



The HON Company Brings an Executive Urban Feel to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's New Suburban Office

“Going green in style: We honestly didn’t think it was possible until we met with The HON Company. Their Initiate® panel system with Nature Core™ helped us achieve the look we wanted and the sustainability features we so desired. The system has truly exceeded our expectations.”

Shannon DiBari
Senior Vice President of Administration
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

At the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, things had become a little too close for comfort. So, close, in fact, that the world’s largest business federation decided to move some of its staff from historic Washington, D.C., to a little place called Crystal City, Va.

Although overjoyed with more room, the staff missed the cherry blossoms in the spring and the occasional glimpse of the President as he rolled down the window on a warm summer’s day. Sure, they would soon forget about the hectic traffic on Election Day in November, but there was something to say for D.C., in December. And, there was definitely something impressive about the Chamber’s stylishly modern Washington headquarters.

“The new building had to feel like a U.S. Chamber facility, even though it wasn’t physically in the nation’s capital,” said Shannon DiBari, U.S. Chamber of Commerce senior vice president of administration. “We sought to create a beautiful space in which to work; a place that would make our employees proud to be associated with the Chamber and our guests excited and impressed when visiting.”

More importantly, sustainability was the priority for chamber officials. Thus, “classic taste on a budget with sustainability always driving the decision” became the mantra behind the design of the federation’s new satellite offices.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Crystal City, Virginia

HON®



Products

- Initiate® Panel System with Nature Core™
- Park Avenue® Veneer Desks and Casegoods
- Park Avenue® Laminate Desks and Casegoods
- Park Avenue® Lounge
- Park Avenue® Conference Tables
- Unanimous® Task Seating
- Alaris® Conference Seating
- Invitation® Guest Seating
- Flagship® Storage

Opportunity/Goal

The whole idea of reducing their impact on the environment really struck a chord with the U.S. Chamber. Officials were excited about adopting a position of environmental responsibility and incorporating products with sustainable attributes into the design scheme. The HON Company could offer these products—solutions that contribute to the betterment of the environment but also could give the new offices a highly professional, elegant design within the organization's budget parameters.

Solution

The fact that HON has assumed a leadership position of environmental responsibility within the furniture industry played a major role in the organization's decision to choose HON furnishings for the new space. The innovative Initiate® Panel System with Nature Core™ was a perfect solution, thanks to such features as:

- A panel substrate made primarily from kenaf, an annually renewable agri-fiber
- Very low formaldehyde emissions that helped the product qualify for Indoor Advantage™ Gold Certification from Scientific Certification Systems, the most stringent emissions standard in the United States
- New Asana™ panel fabric, a 100 percent Eco Intelligent Polyester that can be recycled over and over again

To replicate Washington's elegant design and executive feel in the Virginia office, the U.S. Chamber installed HON's Park Avenue® Veneer and Laminate casegoods and lounge furniture throughout the building. These stylish pieces feature contemporary metal and glass accents that perfectly complemented the contemporary, yet classic, look the U.S. Chamber wanted to convey.

"It's professional, but bright. Not completely conservative but not completely modern either. It's energized," Dibari says. "Best yet, it's green. It's exactly what we wanted."

