

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
Digital Media Commons  
Boston, MA

**Project Partners**  
Wilson Architects

**Trends**  
Real Estate Optimization  
Collaboration  
Palette of Choice  
Technology Integration

**Solutions**  
Furniture

**Spaces**  
Information Area | Computer Lab  
Classrooms | Presentation Rooms  
Collaborative Areas  
Project Team Rooms



A palette of informal collaborative settings for individual and group work  
Photos © Wilson Architects

Today's higher education environments are consistently adapting to accommodate how students learn, work, interact and collaborate. Northeastern University continues to explore new and progressive learning environments as part of its commitment to support student needs. The University team incorporated student feedback and post-occupancy survey responses from the second floor pilot space into the design and planning of the first floor renovation. The result is a cutting-edge learning center with collaborative settings and enhanced technology integration.

**Integrated collaboration spaces.**

The vision for this dynamic environment was to create a space that was both intuitive and visually stimulating, where students can connect and collaborate easily. In each setting throughout the space there is access to power pods for convenience. Steelcase media:scape tables and lounge settings make sharing content quick and easy, enabling productive working sessions. Enclosed collaboration can be reserved for private group meetings and offer various settings of integrated furniture and technology.

**A palette of choice.**

Northeastern included a broad variety of spaces to accommodate different levels of privacy and wellbeing. Whether a student is writing a term paper or working on a project, the Commons offer many choices for heads down quiet study and collective group work. Modular tables provide flexibility for team members to join in as groups change. Benching stations in the computer lab enable a greater number of students to collaborate in a smaller footprint. Informal lounge areas welcome students to relax, socialize, and focus.



A palette of choice for students.

*“Red Thread and Steelcase worked closely with us to realize this complex project within a very tight budget and compressed schedule. No other partner could offer their range of innovative products and network of specialists, along with a personal level of support.”*

– Kevin Triplet, Associate  
Wilson Architects



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A variety of private collaboration suites line the perimeter of the open plan computing space, offering choice and control.

**State-of-the art-technology.**

The Digital Media Commons has become a true learning center with the latest technology for music and video production, graphic design and much more. Not only can students reserve lab space for homework assignments, but faculty members may also utilize these spaces for their classes.

**Classroom wing.**

A classroom wing outfitted with portable Node chairs creates a flexible Active Learning environment. Students and faculty are able to quickly transition between lecture, discussion and team learning modes.



Active learning classrooms easily transition among lecture, discussion and collaborative modes