

Rafael Moneo: Much Honored, Richly Deserving

Every year the **Praemium Imperiale**, sponsored by the **Japan Art Association**, is awarded to internationally outstanding artists in five fields: painting, sculpture, music, theater/film and architecture. Officeinsight contributor John Dixon reviews the 2017 honoree for architecture, **Rafael Moneo**, a Spanish architect who served as Dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design (1985-1990), where he still teaches. Moneo is known for shaping his buildings in relation to their surroundings, not just complementing neighboring structures and spaces but melding them into community-scaled compositions.

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A Home on Land for an In-flight Entertainment Solutions Company

Designing for a particular product to be showcased in a company's workspace presents opportunities to weave something concrete – the product – into the larger fabric of a workspace. **Thales**, a company developing cutting-edge aircraft connectivity and in-flight entertainment solutions for the aviation industry, asked A&D firm **Ware Malcomb** to help create an environment where both employees and clients can interact with the product and each other.

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Concurrents – Environmental Psychology: Designing for All

It's no secret that places like airplanes are less than comfortable for people who fit outside airlines' tiny space accommodations. Users come in a variety of packages, and some of their differences are more visible to the casual observer than others; spending just a few moments and applying a little common sense can make it more likely that all of the probable users of a space will be safe and not uncomfortable. officeinsight columnist Sally Augustin discusses designing for all.

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CITED:
 "NEVER DOUBT THAT
 A SMALL GROUP OF
 THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED,
 CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE
 WORLD. INDEED, IT IS THE
 ONLY THING THAT EVER
 HAS."

—MARGARET MEAD



The café game room at in-flight solutions company Thales, designed by Ware Malcomb. Photography: courtesy of Ware Malcomb.

A Home on Land for an In-flight Entertainment Solutions Company

by Mallory Jindra

Designing for a particular product to be showcased in a company's workspace presents opportunities to weave something concrete – the product – into the larger fabric of a workspace.

Thales, a company developing cutting-edge aircraft connectivity and in-flight entertainment solutions for the aviation industry, asked A&D firm **Ware Malcomb** to help create an environment where both employees and clients can interact with the product and each other.

In a new 61,000 square foot building on Thales' Irvine, California campus, Ware Malcomb sought to create that space by transforming the work environment into a dynamic space for a diverse work demographic, in particular a younger generation of engineers.

"We've worked with Thales for about 12 years previously, but this is a pretty big fundamental change for them," said **Ted Heisler**, Vice President, Interior Architecture & Design

of Ware Malcomb.

The new building is more "open office" than Thales had ever previously occupied. In their previous space, occupants were in 25% private office / 75% open, and now that ratio is at 10% private office / 90% open.

At the heart of the two-level office is a full service cafeteria with professional kitchen and work café, where employees can dine, hang out and collaborate. The work café includes a coffee bar and a bunch of seating options, and is a space that zeroes in on Thales' intent to build a community at work.

"This work café is meant for people to meet internally," said Mr. Heisler. "It's a really dynamic space with a lot of soft seating where people can meet and work together informally. There's a big group of engineers in this building; and many times engineers are not as collaborative, but this space is wired to create more interactive collaboration throughout the day."

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Cafe open seating



Cafe coffee bar

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The new offices also house a Customer Experience Center, where Thales' client base of major airlines are invited to participate and experience Thales' solutions first-hand. The space is designed to accommodate Thales' international clientele, enabling them to set up their own work space in small

conference rooms, enjoy access to a coffee bar, snacks and refreshments, a business center and multicultural prayer room. The new space features product displays, video walls, and breakout lounge areas with flat screens.

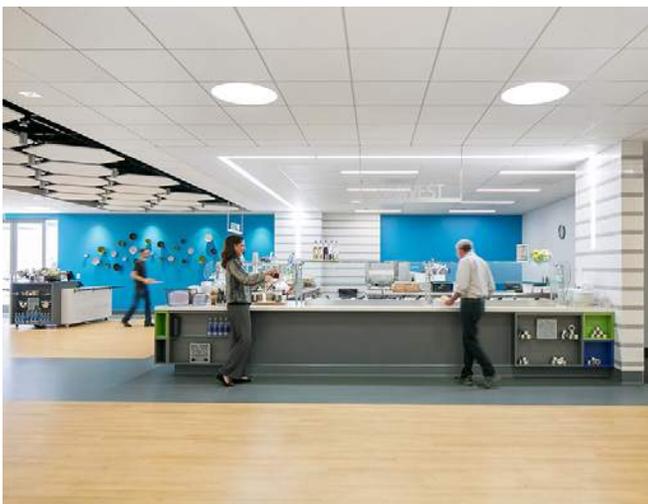
The Customer Experience Center also includes a demonstration area that

helps Thales show clients its services that enrich the travel experience; set elegantly into the middle of the space is a life-sized aircraft fuselage equipped with all of Thales' newest solutions.

Ware Malcomb's in-house branding studio put together a comprehensive branding package that fits Thales per-



Cafe kitchen



Café Harvest bar



Café Lunchroom

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fectly. The space features a cohesive design integrating “artwork made from legacy inflight entertainment airplane parts, Thales corporate colors for a connection to the brand, wayfinding signage reflecting the Thales vernacular, and an oceanic palate of blues, greens, and clean white emulating a Southern California aesthetic” – all flowing through the office environment, Customer Experience Center, lab, work café and outdoor patio.

“With the branding piece, we generated a lot of innuendo pointing towards flight and aviation, because it’s the heart of what they do,” said Mr. Heisler. And many of the solutions are interactive because the leadership wanted to continue to create a meaningful dialogue with employees.”

Ware Malcomb employed a seamless integration of people, product, and place for Thales – a workplace that indeed has the power to build a community and nurture innovation among young engineers and the diverse work groups that support them. ■



Customer Experience Center fuselage



Café open seating

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Enclosed huddle room



Café open seating

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Reception



Open seating



Pantry



Lounge space