

**Project:** Dominion Energy, Clearinghouse Interior Renovation, Richmond, Virginia

**Design Team:**

**KSA Interiors:**

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Sr. Director of Design

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Interior Designer

**Cornerstone Architecture and Interior Design:**

**Amanda Monger**, CID

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With a pristine view of the James River from the 2-story window expanse, this space, formerly designed as the energy trading floor, was underutilized square footage in the corporate portfolio. The design firms were hired to renovate the Clearinghouse Building on the Tredegar Campus while maintaining occupancy of the space with some groups working a 24/7 schedule. The phasing of the construction was critical to the success of the project. Decisions were made early in the design to maintain the existing lighting, ceiling, and structure as is. The Design Team was tasked with implementing the new Workplace Strategy standards for work and collaborative areas, while incorporating the timeless finishes of the Clearinghouse, to retain the building identity. A fresher, neutral base to the finish palette changed the brightness of the space without replacing any lighting. Views of the nearby James River were used as inspiration for the finish palettes. Various blue tones and water-like visuals were utilized throughout. The new custom wood reception desk was designed to welcome guests coming off the elevator as the first stop for guest check-in. It was to match the finishes of the existing custom wood and metal paneled logo wall. The desk also needed to incorporate a refreshment area for refrigerator and coffee station, as well as a sit-to-stand desk which is part of the new standard for workstations. The existing reception area was also transformed to include a new Coat Closet, ADA Restroom, and Mothers’ Room. The restrooms were aesthetically upgraded, including new plumbing fixtures, partitions, lighting and additional storage in the women’s restrooms. Each breakroom also received a complete finish makeover, outfitted with coffee bars, microwaves, subzero refrigeration, “healthy” vending machines, and ample counter space for banquet or potluck gatherings. The larger breakrooms accommodated a combination of hi/lo seating to support a variety of meeting spaces. This was the first implementation the new standards into a large work environment, providing a new way of working and behaving in the office environment. We worked closely with the Facilities and Workplace teams to analyze existing conditions and adjust layouts to optimize seat count and space efficiency. Ancillary collaboration spaces were developed in keeping with the new workplace strategy while working within the space that was available. We were challenged to meet the need for additional and varied work areas without any architectural changes, utilizing only new furniture and finish solutions. Using activity-based planning, the spaces were zoned by activity and noise level, creating a furniture landscape ranging from heads-down individual work to small group media collaboration. Client concerns over noise generated in the collaborative areas was addressed using sound absorbing materials and various levels of visual privacy. The accent color of each zone reflects the level of activity and noise, subtly prompting behavior. As a first implementation of the new Workplace Strategy, the project was “under the microscope” from stakeholders company wide.