

## 4.1.6 Component definition: demountable wall



*Demountable partitions are cost neutral for certain applications*



*Finishes can be easily changed, from glass to wood, from fabric to whiteboard*

**Demountable walls:** Having been used for decades in Europe, demountable walls have recently become a popular alternative to traditional, gypsum board (drywall) construction in North America. They offer the following advantages:

- They can be removed or moved to accommodate change in function or tenancy
- Their finishes may be changed without typical construction noise, dust or disruption
- Doors or windows may be removed, replaced or added easily
- They accommodate modular electrical systems which allow increase or relocation of electrical service
- They support wall hanging elements with no additional blocking or brackets.

The initial **costs** for demountable walls is higher than drywall, but comparable to storefront assemblies that include doors and hardware. When comparing costs, it is important to consider all the trades that will be affected by installing completed walls at the same time as the furniture (as opposed to typical construction processes). This includes painters who will have fewer corners and less trim. Also, carpets, floor bases and ceilings will have fewer stops or cuts. Demolition, sanding and other debris producing actions will be reduced.

Demountable walls have many forms. The greatest distinction between products is whether they are “**unitized**” or “**stick-built**”. Unitized products usually have a frame that determines height and width, limiting adaptation to field conditions, but improving inventory control. Stick-built products include verticals and horizontals that can be used in a variety of combinations. While stick-built systems are usually designed to maximize consistency, the module is totally dependent on the designer and the facility.