Frameless glass office fronts foster collaboration, connectivity at Gensler Newport Beach

EXTENDO
A mobile, engaged and highly motivated workforce is essential to the success of professional service firms, so their office environments have become increasingly light and open to promote socializing and interaction, while also enabling them to build culture, mentor talent, and create and share knowledge.

According to the recent 2013 U.S. Workplace Survey by global design firm Gensler, organizations that offer flexible, “balanced” workplace options that enable collaboration in open spaces without sacrificing one’s ability to focus in private areas are seen as more innovative and have higher-performing employees.

Unique and visually stimulating environmental factors, including natural lighting, spatial layout and even decor, are also important to improving employee experience, productivity, engagement and motivation.

The abundant use of glass, including frameless interior sliding doors as office fronts, allows employees to integrate a variety of work settings into balanced workplaces that impact a sense of flow and openness between spaces, drawing upon natural daylight. The openness also extends to the open-air plaza, designed as a mobile work area with complimentary WiFi and plug-ins for laptops.

Maximizing Transparency and Views

To create a free-flowing, residential feel in their new home in Newport Beach, Gensler designed a wide-open office layout with social, learning and focused work areas to foster collaboration, inspiration and productivity. The design balances employees’ need for privacy with the benefits of natural light and expansive views to promote connectivity and creativity among the firm’s designers.

The efficient and open-concept floor layout integrates a variety of flexible options for focused work, collaboration, learning and socialization. It includes a design innovation lab, a circular resource library, a public gallery and café, and various informal meeting spaces, drawing upon an abundance of natural daylight. The openness also extends to the open-air plaza, designed as a mobile work area with complimentary WiFi and plug-ins for laptops.

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To help achieve its goals, Gensler Newport Beach relied on Extendo frameless sliding glass door systems from Klein USA as partition walls between the open public spaces and nine private focus areas. The specific Extendo frameless glass system selected to divide the interior spaces consisted of one fixed and two synchronized sliding half-inch-thick glass panels, with average widths of 40 inches and average heights of 100 inches. The telescopic glass door panels have a simple track at the top to provide a minimalist detail at the jambs and floors so that wall and floor planes provide clean continuity between the spaces.

“Maximizing transparency and views was very important to us, and the unseen detail of the jambs and floors so that wall and floor planes provide clean continuity between the spaces. The open public spaces open up to the environment outside and create a sense of flow throughout the workplace,” said Young. “It’s a very sophisticated and beautiful sliding glass wall that we felt supported the residential kind of atmosphere and feel that this was a big, open home for people to work in.”

Showcase for Creativity and Sustainability

The use of the Extendo telescopic sliding glass door system has been very successful in helping Gensler Newport Beach create a feeling of openness and transparency in their new creative workspace. It also contributed to the LEED Platinum certification that is being pursued for the building.

“Extendo telescopic frameless sliding glass door system allows for a wider opening by having a clear passageway without the use of a floor track.”

“Frameless glass doors also can create the impression of a taller, more spacious doorway than their framed counterparts, and expanses of glass in a room can make small rooms seem larger and more open.”

“Seeing the glass panel slide back to reveal another open room — similar to what you might find in your home — creates a lot of attention. It’s worked out very well for us.”

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