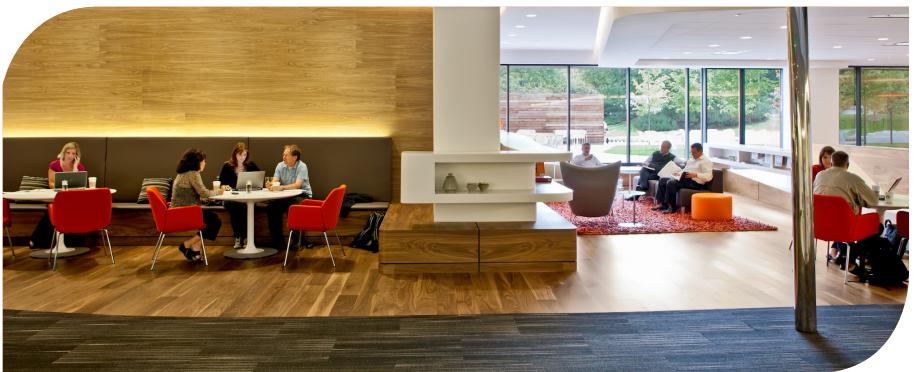


Breakroom Design Ideas: How to Win the Talent War

canteen®



It's true - competition is fierce for recruiting and retaining top talent. So how do you compete? How can your company stand out above the rest? Yes, a good salary and vacation package is nice to have, but today's job seekers ultimately want to feel valued.

Breakroom design ideas are a great place to start. Establish that space for your team to come together, eat together, and create together. That's a lot of pressure for one room, so how can you make sure your break spot does its job?

We asked Sara Armbruster from Steelcase*, our partner and global leader in office furniture manufacturing, a series of questions to shed some light of the subject.



Q. What makes a truly great breakroom?

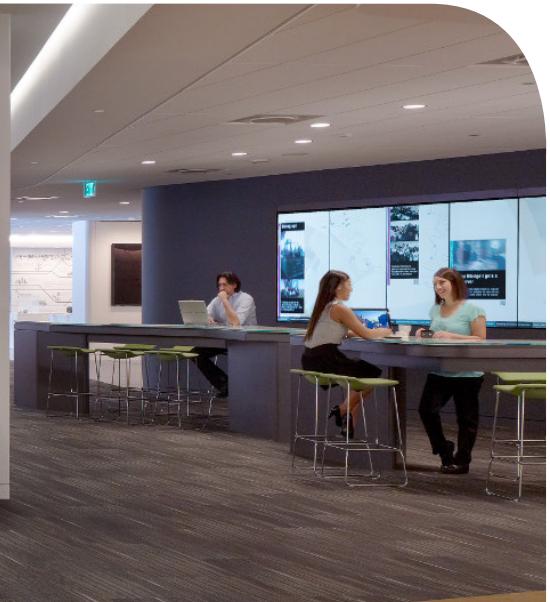
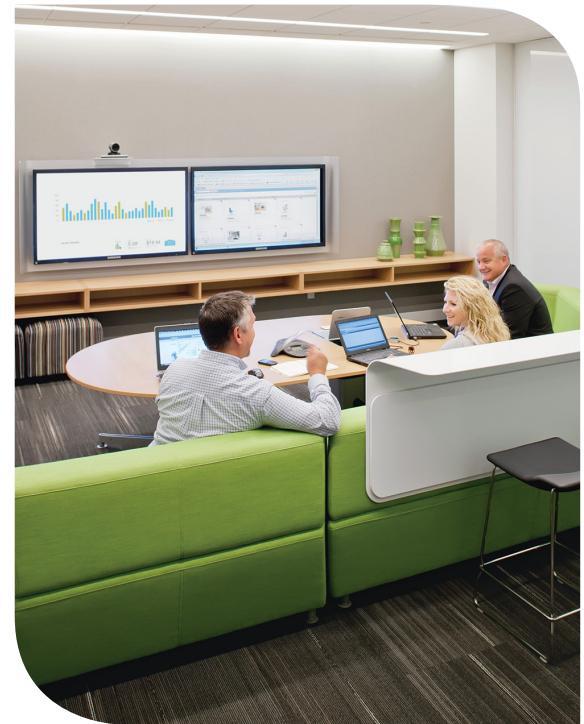
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A. A breakroom is a “third place” at work – an area to socialize. At Steelcase, we call it a “WorkCafé”, a space that connects people with colleagues, their work, and their organization. It transforms traditional breakrooms into destinations that can incorporate all the elements of a local café. A space that studies show generation X, Y and even the Millennials are demanding.

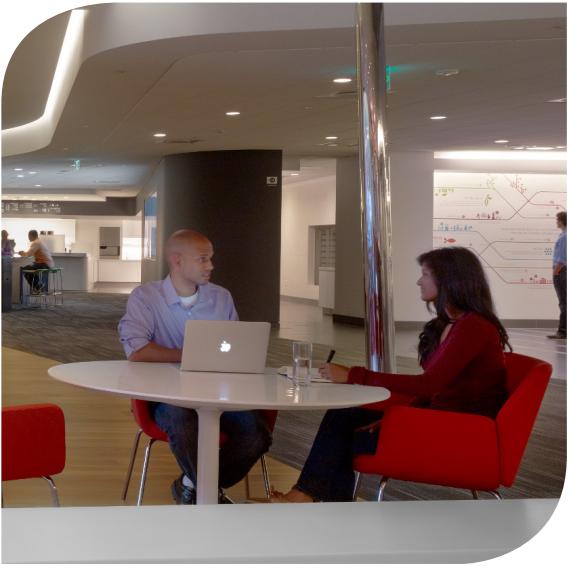
So what do organizations need to make their “third places” great? Well, it involves more than access to good coffee (which is also important) and Wi-Fi—it’s about integrating work and life. You must provide a variety of spaces where your team can choose to rest or work, based on their mood and task. The space should also:

- Enable good conversation
- Have private areas for those that need a mental break
- Address the needs of all generations
- Provide access to power devices

Here's a great example of this at work...When we opened our own WorkCafé in 2011, we created a space that offers a variety of seating configurations and degrees of intimacy. We added lounge-like settings ideal for informal meetings, standing height tables with stools, plus the perfect perch to grab a quick coffee and answer emails.



91% of associates say it's important to have a space where they can relax and take a mental break at work. However, 49% report not having this kind of place available to them.



Q. Why is a well-designed breakroom important?

A. We researched the benefits of "third places" to demonstrate their impact on an organization and its most important asset... the people. Here are the benefits we revealed:

- **Stronger Relationships** - Co-workers who eat together in large groups are 35% more likely to communicate outside of lunch hours.
- **Empowered Associates** - Choice and control is the new status symbol – team members want freedom to choose where and how they work. A well-designed break space provides that.
- **Wellbeing and Engagement** - "Third places" support the physical, mental and emotional needs of your associates, which allows them to get more done in the day, work together, and simply feel happier in the workplace. After all, 95% of people who are highly engaged agree that informal, relaxed conversations with their team is super important.

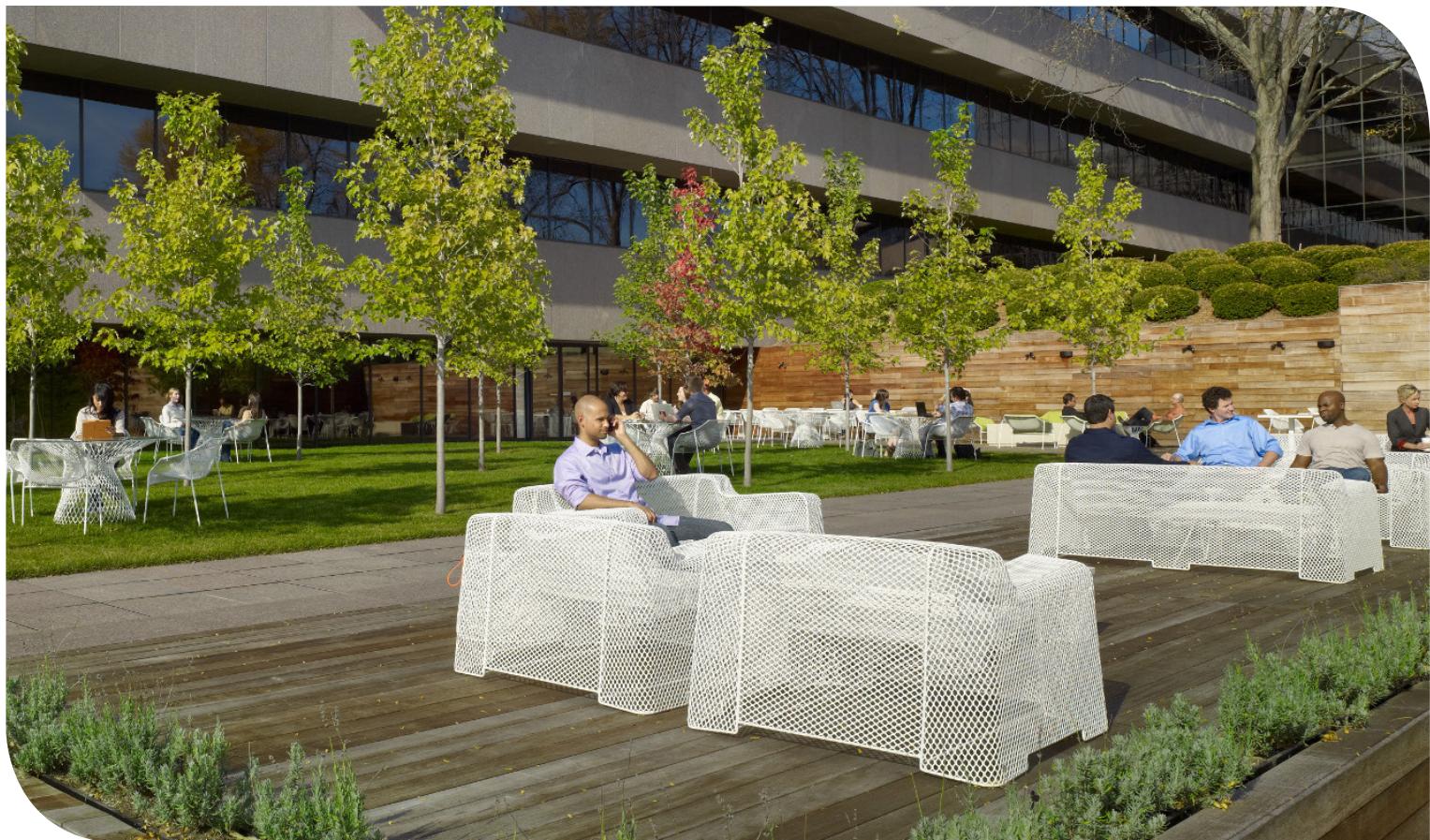
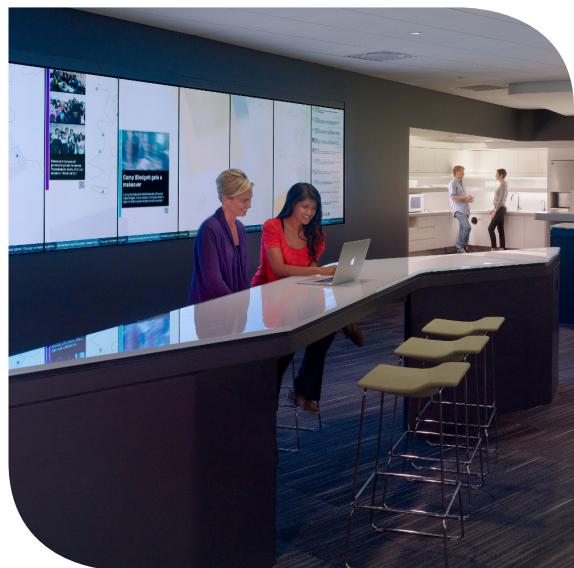


Q. We've determined the benefits of a great break space, but what if you're working on a tight budget?

A. That's okay. Even small touches can make a big difference. Try making updates to an existing space without making major architectural changes like removing walls or building new rooms. Plus, recycling furniture and materials from other spaces within the building can be another way to keep your budget intact.

Finally, and most importantly, always make the first step listening to what your team wants before embarking on a renovation. Otherwise, you risk having a beautiful space that goes unused because it doesn't meet their needs.

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Q. Not a DIYer? Why is outsourcing your breakroom design a good option?



A. Make it Easy

Having a professional partner by your side to walk you through every step is an automatic relief, allowing you to focus on the other things you have on your plate. Plus, you have access to essentially unlimited fabric choices, paint colors, built-to-order options and so on, so your break space fits your culture to a T.

Quality

Leave it to the professionals to know the best materials to create your ideal "third place". For instance, all Steelcase seating products are designed and tested to meet or exceed American National Standards (ANSI) and Business Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA) standards.

Consistent Service

By partnering with companies like Steelcase and Canteen, you'll have a single point of contact, regardless of whether your project is installing around the corner or around the world. It's all about being able to feel confident that the service you receive is consistent from the time you request a quote to delivery, installation and beyond.

Knowledge and Insights

Picking the right partner to design and implement your breakroom design ideas can lead to more than just a pretty space. You could also receive insights about today's workplace; factoids that could support your unique business objectives and recruitment goals.

Whether you're ready to jump in today, or you need some time to discuss with your team, working towards designing your perfect breakroom is a great goal to work towards. Not only could it help you win the talent war and meet your recruiting goals, it'll also make everyone in the workplace feel more valued and happy. Talk about a win-win!



* Steelcase is a global leader in office furniture manufacturing, and an expert in work, workers and the workplace. Led by business culture insights, Steelcase creates solutions that support the wellbeing of associates and drive innovation. Their products and services are continually tested so only the best options are delivered for organizations and their diverse teams.