

# hospitality design

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## game changers

the people issue

**HD**expo  
hospitality design event

# special feature office space



## The Gettys Group, Chicago

**Why:** The Gettys Group upgraded to a 14,000-square-foot space to “create an environment that reflected our origins as well as how we function as a global company today,” explains Benjamin Nicholas, the company’s senior design director. For two years the team searched for a space that had it all—location, natural light, views, accessibility, and freedom to transform the space—and found their new home when they noticed that the views of the Chicago River from one building on West Wacker Drive “reflected the infectious energy we create daily,” he says. Instead of choosing a higher floor, they selected the fourth floor to “be more closely connected and integrated with the city.”

**Aesthetic:** After hosting internal workshops to review possible design solutions and brainstorm how people work today (just like they would for any client project), they took cues from other industries where working at docking stations is quite common. “Instead of providing team members just with a desk, which can be isolating, we dedicated an entire floor with ample room and flexibility for team members to independently choose the best environment given their day’s tasks at hand,” Nicholas explains, adding that the space was designed to be LEED certified. That translated to typical open format desks, breakout seating areas, private phone rooms, meeting spaces where the table and chairs are counter height, and a conference room that is set up more as a living room. Mood boards and project trays are stored on industrial baker’s racks, so even they are sharable.

**Highlights:** The lobby. Set up like one you might find in a hotel rather than an office, there’s a communal table that turns into a double-sided sectional, which is anchored by a custom area rug and a feature pendant light; a custom hospitality zone with integrated refrigerator-freezer drawers along with concealed, countertop induction heating; a rotating collection of inspiring books displayed on architectural ledges; an abstract cityscene wallcovering; and a corridor leading to the studio showcasing a curated art collection, some done by the Gettys team. “These thoughtful elements in the lobby represent how we think and operate as a collective team,” Nicholas says.

