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NYU Green Room

Certification Criteria:

Climate Cool

Cradle to Cradle

Fair Trade

Energy Star

SCS

Green Guard

LEED

Green Organizations

- Environmental Preferable Purchasing www.epa.gov/epp/
- USGBC– U.S. Green Building Council– www.usgbc.org
- Forest Stewardship Council– www.fsc.org
- NYU-Sustainability– www.nyu.edu/sustainability

The Writing's on the Wall

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Traditionally, a wall is meant to divide a space or create visual privacy, however, psychologically it create a sense of separation and can discourage interaction amongst employees, faculty and students within an educational setting. Drywall construction is made up of aluminum framing with studs ensconced between two sheetrock panels and is commonly finished off with a solid door. It is a permanent entity that does not leave much room for reconfiguration. There are definitely some pros and cons to working with both options but in recent years, demountable walls have been receiving more and more attention.

Demountable walls are functional, offer flexibility and can be installed with relative ease. Its initial introduction to the design and construction community was not widely received due to its high cost and limited design options. Today, however, the design capability is endless and the cost difference can be offset by a couple of factors.

Despite the fact that standard construction materials have become more expensive over the past few years but it is still less upfront. Even though demountable partitions can cost anywhere from $1.50 to $3.00 per square foot more than standard construction, **the flexibility factor** can justify paying this initial cost premium. When changes must be made a few years down the line, it will be far less expensive to move a demountable wall than to tear down and re-build a drywall office or class room.

There is **the schedule factor**: demountable partitions can save 3-4 weeks on a construction schedule. **The disruption factor**: Standard construction reconfiguration is messy and time consuming, usually taking several weekends, even for just one or two offices. With demountable walls, you can usually complete reconfiguration over a weekend. There's no need to worry about issues like drying time, dust from debris or fumes. **The design factor**: It offers design options that blends in effectively with an open office environment with modern aesthetic details. Companies such as Steelcase, Teknion, DIRTT and Haworth offer some of the more cutting edge design options on the market. Last but not least there is **the "Green" factor**: Demountable walls are re-useable by design, are made up of recyclable materials, there is less waste during the construction process and it contributes to LEED points.

Teknion– Altos

Haworth-Enclose

Steelcase-Pathways

DIRTT– Walls

It's not that hard being Green (or is it?)

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

Kermit the Frog– "Trailing the Globe for Greener Solutions"

"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."

— *Kofi Annan*

There is an apparent conflict between green intentions and green realities. What do you do when you are faced with issues such as:

1) "This project is under a tight budget or time limit",
2) "It is not really practical right now",
3) "It is far more convenient to get standard paint"
4) "It will be so much easier if we just stick with the old method of a glued down broadloom carpet installation"

Your first instinct is to solve the problem at hand immediately and not worry about the future impact. We deal with this dilemma in our every day life, when we try to decide on which household cleaning products or paper goods to purchase for our homes.

Yes, it is true that green products and services are often more expensive than conventional ones. However, the reality is that the price of conventional products do not reflect the cost impact to our planet's future such as the price of disposal and recycling or the cost to try and replenish our environment. So what do you do?

It is critical to plan ahead. It is very important to have a clear understanding going into the project how much extra time would be required and how much the process might actually cost. One of the most time consuming part of this process is learning and understanding sustainable materials, how they can be used and where to get them (which is really critical if you are trying for LEED points). This will reduce the need to purchase over-the-counter building supplies and paints. Usually, if an architect is on board, they can assist in this process and offer a wealth of knowledge to aid in your selection process. Using products such as sustainable woods, stone, cotton, wool, glass are not only natural but they tend to age gracefully.

It is also recommended that the contractors adopt a sustainable practice as well to ensure that there is minimum material waste, recycling of construction waste and that the site is kept safe for both you and the workers.

To be truly sustainable would require an institution wide commitment which fortunately for us is already part of NYU's Green Initiative . Being able to incorporate it into every task that we do will take time and require the university to be energized and engaged in the process. Only time and education will help us to achieve a completely sustainable environment.

In the long run, providing a space that "feels better", with plenty of natural daylight and better air quality can have a direct impact upon students, faculty and employees at the University which could in turn increase productivity and future enrollment.

Just remember, the immediate goal is to understand sustainability as a process, not an end point.

Green Washing at work

Paints with Low VOCs are recommended

Lecture me 'til I'm Green in the Face

By Giselle Graham –NYU- Purchasing Services

This past June, our very own Ellie Peer (Senior Procurement Officer) for multimedia Equipment and supplies, attended the INFOCOMM 2008 Conference & Exhibition in Las Vegas, NV. She was able to bring back a varied collection of new offerings in the technology field and to both of our surprise, lecterns have gone "Green" too. In this digital and electronic age, there is so much valuable information that is available in different formats to students and professors. Lecterns are now designed to display information in various forms through a compact all-in-one presentation system and safeguard the environment all at the same time.

"**Spectrum Industries**, a small business located in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, received the Evergreen Award for their integrated technology lecterns. Spectrum has become a model facility in both their industry and community by implementing environmental sustainability initiatives that include waste prevention, material recovery and recycling, and environmentally conscious product design. Since 1998, Spectrum has used powder-coating technology as a replacement for solvent- based finishes, reducing the combined air emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) by sixty percent. Spectrum has also teamed up with another firm, Comprehensive Recycling, to collect and recover plastic material resulting from the manufacturing process for recycling and reuse. When Spectrum acquired a new manufacturing facility and corporate headquarters in 2005, they purchased several acres of wetland which they will continue to preserve in all future expansions and facility improvements. In 2007, Spectrum installed a new environmentally conscious paint line and wash system in this facility, which saves energy by operating at room temperature, eliminating the need to heat the wash solution. During the wash any excess cleaning solution is captured, filtered and recycled."
Excerpt was taken from www.spectrumfurniture.com

Exact Furniture is another vendor that has also begun to make a concerted effort to only source wood products from environmentally conscious North American suppliers. The melamine used is a composite material made from recycled and or recovered materials. The materials they purchase qualifies as EPP (Environmental Preferred Products) and their main supplier of wood products is a member of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). www.exactfurniture.com

AvinED- Bamboo Lectern

Nomad Technologies-PD2100

Exact Furniture– MM-103

Spectrum Industries- Media Manager V2