

BAIN & COMPANY

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



Since 1994, Tilton, Kelly + Bell has completed five projects for the Chicago office of this rapidly expanding management consulting firm. All of the projects have been designed to exemplify Bain's corporate approach to developing young consultants by grouping members of several different project teams in small, shared "bays." The bays are then clustered around a common area accommodating support staff and team work areas for the final assembly of project documents; private offices for managers also overlook these community work spaces. Glass is used extensively on all enclosed spaces to foster the collaborative spirit while controlling sound between the bays and offices. A very high density is achieved but the overall effect is one of small, collaborative neighborhoods.

The most recent completed assignment relocated the firm to 190 South LaSalle on three floors connected by an internal stair, forming a vertical organizing element. The widespread use of glass extends skyline views and daylighting deeply into the space; this is supplemented high quality glare-free artificial direct lighting.

The planning recognizes the confidential nature of consulting work, but at the same time effectively isolates staff activities from client circulation. Communal gathering places are integral to the scheme.

The project is a registered LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) project, currently awaiting formal certification from the United States Green Building Council.