# Planning for tomorrow

Let's be honest, this past year has shown us how rapidly the world can shift and how important it is for us to have the right tools in place to make the necessary changes to accommodate these shifts. Not every situation will be as disruptive as this past year, but we have to create spaces that can be adaptaptive and offer us the flexibility to adjust and evolve with the needs of our organization as well as our people. There is no way to fully predict tomorrow nor the new behaviors that will emerge, so it is in the best interest of the organization to be able to support the natural shifts that occur within the workplace.

So, how do we become flexible?

As we explore new ways of working and interacting, we must deconstruct the confines that dictate old ways of doing things. If we want to iterate as we identify approaches that hit the mark as well as ones that don't, we have to have the flexibility in our space and furnishings to adjust. Soft architecture is the loose element that defines space, activities, and provides flow throughout. It can be furniture, screens, lighting, power distribution, and structures culminating into a framework that can shift as the organization and individuals discover productivity and communication benefits from a variety of settings.
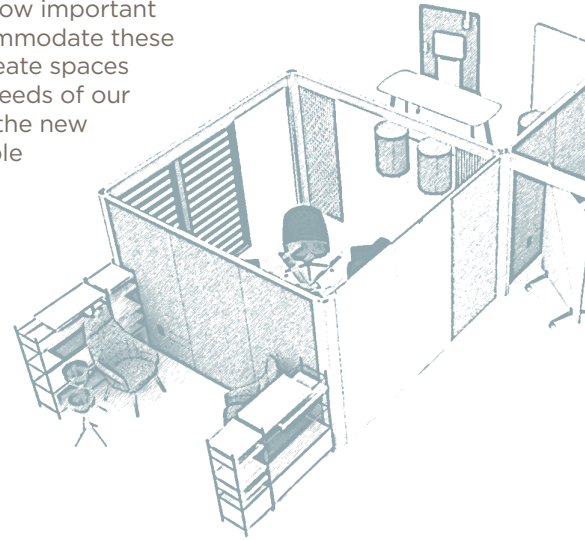
You can consider something like LeanTo over a built-in wall lounge or look at Heya lounge over a structural huddle room or even replace a typical fixed office with Obeya. Choosing these types of applications can result in cost savings and minimize disruptions to business continuity when you look at traditional expenses, time, resources, and labor of construction and millwork. We love incredible interior architecture elements and the bespoke nooks and alcoves that are designed, but we believe furniture can still provide these touches while allowing the soft architecture to evolve fluidly with the clients ever evolving needs.

Change is never comfortable, but it's the only constant.

Every organization, department, team and individual are unique yet similar. And, each of them and their needs evolve over time. This nuance is not formal. It's organic, so when we add the formality of change our first reaction is to question it. Hit pause here. With people, information, technology, and process innovation, all are ever-changing. Recognizing this is the first step towards the progress and setbacks of intentional improvement. Areas of friction provide ideal moments to leap progress forward.

"Ultimately we don't know where it's going, but we know it's going to be different, and by different it's up to us to make it better - agile, flexible, safe"

Let's be honest, there is still a lot to explore, but you can be confident that OFS will stand beside you and help you to create the best possible environment for your collective "You".

Personal shift
Day 1 | Day 2

Neighborhood shift
Day 1 | Day 30

Organizational shift
Day 1 | Day 365

What types of shifts to plan for?

If we are being honest, we know we won't get it 100% right the first time. Company's will find that people will use certain aspects of the building differently than they had anticipated. There are changes that happen within departments that need to be adapted as teams expand. To be able to plan for the future we need to use products that will allow for us to make changes that are not disruptive to the overall business continuity.

Personal Shift (Day 1 | Day 2)

When referring to the personal shift we use the Day 1 | Day 2 approach. These are furniture elements that can be moved and changed on demand at the user level. These products give the user a sense of control in their own environment. This is not only important from a sense of safety and security, as that looks different from one person to the next, but it also allows for impromptu interaction or privacy depending on the user's needs.
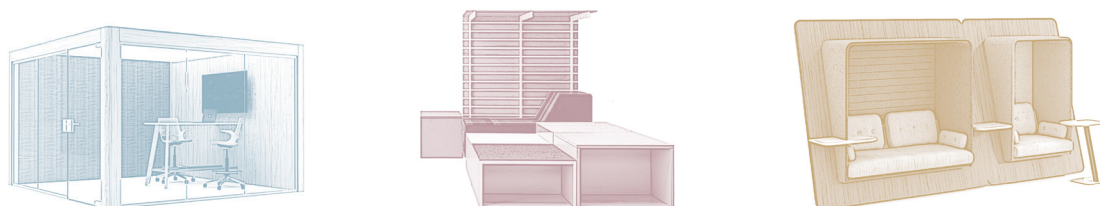
Neighborhood Shift (Day 1 | Day 30)

As teams change (i.e. DevOps, Scrum, Agile Work), or tasks shift, there are certain elements of the space that need to be able to adapt and shift with those transitions. These elements can sometimes be changed by the users themselves, but also by facility teams. Known as the neighborhood shift, these transitions can be accomplished within the workday and usually don't cause people disruption or departmental shut down time. This is great for project cycles where teams tend to shift and change depending on the project at hand. They also support the notion that on day 1 we don't fully know how people will interact with the products that they are given. This allows flexibility to observe user behavior and make changes based on evolving work needs.

Organizational Shift (Day 1 | Day 365)

And then there are bigger shifts that need to be made on an organizational level. We refer to this as the organizational shift between Day 1 | Day 365.   As company's evaluate the behaviors of their people and the use of the settings and products from a broader perspective, there are shifts and changes that will need to be made along the way. In addition to this, as companies grow and expand, they need to be able to adapt both departmentally and sometimes throughout the full facility. With products like Obeya this allows the organization the freedom to make changes that could take months with drywall, down to a weekend's work. This translates into huge savings for the company in the long run, both externally with multiple vendors needing to be engaged, as well as internally with the employees being removed from their workspace.

Personal shift

Day 1

Day 2

Neighborhood shift

Day 1

Day 30

Organizational shift

Day 1

Day 365