

CHARLES RIVER ASSOCIATES*Washington, D.C.**Client: Charles River Associates*

Following the design of its new Boston offices, global consulting firm Charles River Associates (CRA) asked Elkus Manfredi Architects to redesign its Washington, D.C. offices. The Washington workplace design employed the activity-based standards and space metrics that Elkus Manfredi had established through a firmwide workplace consulting process. Led by Elkus Manfredi, that in-depth dialogue had included CRA employees from all levels of the corporate structure to develop the hi-tech workplace that CRA staff needed to support both collaborative connection and heads-down focus. While similar to the Boston office in that regard, CRA's Washington offices reflect the different feel of the D.C. location.

Similarities between offices include co-location of junior and senior staff members to maximize knowledge-sharing; a wide variety of collaborative team spaces; acoustical privacy in individual and group work areas; "neighborhoods" of workstations for a sense of community within departments; and a generous, inviting café space with a multitude of seating options that support spontaneous interaction, relaxation, and brain-storming. Design differences include a customized palette of materials and colors in each. While Boston's office is neutral and warm with energetic pops of vibrant color, the Washington office features cool clean whites, watery blues, and sleek reflective surfaces that reference the outdoor lifestyle of the D.C. employees, the Chesapeake Bay, and a sense of serenity, calm, and well-being.

Photography: Frank Oudeman







