KITS Collaborator

Understanding Current Education Design Trends

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR CONTRACT FURNITURE SALES REPS

The Importance of Educational Furniture Design

In this resource, we will introduce you to the dynamic and ever-adapting world of educational furniture by delving deep into current design trends. We are going to focus primarily on trends affecting K-12 as that's where we see the biggest revolution in approaches to teaching. This guide will also encompass some trends that apply to libraries, colleges, and similar spaces beyond K-12.

We hope that as you explore this guide you will gain insights into the needs of today's educational institutions through thoughtful explorations of current design trends. By understanding these trends, you can take that knowledge and effectively approach clients with solutions that meet their needs. All while using The KITS collaborator as a sales tool to highlight your design choices, and both show and sell.

There Are Always New Ways to Learn

THE CHANGING WORLD OF EDUCATIONAL FURNITURE

Education is always changing. Across the world, new curriculums and styles of teaching are always popping up in classrooms. New research is always being conducted into the way children learn and develop. It's an ever-shifting landscape of information. As teachers' teaching styles need to shift and adapt to meet this new information, so does the classroom furniture in the way we design for learning.

Many teachers rely on a well-designed classroom to make teaching easier. If the design isn't conducive to their teaching style, they're going to struggle, and so will their students. A good learning environment should allow children to both better focus on and retain the information they are learning.

As we go through this guide, we're going to highlight some aspects of educational furniture design that are always going to be included in any design such as functionality and flexibility. But we are also going to look at some of the more current trends that have only just become more regularly implemented.

Functionality is Always on Trend

While looking at the latest trends is an important key to understanding the educational landscape today, functionality should always be the main priority of any educational design. Ask yourself these questions:

- Does each piece you're adding to this design have a purpose that will be used by people in this classroom? Is this piece of furniture singular
- use only or can it be rearranged or used in other ways? Is this piece of furniture a necessity?

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By keeping functionality in mind, you'll design a classroom that is the most efficient version of itself. It's also important to think this way because schools are often limited in budget and typically need to justify each item purchased. Having products that are multi-purpose or that can be easily repurposed is an easy way to fit into their budget. Another key aspect of functionality is durability. Are these pieces going to last a long time? Will they stand to the usual wear and tear of younger children? These are all good things to consider when choosing a classroom furniture design that will be approved by school board budget holders.
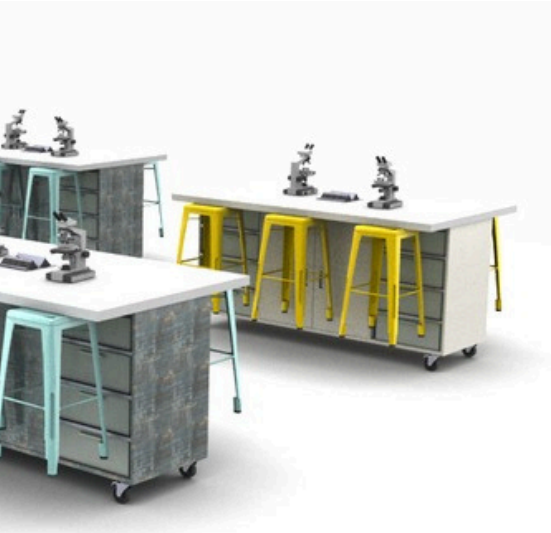
Flexibility is key

We've already talked about how teachers need to adapt quickly to new curriculums as well as new students. Their furniture should be able to do that just as well. Consider design options that allow the classroom to be changed in multiple ways. Some teachers may stick with the traditional rows of desks facing the front of the classroom. But other teachers will prefer to put their students into small study groups. And as teachers get to know their students, they may implement a mixture of styles, re-arrange groups and re-engineer how many students are in each space. Are the desks and chairs you're choosing conducive to this?

This doesn't just apply to chairs and desks though. Think about other pieces of furniture in the classroom, such as carpets, shelving, and other products. Do they have to remain in the spot where they are first placed? Will this classroom always be used for this purpose? Will it possibly be changed into a lab or even a study hall? Is the furniture you chose still able to meet the needs of those rooms? Look at pieces that are extremely flexible and allow teachers and other educators to quickly change them around to meet their needs.

The Latest Trends for Education Furniture Design

Keeping up with the latest education trends is crucial, as they can be long-lasting and impactful. Whether it's new or has been around for a few years, we predict these trends to remain relevant as education changes and shifts its priorities. It's important to familiarize yourself with these trends so you can better understand your clients' needs and provide solutions that incorporate them.

Technology Integration

Remote learning has become increasingly popular in recent years, with many schools adopting digital attendance even before the pandemic. This follows the trend of modern office spaces and other workplaces around the world. As we move towards a more digital world, it's essential to take this into account when designing learning spaces.

If you're designing a hybrid classroom, consider the technology necessary for its success. Should large monitors be installed so that teachers can share their work with students both in class and at home? Is there a need for a secluded area where teachers can take video calls from remote students? When preparing the classroom design, identify the optimum camera placement for students attending remotely.

Classroom Color Trends

Color is an important part of any design. However, there have been many studies on how colors can be used in the classroom. The creative use of color can help define zones or subjects within the classroom. We can combine color choices with the ideas of functionality when we use a consistent color to indicate a chair size or grade level.

Often in educational settings, clients are excited by the idea of energetic, bright colors, whereas neutral sometimes is more on trend to create a more blank canvas for classrooms as well as create a sense of feeling of home. You should also consider where the school is. If you're in a darker, rainier climate, the use of brighter colors can be a way to stimulate those coming into the classroom. But always consider budget and sustainability with your color choices. Avoid trendy colors that will be out of place in a few years. And consider how they work in conjunction with colors throughout the rest of the building.

Sustainability

Sustainability has been a major trend across all workplaces and industries in the last few years. It's a way to design for the future and be mindful of the resources of today. You could design with sustainability in mind by choosing sustainable resources when selecting your products and working with manufacturers who have made pledges themselves towards sustainability. Also, consider the incorporation of nature in some aspects of the classroom.

Library Evolution

Librariesthesedays are learningtoadapt to the new needs of today's students.

Traditional libraries are being changed into more collaboration-focused spaces and are seen as a place for groups of students to meet and work on projects together. Many students see libraries these days as a sort of learning commons for them to meet with their fellow students. As well, libraries offer more resources than just books these days. Students can loan laptops and take advantage of tools like 3D printing. Libraries have become more future thinking and so must your designs.

When designing a library, consider creating more spaces for students to meet with others to have a more comfortable environment to collaborate in. Consider larger seating options that encourage discussion. Consider the acoustics of the space as well. If groups of people are meeting here to work together, maybe they should have a space that is a little more separated from the rest of the library. Or consider things such as work pods and soft dividers to absorb sounds.

Versatile Seating

As students grow up, they're looking to have more casual interactions with their fellow classmates. Throughout higher education, it's already common to see large sitting areas where students can meet and catch up with their friends. Consider bringing this sort of element into some of the younger grades as well, especially in later elementary. Consider furniture that supports quiet study, group discussions and relaxation. Many people are looking for a sense of home in the workspaces in school, and choosing versatile seating like this is a way to have that.

Understanding Your Client's Needs: Questions and Considerations

To be ableto design a space effectively for your client, make sure you come in with some key questions and considerations for them. This will ensure that the space you create does meet their needs and there is less confusion and back and forth as you go through the design.

Here are some of the questions that we think you should bring to a client meeting:

- **What is the space being used for?** Will that need to change quite often? – Determining how flexible the space needs to be will greatly inform the design of the space. It can help you choose the best products to meet the multiple needs of the space while staying within the budget.

- **How many people will be using this space?** Does that number change often? – Changing class sizes is common in schools. You want to make sure that you can design adequately for the space and ensure everyone is comfortable and ready to learn.

- **What are some issues that your staff currently has when teaching students?** - This is a great way to introduce some of the trends you've been learning about. If teachers are having trouble keeping students focused, maybe there needs to be some consideration about the colors used in the room. Or maybe there is some other form of stimuli grabbing their attention? By asking your client this you are showing how you can provide solutions and show that you are here to be a problem solver.

- **What responsibilities do you have to the budget team** - will you need to show multi- use pieces, durability, or that your furniture reflects a certain educational philosophy?

Understanding Your Client's Needs: Questions and Considerations Continued

- **How does this space need to be integrated into the existing school, or is it the model for what will be later renovated? -** This can ensure how permanent this design needs to be and gives yet some more consideration to how flexible the design needs to be.

- **What grades is this space being used for?** - By learning about the age of the students who will be using the room you're designing, you can get a better idea of how durable your room should be. If you're designing for younger students, you probably want to pick some pretty durable furniture that can stand up to some scuffs and wayward art supplies. But when designing for an older age group, you want to make sure that the chairs and desks are designed to accommodate larger bodies.

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Empowering Education Furniture Design with The KITS collaborator

The trends shaping education furniture design have taken a prominent role in proposals for innovative learning environments. Like trends seen in other sectors, these design shifts, which have emerged during challenging times, are proving to be long-lasting. By strategically incorporating and leveraging these trends, designers can create educational facilities poised for sustained success, easing the constant demands on our education systems.

With tools like The KITS collaborator, you can seamlessly integrate these trends and critical considerations into your designs. Collaborating directly with educational clients, you can ensure that the spaces you create are well-prepared to meet future educational needs while remaining inviting environments conducive to learning. You can even involve your client in re-specifying and honing in on their design proposal with them.

Furthermore, by utilizing The KITS collaborator, you gain access to top educational furniture catalogs, digitally. You can easily present and showcase these designs on the go, leveraging modern visualization tools like AR, VR, and high-quality renders to bring your vision to life.

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Conclusion

As education continues to transform to meet the evolving needs and preferences of students and educators, our exploration of design trends in educational furniture becomes your compass for informed choices. This whitepaper has illuminated the profound impact these trends can have on the spaces where you learn, whether in classrooms, libraries, or beyond.

With these insights, you're now equipped to make strategic decisions. The KITS collaborator isn't just a tool; it's your partner in creating vibrant, effective, and innovative learning environments. From trendy classrooms to cutting-edge libraries, The KITS collaborator empowers you to shape the future of education with style. Together, we're crafting spaces that inspire and engage.

About The KITS collaborator

The KITS collaborator - Mobile Sales Platform was developed to meet the needs of today's office furniture sales professionals. Available on Windows and the Apple app store, The KITS collaborator allows navigate through digital catalogs from your favorite manufacturers and instantly create compelling proposals for your customer.

Give your client a seamless experience in which all possibilities are explored in real time, visualized, and summarized. And take advantage of modern visualization methods such as AR and VR to showcase your designs and product layouts. When you use The KITS collaborator, your clients can buy with more confidence - and with no surprises when everything arrives.

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Contact us today to talk about your project. You'll get no-obligation, no-nonsense advice from industry professionals to help you on your journey:

For more information visit:
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