

## Sample Storage Solved

Spacesaver® 4-Post Shelving Helps Straticom Planning Associates Organize their Resource Library



### THE CHALLENGE

In September of 2011, at the International Interior Design Expo (IIDEX), Spacesaver® launched the first ever “Fill the Gap” contest. This contest was an opportunity for one Architecture and Design firm in the Canadian market to win a custom shelving and storage solution worth up to \$20,000 for their resource library. Straticom Planning Associates, based in Toronto, was the winning firm.

Straticom’s existing sample library was overflowing. Lateral filing drawers were being used to house the bulk of the firm’s samples. Since filing drawers are meant for paper files, the space was being used inefficiently. And, because the drawers were filled with samples, they had no room for housing reference materials.

Heavy tile samples were not easily accessible in this system, and other awkwardly shaped items like carpet squares were being stored on the floor, creating a slightly hazardous work environment.

The production area used to create boards and cut materials was an old wooden island with compartments below that were too small for samples, and too large for supplies and paper to adequately use up the space.

### THE SOLUTION

Straticom’s team worked with Spacesaver Solutions Ontario, the authorized Spacesaver Representative in Ontario, to plan and design a new and improved sample library.

Where before bins and samples were stored in lateral files, and an old wooden structure was used as sample storage and production space, Spacesaver 4-Post shelving in several different configurations now houses the firm’s samples and literature.

“The team was awesome to work with throughout all of our decision making processes... and there were quite a few,” said Sandra Bailey, design coordinator with Straticom. “The installation went smoothly, with minimal interruption and they were extremely polite and professional.”



Straticom's resource library before the Spacesaver storage makeover.



Straticom's resource library after the Spacesaver storage makeover.



## STORAGE SOLVED

The new shelving systems make maximum use of the vertical space, adding both shelves and drawers where none previously existed. There is now enough shelving available to hold a reference library in addition to building material samples. All of the finish materials, large and small, are neatly tucked away in spaces designed specifically for them. Large carpet swatches and heavy tile books have special compartments in which they live and are easily accessible by the architects and designers.

The center work island now has under surface storage drawers and shelves that are the right size for samples and work materials. The area also doubles as a

collaboration space for team members.

Each storage component was well thought out and can store the strange assortment of shapes, sizes and materials that are used in an architectural library every day.

"The comment most used to describe the space by manufacturer's reps that come to update samples is... Fantastic," said Sandra.

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— Sandra Baily, Design Coordinator

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