

Case Study

Austin Community College

Nothing says “we’re all about the future of teaching and learning” quite like a campus comprised of five brand-new buildings. Austin Community College’s Round Rock Campus offers courses in a wide range of areas, including professional radiology, nursing, health and kinesiology, computer science, advanced technology, automotive technology, building construction and continuing education. Altogether, ACC’s eight campuses offer 235 degrees and certificates, plus a wide range of other educational opportunities.



Austin Community College

Location Austin, Texas

Number of People Served Over 60,000 students are enrolled in the ACC system

izzy+ Sales Representative Kristi Neely, MDI Resources

Design Julie Zitter, GSC Architects/Austin, TX



The need

There's no question that a brand-new campus is exciting for instructors and students—everything is fresh and state-of-the-art. But unless the spaces succeed in bringing people together and making learning more meaningful, all of the newness can end up being little more than bells and whistles.

Those were some of the concerns on the minds of ACC administrators when they hired GSC to design five distinct buildings for the new campus. They wanted the five buildings feel cohesive yet each have their own individual flavor, and they wanted to create a sense of community and excitement about coming together to learn. Technology was also a big consideration, as designers focus on both the current and future impact of technology on education.

“The furniture needed to fit the high-tech feel of the building, but also needed to create welcoming, people-centered spaces that people want to use—that was very important to the client,” said Julie Zitter, GSC’s Director of Interiors. “We focused a lot on creating community areas—places where students could gather, interact and study were integrated into the design of the buildings, cultivating a stronger campus community.”



The izzy+ solution

Collaboration is key for today’s higher education environments, both in and out of the classroom, so tables were an important part of the equation. Zitter specified Dewey tables for all five buildings.

“From my perspective, the driving force behind using Fixtures Dewey system was simple,” Zitter said. “The customization of table sizes was imperative, as we were working with the college’s standard desk size and minimizing the footprint in the classroom.”

izzy+’s modifications program has been expanded and simplified, making it easy to order tables that fall between two standard sizes. izzy+ representative Kristi Neely said that the height adjustability of the tables was also important, along with Dewey’s unique look.



“Dewey is contemporary looking, it’s affordable, and it has the ability to be modified to meet many different needs,” Neely said. “It’s also the only table like that with the urethane edge, which is a great durability feature.”

Zitter said she loves the look and functionality of Dewey, too. “There’s the ability to contrast colors from the laminate to the urethane edge, and that edge also serves as a bumper when tables are pushed together. It’s a great-looking and functional product.”