



HAWORTH®

## California State Teachers' Retirement System Headquarters

West Sacramento, CA

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### Client Space

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As a state agency, the California State Teachers' Retirement System needed to ensure that their new headquarters clearly reflected good stewardship of their budget, the environment, and their employees' best interests. The facility goes above and beyond, reducing the group's carbon footprint, saving money, and improving employee morale.



"Working with our Haworth representative and the local dealer, CalSTRS was able to achieve the exact aesthetic we desired at the right price, without compromising quality. We couldn't be more pleased with the result." – Lisa Blatnick, Director, Facilities Management, California State Teachers' Retirement System

With more than 800,000 members, it was time for The California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) to develop a new space to support its growing workforce. The result? A new 409,000 sq. ft., 13-story headquarters overlooking the Sacramento River.

The HOK architecture team was charged with creating a space to LEED® Gold certification standards that broke the traditional state agency mold. CalSTRS wanted an environment that would help retain talented employees and enhance worker satisfaction and productivity. The resulting design evokes a vessel steering a course of financial strength and stability. A gently curved façade, reminiscent of a ship's sail, towers over the West Sacramento riverfront.

For the interiors, a partner was needed who could not only complement and enhance the aesthetic, but could integrate solutions across a wide variety of applications. After all, the facility included roughly 1,200 workstations, 84 private offices, a call center, trader stations, the reception area, a lounge, and training and meeting rooms. Haworth's approach to space as a whole answered all of these needs.

At the Haworth showroom in San Francisco, the CalSTRS steering committee and the HOK design team saw what they were looking for in PREMISE workstations with Moxie screens. Not only did they mirror the waterborne motif of the exterior, but they supported the end user and contributed to a fun interior. For example, alternative seating orientations and the

use of benches instead of guest chairs created an informal, inviting space. What's more, lower panel and storage heights provided the optimum balance of daylighting and privacy.

The next step was to visit the Haworth headquarters, then under construction in Holland, Michigan. There, visitors enjoyed a memorable hard hat tour while discussing sustainability with Dick Haworth and other team members. Haworth's enthusiasm and commitment to quality and sustainability helped seal the deal.

Throughout the project, the six-person dealer team and Haworth headquarters worked together to adjust products to suit the HOK and CalSTRS vision. For example, Haworth was asked to find a domestic alternative to anigre wood. Figured maple was substituted, providing more sustainable yet similar aesthetic. Over six months, weekly meetings were held to review styles, materials, and finishes for their aesthetic alignment, contributions to sustainability, and ability to provide maximum value for the client's budget.

Ultimately, the building hopes to meet all objectives. Increasing employee productivity and decreasing absenteeism. Energy costs have been reduced more than \$130,000 per year. And the building is the jewel of the West Sacramento River Walk.



#### Customer Profile

The California State Teachers' Retirement System is the largest U.S. teachers' retirement fund, providing retirement-related benefits and services to teachers in public schools and community colleges. Their mission is to secure the financial future and sustain the trust of California's educators.

#### Haworth Product

Systems Furniture: PREMISE®, Moxie®  
Desks, Files & Storage: X Series®,  
Planes® Credenzas  
Seating: Zody®, LOOK®, Hello®, ToDo:®, X99®  
Tables and Conference Furniture:  
Planes®, Tactics®  
Wood Furniture: Masters Series®, York™  
\*Updated Haworth products now available.

#### Architect & Design Firm:

HOK – San Francisco, California

#### General Contractor:

HMH Builders – Sacramento, California

#### Haworth Furniture Dealer:

Western Contract – Rancho Cordova, California

\*Please note that some products shown are not manufactured by Haworth.

## HAWORTH®

Haworth's integrated palette includes Compose, Enclose, Patterns, Planes, Reside, Beside, and Belong.

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