HAYES HALL redesign



project description

Although Ohio State strives to provide students with inviting, safe, and accessible third spaces outside the classroom that allow them to take a moment of pause from their busy classes, while simultaneously providing the opportunity to work individually or collaboratively, the lobby and basement present in Hayes Hall are not currently meeting the criteria of successful third spaces. Both spaces struggle with a lack of power outlets, insufficient work surfaces, and uneven, improper lighting, causing an inability to allow students to utilize them in the ways they need. These factors, along with the unusual furniture arrangement, lack of reflection of the creative processes that occur in the building, and unused (or confusing uses of) square footage, create two spaces that are the opposite of safe, comforting environments that students look for on campus. Instead of blending the functions of living, learning and social constructions, Hayes Hall draws a fine line between them and deters students from spending their time in spaces that have incredible potential for activating learning.

Because Hayes Hall houses the ultra-creative Department of Design at Ohio State, it should reflect the nature of the studies taking place inside and fully accommodate the needs of the diverse body of students coming and going. To accomplish this, both the lobby and basement spaces need to be inviting to all, flexible enough to provide different learning/living/social opportunities, and capable of providing safety in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. By redesigning these spaces to incorporate adequate and comfortable seating systems, varying levels of work surfaces, clear distinctions between space functions, and social distancing guidelines and solutions, students will have plenty of options when utilizing Hayes' third spaces. Additionally, the implementation of a mix of calming and energizing colors and graphic projections of design education will bring clarity and life to the lobby and basement, ensuring each visitor can be immersed in the creative environments while simultaneously being productive, relaxing, or transitioning between classes in the third spaces.

Strategies for the Hayes Hall redesign included: 1) Combining a wide range of calming and energizing tones from OSU's secondary branding color palette to tend to varying learning needs, 2) Constructing flexible workspaces with options to work in independent or safe, collaborative settings, 3) Encouraging interaction between building occupants through graphic projections of their educational interests, and 4) Using texture in multiple applications to create a dynamic, inviting space that reflects the Department of Design's creative nature.











