



# WAGSTAFF WORKPLACES

## CHARLES STANLEY

|                       |                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Location:</b>      | Myriad House<br>Chelmsford, Essex       |
| <b>Design:</b>        | Wagstaff Design Team                    |
| <b>Space Status:</b>  | Occupied                                |
| <b>Sector:</b>        | Local Government, Office Interiors      |
| <b>Scope:</b>         | Design & Build<br>Cat B Fit-Out Project |
| <b>Project Value:</b> | £491K                                   |



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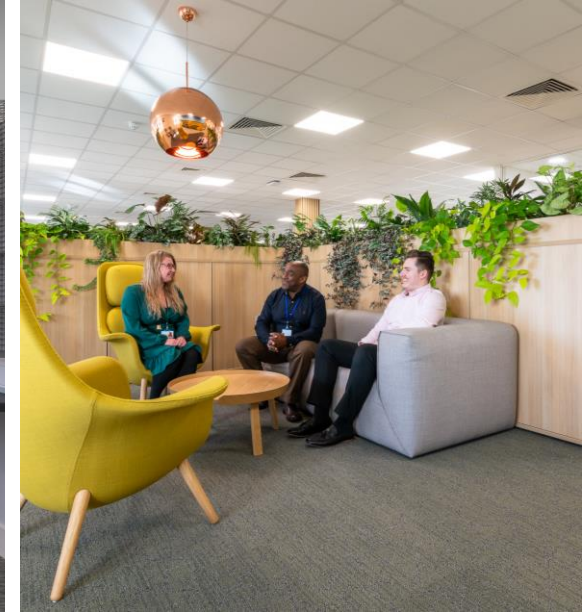
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Following a competitive tender exercise, we were commissioned to assist Charles Stanley with the design and Cat B refurbishment/fit-out of their newly acquired Chelmsford office. Across a single floor, this would accommodate approx. 90 staff positions with associated client areas, meeting rooms and breakout spaces. The remit was to provide a bright and engaging space for the return of staff from lockdown, with a strong emphasis on the company brand to be reflected throughout staff and client areas alike.

## Scope Includes:

- Strip-out
- Partitioning (glazed & solid)
- Demountable Walls
- Ceilings
- M&E + Data
- Flooring
- Kitchen areas
- Decoration
- Branding
- Loose & Fitted furniture



# CHARLES STANLEYS

## Key Challenges

1. Our design team worked closely with Charles Stanley's facilities team developing the design in a way that did not compromise the original budget. However, additional requests and unforeseen changes came thick and fast, expediting decisions as the deadline for occupation was set and dependent on us completing on time.
2. Acoustics has been a problem in current offices, where noise travels across an open-plan area and is accentuated as teams of people compete with each other. There was a fear that in a smaller office, this would be replicated and perhaps even worse. The client was wanting to specify a very high level of acoustic control through the partition systems and elsewhere which would have likely exceeded the budget substantially

## Our Solution

1. Our transparency with what was and wasn't achievable within the timescales and budget created a trusting and open relationship which flourished as the project developed. This in turn allowed the facilities team to appreciate the advice given and instruct us with confidence. Such a collaborative approach with constant communication at all times proved invaluable and there was never a time when either party felt they could not be contacted to discuss any element of the project.
2. Prior to any agreement on the design and final costing, we arranged for a visit to an existing installation to demonstrate the level of acoustic control that could be achieved with our proposed solution. We then advised the client to refrain from doing any further enhancements (e.g. Acoustic survey, sound masking etc.) and to consider this post-occupation. This would allow them to save any initial expenditure and appraise the conditions and noise levels once the office is actually occupied and in use. Any of the additional enhancements could then be implemented retrospectively ONLY if they were deemed to have any beneficial impact.





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Whilst we were appointed to carry out the full design, there was a lot of input from the client's own internal design and marketing teams. The initial brief was to create pockets of spaces, broken up by breakout points and meeting rooms that could help separate the teams and break up the noise transference. However, following feedback from stakeholders and the facilities team, it was decided to segregate the cellular spaces from an open-plan office. Whilst this would bring people closer together and potentially be noisier, the reason for doing so was two-fold:

- i. The staff numbers had increased from the original brief and the space simply couldn't accommodate the number of desks otherwise
- ii. The building seemed long and narrow and so having cellular rooms at one end, would open up the rest of the area to create a much brighter and wider landscape.

GO3! Sit-stand desks were specified for all the dealer desks as varied hours give the need for flexibility in the ergonomic approach. A nominal amount of the open-plan desks were also specified with sit-stand functionality to provide choice for some hot-desk and permanent staff that needed it.

The Black Dot Air task chair by Sedus was selected following a full appraisal of various chairs and was found to best meet the needs of Charles Stanley in terms of quality, range of functions for all users, comfort and reliability. This would provide a standard for all sites going forward.

During the pandemic, Charles Stanley were quick to assess and appraise the impact it would have in terms of remote and hybrid working styles. Video calls would now always form an integral part of daily office life and the pods we provided have the best value for acoustically controlled rooms to conduct video calls without disruption.

# CHARLES STANLEY

## Added Value

As part of our initial and ongoing collaboration, we ensured that Charles Stanley were made aware of all up-to-date regulations and obligations that perhaps they were unaware of previously, e.g. appointment of a 'Principle Designer'.

To save cost and keep to budget, we proposed the use of architectural film to wrap over existing doors, this saved anywhere from £800-£1000 per door set. We also replaced the fronts and tops of an existing kitchen tea point.

## Community Benefits

We introduced Charles Stanley to Waste to Wonder (W2W), a charitable organisation that oversees the re-distribution and re-purposing of redundant office furniture for good causes. Charles Stanley have since commissioned W2W to remove all of the unwanted furniture from the old office which has been re-allocated toward their School-in-a-Box projects.

We are happy to say that we have been asked to complete further regional projects in Guildford and Cambridge.







Workplace  
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Design

Office Fit-Out

Furniture  
Solutions

Move  
Management

Furniture Hire

Re-Use &  
Recycle

# VIDEO CASE STUDIES

Please refer to the following video links  
for client testimonials:

[FCA](#)

[AutoTrader](#)

[University of Leeds – Nexus Building](#)

[Alix Partners](#)

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