

SHAWMUT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
Headquarters
Boston, MA

Project Partners
CBT Architects

Trends
Attract, Retain & Engage
Brand + Culture
Palette of Choice

Solutions
Audiovisual
Demountable Walls
Furniture



Two-story lobby | Photos © Robert Benson Photography

Shawmut embraces history and culture in their urban, industrial South End space.

Capitalizing on their deep-rooted history in Boston’s South End, Shawmut Design and Construction reimaged and revamped their headquarters to reflect their culture, current working styles, and the strategic vision of the company’s leadership. A unique and collaborative project partnership, combined with Shawmut’s openness to new ideas, budget transparency and flexible project schedule, streamlined the process for creating an authentic, employee-focused space.

Space reflects Shawmut’s ethos.

Shawmut’s people loved the building’s aesthetic but it felt too siloed and closed-off in its fragmented spaces. The updated vision was a modern, open and industrial space that created more visibility and accessibility. Engineered by removing walls and opening up floors on multiple levels, the new double-height entrance creates a bold first impression.

Adjacent to the lobby is the work café—the hive of the space—which has the constant buzz and flow of employees and guests congregating to work and connect. The result is a cohesive space, celebrating the architecture and character of the building through the use of raw materials, such as the suspended steel beam sculpture and reclaimed wood details, reinforcing and aligning with Shawmut’s corporate ethos.

Collaborative spaces increase five-fold.

Fewer private offices and reduced workstation size opened up more spaces for project team work, large company meetings and social gatherings, increasing the number of shared and collaborative areas five-fold. By lowering workstation panel heights, visibility to one another increased, fostering more impromptu communication. However, realizing that less privacy in individual workstations meant also needing to provide quiet work areas, Shawmut designed the “Focus Forest”—a no talk/no phone zone, dedicated to individual focus work.



Conference room and huddle spaces



Focus Forest

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Collaborative areas within the open plan



Huddle spaces with integrated technology

Thoughtfully planned technology.

Technology has been thoughtfully integrated throughout the new space, from the small meeting presentation capabilities to large venue video walls and telepresence. The two-story lobby, with exposed brick and a floating wood wall, beautifully accommodates the video wall, comprised of three 1x3 sections, highlighting Shawmut's history and partnerships. As with other elements in the redesigned space, the video wall required significant engineering and coordination, including proper structural support, access to power and data in recessed wall boxes, and exact measurements to ensure the video displays would sit flush with the wood slats.

The boardroom's 2x2 video wall, with integrated videoconferencing technology, is the central focus for client presentations and internal meetings with remote teams. To maintain the room aesthetic while achieving high quality audio acoustics, Red Thread engineers carefully installed ceiling microphones to coexist with ceiling mounted speakers, light fixtures, smoke and proximity sensors, sprinklers, and HVAC registers. This required coordination with the AV design team to ensure there was no negative interaction between any of the devices.

With a simple touch on the unified control system, the multifunctional, divisible training room can accommodate either one large or two smaller sessions. Videoconferencing and integrated ceiling microphones support remote participation. The room's versatility and flexibility make it a highly sought after space.



Lobby with 1x3 ultra HD video wall



Two-way divisible training room