



# INNOVANT CASE STUDY

CLIENT: U.S. Investment Bank  
DESIGNER: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill  
LOCATION: New York, New York  
FEATURED PRODUCT: FORm\_office



## THE CHALLENGE

When this leading U.S. investment bank decided to construct a new headquarters building in downtown New York City, it applied a “fresh start” philosophy to the entire project. This translated into rethinking not just where its employees would work, but also how they worked. How could the office environment itself foster more effective collaboration and productivity amongst staff? The outcome was a first-in-kind solution for a financial services firm in the US: the traditional private office format would be replaced with an open plan benching system for over 7,000 employees. Recognizing that a new format would require new partners, the firm embarked on an exhaustive vendor review.

## THE INNOVANT SOLUTION

It was important that the open plan system convey the same distinguished design aesthetic that had always characterized the firm and its offerings, and that its employees valued in their work environment. This ongoing commitment to sophisticated materials and quality in furnishings and equipment eased the transition for the firm’s workforce. According to the Project Architect, the flexibility of Innovant’s FORm\_office system made it ideal for the project. The client and design teams were able to envision and implement custom design details into the standard product where needed, including mitered construction details and premium rift cut oak veneer.

From the outset the building was targeted to achieve LEED Gold certification, which required that multiple sustainability standards be met in the construction and furnishing of the space. The broad use of wood veneers in this project prompted Innovant to research finishes that would reduce indoor air emissions. A standard finish typically used to achieve high sheen on wood veneers was re-engineered into a lustrous, formaldehyde-free finish called GreenLock™, which is proprietary to Innovant.

## THE RESULT

The high level of collaboration and innovation that went into the development of a perfect configuration for this client has made the FORm\_office benching system the national standard for this investment banking firm.

