

SUCCESSFUL DESIGN IN AMERICAN SPACES



Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Bayalynov Library American Corner (“American Borboru”)



Before After

Consulting with visitors and staff, the Smithsonian team observed how the space was used, and ultimately made recommendations for enhancing the physical and programmatic environment of the Library.

Though each American Space is different, some of the improvements in Bishkek can be useful elsewhere for providing a welcoming, collaborative, and multi-purpose space.

- Relocated newspaper archives from mezzanine to provide more user space and declutter the space
- Brightened space with colorful furniture (graphics great for this purpose, too)
- Used area rugs to designate new seating areas

Hanoi, Vietnam

American Center Hanoi



Before After

American Center Hanoi created a scope of work for a major renovation based on support funds they received. They solicited proposals from local firms. Through a well-managed process that included excellent communication with many critical State Department partners, the AC moved from concept drawings to construction and opened the new space in April 2014.

With this modern facility, the AC is helping define 21st-century diplomacy and how to promote it. Many aspects of the design help the space stand out, but a few in particular can help other Posts that are considering an upgrade or new facility:

- The simplicity of the design
- Bright and recognizably-American red, white, and blue
- Use of creative, “teachable” elements, such as the wall and table maps of the United States
- Inclusion of elements to support new media engagement, such as high-speed wireless connection, wall-mounted touch screen computers, and updated English language lab

For Best Practices, examples of SOWs and other resources visit <http://iip.r.state.sbu/sites/rca/as/Pages/Home.aspx>

To learn more, please contact americanspaces@state.gov. To learn more about Smithsonian Institution content and design resources, please visit americanspaces.state.gov.

American Spaces

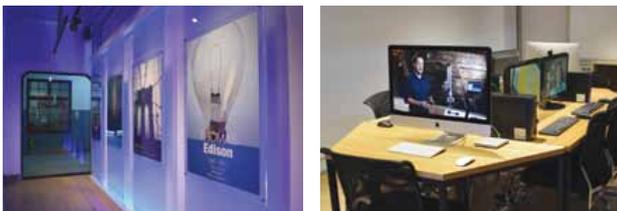


SUCCESSFUL DESIGN IN AMERICAN SPACES



Taiwan, Republic of China

American Innovation Center Taiwan



Using clean and modern design, the American Innovation Center has created a welcoming and fresh space conducive to a variety of activities.

- The American Innovation Center adopted many concepts from the American Spaces Idea Book for furniture inspiration and room layouts. Trapezoidal tables are particularly helpful.
- One of the major themes is innovation. They found numerous graphics from the “Image Collection” section of the American Spaces Idea Book to be useful. *Please go to “Smithsonian Images” on the American Spaces website to see these images.*
- To support this theme of innovation, the Center has incorporated ideas from the Smithsonian X 3D website into the space. Videos have been popular, and they have made 3D models of Smithsonian objects using their 3D printer.

Valencia, Spain

American Space, Valencia



Using the Smithsonian Idea Book, as a resource and guideline, Post worked with a local vendor to create the right look and feel for this new space.

Particular elements and recommendations from the Idea Book can be noted in the design of this space.

- *Creating multi-purpose spaces:* Using the furniture layouts from the Idea Book can provide ideas for how to configure a space for a variety of public diplomacy activities, such as study area, conference area, or presentation space.
- *Using easily moveable furniture:* Having furniture that is light or on casters and easy to move is critical for highly useful spaces.
- *Finding furniture and fixtures that promote collaboration:* Trapezoidal tables are excellent for different types of group use. Seating can be arranged in a variety of ways, such as for discussions or brainstorming at a white board.

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