

# Perkins+Will Minneapolis

Fitwel Rating: ★ ★

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## Perkins+Will

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Leadership Advisory  
Board Member

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Fitwel Champion

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PERKINS+WILL

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**StuDiOIDS, home of the Minneapolis office of Perkins+Will earns a Fitwel 2 Star Rating for its office in the iconic IDS Center.**

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### Why Perkins+Will Became a Fitwel Champion

As active partners during the five-year development period of Fitwel by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Perkins+Will has long been at the forefront of advancing workplace health within the architecture and design community. As such, it was a natural transition in late 2016 when Perkins+Will announced their commitment to become one of the first companies to pursue Fitwel certification for all of its North American offices. As a Fitwel Champion and member of the Fitwel Leadership Advisory Board, Perkins+Will is a vital partner to the Center for Active Design, promoting health within their own offices and in communities globally. Perkins+Will currently has 6 certified offices in Atlanta, Durham, London, Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco, and Washington D.C., with more to come in 2018.



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## StudioIDS

StudioIDS is the self-designed home of the Minneapolis office of Perkins+Will, located on the third floor of the iconic IDS Center and the first Fitwel certified Commercial Interior Space in the state of Minnesota. Challenging conventional workplace models, the design team set out to do less—less walls, less fixed furniture, simpler materials, less energy use, no assigned seating—offering more opportunity for choice, creativity, collaboration, and a healthy work environment. During the relocation process, the team recognized an opportunity to create a playful and constantly evolving workspace for sharing new work and testing new ideas. Members of the Perkins+Will Minneapolis office, who are also Fitwel Ambassadors, led the certification process and received their 2 Star Fitwel Rating in August 2017.

The studio occupies 50% less area than their previous office, yet has continuous floor-to-ceiling windows and enjoys a 400% increase in access to natural light and views for occupants. The office is flexible and fluid, with a variety of workspace options to meet occupants' changing needs and ideas. The space offers 190 movable seating options that include active workstations for the 65+ architects and designers working there, in addition to guests visiting the space.

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## Using Fitwel To Create Healthier Working Environments

Perkins+Will is committed to both environmental and human health in their offices. At StudioIDS, the team used Fitwel to apply strategies that would maximize employee wellness—starting with the site location during their initial search for a new office. The team chose the iconic IDS Center, a building in a highly walkable area with a Walk Score of 99 in downtown Minneapolis. Using Fitwel as a guide, Perkins+Will Minneapolis evaluated their occupants' transportation options by implementing an annual commuter survey. Occupants have multiple options to increase their physical activity, as the team installed permanent point-of-decision signs to encourage an increase in stair use, opportunities to walk to nearby restaurants and businesses, and access to an on-site fitness facility in the IDS Center. The team also used Fitwel to start adopting a regular schedule for cleaning refrigerator and freezers in their break areas. Since implementation, there has already been an uptick in cleanliness, which supports a decrease in employee absenteeism and contributes to overall employee well-being.

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## Estimated Costs in Fitwel Certification

The Perkins+Will Minneapolis team estimates that going through the certification process cost approximately \$11,000 (excluding Fitwel certification fees), which accounts for staff labor for the following areas: strategy meetings on how to achieve a 2 Star Rating, creating and revising the Fitwel documentation, and implementing the commuter survey and point-of-decision signage to encourage stair use.



Kelly Link  
Workplace Strategist  
Perkins+Will

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"Being located in central downtown Minneapolis at studioIDS makes it easy to use public transportation and walk to anything I want or need. The natural daylight also dramatically improves my day at the office."



## Key Milestones in the Certification Process

**October 2016:** Perkins+Will becomes a Fitwel Champion, committing to achieving certification for all of its North American offices and among one of the first companies to adopt Fitwel.

**December 2016:** After determining that StudioIDS would be part of the first phase of Fitwel certifications, the submission team hosts a kick-off meeting in early December to conduct their initial analysis of the project against the Fitwel strategies. They gather documentation throughout the month and submit their project for review at the end of the month.


**January 2017:** The team reviews the Initial Review Report issued by the Fitwel Certification Team.

**February–July 2017:** The team incorporates feedback from the Initial Review Report into StudioIDS and makes additional design and operational changes in order to optimize the space for health. The team submits their feedback and updated documentation in July for further consideration.

**August 2017:** Perkins+Will receives a Fitwel 2 Star Rating for StudioIDS, joining Fitwel certified offices in Durham, Atlanta, and London as they continue to commit to design healthy, sustainable places that promote holistic well-being for people and the environment.

**September 2018–Present:** Perkins+Will continue to advance additional Fitwel certifications within its offices in North America and the United Kingdom.

## How StudioIDS is Meeting Fitwel's Health Impact Categories


 80% of selected strategies  
Impacts Community Health

 85% of selected strategies  
Reduces Morbidity + Absenteeism

 63% of selected strategies  
Supports Social Equity

 88% of selected strategies  
Instills Feelings of Well-Being

 93% of selected strategies  
Provides Healthy Food Options

 86% of selected strategies  
Promotes Occupant Safety

 92% of selected strategies  
Increases Physical Activity

