Members of an interdisciplinary research partnership including an Assistant Professor of Interior Design, three undergraduate interior design students and the Director of the University Writing Program Writing Commons, embarked on a four-month ethnographic interior design study to explore people’s preferences and behaviors while working together in collaborative and consultancy settings with a diverse student population at the Writing Commons.

The multifactorial studies included field based observational research, personalized interviews, focus groups, and surveys with strategic questions aimed at deconstructing the process of how people work. The pedagogical goal was to provide a design and research opportunity for students to apply their knowledge from the studio and classroom to a real customer scenario.

The research team programmed for a versatile, adaptive learning environment and specified the FF&E package while working with vendors to value engineer the design to meet budget. Post occupancy surveys and focus groups are planned to validate design conclusions.

**EXISTING CONDITIONS**

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**WRITING COMMONS PARTICIPANTS:**

- Mary Golden, Assistant Professor and Chair Interior Design
- Jordanaé Smith, Junior Interior Design Student
- Octavia Spelman, Senior Interior Design Student
- Rachel Chaffee, Ph.D.
- Mary Golden

**WRITING COMMONS REDESIGN**

- More than three times as many students answered they would benefit from having a conversation about their writing
- “An experience designing for real people with real needs”, DCB Team

**PROJECT MEMBERS:**

- Shirley Bower, Director of RIT Libraries
- Rachel Chaffee, Ph.D.
- Mary Golden
- Octavia Spelman
- Jordanaé Smith

**MEDIA:**

- SCAPES
- MOVE CHAIR
- MELODIE CHAIR
- MOVE STOOL
- TOPO LOUNGE
- REGARD LOUNGE
- MEDIA SCAPES
- VERB TABLE
- SIENTO CHAIR
- EQUA TABLE
- BANQUETTE

**“An experience designing for real people with real needs”, DCB Team**