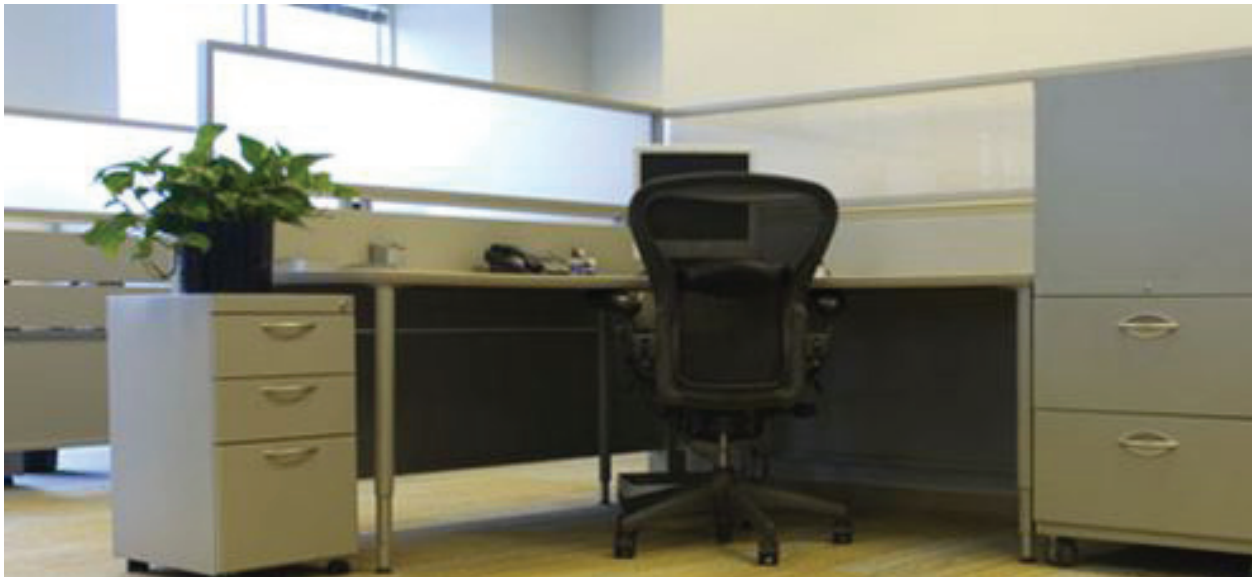


## Case Study

### Balfour Beatty

Founded in 1909 by George Balfour and Andrew Beatty, UK-based Balfour Beatty is the largest fixed rail infrastructure contractor in the world. The company serves the international markets for rail, road and utility systems, buildings and complex structures. [balfourbeatty.com](http://balfourbeatty.com)



#### **Balfour Beatty**

**Location** Offices in more than 20 countries

**Number of People Served** More than 30,000 employees

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Joel Robinson, 404-274-5623  
Pennycook Robinson Associates

**Dealer Contact Information** Preston Barnes / Provident Office Environment / 678-391-0987

## The need

At Balfour Beatty, it's described as The Creation and Care of Essential Assets. What these highly creative people actually do is design, engineer and construct tremendously high-profile projects – highway turnpikes, light rail transit systems, international airports, art museums, schools, hospitals and more. One-of-a-kind assignments range from the Animal Kingdom Lodge at Disney World, Florida to the design for the re-encasement of the Charters of Freedom (otherwise known as The Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution and The Bill of Rights) at the National Archives. So when Atlanta-based employees of Balfour Beatty relocated their office, they approached it just like a cool, highly complex client project. Leaving old ideas (and their outdated office furniture) behind, they seized the opportunity to bring the best ideas to the design table. They challenged Provident Office Environment's Preston Barnes to create an open-plan workspace inspired by clean, minimalist European style. When he saw photos of the brightly colored London office, Preston said to himself, "Bingo!" He knew at once what the solution could be.

## The izzy+ solution

Preston sure knows his Essential Assets. He was right! It was love at first sight for the employees at Balfour Beatty when they saw izzy's Edison, Calvin and Clara office furniture. The friendly geometric shapes of freestanding Clara tables curve like a highway cloverleaf against the Craftsman-like horizontal lines of Edison's metal post and beam architecture. While concealing power and communications cables throughout the open office plan, Edison also supports glass privacy panels. These elegant frosted panes offer just enough visual privacy to define personal space, while also allowing people to get fast answers from their neighboring colleagues – all on the low tech, without TXT! In addition, on-the-move Calvin mobile storage cabinets zoom under desks or travel to meetings at moment's notice. All lines of izzydesign products are GREENGUARD Certified for meeting safe indoor air standards. ASID judges recognized Balfour Beatty's new blueprint for success, too. The project won ASID's bronze honors in the 2007 Design Awards of Excellence for corporate projects under 10,000 feet.

## Preston Barnes, Provident Office

When they saw it, they loved it. It was an immediate answer. The products from izzydesign fit right into the corporate culture that Balfour Beatty is bringing from England to the US. It's more open, and it involves a high level of accountability to one another. Employees went from a completely closed off environment with private offices, to a completely open environment. It's a whole different way of working and communicating. Another of their major considerations was choosing office furniture architecture that allowed natural light to come into all the workstations. The offices along the wall have floor-to-ceiling glass, so installing a fabric panel, which you find with many furniture systems, would have negated all the benefits of the natural lighting. That's another reason why the Edison post and beam foundation works so well. It keeps everything at a lower height, yet people retain their sense of privacy. They're really pleased with it."