

# → Skills & Innovation Centre: Case Study

# Supporting growth and development through flexible workplace design.

Located at the heart of Gateway 14 in Stowmarket, the Skills & Innovation Centre (SIC) has been designed to support business growth, skills development and innovation across the region. As a hub for innovation and collaboration, the facility brings together workspaces, training environments, meeting facilities and social spaces within a single destination.

Working alongside architects Frank Shaw, Dealer Bluespace and project delivery partner Wilten Construction, Orangebox supplied and installed furniture solutions for key areas throughout the building, including the café, meeting rooms and training spaces.

**Location:**  Stowmarket, Suffolk

**Architect:** Frank Shaw

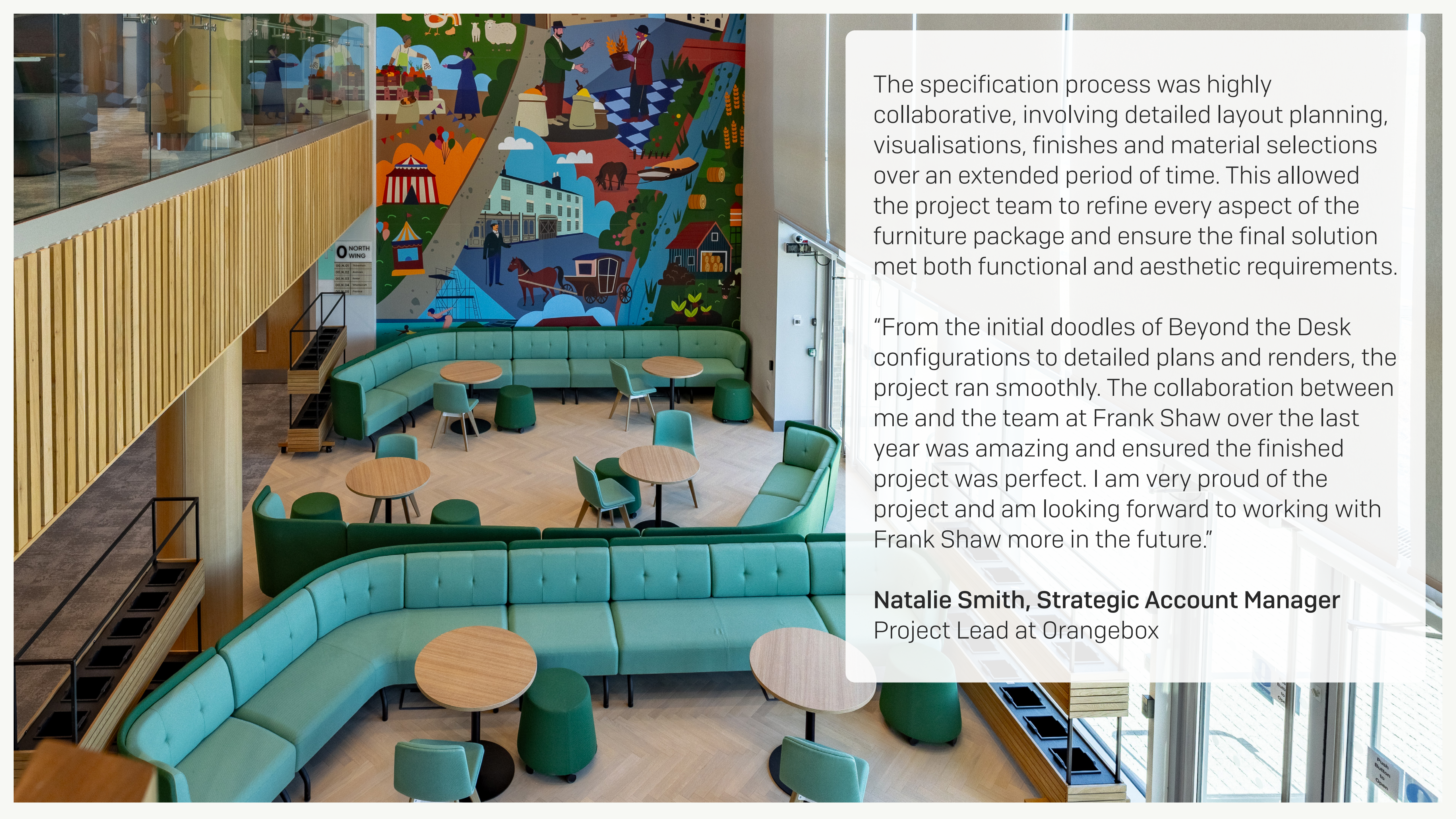
**Project Management:** Wilten Construction

**Dealer:** Bluespace

Flexibility was a key requirement for this project. The client required spaces that could support a wide variety of activities, and the furniture, therefore, needed to provide maximum usability without limiting future possibilities.

Orangebox products, including Beyond the Desk, Cubb, Sully, Library and Lapwing were selected for their versatility and ability to flex for different modes of working. In particular, Beyond The Desk provided a range of configurations that enable maximum seating capacity while retaining the ability to adapt layouts as needs evolve. As a result, the workspace can continue to flex without the need for major changes, supporting both sustainability and long-term value.





The specification process was highly collaborative, involving detailed layout planning, visualisations, finishes and material selections over an extended period of time. This allowed the project team to refine every aspect of the furniture package and ensure the final solution met both functional and aesthetic requirements.

“From the initial doodles of Beyond the Desk configurations to detailed plans and renders, the project ran smoothly. The collaboration between me and the team at Frank Shaw over the last year was amazing and ensured the finished project was perfect. I am very proud of the project and am looking forward to working with Frank Shaw more in the future.”

**Natalie Smith, Strategic Account Manager**  
Project Lead at Orangebox



The space demonstrates how sustainable design, flexible workplaces and educational facilities can work together to support innovation, skills development and economic growth.

