

Attractive Ideas Put to Work

A look at innovative products that enhanced the look and functionality of a new conference room.

Last July, a conference room within the heart of The Bulletin headquarters — publisher of Central Oregon Living — received a facelift.

Described as a room “where ideas are born” by Bulletin management, the room was utilized for meetings, staff training, presentations, brainstorming sessions and special events. And yet aesthetically, it was suffering from an identity crisis.

So The Bulletin’s management staff met with Patti Julber, an interior designer with Complements Home Interiors of Bend, with the goal of creating a room

that’s both attractive and functional.

“I wanted to create an environment that breeds thoughtfulness and creativity while easily adapting to the needs of various people and departments,” Julber said. “I believe we accomplished this.”

As she led the way toward creating a room that’s both aesthetically and technologically pleasing, Julber utilized a number of new and innovative products for home and office design.

Here are some of these products and why Julber chose them for this project:

1. Luxury Vinyl (Flooring) Tile - Freefit

A vinyl floor that mimics the look and feel of rustic hardwood, Julber selected Freefit luxury vinyl tile for a few standard reasons: it looks good, is long-lasting, cleans up well and provides little to no maintenance. But Freefit tiles offer a level of versatility that other floor tiles don’t.

“The benefit is if there is ever a problem such as a deep cut or scratch in the tile, it is easily replaced,” Julber said. “The Vinyl tile is held in place by its weight and suction. It is not glued down and can be laid over either concrete or plywood.”

2. Wall Covering - Thermoplastic from MDC Wallcoverings

Before its facelift, this conference room was surrounded by four simple white walls. Julber wanted to change this, so she created an accent wall using Thermoplastic wall panels from MDC Wallcoverings.

“It adds dimension and texture to a room that had very little personality,” she said. “The color was in keeping with the wood, but a little richer with the bronze finish.”

3. Woven Texture Window Coverings

- Hunter Douglas

Since the room is multifunctional, hosting everything from seminars to blood drives, incorporating an element of privacy into the design was important. To achieve this, Julber selected woven texture window coverings from Hunter Douglas.

“Woven textures add texture and color to the room without adding a lot of heaviness to the space,” she said. “The use of the room determined what kind of window covering we would need.”

4. Magnetic White/Blackboards

- Mike Spring, Akamai Woodworks

A lot of brainstorming occurs within The Bulletin’s conference room, so it was important to include a mechanism for sharing and recording information. Rather than buying and installing a standard whiteboard, Julber designed two custom-made magnetic boards — one for chalk and one for dry-erase markers — that span nearly the length of the room.

Mike Spring of Akamai Woodworks built each board.

“The magnetic whiteboard and blackboard created a space for writers, photographers and designers to put tear sheets up so that the space was functional as well as beautiful,” Julber said.

5. Audio/Video System - Abbajay

Automated Control Systems & Standard TV & Appliance

Not only was the look of the conference room updated; the technology was updated as well. The audio/video system, which included a new Sony monitor, a sound system and a webcam, was installed by Abbajay Automated Control Systems.

“They also trained The Bulletin’s staff on how to use all the up-to-date equipment,” Julber said.

See a full description of the project in our Late Summer 2011 edition of Central Oregon Living. For more information, call Patti Julber at Complements Home Interiors at 541-322-7337.

