



N·F·O·E
et associés architectes

Montréal, Québec

A historic building presented planning challenges that were overcome by C.I.T.É. (Collaborative, Innovative, Teaming Environments) from Groupe Lacasse and provided a new home for one of Québec's most preminent architectural firms.

OBJECTIVE / The heart of old Montreal is the new home for NFOE. The architectural firm inhabits 11,400 square feet of the historic New York Life Insurance Building that still retains much of the original architectural details from 1888. The white-on-white color palette highlights the beauty of the Corinthian columns and ornate capitals. The original central staircase is still used as the main means of access to the mezzanine.

There were multiple objectives for the furniture. The client was seeking a desking solution with pure clean lines to act as a backdrop for the rich architectural details of the space. They wanted collaborative work environments that supported the need for group interaction while also providing the opportunity for individual thought and reflection. They needed customized work surface sizes and storage solutions to support the unique work requirements of architectural firms. Most importantly, they needed a desking system that was able to achieve maximum space efficiency in a floor plate that offered limited flexibility. C.I.T.É. delivered on all fronts.



Best of NeoCon Gold Award Winner - Furniture Systems Category June 2010



GRUPE LACASSE SOLUTION / The project was a success on two fronts. As a product C.I.T.É. was an exact match to the client's specific needs and as a manufacturer, Groupe Lacasse provided the flexibility for customization and partnership that was critical to the success of the project.

As a contemporary desking system, C.I.T.É. provided the pure clean aesthetics that complimented the architect's vision for the studio space. The product exhibits pure unadorned form and expresses its structure through its simple lines and strategic choice and placement of materials. Translucent acrylic end gables appear to support expansive work surfaces and brushed aluminum trims and accessories contribute to the lightness of the product's appearance. Overall, the aesthetics of the product compliment the airiness of the soaring architectural studio and deliver the functional attributes necessary to support the working environment.

Some product customization was required to support the client's specific needs. Oversized work surfaces and storage solutions were developed to accommodate architectural drawings and make the storage conveniently accessible from both sides. Groupe Lacasse and CIME Business Environments worked closely with the client throughout every step of the process to insure the client's needs were anticipated and fulfilled without affecting delivery times.

CLIENT QUOTE

"C.I.T.É. is a well-conceived and thoughtfully designed system. It offers flexibility in planning configurations, simplicity in its wire management system, and ultimately a pure and contemporary linear aesthetic expression. We are happy to have worked with Groupe Lacasse who is a local manufacturer to us of such quality who provided a superb level of support and flexibility catering to our particular needs. As a dealer, CIME Business Environments worked closely with us in a consultancy role. They provided excellent guidance and product sourcing solutions."

MASA FUKUSHIMA, Partner
NFOE et associés architectes

"Nothing is more important for CIME than to create spaces that perform beautifully and adapt to the needs of our customer. The C.I.T.É. product defines a new concept of office characterized by its formal lightness, high technical performance and modern design. This respected NFOE's vision for their new environment. It has been a pleasure to collaborate with NFOE and Groupe Lacasse on this project!"

MARISA DELBELLO, President
CIME Business Environments



RESULTS / C.I.T.É. has provided a work environment that reflects the philosophical approach of the client while fulfilling the functional needs of the employees. The solution allows the architects to work collaboratively when required yet retreat for private thought when desired. The functional needs of the work environment are also fully met. NFOE benefits from a studio environment that is at once practical and beautiful. Groupe Lacasse and CIME Business Environments benefit from having the opportunity to outfit the main office of a distinguished Canadian architectural firm.

SUMMARY

APPLICATION

- Corporate offices for
NFOE et associés architectes

SCOPE

- 60 desking workstations to support
partners, architects, technicians and
administrative employees
- 11,400 square feet
- Completed September 2010

PRODUCTS

- C.I.T.É. furniture system
- Standard and customized products

TEAM

- Designer: NFOE et associés architectes
www.nfoe.com

- Dealer: CIME Business Environments
www.cimedecor.ca



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