

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FEDERAL CENTER BUILDING
67 RENOVATION
LAKEWOOD, CO

SIZE

170,000 square feet

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Design excellence, design-build, and small/
minority business teamed project

Flexible zones based on building structural
grid







Protected SCIF space

Support and amenity zones for collaboration
and meetings

Original waffle slab ceiling celebrated with
modular grid workplace solution

Private offices dispersed and placed towards
middle of the floor plate with glass fronts;
8x8 workstations near the exterior provide
universal access to daylight and views

SERVICES PROVIDED

-  Design and Architecture
-  Design Intelligence
-  Strategy
-  Experiential Graphic Design
-  Sustainability and Wellness
-  Lighting Design





Since 1902, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has been managing water in the West. Under the GSA Design Excellence Program, the design-build team, comprised of IA, The Abo Group, and Gilmore Construction (small business and minority owned business, respectively), partnered with the client to create a mission-driven space for Reclamation and the future of water management. Under the program, the team participated in a variety of design reviews that involved decision makers in both Denver and Washington DC, and utilized the lean construction and pull planning processes to drive project efficiencies.

Challenged with a variety of goals—there are 11 separate departments each with its own director—the team created a modular template that accommodates each department but ensures consistency throughout the project. The new work environment meets security, privacy, and employee well-being needs; provides increased opportunities for purposeful connection through additional meeting and collaboration spaces; integrates an existing waffle-slab ceiling into the design; and increases density from approximately 800 to 1,040 employees. This was a consolidation and restack that actually gave space back to the building.

All of these challenges were met with a cohesive design that includes 360-degree views on each floor and enhanced access to natural light achieved by moving private offices to the interior. Incorporating the existing waffle-slab ceiling entailed a combination of stud/drywall and demountable walls, an economical solution that met acoustical and flexibility demands. The design references the ceiling by adopting a universal floor plate based on a 5' x 5' module for walls, lighting, and mechanical distribution. A raised floor system efficiently and effectively accommodates power/data needs. New, open collaboration spaces and central breakrooms help facilitate purposeful connection among employees. With a variety of social, meeting, and work spaces, employees enjoy increased flexibility throughout the day and a timeless and adaptable workplace that will carry Reclamation through the next 20 years.



With water as the theme, IA's use of experiential graphic design alludes to the fluidity of water and the ergonomics of the human body for an overall design concept. Throughout, design elements reflect the shape of natural waterlines, most notable in the elevator lobbies that are color coded by floor and display a waterline-like pattern that rises progressively upward with each floor.