

Cripe Architects + Engineers Celebrates 1 Year Anniversary in New Space

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On June 23, 2008, Cripe Architects + Engineers moved their existing 71 year old operation from its current space to a new location. After fully moving in and getting acclimated to their new home, the company has realized the benefits of their decision to make that scary-almost daunting-move.

Cripe served a unique role in the design and management of its new space. Not only did its staff provide complete design solutions from space planning, furnishings selection, specifications, bidding and procurement, graphic signage and way finding services, but they also managed the construction phase and then supervised and coordinated the move management. The decision to work so closely with this entire process derived from the fact that Cripe wanted to realize the outcomes and performance metrics with minimal outside influences.



When making those important decisions upfront in the project, the main goal was to achieve maximum workplace performance with minimum square footage assigned to personnel or task specific spaces. Adjacencies were crucial in the overall communication among staff, with support areas needing to be intentional, thus creating opportunities for private (internal use) and public (inclusion of guests) collaborations.

To gather metrics on Cripe's new office, a survey was given and information collected in three areas: Historical, Environmental and Performance. Historical data captured the essence of the organization and its make-up, including gender, years at Cripe, and square footage allocation. Environmental factors included the comparison of aesthetics, function and contributing components inherent to a workspace. Performance statistics reveal the perceived reality of execution of work and quality of work life.



In comparing the old workspace with the new, it is evident in the findings that the importance of collaboration plays a key role in the success of communication. In the old space, the Cripe team worked

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in two separate buildings. While respondents remained split between feeling they were getting more accomplished in the new space as the old, nearly 60% agreed that they were more inclined to invite clients to the new space and that they were also more inclined to use their own personal time in the new space. Research data confirms that, if an employer can encourage staff to stay at work to accomplish goals – both professional and personal – throughout a work day, productivity is significantly increased. Interactive collaboration has been drastically improved from the old space to the new by an impressive 73%. When asked if the individual felt that their own potential had been maximized within the new space, more than half agreed it had been. The only negative feature described in the data for the new space (the current building is 15+ years old) was the heating and cooling of spaces – which, unfortunately, was an inherited problem from the original HVAC design of the building. However, all other features received a B+ grade which, by most standards, is a huge accomplishment.

Cripe executives can now say that their decision to make the big move was successful. Cripe is proud of their new office and hopes to only grow and succeed in the many years to come at their new location.



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