

Facilities Management Division
New County Office Building
Criteria for selection of Ethospace furnishings as new County Standard

Overview/History

Until recently most county agencies bought their own workstations through a variety of different vendors. Over the years this has resulted in a wide variety of different types of workstations, most of which are not compatible with other systems. To accommodate this mixture of workstations, the Facilities Management Division (FMD) was forced to stockpile many different brands and colors of workstations and cubicle partitions that required several thousand square feet of storage space.

Standardization

Due to the large accumulation of non-compatible workstations and partitions in storage, the FMD decided that an interchangeable, standardized, ergonomic workstation system was required. This would allow the FMD to dispose of the large quantity of non-compatible systems in storage and to begin a process to standardize the county's office systems. This process began with the recent remodels of the Prosecuting Attorney's office on the 4th floor of the Courthouse, the Assessor's office remodel on the 7th and 8th floor in the Administration Building, and the Domestic Violence program on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse. The standard that was used on these projects was Herman Miller's "Ethospace." "Ethospace" is a frame-and-tile system; structural steel frames define the work space, provide the foundation for hang-on components, and house electrical and data wires. Individual segments called tiles attach to the frames, allowing tremendous variety and control of the design and function of individual frames. Components can be selectively updated, changed, or rearranged with minimal disruption. "Ethospace" is made of 100 percent recyclable steel frames and the entire system is 78 percent recyclable,

State Contract

The Ethospace system has also been available to King County through several vendors on the Washington State furniture contracts that are bid on a regular basis. This will insure that King County is obtaining the best price.

Secondary Market

"Ethospace" has been around since 1984 and has created a large secondary market for both the steel frames and other components of the system. This will allow the FMD to not only procure new components, but also used components (mostly the frames) and a huge savings to King County.