



NEXT STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

Official Overview & Program 2025

Steelcase®

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Client Information

NEXT Overview

Established more than 70 years ago in New York, New York, NEXT’s story mirrors the growth in industrial, transportation, financial, communications, and technological advancements across the United States. As these business sectors continued to grow domestically (and internationally), NEXT continued to expand to best serve their clients and “meet them where they are.” NEXT now serves clients, globally, with 16 offices throughout the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia Pacific. NEXT is opening a new office in Los Angeles, CA, and it’s important for us to build a new workplace location where we can connect in a meaningful way with our clients. The world around us is changes rapidly.

The legal profession is navigating a period of profound transformation. Economic uncertainty, rapid digitalization, and the permanence of hybrid work have upended traditional models of practice. At NEXT, we recognize that law firms can no longer be designed solely as symbols of prestige—they must be built for legacy. That means creating environments that are resilient, inclusive, and responsive to the evolving needs of both clients and professionals. As generational shifts bring new expectations around flexibility, purpose, and well-being, we are reimagining our workplace to reflect these values. Our spaces are designed to support a wide range of work modes, foster collaboration, and enable our people to thrive—because in today’s legal landscape, impact is measured not just by outcomes, but by the culture we cultivate.

Law firms have long prioritized the client experience—but today, the employee experience is equally vital. At NEXT, we understand that our people are our greatest asset, and the environment we create for them directly shapes the quality of service we deliver. In an era defined by hybrid work, mental health awareness, and a demand for greater inclusion, we are building a culture that supports the whole person. Our Los Angeles office reflects this shift: a dynamic, human-centered space where mentorship, creativity, and connection flourish. We’ve moved beyond the conventional, embracing a workplace that adapts to how people actually live and work. Our mantra, “Rooted in law, driven by legacy,” is more than a slogan—it’s a commitment to designing a firm where people feel seen, supported, and inspired to build something that lasts.

This is the generational breakdown of the Los Angeles by generation and typical role/characteristics:

Generation	Birth Years	% at NEXT - LA	Key Roles & Characteristics
Baby Boomers	1946–1964	~12%	Senior partners, nearing retirement
Gen X	1965–1979	~27%	Partners, senior associates, leadership roles
Millennials	1980–1994	~34%	Mid-level associates, rising partners
Gen Z	1995–2009	~27%	Junior associates, interns, tech-savvy roles

PLEASE NOTE: The company brand and culture is up to the interpretation of the student and is completely up to the student’s discretion. It is important that the NEXT team has a place that supports the work that they do, enhances collaboration with teammates across all their offices, and a place where they are proud to invite their clients and prospective ones.

NEXT has decided they will be partnering with Steelcase to provide the furnishings for this new location, because of Steelcase’s commitment to innovation, diversity, equity, inclusion, and sustainability. The leaders of our company value the research Steelcase has provided for hybrid collaboration and want you to learn more and incorporate these ideas in the design of the new space. We feel strongly that we want to partner with companies that match our core values.

NEXT Overview

Please note, NEXT is a fictitious organization. The site is real, though some dimensions and details may have been modified for this student design competition.

Location

757 S Alameda St., Suite 400, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Lease Space

Fourth Floor (approximately 15,200 USF)

Scope

Plan and design NEXT's new Los Angeles office, measuring approximately 15,200 USF. Do not plan, design, or alter building core elements, such as restrooms, elevators, building stairs, and utility rooms labeled NIC (Not in Contract) which are shown on the floorplan.

Building Information

1. The building is in Los Angeles in the ROW DTLA community: <https://www.rowdtla.com/>
2. Interior core walls are drywall and extend to the ceiling deck. Students many assume that Mechoshades have been provided on all exterior glazing by the building for sun control within the space. The shading can be changed on the interior if another solution meets the student's design intent.

The space has a concrete slat ceiling and assume the building floor is also concrete and can be penetrated as required for electrical and plumbing. No power poles allowed in the space. Concrete can be treated and used as the final flooring or other flooring materials can be added to the concrete.

3. All existing corridor doors, exterior glass, restrooms, stairwells, elevators, building shafts and columns to remain in existing location. Columns can be re-clad in a new material if desired.
4. All door openings shall be a minimum of 3'-0" wide and follow all regulatory guidelines.
5. All design solutions must meet ADA requirements at minimum and should exhibit Universal Design Principal Solutions.



Legal Workplace Design Considerations + Planning Methodology

Design Drivers

Key Factors

Goals for NEXT's space include:

- The office serves as the cultural and operational anchor—a central hub for collaboration, mentorship, and connection to firm identity. Legal professionals are encouraged to be in the office at least 3 days per week to foster deeper engagement, while maintaining flexibility for remote work as needed.
- Seamless technology integration is essential to support hybrid collaboration across distributed teams, remote participants, and clients. Tools like virtual whiteboarding and high-quality video conferencing ensure equitable participation and productivity regardless of location.
- Attract, retain, and develop top legal talent by offering a workplace experience that reflects emerging values—flexibility, inclusion, and wellbeing—while supporting diverse work modes and career stages.
- Enhance employee wellbeing, engagement, and performance through regenerative spaces that support mental health, work-life balance, and a sense of belonging.
- Promote cross-functional collaboration and mentorship by designing spaces that encourage spontaneous interaction, knowledge sharing, and intergenerational learning.



Legal professionals are coming into the office to collaborate and connect.

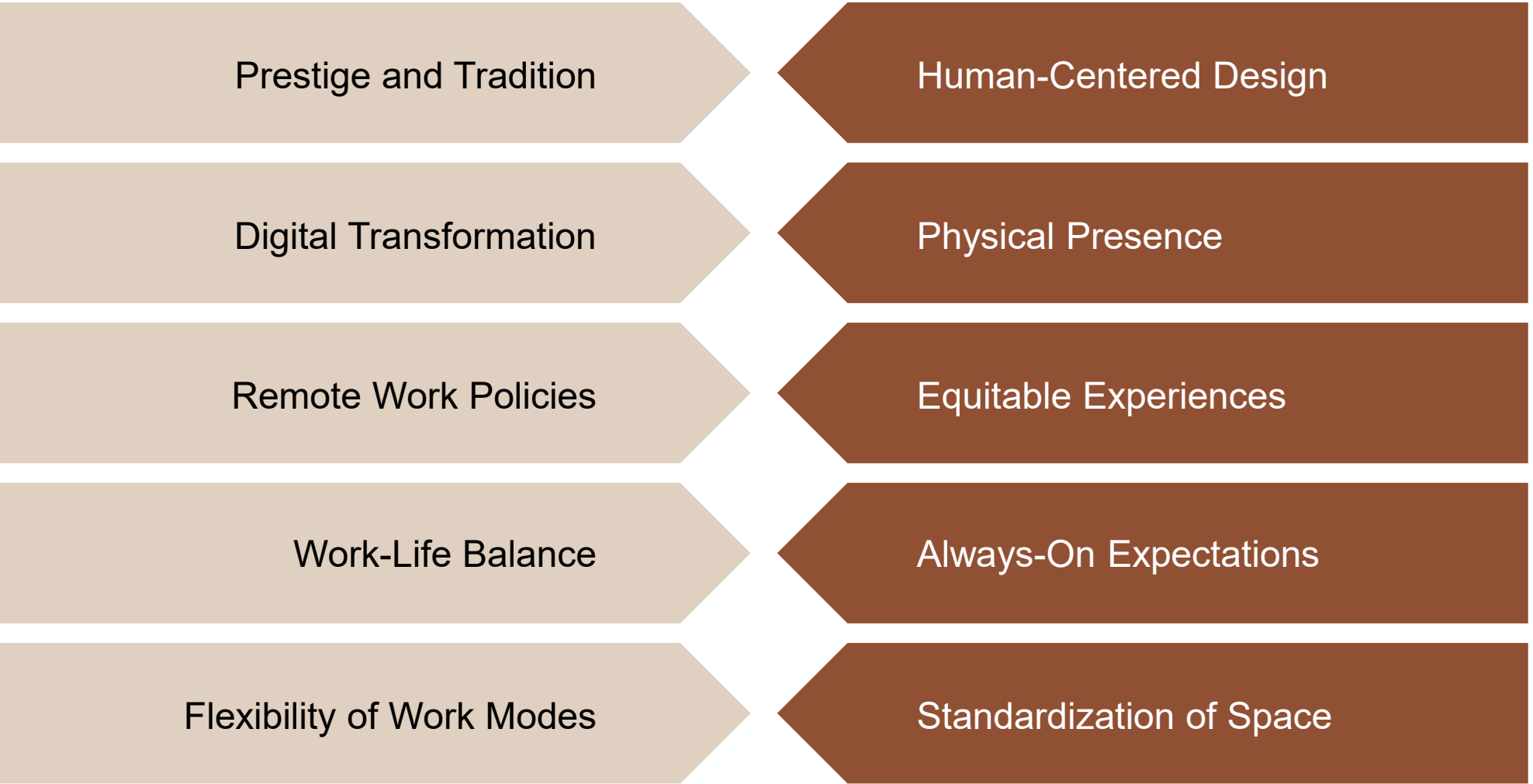


Top reasons legal professionals come to the office:

1. Collaborate with others
2. Connect to my organization and our shared purpose/goals
3. Access tools and technology
4. Focus work
5. Increase sense of belonging on my team

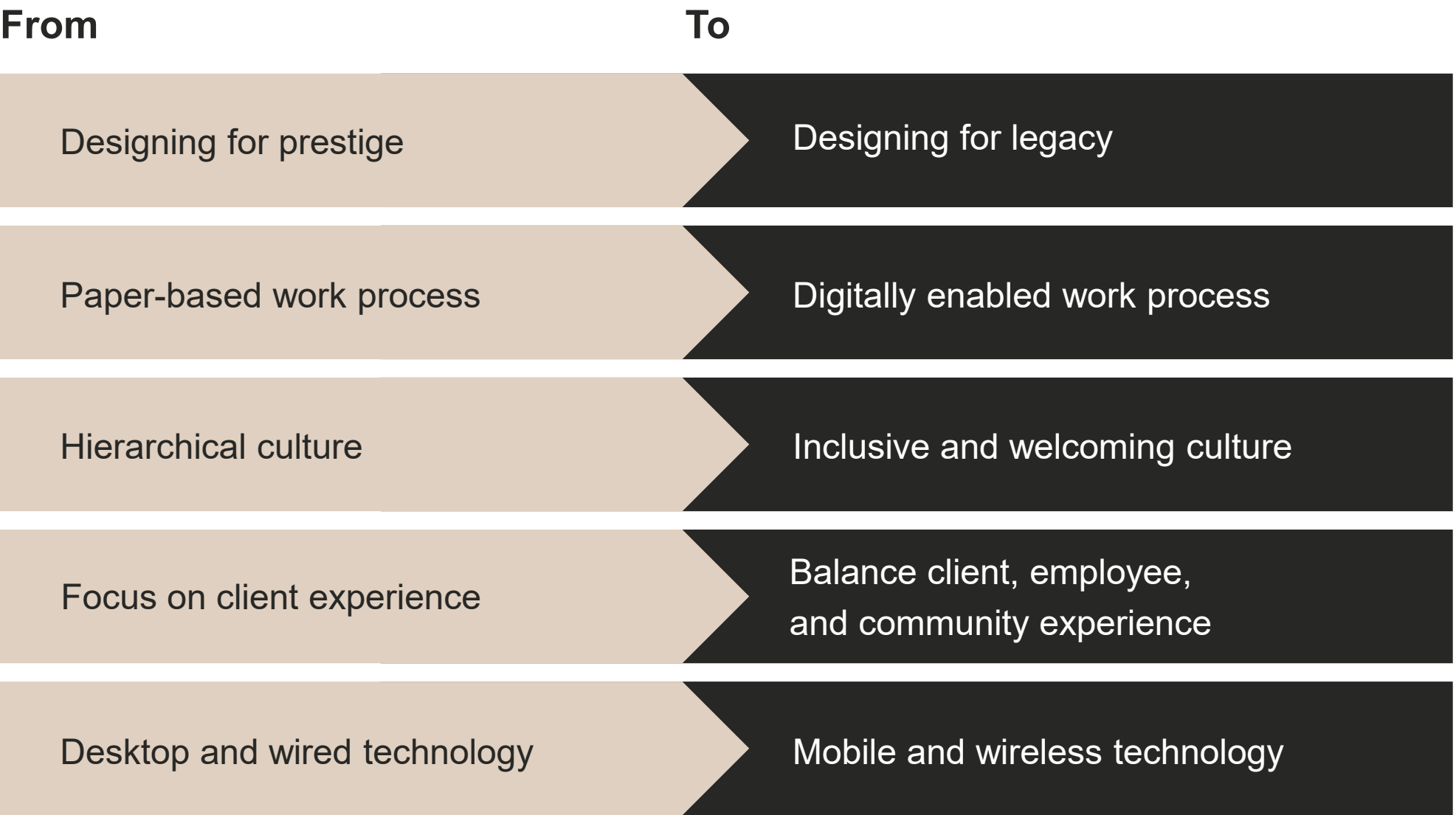
Emerging Workplace Tensions in Legal

Hybrid work creates a new set of tensions the workplace must address.



Workplace Shifts in Legal

Hybrid work creates a new set of tensions the workplace must address.



The Workplace Needs to Respond to Forces Changing Work Today

Four Macro Shifts



Living on Screen

56% of meetings include a remote participant.

AI Supercycle

75% of employees use AI at work.

Sustainability Mindset

More companies are making sustainability commitments in their organization and work environment.

Wellbeing Urgency

66% of employees are not thriving at work.

We're in more virtual meetings than ever before



56%

Include remote participants

44%

Fully in-person

Steelcase Global Research

People choose convenience over connection

50% of employees do not leave their desks for video calls. Here's why:

Easier to connect without moving from my individual space

38%

Better/more equitable experience for all participants

30%

No room is booked in advance

29%

No time between meetings to move

26%

Steelcase Leader Research

Macro Shift

Living on Screen

Screen-based interactions have overtaken in-person communications.



Living on Screen

Workplace Considerations



Hybrid collaboration spaces

Ensuring spaces can support video collaboration is crucial. See our [Hybrid Collaboration Design Guide](#) & [360 Focus: Hybrid Collaboration Guide](#)



Privacy

More screen-based work requires more acoustic and visual privacy.



Easy access to power

Adding power to social and collaborative spaces gives people more choices over where they work.



Spaces that support wellbeing

People need the ability to step away from their screens throughout the day.

Employees are leading the adoption of AI at work



Employees

75%

Of global knowledge workers use AI, nearly doubling in six months

Leaders

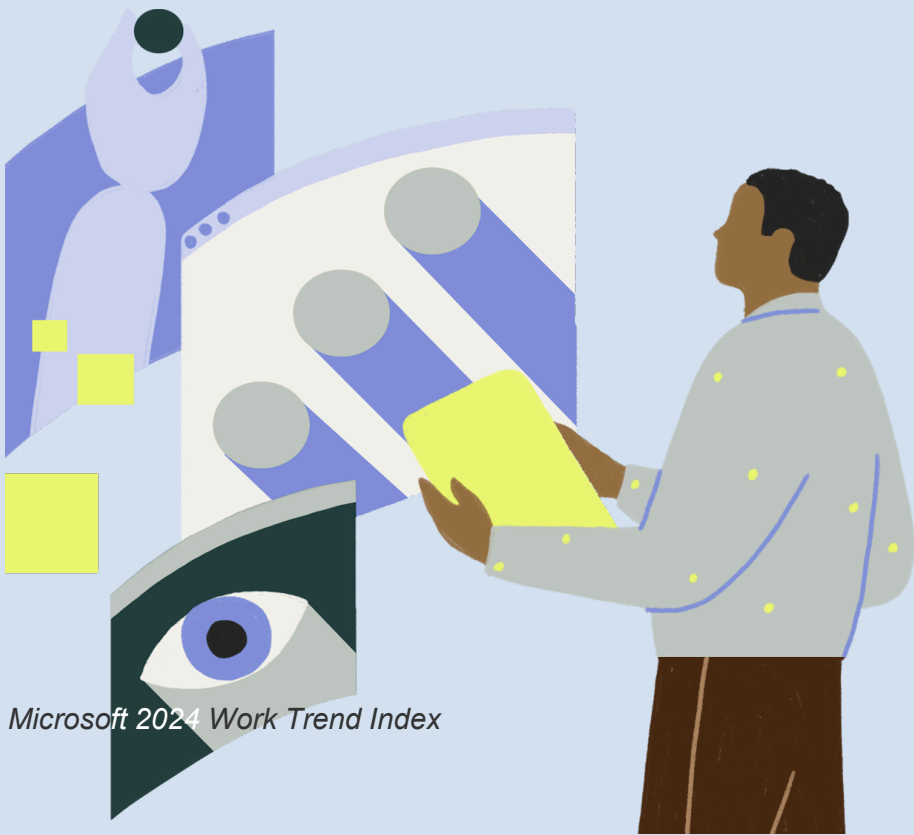
60%

Of leaders worry their organization lacks a vision to implement AI

Steelcase Global Research

AI skills are now “must-haves”

66% of leaders would not hire someone without AI skills



Microsoft 2024 Work Trend Index

Macro Shift

AI Supercycle

Employees are rapidly adopting AI and leaders know they need to leverage it more.



AI Supercycle

Workplace Considerations



We + Shared

Hybrid collaboration spaces +
AI-powered video systems, meeting
assistants.



I + Owned

Individual spaces + personalization,
personal assistants.



I + Shared

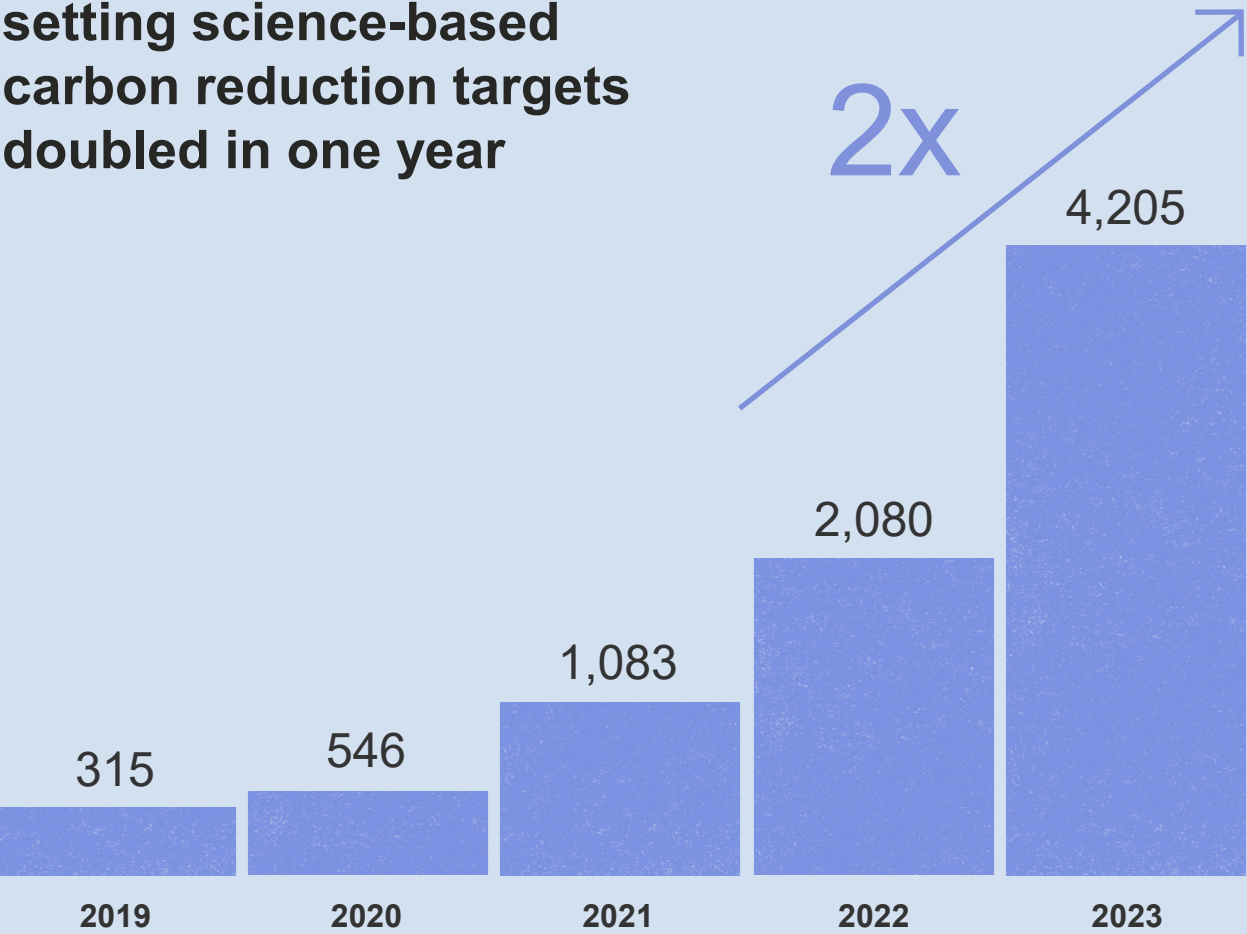
Hybrid enclaves + immersive video, sound.



We + Owned

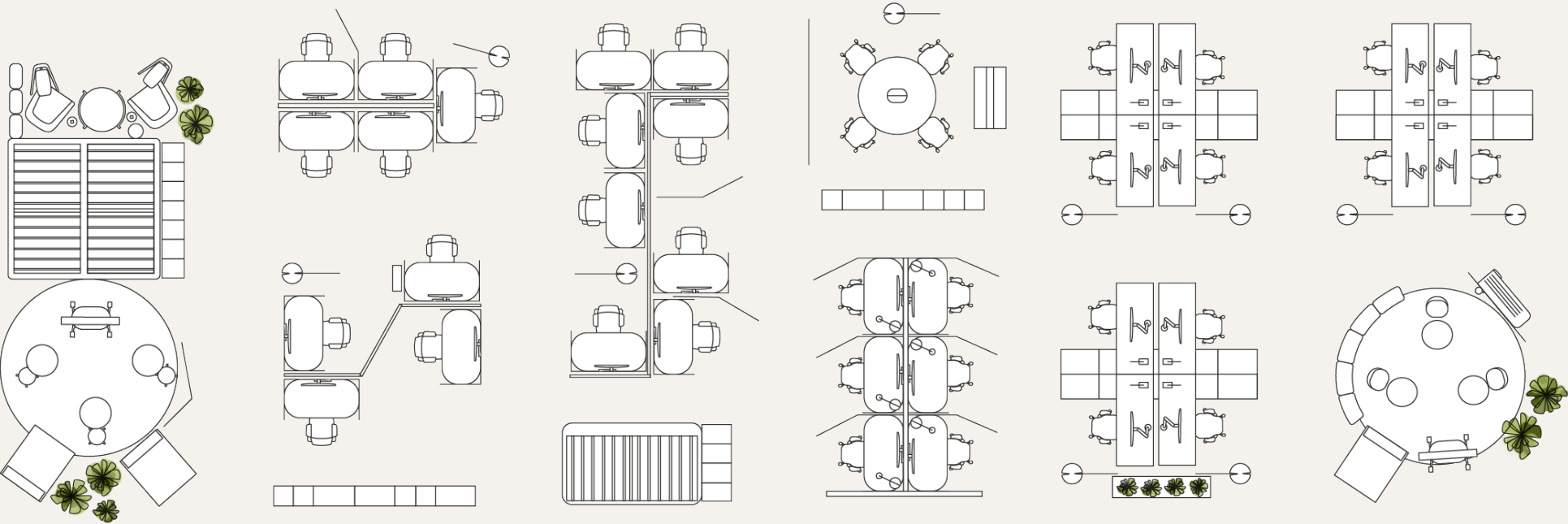
Team spaces + generative AI-tools,
interactive displays.

The number of companies setting science-based carbon reduction targets doubled in one year



Science Based Targets initiatives (SBTi)

Workplaces designed with a range of settings are easier to change and more sustainable



Macro Shift

Sustainability Mindset

Organizations prioritizing sustainability need flexible and adaptable workplaces to help achieve their goals.



Sustainability Mindset

Workplace Considerations



Set a shared vision

Create visible and accessible leadership spaces.

Display key goals and priorities.



Choose sustainable partners

Seek out partners who deliver sustainable furniture solutions and services.



Foster a learning culture

Create places for group and individual learning in formal and informal ways.



Support cross-functional teams

Design shared collaboration & social spaces to encourage connections.

Many employees are not thriving



All Employees

66%

Of employees
are not thriving

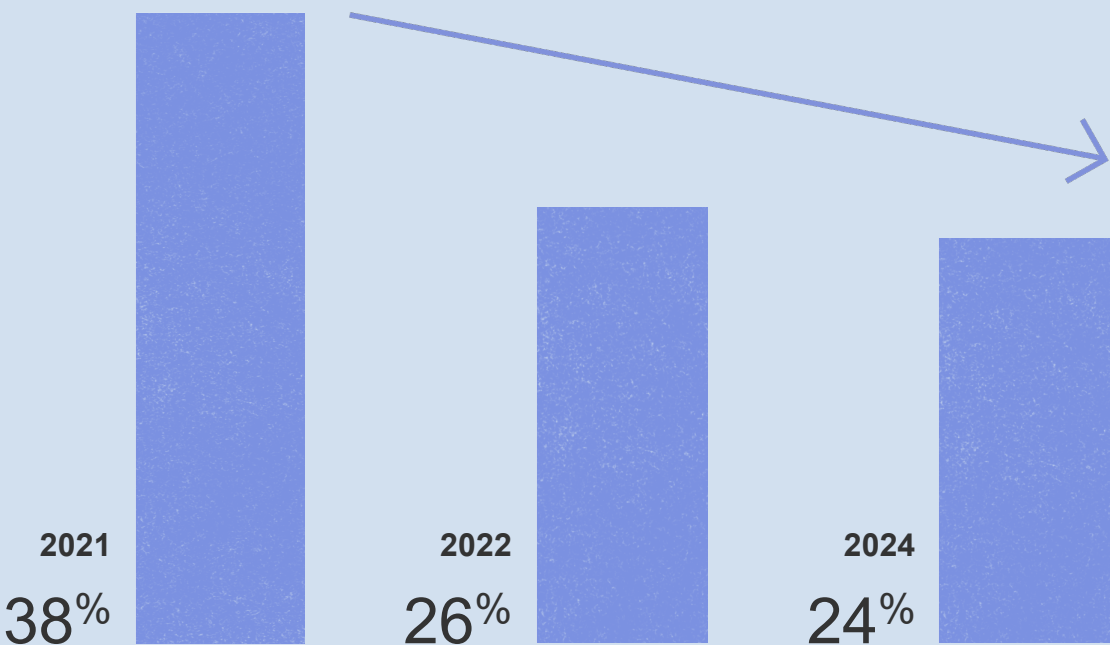
Millennials & Gen Z

69%

Of employees under
35 are not thriving

Gallup State of the Global Workplace

The number of U.S. employees who believe
their employer cares about their wellbeing
keeps dropping



Steelcase Employee Research

Macro Shift

Wellbeing Urgency

Employees have new expectations that organizations
will take action to support their mental health.



Wellbeing Urgency

Workplace Considerations



Provide spaces for focus and various types of collaboration



Create spaces that support diverse human needs

Provide access to privacy and wellbeing spaces to recharge.



Design with, not just for
Practice inclusive design by engaging people with a variety of lived experiences.

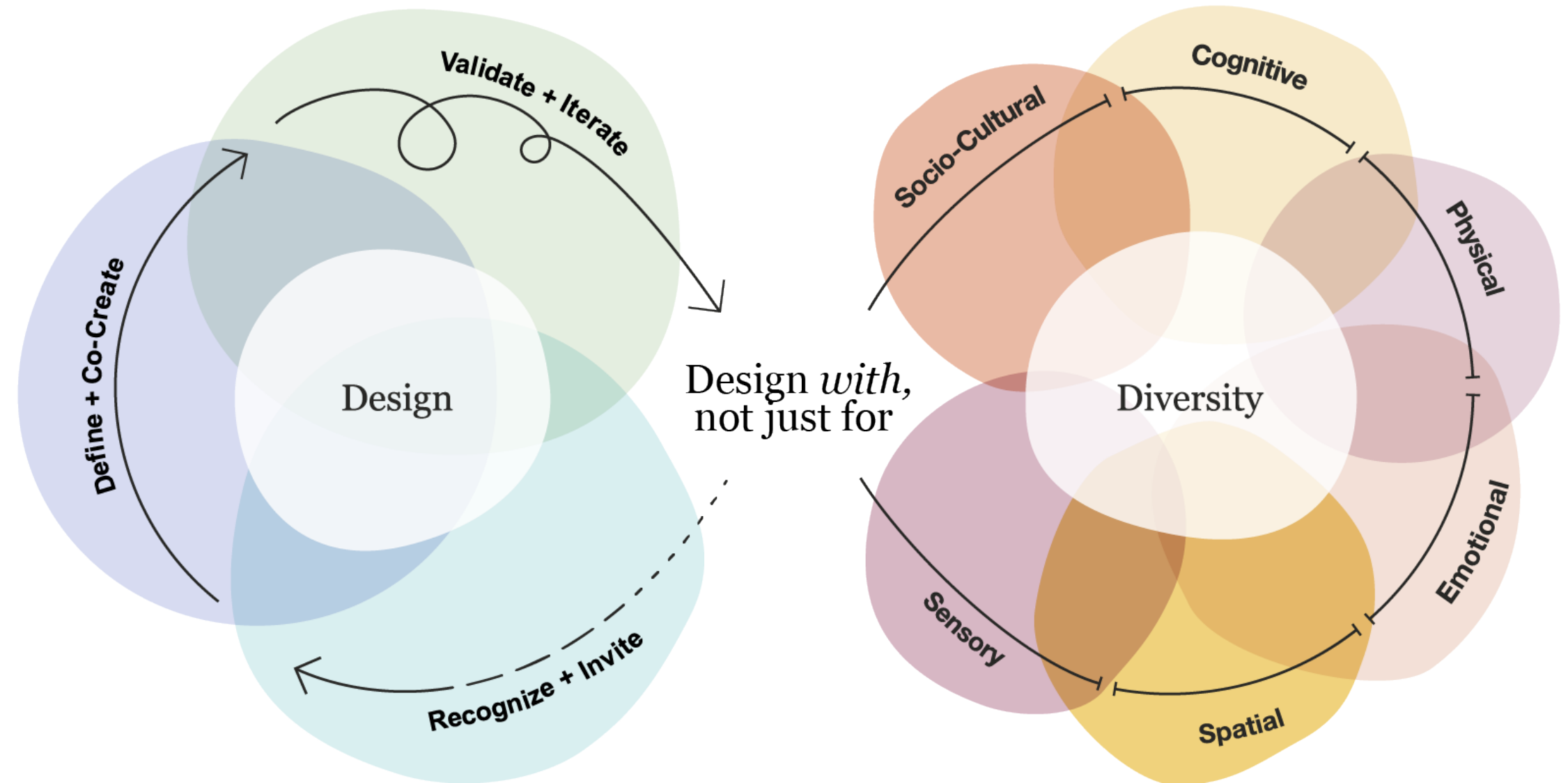


Design for effectiveness + affectiveness

Consider how the workplace supports the ways people need to work and how it makes them feel.

Inclusive Design

The process of using participatory methods to inform design and create new ways for traditionally excluded communities to engage in activities of their choice.



Steelcase Inclusive Design, 2024

[Check out the Inclusive Design landing page for more resources!](#)

Employee inclusion, flexibility, and regeneration are driving the workplace experience.

Inclusive

Engage individual input and collective voices in the workplace experience.

Flexible

Increase control over where, when, and how to work, considering policies, environment, and technologies.

Regenerative

Prioritize emerging work values with a workplace that is regenerative.



Inclusive

Law firms need to bring more diverse voices into the conversation to design for everyone's needs, work modes, and work processes.



Employees expect the office to be optimized for their needs and to support their work modes better than their home experience.

Facility management is driving toward standardization while still meeting the needs of individuals.

Law firm leaders identify culture as a top priority with a distributed workforce.

Flexible

Law firms need to design for flexibility of space, tools, and technology to create higher-performing experiences.

New talent is attracted by flexible work schedules that support work-life balance.

Legal professionals expect to be able to work and connect anywhere.

Office managers optimize for space utilization that supports a broader range of work modes.



Regenerative

Law firms need to support emerging employee values with a work experience that is regenerative and restorative.



Legal professionals expect shorter working hours and better work-life balance.

Leaders are building community by cultivating individual purpose and wellbeing within the context of the organization.

Designers are responding to requests for stylization for law offices that reflect home and nature.

Spatial Considerations

Space

- Designed for focus, collaboration, and hybrid work
- Mix of private offices, shared workstations, and open areas, which includes open, shielded, and enclosed settings
- Combines assigned and unassigned spaces
- Supports video calls, in-person meetings, and quiet work, along with adaptable layouts for evolving team needs
- Reflects firm culture and individual identity

Technology

- Mobile-first tools for hybrid work
- Seamless video conferencing in all key spaces supporting virtual collaboration firm-wide
- Power and connectivity integrated throughout, and fully Wi-Fi enabled across the office
- Secure, cloud-based access to files and systems
- Tech-enabled spaces for hearings, meetings, and focus work

Lighting

- Layered lighting for different work modes
- Wellness-focused solutions with dimmable options, along with maximizing natural light and outdoor views
- Minimize glare with adjustable shading
- Lighting supports video calls and hybrid meetings
- Warm, inviting tones to enhance comfort and focus

Acoustics + Privacy

- Visual separation to reduce distractions and sound-absorbing materials throughout
- Defined zones for open vs. secure work, including enclosed spaces for confidential conversations
- Acoustic support for video calls and hybrid meetings
- Privacy features integrated into shared and individual spaces

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a foundational principle in the design of modern legal workplaces. Spaces should support the full spectrum of employee needs—physical, emotional, and cognitive—by offering a variety of environments for focus, collaboration, and restoration. A range of postures, including options to sit, stand, lounge, and move, encourages healthy habits throughout the day. Natural light, biophilic elements, and quiet zones contribute to a sense of calm and connection. These environments should foster positive emotions, psychological safety, and a sense of belonging—whether employees are working in person or remotely—while reinforcing the firm’s culture and values.

Programming Information

There are **(55)** NEXT employees that will utilize this new office in Los Angeles each day. There should also be (2) additional offices for traveling Associates.

Requirements for this space – Departments

Legal Professional Staff

- 1. Office Leadership (6)**
 - Managing Partner – 1
 - Partners – 3
 - Legal Assistants – 2

- **2. Litigation Practice Group: Labor & Employment (10)**
 - Partners – 2
 - Associates – 3
 - Junior Associate – 1
 - Paralegal – 1
 - Legal Assistants – 2
 - Intern – 1

- 3. Litigation Practice Group: Intellectual Property (11)**
 - Partners – 2
 - Associates – 4
 - Junior Associate – 1
 - Paralegal – 1
 - Legal Assistants – 2
 - Intern – 1

- 4. Transactional Practice Group: Real Estate (11)**
 - Partners – 2
 - Associates – 4
 - Junior Associate – 1
 - Paralegal – 1
 - Legal Assistants – 2
 - Intern – 1

Office Support Staff

- 5. Operations (4).**
 - Office Manager – 1
 - Receptionist – 1
 - Facilities Manager – 1
 - Office Services/Print – 1

- 6. Human Resources (3).**
 - HR Manager – 1
 - HR Generalist/Coordinator – 1
 - Recruiter/Talent Acquisition – 1

- 7. Finance & Accounting (5)**
 - Finance Manager – 1
 - Billing Specialists – 2
 - Accounts Payable/Receivable – 1
 - Financial Analyst – 1

- 8. IT & Cybersecurity (5).**
 - IT Manager – 1
 - Help Desk Technicians – 2
 - Cybersecurity Analyst – 1
 - Database Administrator – 1

Provide (2) additional offices for traveling Associates

- Provide 150 SF Private Offices (2) – you decide if on exterior glass or interior for flexibility

At NEXT Law Firm headquarters, located in New York, the office serves as the central hub for legal operations, collaboration, and client engagement. While the firm embraces a hybrid workplace model, attorneys and staff are encouraged to work from the office at least four days per week. This approach supports the firm’s belief that in-person collaboration strengthens mentorship, fosters trust, enhances knowledge sharing, and drives innovation—all essential to delivering exceptional legal service.

Leaders from the firm’s New York headquarters and attorneys (Associates) from regional offices in Seattle, Denver, and Houston frequently visit the main office for multi-day working sessions. These visits are designed to deepen cross-office collaboration, align on firmwide initiatives, and engage with clients in the region. It is essential that visiting attorneys feel fully integrated and supported, with seamless access to the same technology, resources, and amenities they rely on in their home offices.

General role and job responsibilities of the NEXT employees

Legal Professional Staff – 38 People

- Managing Partner – Oversees the office’s operations, strategy, and key client relationships.
- Partners – Senior attorneys with ownership in the firm; lead major cases and drive business development.
- Department Partners – Senior attorneys who manage cases and mentor associates.
- Associates – Experienced attorneys handling complex legal work and supervising junior lawyers.
- Junior Associates – Entry-level attorneys supporting casework, research, and drafting legal documents
- Paralegals / Legal Assistants – Support attorneys with research, document preparation, and case management.
- Interns – Law students or recent grads assisting with research and administrative tasks.

Office Support Staff – 17 People

- Office Manager – Manages daily operations, facilities, and administrative staff.
- Receptionist – Greets visitors, manages calls, and supports front office operations.
- Facilities Manager – Oversees office maintenance, space planning, and vendor services.
- Office Services/Print – Handles mail, deliveries, and internal logistics and printing.
- HR Manager – Leads HR strategy, compliance, and employee relations.
- HR Generalist / Coordinator – Supports recruiting, onboarding, and benefits administration.
- Recruiter / Talent Acquisition – Manages hiring processes and candidate sourcing.
- Finance Manager – Oversees financial planning, budgeting, and reporting.
- Billing Specialist – Prepares and processes client invoices.
- Accounts Payable / Receivable – Manages payments, reimbursements, and collections.
- Financial Analyst – Analyzes financial data to support strategic decisions.
- IT Director Manager – Leads IT strategy, infrastructure, and support services.
- Help Desk Technician – Provides technical support to staff and resolves IT issues.
- Cybersecurity Analyst – Protects firm data and systems from cyber threats.
- Database Administrator – Manages legal databases and custom software tools.

Employee type	SF	Type of workspace and location	QTY
Legal Professional Spaces			
Leadership			
Managing Partner	225	Private Office on perimeter glass	1
Partners	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	3
Legal Assistants	80	Workstation within interior of space	2
Litigation Practice Group: Labor & Employment			
Partners	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	2
Associates	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	3
Junior Associate	120	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Paralegal	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Legal Assistants	80	Workstation within interior of space	2
Intern	36	Workstation within interior of space	1
Litigation Practice Group: Intellectual Property			
Partners	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	2
Associates	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	4
Junior Associate	120	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Paralegal	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Legal Assistants	80	Workstation within interior of space	2
Intern	36	Workstation within interior of space	1
Transactional Practice Group: Real Estate			
Partners	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	2
Associates	150	Private Office on perimeter glass	4
Junior Associate	120	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Paralegal	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Legal Assistants	80	Workstation within interior of space	2
Intern	36	Workstation within interior of space	1
Legal Professional Totals			38

Support Staff Spaces			
Operations			
Office Manager	150	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Receptionist	TBD	Reception desk within the community hub	1
Facilities Manager	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Office Services /Print	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
HR			
HR Manager	150	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
HR Generalist/Coordinator	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Recruiter/Talent Acquisition	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Finance & Accounting			
Finance Manager	150	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Billing Specialist	64	Workstation within interior of space	2
Accounts Payable/Receivable	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Financial Analyst	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
IT & Cybersecurity			
IT Manager	150	Private Office within the interior of the space	1
Help Desk Technician	64	Workstation within interior of space	2
Cybersecurity Analyst	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Database Administrator	64	Workstation within interior of space	1
Support Staff TOTALS			17

NEXT Spaces

Community Hub – Reception & Welcome

Managing Partner Office

Partner / Associate Offices

Quantity	1	1	20 + 2 additional visitor offices
Space Allocation	300 SF – 400 SF	225 SF	150 SF
Function	<p>This space serves as the first point of contact for clients, guests, and employees—setting the tone for the firm’s culture and professionalism. It supports greeting, orientation, and informal interaction, while offering a welcoming and branded experience. A full-time receptionist will reside in this space.</p> <p>The receptionist needs a work desk, ergonomic task chair, computer with monitor and phone and think about an accessible transaction area within the receptionist's space.</p> <p>Provide seating for a minimum of 4-6 guests</p> <p>This area is <u>required</u> to be one of the renderings provided. Provide a view that best shows your overall design intent.</p>	<p>This office supports an executive level office for the Managing Partner, offering a refined, spacious environment for deep focus, hybrid meetings, and hosting clients or team members. It balances prestige with functionality, enabling seamless transitions between individual and collaborative tasks.</p> <p>This office should be the most premium from a finish, materiality, and aesthetic perspective.</p> <p>This office should be placed along the exterior glass.</p>	<p>This space is designed to support both focused individual work and small-scale collaboration within the office (2 others max), including virtual meetings. It offers a quiet, enclosed environment that reflects the user’s professional identity while enabling seamless transitions between work modes. These offices should be a more elevated from a finish and materiality perspective.</p> <p>Differentiate between the Partner and Associate offices aesthetically with the Partner offices being the more elevated of the two. All of these offices should be placed along the exterior glass.</p> <p>Provide at minimum (3) <u>THREE</u> different office layouts. NEXT wants to promote individualization for each person and give them the ability to choose the best solution for the way they like to work.</p>
Lighting	<p>Energy efficient direct/indirect lighting recommended. Make fixture recommendations.</p> <p><u>Reflected ceiling plan required for this area (but not limited to).</u></p>	<p>Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.</p>	<p>Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.</p>
Furniture	<p>Comfortable lounge seating, side tables, and digital displays for firm messaging or media.</p>	<p>Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) as well as all Steelcase company owned brands as well as partner brands for this space based on the client’s vision and needs. Include a height-adjustable desk, ergonomic seating, lounge seating with ottoman, collaboration table, and ample storage.</p>	<p>Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) as well as all Steelcase company owned brands as well as partner brands for this space based on the client’s vision and needs. Use ergonomic seating, height-adjustable desks, ample storage, and a widescreen monitor with camera for hybrid collaboration with a least two guests.</p>
Construction	<p>Designed with open sightlines, acoustic treatments, and branded elements such as signage, materials, and finishes that reflect the firm’s identity and values.</p>	<p>Designed with high acoustic separation, personalization zones for video backdrops, and dedicated collaboration areas that reflect the firm’s brand and the attorney’s professional identity. Consider products from the Steelcase Architectural Solutions offering</p>	<p>Designed with high acoustic separation, personalization zones for video backdrops. Consider products from the Steelcase Architectural Solutions offering</p>

NEXT Spaces

	Manager Offices	Junior Associate Offices	Paralegal and 64 SF Office Staff Workstations
Quantity	4	3	15 individual workstations
Space Allocation	150 SF	120 SF	64 SF
Function	<p>This space is designed to support both focused individual work and small-scale collaboration within the office (2 others max), including virtual meetings. It offers a quiet, enclosed environment that reflects the user’s professional identity while enabling seamless transitions between work modes.</p> <p>These offices should be placed within the interior of the space and not along the exterior glass.</p> <p>The finish selection for these offices should not be at the same level of the Partner/Associate offices.</p>	<p>This space is designed to support entry level attorneys and this space reflects their early-career status while still supporting productivity and professionalism for these individuals to support casework, research, and drafting legal documents.</p> <p>These offices should be placed within the interior of the space and not along the exterior glass.</p> <p>The finish selection for these offices should be at the same level provided for the manager offices.</p>	<p>These workstations are designed to support task-intensive, detail-oriented work such as document preparation, scheduling, and case management. They also facilitate quick interactions at their workstation with attorneys and other staff while maintaining a professional and organized environment. Consider a transactional area to help facilitate these interactions. All workstations need storage for personal belongings.</p> <p>These workstations should be placed within the interior of the space and not along the exterior glass.</p> <p>The paralegal workstations should have more premium materiality and aesthetic than the other staff workstations.</p> <p>This area is <u>required</u> to be one of the renderings provided.</p>
Lighting	Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.	Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.	Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.
Furniture	Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) as well as all Steelcase company owned brands as well as partner brands for this space. Use ergonomic seating, height adjustable desk, ample storage, and a widescreen monitor with camera for hybrid collaboration.	Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs. Steelcase partner brands are welcome in this office. Use ergonomic seating, height adjustable desk, ample storage, and a widescreen monitor with camera for hybrid collaboration.	Provide a height-adjustability, and ergonomic seating, and appropriate storage. Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.
Construction	Designed with high acoustic separation, personalization zones for video backdrops. Consider products from the Steelcase Architectural Solutions offering.	Designed with high acoustic separation, personalization zones for video backdrops. Consider products from the Steelcase Architectural Solutions offering.	

NEXT Spaces

	Legal Assistant Workstations	Intern Workstations	Work Café
Quantity	8	3	1
Space Allocation	80 SF	36 SF	Approximately 500 SF +/-
Function	<p>These workstations are designed to support task-intensive, detail-oriented work such as document preparation, scheduling, and case management. They also facilitate quick interactions at their workstation with attorneys and other staff while maintaining a professional and organized environment. Consider a transactional area to help facilitate these interactions.</p> <p>These workstations should be placed within the interior of the space and not along the exterior glass.</p>	<p>These workstations support long hours of focused legal research, document drafting, and virtual collaboration, while also enabling quick access to shared tools and informal mentoring opportunities with senior staff.</p> <p>These workstations should be placed within the interior of the space and not along the exterior glass.</p>	<p>This space serves as a landing zone for social interaction, offering a relaxed environment where employees can grab a coffee, catch up on emails, or connect with colleagues. It helps foster a sense of community and belonging within the firm. designed to support casual interaction, informal meetings, and spontaneous connection among employees. Provide adequate spaces for power as employees can use their laptops in any of the space within the office. Provide different types of seating to accommodate a variety of choices accommodating a variety of postures.</p> <p>Coffee and espresso machines, sparkling water bar, organic snacks, microwaves, sink, dishwasher and refrigerators are provided in this area.</p> <p>This area is <u>required</u> to be one of the renderings provided. Provide a view that best shows your overall design intent.</p> <p><i>Food preparation spaces are not needed for this project.</i></p>
Lighting	Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.	Direct/indirect lighting, supplemented by individual task lighting. Make fixture recommendations.	A combination of lighting sources is recommended. All selections should be energy efficient. <u>Reflected ceiling plan required for this area (but not limited to).</u>
Furniture	Provide a height-adjustability, and ergonomic seating, and appropriate storage. Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.	Provide a height-adjustability, and ergonomic seating, and appropriate storage. Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.	Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.
Construction			

NEXT Spaces

	Multi-purpose / Town Hall	Catering Pantry	Large Conference Room
Quantity	1	1	1
Space Allocation	Approximately 450 SF +/-	100 - 150 SF	400 - 500 SF
Function	<p>This space is intended for large-group interaction, including professional development, community-building, and informal social events. It supports reconfiguration and adaptability, making it a central asset for firm culture and engagement. Designed to flexibly accommodate training sessions, social gatherings, and firm-wide events. Consider flexible tables and seating and ability to add stackable chairs. Build in room for stow away items when not in use.</p> <p>Provide two different layouts for how this space might be configured for different use scenarios and clearly identify which scenario you were planning for.</p> <p>This area is required to be one of the renderings provided. Provide a view that best shows your overall design intent.</p> <p><u>Reflected ceiling plan required for this area (but not limited to).</u></p>	<p>This space should be in close proximity to the Work Café and the Multi-Purpose / Town Hall spaces.</p> <p>This space will receive any catering that is being delivered for company events; therefore, the appropriate amount of counter space should be provided. Storage is needed to house cups, utensils, paper products, glassware, etc.</p>	<p>This space serves as a prestige-driven, multifunctional environment for client meetings, team collaboration, and formal presentations. It supports both in-person gatherings and equitable hybrid experiences, reinforcing firm culture and professionalism. This space should be able to accommodate 12 to 16 people comfortably as well as have sufficient space for delivered catering to be received within the room.</p> <p>This conference room should be the most premium from a finish, materiality, and aesthetic perspective.</p> <p>This area is required to be one of the renderings provided. Provide a view that best shows your overall design intent.</p>
Lighting	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.
Furniture	Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client's vision and needs.	Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client's vision and needs.	Include a large conference table, comfortable seating, acoustic privacy, and integrated tech like 360° tabletop cameras and content-sharing tools.
Construction			Enclosed with high-performance acoustic walls, built-in storage for hosting and technology infrastructure to support seamless hybrid collaboration and a polished client-facing experience.

NEXT Spaces

	Medium Conference Rooms	Small Conference Rooms	Huddle Rooms
Quantity	2	2	2
Space Allocation	200 - 250 SF	150 SF	100-150 SF
Function	This space supports team collaboration, client discussions, and hybrid meetings in a more intimate setting. It’s optimized for visibility, engagement, and content sharing among both in-room and remote participants. Designed to accommodate 4–6 participants comfortably in the room for hybrid or in-person meetings.	This space is ideal for confidential discussions, virtual meetings, or one-on-one conversations, offering a quiet, enclosed setting that supports both in-person and hybrid interactions. Designed to accommodate 2–4 participants for private, focused, or sensitive conversations.	This space supports intentional, in-person knowledge sharing and relationship building between colleagues of different experience levels (ie: mentoring). It fosters trust, learning, and connection in a comfortable, approachable environment. Designed for 1:1 or small group mentoring sessions in a relaxed, semi-private setting.
Lighting	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections.
Furniture	Include a mid-sized conference table, ergonomic seating, acoustic control, and markerboards with content cameras for hybrid content sharing.	Include a compact meeting table, comfortable seating, small ottomans or poufs, and video-friendly backdrops for hybrid functionality.	Include a sectional or lounge seating with articulating backs, a shared work surface, and integrated power access for personal devices.
Construction	Enclosed with glass or solid partitions, optional privacy film, and technology integration for seamless hybrid functionality and acoustic privacy.	Enclosed with acoustic treatments, glass or solid partitions, and camera-conscious finishes to ensure privacy, professionalism, and brand expression during virtual meetings.	Enclosed with acoustic treatments, glass or solid partitions, and camera-conscious finishes to ensure privacy, professionalism, and brand expression during virtual meetings. Adjacent to social zones allowing for spontaneous or scheduled mentoring moments.

NEXT Spaces

	Focus Rooms	Virtual Hearing Room	Case Rooms
Quantity	2	1	4
Space Allocation	80 – 100 SF	300 - 375 SF	120 - 200 SF
Function	These enclaves offer semi-private, tech-enabled spaces for guests to work independently, take calls, or prepare for meetings. They provide a welcoming, professional environment that reflects the firm’s hospitality and brand. Designed to support visiting clients, consultants, or remote employees with short-term, focused work needs.	This space is purpose-built for virtual court hearings, depositions, and legal proceedings, ensuring equity, professionalism, and clarity for all participants. It supports seamless hybrid interaction with a focus on visibility, acoustics, and presence. Designed to support formal virtual legal proceedings with multiple participants, both in-person and remote.	These rooms are designed for high-focus, project-based collaboration, such as case preparation, trial strategy sessions, or team-based legal research. They support extended use by small teams, allowing for the spread of documents, digital collaboration, and secure discussions.
Lighting	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections. Adjustability for presentations.	Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections.
Furniture	Include a height-adjustable desk or table, ergonomic seating, lockable storage, and power/data access for plug-and-play functionality.	Use balanced, glare-free lighting with adjustable brightness to ensure all participants are clearly visible on camera, while maintaining a neutral, professional tone.	Include a central table, ergonomic seating, whiteboards or writable walls, pin-up space, and integrated AV tools for hybrid collaboration. Need to provide ample storage options (open shelving) – for case files evidentiary artifacts.
Construction	Designed with acoustic separation, visual privacy, and adjacency to shared amenities like cafés or lounges, allowing guests to feel integrated yet independent.	Enclosed with acoustically treated walls, camera-conscious finishes, and technology infrastructure that supports large-scale displays, individual framing, and seamless content sharing.	Enclosed with high acoustic performance, ample wall space for analog tools, and large digital display to support focused teamwork.

NEXT Spaces

	Lactation Room	Production and Resource Center	Wildcard Space
Quantity	1	1	1
Space Allocation	80- 100 sq ft	200 – 300 SF	Varies – To be determined by student designer
Function	<p>Provide a visually private, lockable space that is for parents who are nursing. Adequate worksurface space for nursing pump equipment, mini-refrigerator to house milk as well as easy access to power to plug in mechanical pump. Consider comfortable and functional furniture.</p> <p>Create a relaxing environment and sanctuary.</p>	<p>This space serves as space to produce mockups for clients and/or trials with storage for materials (spray mount, foam core, sharpies, paper, etc.) as well as a copy/print area, mail room, package storage, and recycling center. Provide the following: (2) copier/printers, (1) recycling station, mailboxes or mail trays, and sufficient counter space is required, a layout and construction table as well as storage for general office supplies.</p>	<p>What element is missing from NEXT to make it unique and bring your design concept/inspiration to life while also addressing the NEXT objectives?</p> <p>Take advantage of available real estate in the floor plan and design something unique for NEXT.</p> <p>This area is <u>required</u> to be one of the renderings provided. Provide a view that best shows your overall design intent.</p>
Lighting	<p>Students should research the best lighting solutions for this room; however, consider subdued, user controlled (dimmable) lighting and make energy efficient fixture recommendations.</p>	<p>Direct/indirect lighting; Make fixture recommendations. All lighting choices should be energy efficient selections.</p>	<p>To be determined as appropriate by student designer</p>
Furniture	<p>Choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.</p>	<p>As needed, choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.</p>	<p>As needed, choose the most appropriate Steelcase Inc. product(s) for this space based on the client’s vision and needs.</p>
Construction	<p>Consider acoustically sound traditional construction</p>		

Resources

NEXT: *Student Design Competition*

Design Resource ideas (not limited to):

- [Steelcase.com](https://steelcase.com)
- [Steelcase Planning Ideas](#)
- [Hybrid Collaboration Guide](#)

Steelcase Resource ideas (not limited to):

- [Law Office Interior Design – Steelcase](#)
- [Steelcase Research](#)
- [Work Better Research](#)

Industry Research Resource ideas (not limited to):

- [ALA Publications](#)
- [2025 Report on the State of the Legal Market](#)
- [ABA Profile of the Legal Profession 2024](#)

There is a lot of additional research available for the legal industry/profession. We suggest students do their own search for research by leading A&D firms and leading Corporate Real Estate firms for what they have published about the legal profession.



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