

BED

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■ BUSINESS CHANGE ■

Restructure for UK's oldest filing company (inside)

R/A/I/L/E/X



Print Costs
How to reduce them

Colour MFP's
New model launches

Office Technology
New choices for SME's

Creating a better working environment

Shaw Trust is a national charity that provides training and work opportunities for people who are disadvantaged in the workplace due to disability, ill health or other social circumstances. Ranked 54 in the UK's top 500 charities, the organisation is the country's largest provider of employment services for disabled people. Employing 1,183 across 28 offices nationwide the charity supported 49,935 clients in 2005.

Challenge

Comprising two ground floor business units, the then uninspiring environment needed to be transformed using colour, fabric, intelligent use of space and furniture. Designated training areas were allocated to each unit including IT, food preparation and beauty treatment which needed to be considered in the design, as did the imperative for wheelchair access to all areas.

"The requirement from our chosen supplier, The Commercial Group, was to create an environment that emulated day-to-day activities coupled with a calm, yet inspiring area for training purposes," explains Shaw Trust's Area Manager for Essex, Martin Philbrick.

This diversity of training held at the site and the requirement for separate informal areas such as a café bar and internet café facilities meant that Commercial needed to utilise the space constructively.

"Commercial completely understood the importance of natural light and the way space in the units had to evoke well-

Shaw Trust took the opportunity of an office move in their Romford-based service in Essex to provide a more informal and relaxing environment for clients to train.

being. Clients using the training facilities need to work in an environment that is conducive to a healthy work ethic and one which creates both a warm, calm and inviting space in conjunction with areas that offer personal space too."

Solution

Commercial has built a strong alliance with Shaw Trust over the past four years. In this time a deep understanding of the company's culture has developed.

"Working with Commercial offered huge benefits to us, not least the hassle-free single-source solution of purchasing. From office IT work stations and soft furnishings through to photocopiers and desking, Commercial was able to provide a complete package," continues Martin.

"The team presented a variety of drawings and swatch boards that enabled us to easily envisage how the space would be utilised. We could see how using light wood furniture would give an airy feel; adjustable desks and seating would allow wheelchair users' comfortable access to all areas. Moreover, it was apparent that the informal seating area would offer a space for relaxation and the café area would provide a welcoming environment away from the usual office layout. Everything specified worked in unison and this approach has proved very inspirational.

"Desk screening has ensured an element of personal space is maintained without losing the light airy feel of the space. In addition, the colours which are muted tones work well with our corporate identity.

"All in all, this has been extremely successful and the project has enabled us to continue providing a service to clients that really does have an impact on their lives. Commercial has shown that design does fit with corporate culture and need not be restrictive."

■ www.COMMERCIAL.co.uk



The new TriASS range

Assmann at Orgatec

Assmann Euromobiel is to launch a complete new system at Orgatec 2006. Known as TriASS it comprises desking with complementary storage, desk pedestals and credenzas. Designed by Assmann in-house TriASS features include pedestals and storage units with one end panel higher than the other, no visible fixings and a general asymmetry to the range as a whole. Charles Abegg, UK Sales Director, comments "the simple design and clean lines of TriASS will appeal to architects, designers, specifiers and end users alike. TriASS is extremely versatile and offers high design at a very competitive price".

■ www.ASSMANN.DE

