

South Washington County Schools

Case Study

East Ridge High School

Woodbury, MN



NATIONAL

Furniture with Personality®



Media Center/Library
Swift™ Seating and Tables

The Challenge

With over 372,000 square feet of efficiency and brand new everything, the one thing that administrators and contractors could not build or design into East Ridge High School is the culture. It was up to the students to establish their own identity for the new school nestled in the growing suburbs of the Twin Cities; however, the architecture and the furniture provided the foundation for the inspiring culture East Ridge High School radiates today.

The project challenges quickly turned to opportunities as the vision of the school principal and lead architect merged. Their vision was not only the lasting value of sustainable architecture, but a sustainable culture where camaraderie and academia co-exist for enrichment beyond the book covers. "Every time you work on a building, you try to do the best you've ever done," Paul Youngquist, Architect, stated. And according to Aaron Harper, Principal, "We weren't just building a school, we were building a community."

The Design Plan

Equipped with the latest in safety, technology and wireless connectivity, the interior design plan took advantage of architectural features such as an abundance of natural light and the "Main Street" concept which allows for efficient student flow and creates learning touchdown areas throughout the school.

In trying to balance a college-like atmosphere, where students can collaborate and socialize but still study, the touchdown areas were vital to creating this culture. Additionally, off the Main Street are Learning Resource Centers (LRC) that include classroom space complemented with small group meeting areas, computer stations and lab space. These open, transparently defined areas are key to the educational experience East Ridge delivers.

"The flow is great with no bottlenecks. And, faculty has said the new space has enabled them to interact with the students like never before," stated Youngquist.



Raptor Lobby
Reno® Seating



Main Office Waiting Area
Eloquence® Seating
Myriad™ Occasional Table

The Furnishings

With over 1,600 students and 115 faculty members to accommodate as well as a new culture waiting to take shape, East Ridge's furnishings had to create that campus feel that students could be proud of and want to use. With the advantage of being on the job for two years before the new school opened, Harper attended the annual office furniture mega-event looking for aesthetically appealing furniture with structural integrity. He visited a number of vendors to essentially "kick the tires" and "look under the hood."

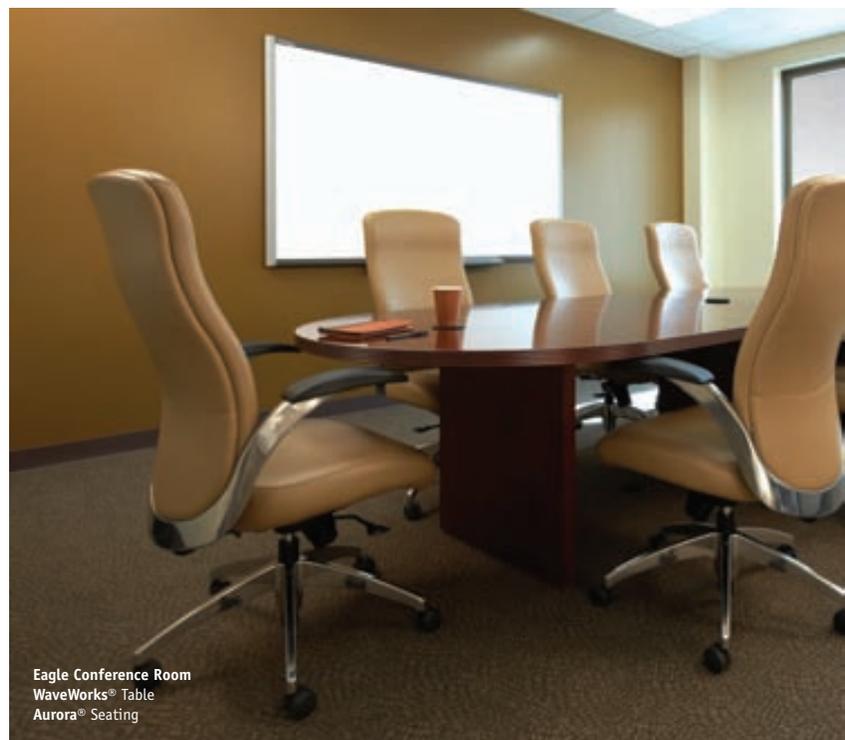
Sustainable attributes were also a goal of the project. The building and landscaping boast features such as 95% recycled steel, a tremendous amount of daylighting, transplantation of existing trees, and the use of native plants and infiltration basins for storm water filtering and reuse. National's environmentally-certified selections complemented these efforts. Understanding that furniture with a long life is also a sustainable attribute made the decision easy for Harper. As he stated, "We don't have the luxury to replace furniture in 5 years. So, longevity and durability are extremely important. I have an ethical obligation to select quality furniture. It was clear to me that National Office Furniture was the vendor we wanted to go with."

The rest is history, so to speak. With Reno lounges and Myriad occasional tables anchoring the LRCs, and over 60 feet of Swift modular lounge meandering along the media center's windowscape, it's immediately evident that students, faculty and visitors possess an incredible environment for a truly unique learning experience.

In professional and administrative spaces, professional is exactly the look they needed. Private offices, conference rooms and work areas outfitted with Casbah, WaveWorks and Chameleon not only provide the desired look, but offer users exceptional comfort and productivity for an ideal work setting. "I wanted these areas to be professional to honor the professionals working here and also set the tone for interactions with students and parents," Harper stated.



Learning Resource Center
Reno® Seating
Myriad™ Occasional Tables



Eagle Conference Room
WaveWorks® Table
Aurora® Seating



Assistant Principal's Office
WaveWorks® Casegoods
Mix-it® Seating
Respect® Seating



Corner Office
 Casbah® Casegoods
 Respect® Seating
 Eloquence® Seating
 WaveWorks® Table



Counselor's Office
 WaveWorks® Casegoods
 Mix-it® Seating
 Respect® Seating

“We tell the students, this is your furniture, this is your school; take pride in ownership of your school.”

- Aaron Harper, Principal

The Results

East Ridge believes that if you treat students with respect, they will act like young adults from the way they study to how they carry themselves in and out of school. The results are easy to see as students and faculty share ideas, stories and laughs as they lounge and engage among spaces and furnishings that promote collaboration. At National, we believe in building stronger communities and inspiring ideas, and that’s exactly the culture that has been created at East Ridge. We’re very proud to be a part of it.

“Similar to a corporate R&D center, the school’s layout enables students to learn about themselves and the world around them... and the furniture really brought it all together.”

- Paul Youngquist, Architect



Attendance Offices
WaveWorks® Caseloads
Chameleon™ Dividers
Fuel® Seating



Location

South Washington County Schools
East Ridge High School
Woodbury, MN

Architect

Architects Rego + Youngquist, Inc.

Size

372,000 sq. ft.

Scope

- Private Offices
- Open Plan Offices
- Learning Resource Centers
- Conference Rooms
- Media Center/Library
- Touchdown Areas
- Main Office Waiting Area
- Counseling Office Waiting Area

Products

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Casbah ® Caseworks | Chameleon ™ Dividers | Reno ® Lounge Seating |
| WaveWorks ® Caseworks | Aurora ® Seating | Swift ™ Lounge Seating |
| WaveWorks ® Tables | Eloquence ® Seating | |
| Eloquence ® Occasional Tables | Fuel ® Seating | |
| Myriad ™ Occasional Tables | Mix-it ® Seating | |
| Swift ™ Occasional Tables | Respect ® Seating | |

Ahead of the Class

NATIONAL

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