

## Imperative 19: Beauty + Spirit

The five entities that work at {address} are bound by a single core mission: preserving and protecting the natural environment and its resources. Each entity serves a different purpose within the mission, from finding and supporting innovative energy solutions to building a national political force addressing the damaging effects of climate change. The design of this working environment serves as a constant reminder of the natural environment by illuminating fundamentals of light, color, nature and open spaces.

When searching for a building in which to locate the office, beauty and history dominated the choice. The Building is a stunning 1927 structure reflecting a French chateau style, enhanced with stone bas-relief details and a vaulted lobby using Romanesque structural characteristics and painting styles in gold, red and green hues. It is a showcase building for the city and its beauty and history was a significant influence on the choice. The fact that the building was LEED certified and housed other environmental organizations was also key.

The architects' design was framed by several key elements: a dominant sense of openness and social equity, maximization of natural light, and a neutral color palette that would showcase the colors and textures of the selected art works.

### Light:

The floor is encircled by sixty-six 6-foot high windows. Light reflects from the surrounding buildings in the mornings; as the day wanes and the ambient light dims, bars of dispersed ceiling lights were installed to subtly rise and maintain daylight levels. Surfaces close to the perimeter windows are predominantly light or white, helping create reflective light without producing glare. Pendant lights warm collaborative spaces scattered between work benches and in meeting rooms, creating a home-like glow.

Of all the remarkable features designed for the space, the use of light is probably the most influential to the occupants' moods and energy levels.

### Color:

While the hues are not strong in tone, they are perfect reflections of the the light and shadows that play within the space. The ochre walls reflect both outside and inside light while the recessed walls utilize a muted earth shade to provide a neutral palette for artwork. The large paintings are themselves windows into sweeping landscapes, colorful cityscapes and point-of-view perspectives from a street, sidewalk or alley. Neutral shades were deliberately chosen for two key reasons: to allow the artwork to bring its own colors forward and to maintain a sense of the outside within.

## Nature:

The landscapes and cityscapes evicted in the paintings provide both color and beauty to the common areas. Most cityscapes are small snapshots of life in the city and are among the staff's favorites. The Tillandsia plants installed as a part of the biophilia initiative are strategically placed at the end of each workbench row. Their exotic and unusual shapes inspire a wild, creative spirit commonly lacking in office environments. The self-sustaining plant wall in the reception area is a lush, green partner to the natural eucalyptus wood of the floor and ceiling clouds, while providing the relaxing sound of trickling water from its irrigation system.