniture and was impressed by the concept of durable furniture that was aesthetically pleasing,” Boyd said. “That was exactly what we were looking for, so we inquired.”

The Hondo Nuevo® series is a unique combination of superior durability, comfort and style and is available in several seat, bench and wedge options to create flexible modular seating arrangements. Molded exterior skin tops are attached with tamper resistant fasteners to a molded plinth, steel, molded wood grain leg or genuine wood leg base. It is made especially for environments such as educational facilities where durability, cleanability, flexibility and aesthetically pleasing design are a must.



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CONCLUSION

Boyd passed along the Norix information to Lofquist and the leadership team which requested a Hondo Nuevo® catalog and started conceptualizing what pieces to choose for the common area spaces. And after just a short period of researching the product, the team ordered Hondo Nuevo® cubes, wedges and ottomans for the common areas which students and staff began using in early May 2015.

"The furniture has completed those spaces," Lofquist said. "They are truly multi-functional spaces where students can socialize. But it's also a place where teachers can pull students out of classrooms and work with them in small groups on concepts that they may be having trouble with."

Lofquist also said the students are having fun with the furniture as well.

"Some of the students have come up with some interesting configurations," Lofquist. "It's allowing them to be creative with the furniture which is added bonus."



ABOUT NORIX

Norix designs innovative, robust furniture that meets the real-world need for humanizing challenging environments. For more than 30 years, the company has served the behavioral healthcare, corrections, higher education, fire/rescue, military, shelter, public safety and variety of commercial industries by providing uniquely reliable furnishings for every application. All furniture is designed for safety, security and extreme durability. Norix furniture is extraordinary by design, surpassing industry standards for strength, safety and long-term performance. Aside from its durability, Norix products also come in aesthetically pleasing designs and colors and are made especially for facilities that require furniture that can humanize their environments. The privately held company is headquartered in West Chicago, IL with consultative sales representatives and dealers throughout the U.S. In 2012, Norix launched Safe Environments, a news and information blog serving architects, designers, administrators and facility managers involved in the design, construction, and operation of challenging environments. For more information, call 800-234-4900 or visit www.norix.com.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Clinton Middle School - http://clinton.k12.ia.us/clinton_middle_school

Norix Furniture's Hondo Nuevo® Series - <http://www.norix.com/hondo-nuevo.asp>



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