

### MEET B.DIGITAL

**WELCOME** to the first issue of a refreshed Delve for a fresh new year!

Brandi Hoffman here, founder of B.Digital, a digital marketing agency for the commercial interiors industry. And, starting as I type these words, Editor-in-Chief of Delve Magazine! To say our team is excited to be at the helm of our favorite industry publication would be an understatement.

We've been fortunate to partner with the team at My Resource Library on a variety of initiatives over the past three years, like their social media presence, the library's version 6.0 user experience, and the brand new mobile app that you can read more about on page 23! Trusting us with Delve is an honor and we hope to make them proud with our inaugural issue.

Delve's new, more interactive experience is a perfect fit for our team's digital expertise and a fun way to celebrate the industry we love so much. 2025 actually marks 20 years since I started my career in contract furniture, working in order entry at Jofco. Little did I know then that my first full-time job would be the first step in becoming a full-on furniture nerd!

I founded B.Digital in July 2021 to help our industry connect with people in a way that's digital, yet meaningful. And that's exactly what we're setting out to do with this new Delve via insights, inspiration, and more, connecting you to the industry in true MRL fashion: with an innovative, tech-forward experience.



L to R: Brandi Hoffman, Erica Fleck, Heather Wigand, Morgan Elmes



#### **DELVE ON IN.**

WE CAN'T WAIT TO HEAR WHAT YOU THINK!

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#### 2025 Trends Forecast

It's a brand new year, so we're exploring design trends and sharing insights to inspire your 2025. Regardless of your specific role in the industry, there's a little something here for everyone!

Our cover story discusses the increased demand for hybrid collaboration spaces, featuring Versteel's solution to this need: the new Troupe Media Wall.



Read the story on page 12  $\rightarrow$ 



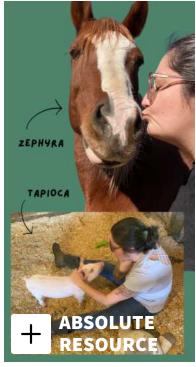
## Celebrating the Power of

## CONNECTION

Our industry runs on the relationships we create and maintain, so join us in exploring the fun ways our readers stay connected. Want to be featured? Send your images and info to Abby Koesterman at abby@myresourcelibrary.com!







## WELCOME TO THE LIBRARY









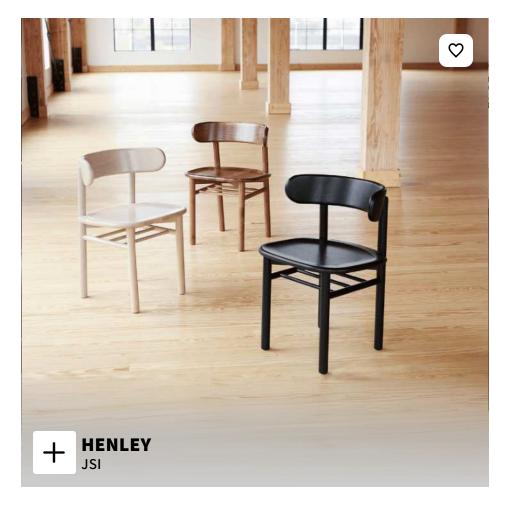




## LATEST PRODUCTS

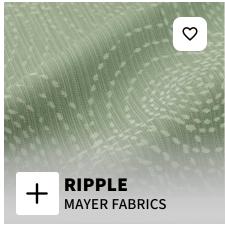
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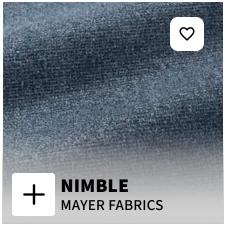
See something you love? Tap the heart to curate a collection of products that you'd like to request a sample of or more information!

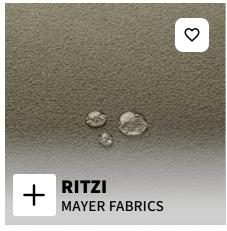




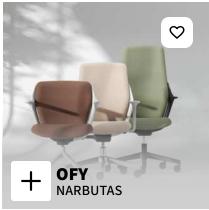




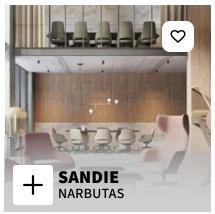




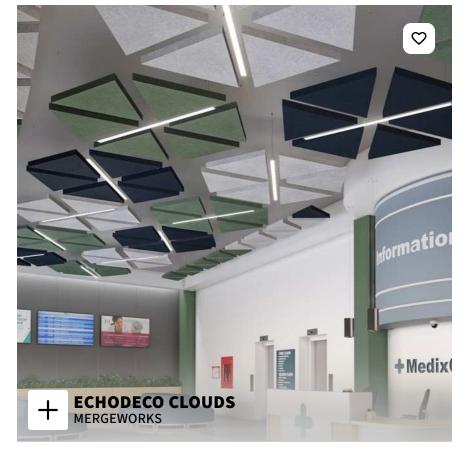




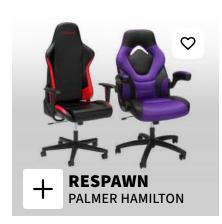


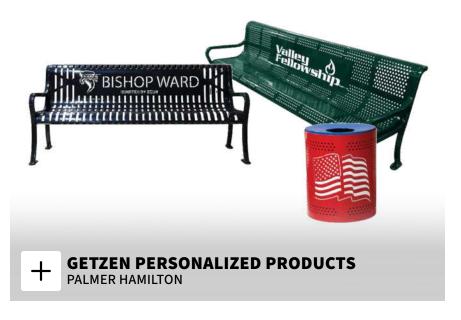


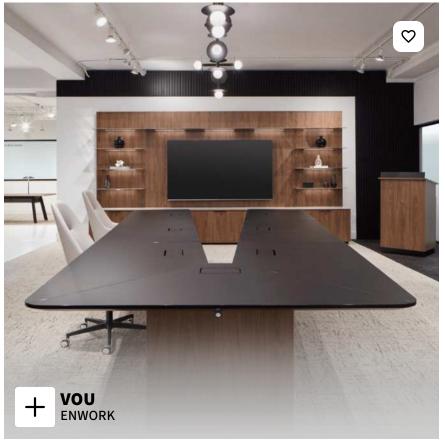








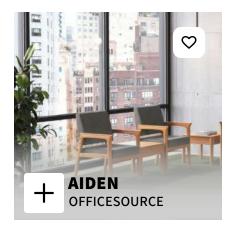


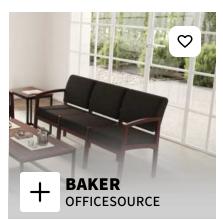


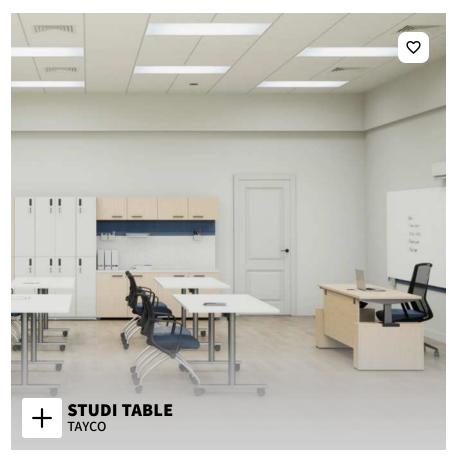


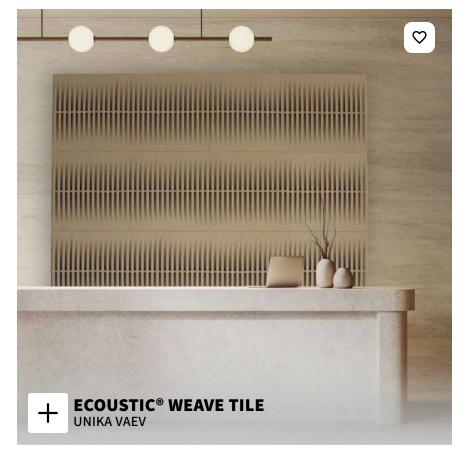
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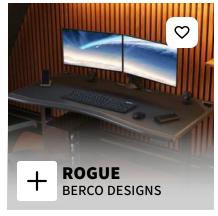


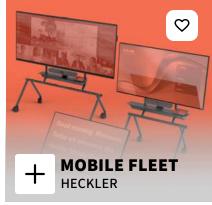


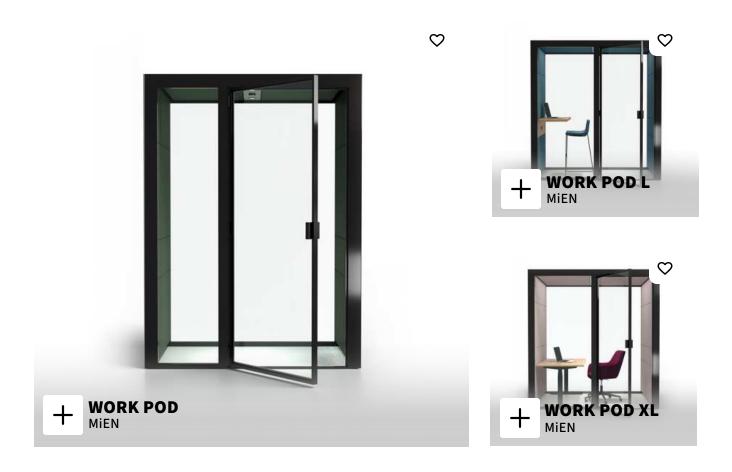


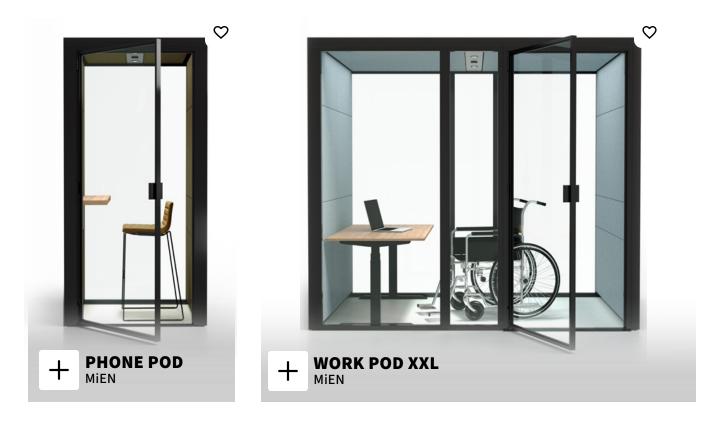














## The Shift Toward Collaboration-Focused Design

#### In the evolving landscape of workplace design,

creating spaces that foster collaboration and human connection have become more important than ever. The workplace is no longer just a place to work; it's a hub for interaction, innovation, and teamwork.

As organizations encourage employees to return to the office, they face the challenge of making the workplace more attractive than remote work.

Collaboration spaces are a key incentive, as they provide opportunities for in-person interaction and the kind of spontaneous idea sharing that virtual meetings often lack.

**VERSTEEL'S ANSWER TO THIS NEED** 

The latest member of the ever-expanding Troupe family, Troupe Media Wall is a fully freestanding collaboration hub that breaks away from the dependency of walls, balancing division with a strong sense of community to facilitate brainstorming sessions, presentations, hybrid meetings, and more. Designed by Qdesign exclusively for Versteel, Troupe draws inspiration from the tradition of forging and shaping steel, featuring tapered legs with a distinct

profile that can be highlighted with a two-tone or monochromatic finish. Available in three table heights and two top shapes, Troupe Media Wall is a versatile solution for a variety of meeting styles and environments.



#### **ENHANCING HYBRID COLLABORATION**

With hybrid work becoming the norm, creating spaces that enable seamless collaboration – both physical and virtual – is critical. In fact, Gensler's research has revealed that a staggering 60% of in-office meetings now include remote attendees, underscoring the importance of tech-enabled spaces to support hybrid collaboration.

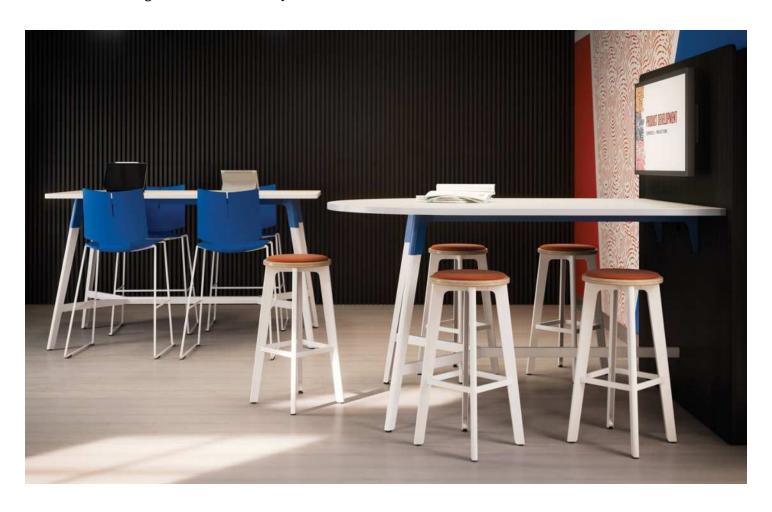
Troupe Media Wall's robust wall panel is engineered to support mounted monitors with ease, bridging the gap between in-person and remote employees so hybrid teams can work together more effectively.

Versteel's Troupe Media Wall is more than just a piece of furniture; it's an investment in elevating the workplace experience for better connected, more productive teams.

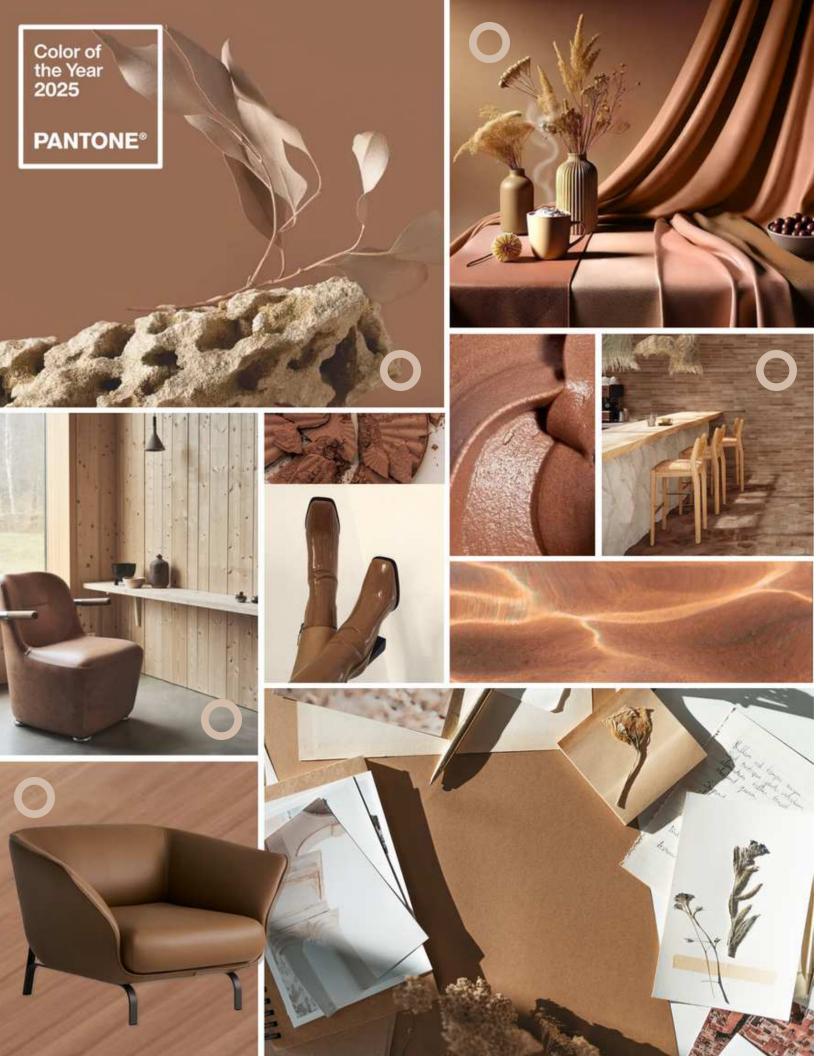
Learn more about Troupe Media Wall on Versteel's website.

Reference:

"The Shift to Extremes: Rethinking Office Design," Gensler



## VERSTEEL







#### The evolution of interior design trends is a

fascinating journey through time, reflecting cultural shifts, technological advancements, and changing tastes. From the opulent Art Deco of the 1920s to the minimalist aesthetics of the 21st century, each era has left its mark on how we decorate our living spaces.

In the 1920s, the Art Deco movement brought bold geometric patterns, luxurious materials, and vibrant colors into homes, symbolizing the optimism and prosperity of the post-World War I era. This was followed by the more subdued and functional designs of the 1930s and 1940s, influenced by the Great Depression and World War II. The 1950s saw a return to exuberance with the Atomic Age, where futuristic designs and bright colors became popular.

The 1960s and 1970s introduced a mix of styles, from the psychedelic patterns and bold colors of the counterculture movement to the earthy tones and natural materials of the back-to-nature trend. The 1980s were characterized by excess and opulence, with bold colors, metallic finishes, and a mix of historical styles. In contrast, the 1990s embraced minimalism, with clean lines, neutral colors, and a focus on functionality.

The early 2000s saw a blend of styles, with a growing emphasis on sustainability and eco-friendly materials. The rise of technology also influenced interior design, with smart homes becoming more common. Today,

trends continue to evolve, with a focus on personalization, comfort, and sustainability. Biophilic design, which incorporates natural elements into interiors, is particularly popular.

Predicting when trends will re-emerge is challenging, but there are patterns. Interior design trends often cycle every 20-30 years, influenced by nostalgia and a desire for reinvention. For example, the mid-century modern style of the 1950s and 1960s saw a resurgence in the early 2000s. Similarly, the bold colors and patterns of the 1980s have recently made a comeback.

Several factors contribute to the re-emergence of trends. Nostalgia plays a significant role, as people often look back fondly on the styles of their youth. Economic conditions also influence trends; during times of prosperity, bold and luxurious designs are popular, while economic downturns often lead to more subdued and functional styles. Additionally, advancements in technology and materials can bring old styles back into vogue with a modern twist.

Looking back on how trends influenced my design career; I was born in 1975 and graduated from design school in 1998, I experienced the vibrant and eclectic styles of the 1970s and the minimalist, functional designs of the late 1990s.

In 2025, I hope to notice several trends from my childhood and design education re-emerge, refreshed

for modern tastes. I tend to be drawn to the more architectural elements, and enjoy pops of color in art within a space, and nature peeking through a large expansive window.

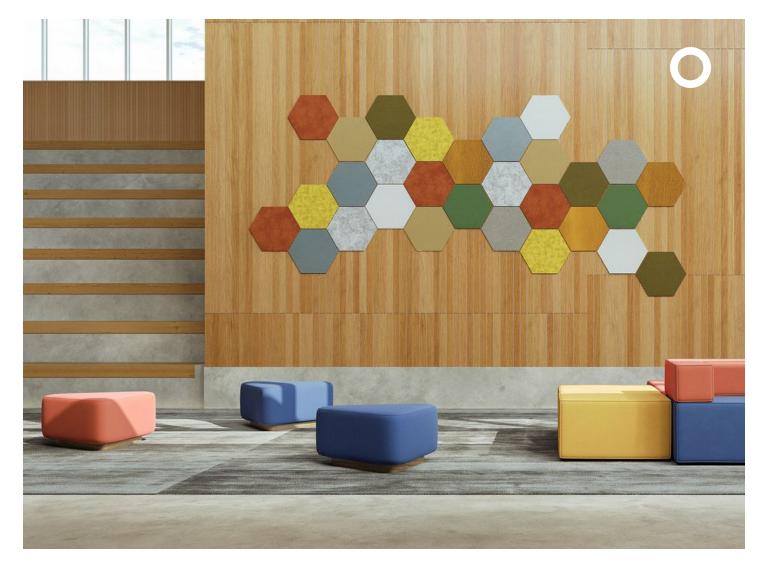
From the 1970s, expect to see bold colors, geometric patterns, and natural materials making a comeback. These elements are often updated with contemporary twists, such as sustainable materials and modern technology. The earthy tones and natural textures of the 1970s are being reimagined with a focus on biophilic design, incorporating more plants and natural light into interiors.

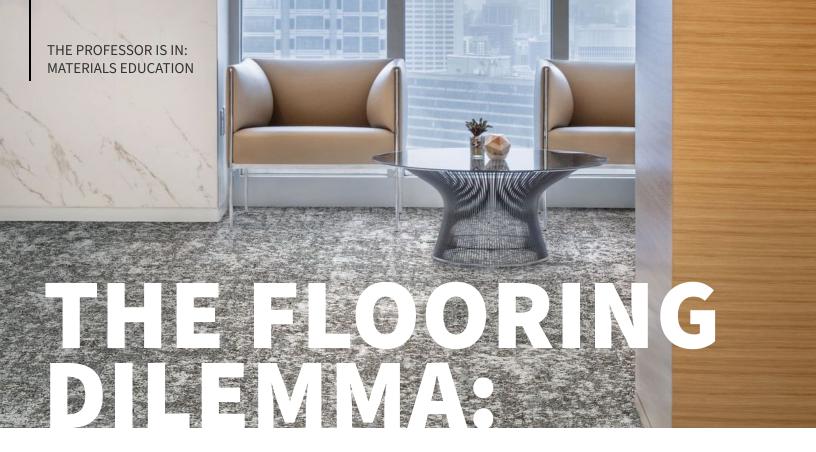
From the late 1990s, the minimalist aesthetic continues to influence modern design. Clean lines, neutral color palettes, and functional furniture remain popular, but they are now combined with a

greater emphasis on comfort and personalization. The minimalist trend is also being refreshed with warmer tones and more textured materials, moving away from the stark. cold minimalism of the past.

As we move forward, it will be interesting to see how past trends are reinvented to meet the needs and tastes of future generations. Looking forward to seeing what trends are revealed in the New Year - Wishing you all a delightful and prosperous 2025!







#### COULD THERE BE A BETTER WAY?

By Stephanie Sickler, Florida State University & Helen Turner, University of Kentucky

Early research in the 1980's indicated that carpet flooring in healthcare environments was far more contaminated with bacteria and pathogens than vinyl flooring (Anderson, Mackel, Stoler, & Mallison, 1982). Research in the 1990's countered with human-centered research asserting that more injuries were sustained by aging patients in rooms with vinyl than in rooms with carpet (Healey, 1994). Research in 2010's found that indoor air quality was compromised, and airborne bacterial counts were higher in rooms with vinyl flooring. Patients in carpeted rooms were more satisfied with their experience and less likely to be assigned at risk for falling, indicating the significance of indoor environmental characteristics relevant to patient care, satisfaction, and safety in patient rooms (Harris, 2017).

Each generation brings with it enlightening perspectives on material application, safety, and

human impact. Each wave of information adds to the conversation, but also creates a dilemma for those selecting flooring materials in critical spaces. For each study in favor of hard surfaces over soft there is a countering study advocating for the opposite. So how do designers determine which selection is best for their project? This is where assembling key stakeholders becomes paramount to making a single-perspective decision. For healthcare environments in particular, this cohort may involve users such as healthcare providers and custodial professionals. Because, as our experts at Mannington Commercial believe, flooring material performance is only as good as how the product is cared for.

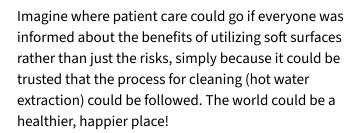
Sean DeVore, District Manager for Mannington, asserts that, "carpet cleaned at the same rate as hard surfaces will allow pathogens to be removed from the room in a closed system suspended in water rather than dusted around with a damp microfiber mop. Granted, if you do not clean the carpet properly it holds pathogens... that is the whole idea. If you do not clean hard surfaces,

then the pathogens go into the air and onto the patient. In this way, carpet acts as a filter for contaminants."

Sean informs designers and healthcare professionals alike that if the proper care is put into cleaning the flooring regularly, in the method recommended by the manufacturer, it will perform as it is intended. While there are some spaces that will certainly benefit from vinyl flooring, perhaps with some broad education, the flooring options for healthcare environments could be expanded to be more inclusive of other perspectives specific to the patient experience.

What if designers could positively impact the user experience in healthcare settings, promoting healing, positive behavior, and mitigating fall damage, simply by utilizing proper cleaning techniques for carpet?





Don't take old research for granted; stay up to date with the latest in materials education here in this column, The Professor is in: Materials Education for Delve Magazine in each issue.



#### References:

Anderson, R. L., Mackel, D. C., Stoler, B. S., & Mallison, G. F. (1982). Carpeting in hospitals: an epidemiological evaluation. Journal of Clinical Microbiology, 15(3), 408-415.

Harris, D. (2017). A Material World: A Comparative Study of Flooring Material Influence on Patient Safety, Satisfaction, and Quality of Care. Journal of Interior Design, 42(1), 85 104.

https://doi.org/10.1111/joid.12100

Healey F. Does flooring type affect risk of injury in older in-patients? Nursing Times. 1994 Jul 6-12;90(27):40-41. PMID: 8047456.

## DESIGNING THE

The Evolving Role of Interior Design Education in 2025

By Bryan D. Orthel, PhD, RID, NCIDQ, RA, NCARB, Indiana University

Interior Design education's value in 2025 is in actively preparing future designers to adapt to changing situations, consider what matters, think and decide with awareness, and communicate transparently and compassionately with each other. Interior Design education prepares us to work together to build society.

#### What matters to me, you, and us changes.

Shifting economic forces and societal concerns require adaption. Interior Design's core focus on the improvement and protection of human lives remains unaltered. Increasing professional recognition through stamp, licensing, and title laws matters. Public perception of Interior Design's social value remains complicated because many people do not recognize how Interior Design affects their lives. Interior Design educators prepare students to use their skillsets in new ways as the world changes.

Change requires awareness of who we are and why we design. When faced with changes, demands, and uncertainty, what guides an Interior Designer's actions? Core questions about sustainability, social



responsibility, care for others, and responsible business require us to reflect on our values. Interior Design educators prepare students to understand their own ethical framework and to work professionally in ways that respect the ethical worldviews of others.

**Technology continues to reshape how we think.** The tools we use to work—from pencils to mice to virtual reality headsets—shape how we understand the problems we are solving. Teaching students to design requires helping them understand foundational design

actions, as well as how to control the tools and technology they use. As artificial intelligence and software enable rapid decision making, Interior Design educators prepare students to fluidly make decisions. Designers have more information than ever to consider. Interior Design educators prepare students to continue learning and making decisions with care, even as technology reshapes what we can do.

We build social structures by communication across cultural, generational, and social gaps. We are responsible for our decisions and communicating what we have done with project partners. Communication in words, graphics, and dialogue has increased significance when decisions are about worldviews more than hue or size. Communicating with compassion, thoughtfulness, and genuine interest in dialogue requires care about other people. Interior Design educators prepare students to communicate thoughtfully and with awareness of the larger purposes of dialogue.





#### **IDEC INSIGHTS**

The hundreds of Interior Design educators preparing future designers are deeply committed to providing quality, challenging, and consequential learning opportunities. We know how our students have changed over the years; we know how the profession has changed at the same time. Our classrooms and teaching innovate new ideas. We know what we do has implications for decades. We educate interior designers because the future world needs interior designers who adapt, think, decide, and communicate with awareness of the bigger picture.

Author Bryan D. Orthel, PhD, RID, NCIDQ, RA, NCARB, is Associate Professor of interior design and Director of the Interior Design Program at Indiana University Bloomington. In professional practice, he designed for commercial clients and communities. He is President-elect for the Interior Design Educators Council (IDEC), a former Chair of the Journal of Interior Design Board of Directors, and a former Director (and President) of the IDEC Foundation. He holds NCIDQ and NCARB certificates.

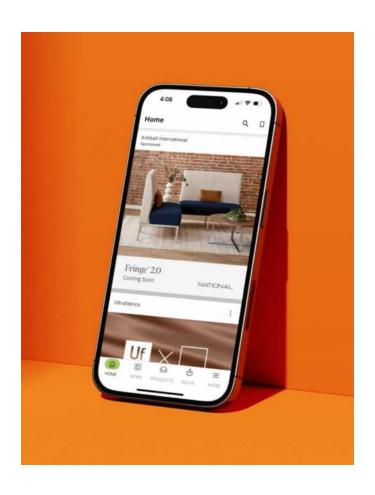






## YOUR NEW FAVORITE FEED IS **ALMOST HERE!**

My Resource Library has partnered with Riverstone to take a major step forward in keeping our industry informed and connected, while also helping declutter your inbox in the process. With the launch of the new MRL Media app, you will be able to access the latest industry news and product releases—anytime, anywhere!



What's this have to do with your inbox? Rather than sending bi-weekly industry news emails to users, the MRL Media app will provide a constant stream of press releases and new products so you can scroll through the latest updates whenever the time is right for you. And just like your social media apps, if you see something you love, you can tap to react to it, share with a coworker, or save it for later.

Products are linked directly to the library with an in-app browsing experience, making it easy to get all the information you need without jumping around between different apps.

You'll also find access to current and past issues of Delve Magazine, posts from the MRL team on their travels, and so much more.

Keep an eye on MRL's social media platforms for the official launch announcement this month!

"The MRL Media app represents a bold step forward in the contract furniture industry. It's more than just an app; it's a bridge connecting professionals to the latest trends, innovations, and resources in a streamlined, collaborative way. With MRL Media, we're not just keeping up with the industry—we're defining its future." — Jeff Carlson, Principal, My Resource Library

# CONGRATS ON GOING PRO IN 2024!







































On behalf of the My Resource Library Dealer team, we are honored to help you save time, streamline processes, collaborate with your team, and engage your clients in 2025 and beyond.









































## Getting to Know...

## CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTS INTERNATIONAL

Oahu, HI

Corporate Environments International (CEI) has been a go-to for commercial furniture in Hawaii and the Pacific Rim for over 25 years, specializing in modular interior wall construction and offering complete solutions for businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and more.



**CEI:** We went Pro because MRL Pro's features really simplify our work. It's amazing how it boosts communication and teamwork, keeps everything on track, and helps us hit our deadlines.

#### Delve: How do your team members use MRL?

**CEI:** Our Design, Project Management, and Sales/Account Management teams all use the Project Tool to keep an eye on client projects, manage design files, and make sure everything matches up with what the clients need. We also use Pro Notify to stay updated on any project changes or developments.



"MRL Pro Dealer has really transformed the way we work. It's made project management smoother and improved how we collaborate as a team. With its intuitive tools, we're more efficient and engaged with our clients, which means we can provide even better service. We're excited to keep exploring what MRL Pro can do for us!"

Delve: What key features of MRL Pro Dealer do you find the most beneficial to your daily activities?

CEI: Enhanced Search Features: These are a game changer for us! They help us quickly find products and information, which speeds up the sales process and helps us respond to clients faster.

**Sub-Libraries:** We use these to organize and manage different markets and contracts. They let us easily find contract-specific products and details, so we can offer the best options to our clients.

**Project Tool:** This is our go-to for internal teamwork. It helps us manage shared project files and keep everyone in the loop with real-time updates.

Contributors: Kathy Loui-Yasui, COO Bailey Faulkner, Community Relations Manager Kiana Yasui, Account Project Manager







## Getting to Know...

## **CONTRACT SOURCE GROUP**

Lake Orion, MI

### Delve: Tell us a little bit about how your rep group got started.

**CSG:** In January of 2005, owner Mike Bramson completed the acquisition of Contract Source Group from its former owner. In anticipation of this change in ownership, Mike had worked with the previous owner for several years, so he was already well known in the industry. As we celebrate our 20th anniversary, it is wonderful to look back and see all the ways we have adapted and grown to continually provide expertise and variety with the products we represent in the fabulous Michigan market.

#### Delve: How has the company changed over the years?

**CSG:** Our past has shaped us and strengthened us for the future. We have manufacturers that we have worked with for 20+ years, providing both traditional and modern furniture options. We also have newer manufacturers that are providing unique alternatives to workplaces and various vertical markets. We are always open to new products, because we take a lot of pride in providing the right products to our customers.

## **Delve:** What do you think is the secret to your rep group's longevity and success?

CSG: Relationships. Every member of our team has built relationships within the dealerships and end users we service. We understand the power of a positive relationship within those organizations, and we build on that. That can mean celebrating personal achievements with them or providing comprehensive service when an issue arises. We've built a reputation of always following through and providing the best possible outcomes.



## **Delve:** What makes you most excited about working in the contract design industry?

**CSG:** It is always changing. From cubicles to collaborative areas to hoteling ... there are always new ways to improve or enrich working spaces; which in turn helps improve people's lives. With the amount of time each individual spends "at work," it is important to provide them with a comfortable space, and those needs are everchanging.

#### Delve: How do you think your group will evolve over the next 5-10 years?

**CSG:** Ownership will change, as Mike Bramson begins the transition to retirement and his son Nick Bramson takes the reins. As is common, with this change will come new ideas and new ways of handling our everyday business. It will be exciting to see what changes happen within Contract Source group over the next five years.



#### Delve: If you could use only one word to describe your rep group what would it be?

**CSG:** Family. Every member of the Bramson family has worked at Contract Source Group at one point or another and currently it is Mike, his wife Laurie and his son Nick. But every member of our team is family. We fight like family, we love like family and we prevail like family. Because when it comes to family... you will do everything you can for your family.







## RECOGNIZING MRL ROCKSTARS

The MRL Star Program recognizes and empowers outstanding individuals who play a crucial role in maximizing the success of their organization through the expert use of MRL's tools and resources. MRL Stars are nominated based on their deep expertise, proactive engagement, and leadership in driving best practices within their team. Often from design, sales, or marketing departments, these highly trained users become platform champions—guiding colleagues, onboarding new users, and influencing both within their company and across the contract furniture community.

"We're excited about the launch of our MRL Stars initiative! This program provides a new way for us to connect and engage with the most active users of our platform, fostering mutual learning—where they gain insights from us, and we, in turn, learn from them."

## **HOW TO CUSTOMIZE YOUR VIEW** THE LIBRARY



You can find more tips and tricks in our learning platform,

Don't have access? Reach out to hello@myresourcelibrary.com



#### NAIRC ANNUAL MEETING

February 19-21 | Scottsdale, AZ

North America's top rep groups converge to learn and collaborate with each other to move the industry forward.





#### **DELVE SERIES:**

HEALTHCARE + SENIOR LIVING

February 23-25 | Scottsdale, AZ

Needs within this market are unique and life-impacting; and so will the content and conversations that are curated for this Delve Series.

#### March 16-19

IDEC (Interior Design Educators Council) Chicago, IL

#### April 26-29

EFA (Environments for Aging) Lexington, KY

#### May 5-7

Hospitality Design Las Vegas, NV

#### May 18-20

ICFF (International Contemporary Furniture Fair) New York, NY

#### June 9-11

Fulton Market Design Days Chicago, IL

NEOCON

June 9-11 | Chicago, IL



#### September 17-19

IFMA World Workplace Minneapolis, MN

#### September 28-30

Connexions

#### October 10-13

ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) New Orleans, LA

#### October

ACT Conference New York, NY

#### October 25-28

Healthcare Design Kansas City, MO

#### October 7-9

CET Experience Orlando, FL

#### November 9-10

**BDNY** New York, NY

#### November 3-8

ISG meeting Denver, CO

#### November 5-7

**EDspaces** Columbus, OH



#### **MRL MIXERS**

A bi-monthly webinar series designed to connect our community, provide updates, and engage in casual, informative conversations—don't forget to bring your own drink!

#### **Next Sessions:**

January 14 and January 16

**LEARN MORE** 



#### **BIFMA LEARNING SERIES**

BIFMA is providing live virtual learning opportunities on the 4th Thursday of the month at 12:00pm ET for designers, buyers, members, and anyone interested in topics that connect furniture to the built environment. There is no fee to attend.

**Next Session: January 23** 

**Topic: The Future of Senior Living** 

**LEARN MORE** 

FEBRUARY 2025:

## a Love Letter to the Industry



We might be biased, but we're pretty sure there's no better industry to be in! And we have a feeling you agree. So, next month's issue will be a heartfelt love letter to the industry we all love so much. To do this right, we need your help! We're inviting our readers to answer one simple question:

#### "What does the contract furniture industry mean to you?"

This is your chance to wax poetic about the industry that's captured your heart. Your quote (up to 200 words) could be from the heart, insightful, or even a bit playful—whatever best reflects your connection to our industry.

Please send your response to Abby Koesterman at abby@myresourcelibrary.com or through the button below by January 31.

We're looking forward to including your unique perspective in this special edition of Delve. Thank you for being part of the story!

**SHARE THE LOVE**