

La-Z-Boy, Inc.

World Headquarters



Monroe, MI The design process of La-Z-Boy, Inc.'s new World Headquarters centered on their commitment to the community, their dedicated workforce and the environment. Completed in March 2015, the 213,000 SF, state-of-the-art facility sits on a 40-acre site surrounded by an oak savanna. The overarching goal of the project was not only to upgrade where they worked, but enhance how the company functions as a whole.

Founded more than 85 years ago in Monroe, Michigan, La-Z-Boy was fast outgrowing its original headquarters. Over the years, 23 additions supplemented the facility as the company continued to grow and prosper. Eventually, La-Z-Boy realized their current environment could no longer support the needs and culture of a 21st century workforce. Upon that realization, the company began evaluating other sites. Committed to staying in the Monroe community, La-Z-Boy opted to purchase 120 acres on which to establish their new home. The main campus and building occupy roughly 40 acres, leaving 80 acres untouched in order to preserve the endangered oak savanna ecosystem.

With such a beautiful backdrop to inspire its design, La-Z-Boy's new facility contains countless unique attributes. Beginning along the main entry, employees and visitors are welcomed by an illuminated reflecting pool and waterfall, which sets the mood for the serenity offered within. Once inside, a three-story, glassed-in lobby – flooded with natural light – accentuates an uninterrupted view of the oak savanna knocking at the back door. Taking advantage of its surroundings, the design sways from placing offices along the abundant window space, and instead gives priority to open work areas. This allows the comforts of nature to be felt throughout the entire facility. The design also boasts a centrally located work café with a full cafeteria, a second floor coffee bar, a number of living room areas and multiple patios accessible from any of the three levels.

As progressive as it is beautiful, the new World Headquarters heralds the company's evolving image as a global entity – encouraging employees to work in an inspiring environment that fosters creativity, collaboration and ongoing innovation. As such, the design provides a variety of workspaces and flex areas in addition to a number of conference spaces that can be reserved for specific teams or meetings. In order to most effectively fulfill the needs of each assignment, the diverse spaces encourage employees to assemble in teams for both temporary and long-term bases.

To ensure this enhanced work flow is easily maintained through future growth and development, open and flexible floor plates were utilized throughout the design. These plates will help preserve the visual connection achieved through newfound inter-departmental transparency. This is a welcome transition from the costly and ineffective renovations, closed offices, soaring cubicles and lacking team space offered by their previous facility.

Targeting LEED Certification, La-Z-Boy's new World Headquarters also incorporates a number of low-energy strategies and techniques. These include the utilization of an underground geothermal system, various water reduction techniques, LED lighting throughout and programmable solar shades.