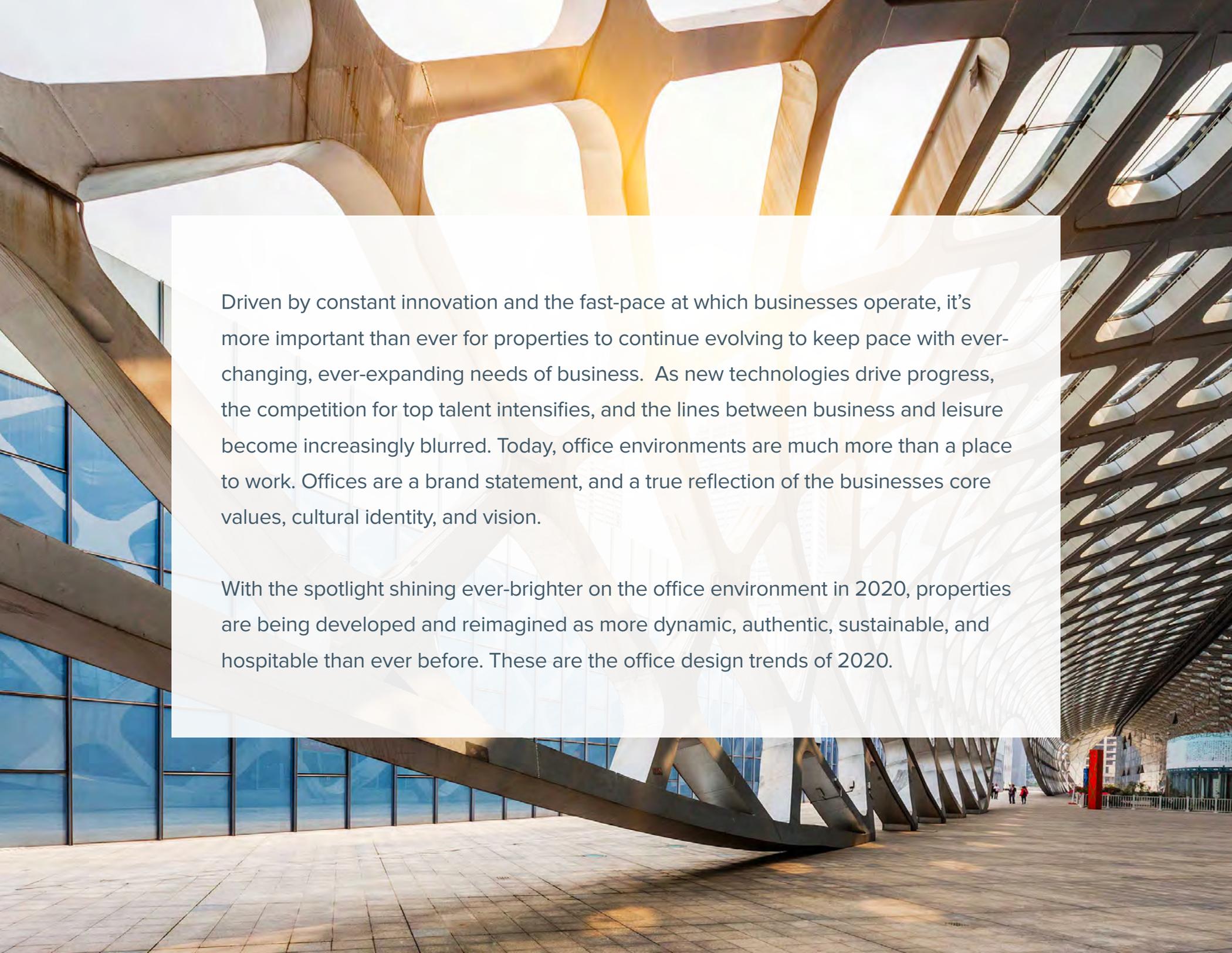




2020 Office Design Trends

Improving the built environment through design

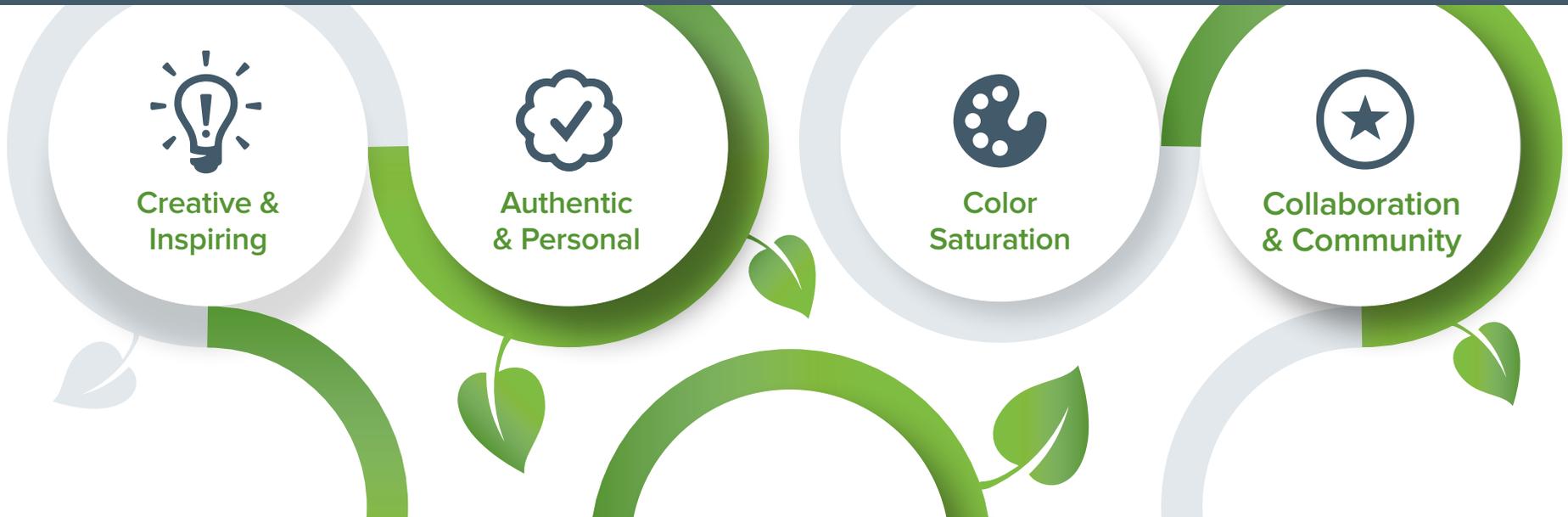


Driven by constant innovation and the fast-pace at which businesses operate, it's more important than ever for properties to continue evolving to keep pace with ever-changing, ever-expanding needs of business. As new technologies drive progress, the competition for top talent intensifies, and the lines between business and leisure become increasingly blurred. Today, office environments are much more than a place to work. Offices are a brand statement, and a true reflection of the businesses core values, cultural identity, and vision.

With the spotlight shining ever-brighter on the office environment in 2020, properties are being developed and reimagined as more dynamic, authentic, sustainable, and hospitable than ever before. These are the office design trends of 2020.



Emerging design themes. Office design is constantly evolving. By working with some of the most forward-thinking architectural firms, building management organizations, workspace planners, and our very own elite interior landscape designers, we're able to identify rising trends across large, small, and emerging markets throughout North America. Some of the overarching themes that we've discovered heading into 2020 are:







Macro Trends

Effects architecture, engineering,
and design on a large scale

Macro Trend 1:

Dynamic Flexibility



In today's modern business environment it's absolutely necessary to have an integrated workplace that adapts your space to your real-time business needs. The Dynamic Flexibility trend is just that, the direction ensuring that offices are multi-functioning spaces capable of a complete transformation from meeting room, to production studio, to podcast studio, to a private office in the blink of an eye. Focusing on freeing up valuable office real estate, this trend is well on its way to becoming the 'new normal' as work environments shift towards more human-centric, collaborative, and active spaces spearheaded by innovation.



Image courtesy of NeoCon

Inspirations

Above all, flexibility and the capacity to adapt and transform are the most essential ingredients in these spaces.

- Collaborative
- Active spaces
- Adaptable and dynamic
- Human-centric
- All-hands areas

Key Features

- Furniture-forward
- Lightweight
- Moveable / wheels
- Ergonomic
- Multi-functional

Macro Trend 2:

Wooden that be Nice



Wood is making a comeback. As businesses become more focused on sustainability and hone their brand messages to attract top talent, facilities have adopted a more environmentally conscious attitude to meet their employee and tenant expectations. One way property developers are responding to these changing design tides is by incorporating sustainably sourced, recycled, and reclaimed wood into their building's interior designs. Wood provides an undeniable character, biophilic textures, lines, and warmth to traditionally sterile office environments, giving office spaces a more authentic and organic (but not rustic) motif. Key features for this trend include the use of linear wood paneling and slatted wood designs to create depth, draw the eye towards important architectural or functional features, and leave employees and visitors feeling inspired.

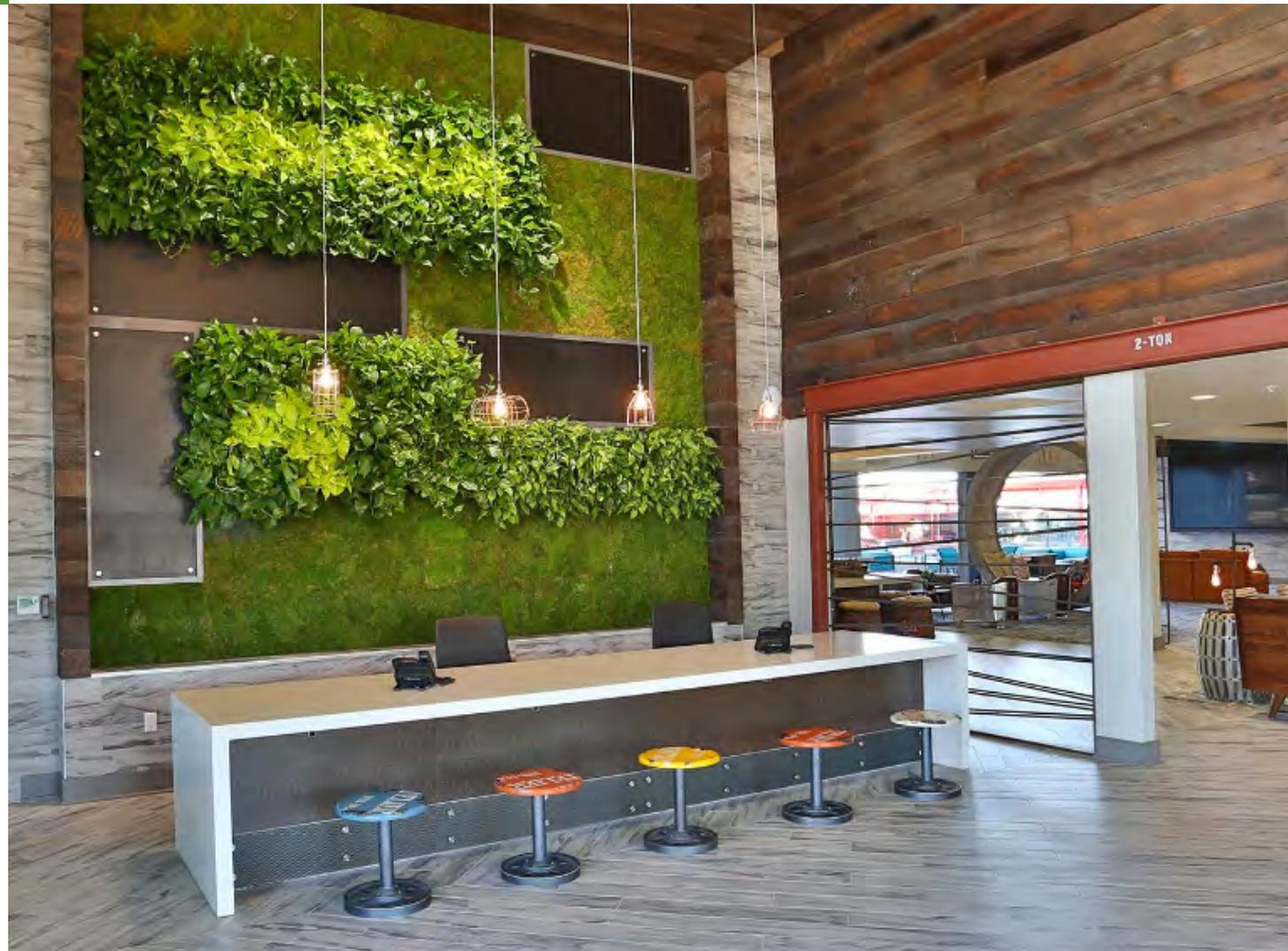
Inspirations

Architecturally-oriented designs providing texture and depth while infusing a sense of authenticity.

- Biophilic design
- Raw and authentic
- Natural and organic
- Environmentally conscious
- Local nature connection

Key Features

- Linear, slatted wood
- Warm and textured
- Structural and wall construction
- Natural accent details
- Biomorphic forms and patterns



Macro Trend 3:

Community in a Remote World



In order to adapt to an increasingly remote business world in which 70 percent of professionals are now working off-site at least one day per week, businesses are working with designers to create more inviting, comfortable, and inspiring spaces for their employees. The Community trend takes a lot of its design inspiration from business-focused hotel brands; offering features such as restaurants, bars, fireplaces, comfortable furniture, game rooms, and more. The goal is to achieve a more vibrant and hospitable space that employees want to go to, because organizations with highly spirited and energetic office environments have a stronger cultural identity. Facilitating these upgrades benefits the business in ways that telecommuting or flexible working can't. This trend is a deliberate attempt to achieve a sense of community, comfort, and increased morale through design.

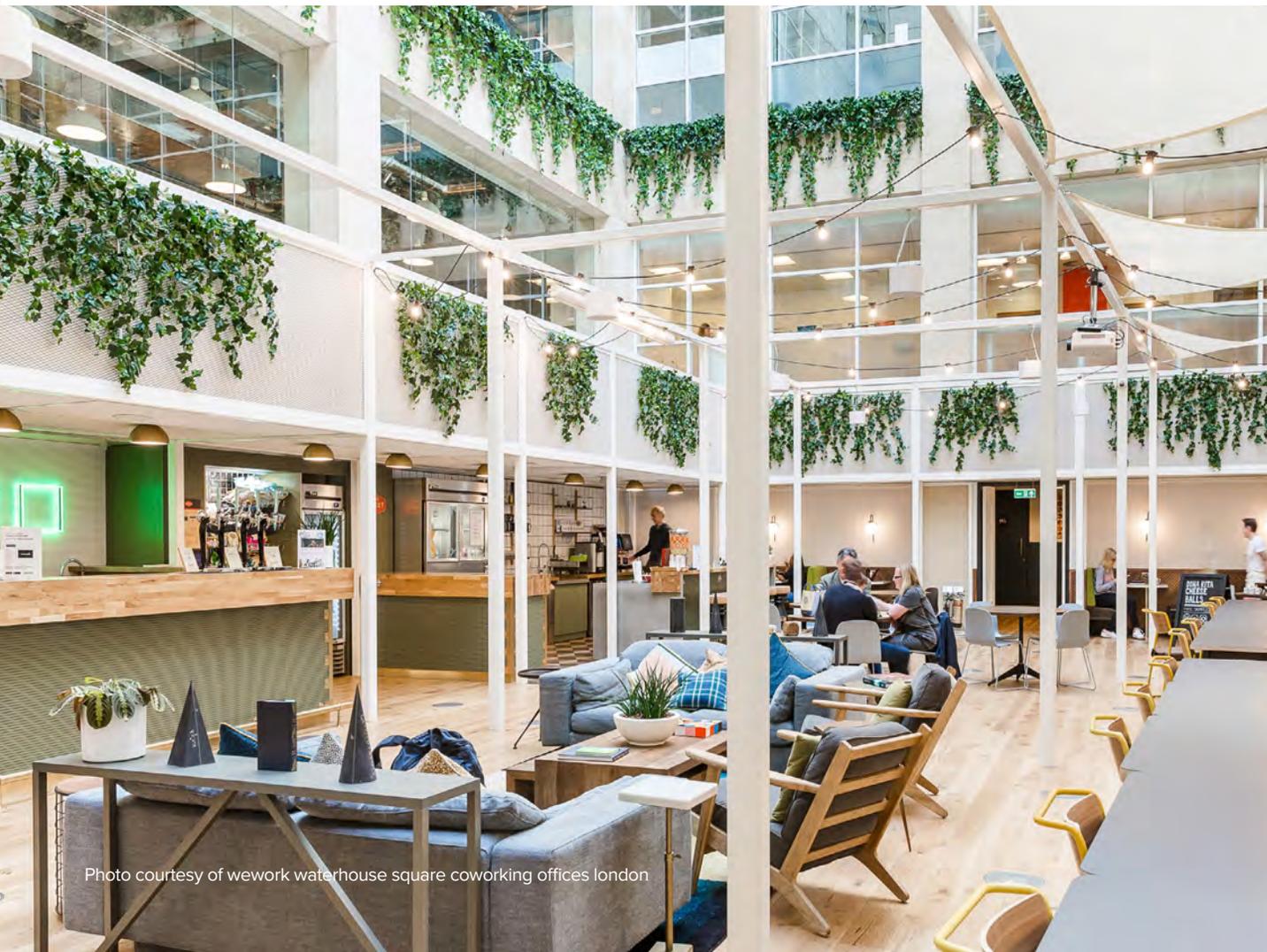


Photo courtesy of wework waterhouse square coworking offices london

Inspirations

Environments that encourage creativity and core values where the lines of business and leisure are blurred.

- Community-oriented
- Cementing core values
- Social hubs
- Collision-inspired design
- Wellness and active spaces

Key Features

- Collaborative environments
- Warm and welcoming
- Indoor-outdoor blurred transitions
- Soft and plush elements
- Home-styled fixtures

Macro Trend 4:

Striking Sustainability



Striking Sustainability is, at its roots, the combination of sustainable design and wellness design. These two design applications work closely together to create spaces that integrate sustainably sourced and “green” building materials into a space while emphasizing human-centric design. This trend incorporates the entire spectrum of certifications that have emerged over the past several years and is working to spur total facility optimization in new and unforeseen ways.

Buildings have evolved beyond energy efficiency, and environmental compliance. Buildings in 2020 will work to increase human performance while combating losses in productivity due to poor design. This has led to the adoption of Biophilic design as a fundamental design element meant to promote employee happiness, productivity, creativity, and more. Ultimately, the goal is to establish a more harmonious relationship between nature, our buildings, and ourselves.

Inspirations

Buildings that work harmoniously with the environment connect occupants with the natural world.

- Environmentally conscious
- Wellness and well-being
- LEED, WELL Building Standard, and FitWel certifications
- Corporate responsibility
- Material connection with nature

Key Features

- Minimally processed materials
- Natural woods and stone features
- Highly designed green spaces
- Workspace utilization technologies
- Natural lighting







Micro Trends

Smaller in scale and typically aesthetic and immediate in nature.
Micro trends don't involve any structural work.

Micro Trend 1:

Monochromatic Complexion



The Oxford dictionary defines monochromatic as “containing or using only one color,” which only tells half the story when it comes to design. Monochromatic color schemes are the newest iteration of what can only be referred to as a *color explosion* that’s been taking place in commercial environments over the past several years. These exquisite color palettes only use one color, but they use the entire spectrum of shades, tones, and hints of that particular color to convey a uniform, authentic, and easily recognizable brand theme. This purposeful design strategy draws people in through creative expression, as buildings look to establish a holistic unified image showcasing key functions and personality.



Inspirations

Energized spaces created through the refinement of color are increasingly paramount, as companies double-down on design.

- Creative inspiration
- Character and personality
- Human-centric
- Holistic brand aesthetic
- Purposeful design

Key Features

- Variation of tone, shade, and tint
- Textures and patterns
- One brand-focused color
- Soft hues and bold, dramatic shades
- Precious stone palettes and matte finishes

Micro Trend 2:

Hanging Horticulture



Plants are more popular in office environments than ever before. Bolstered by the emergence of living green walls and moss walls as staples of well-being and branding, it's safe to say that plants have officially rooted themselves in contemporary office design. With floor space at a premium, designers are turning to an unlikely place to integrate their vegetation: ceilings. For interior designers who are striving to maximize space and the performance of the facility, the human ceiling is the next frontier in office design. This trend helps to maximize their property's premium floor space while opening up endless possibilities to showcase greenery.

Popular hanging plants include moss walls with birds nest or boston ferns planted within, airplants, various types of ivy, and pothos.

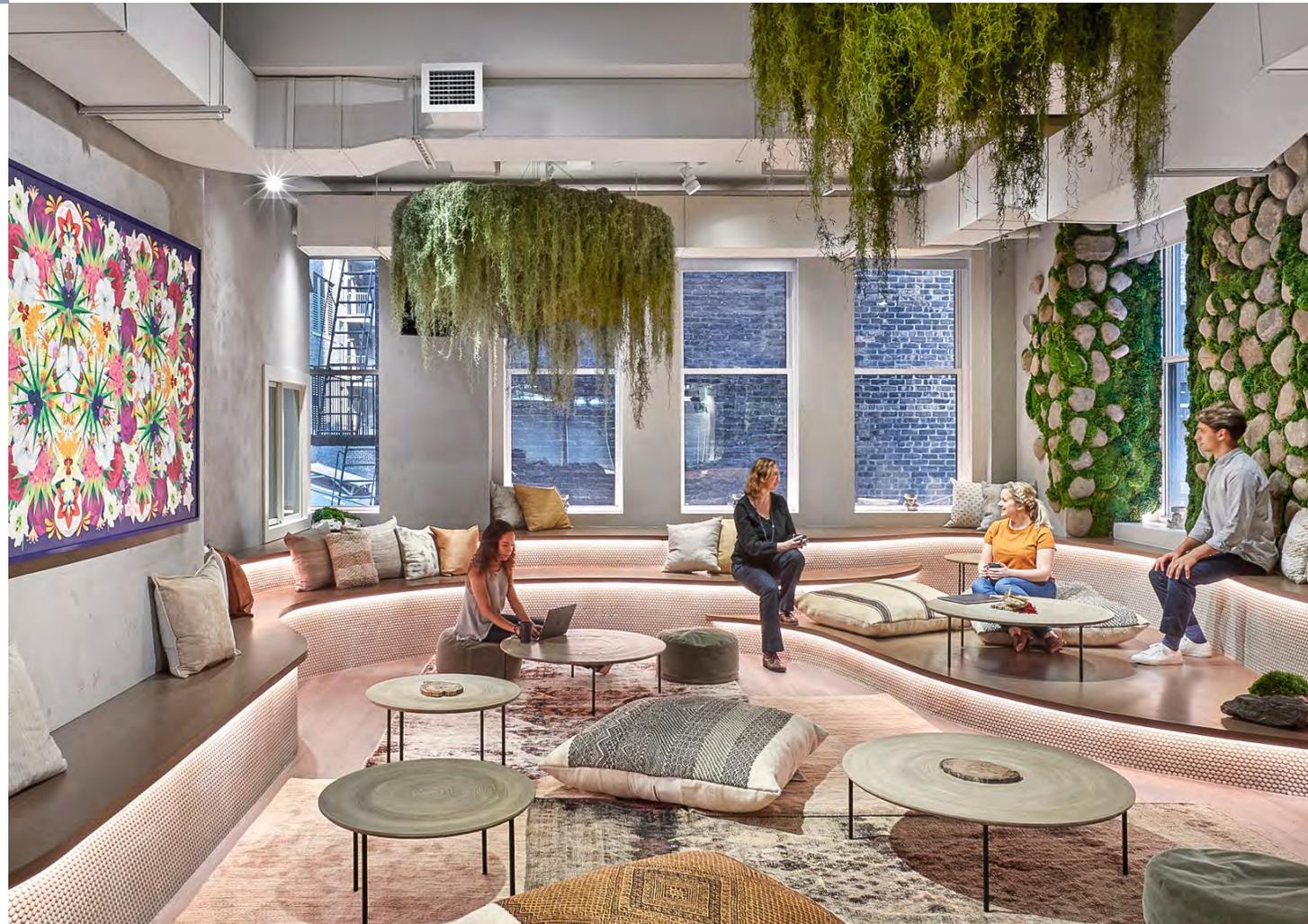
Inspirations

In this era of maximizing floor space, designs are turning to new heights incorporating floating gardens as essential components of the visual aesthetic.

- Wellness and active spaces
- Immersive experiences
- Visual points of interest
- Inspired creativity
- Biophilic design

Key Features

- Moss balls and airplants
- Birds nest, pothos, boston ferns
- Scattered, clustered, and varied vegetation
- Natural and organic woods
- Highly designed elements



Micro Trend 3:

Modern Modular



The Modern Modular trend is an extension of the Dynamic Spaces trend from year's past and focuses on the amazing innovations that are emerging in office design, allowing businesses to work smarter, more effectively, and create an environmentally conscious workspace for their employees. Beyond modular offices, dynamic desks, and lounge areas, there's also simplified office equipment such as computer stands, a multiplicity of ergonomic chairs, standing balance boards for desks, and lockers for a sense of place in such a flexible space. Office furniture is going through a period of rapid innovation unlike anything we've encountered before, and we're excited for this arsenal of modern equipment to hit offices everywhere.



Photo courtesy of Neocon

Inspirations

Innovative spaces incorporating dynamic, modular elements for employees to be more creative, active, and productive.

- Flexible designs
- Dynamic and multifunctional
- Active spaces
- Wellness and well-being
- Human-centric

Key Features

- Ergonomic and exercise furniture
- Dynamic workstations
- Insulated phone booths and pods
- Modular and lightweight
- Personal space

Micro Trend 4:

Domesticated Workspaces



In an effort to create a more comfortable and homestyle working environment, facility managers and designers are working to integrate the comforts of home into the office, making workspaces feel more domestic than ever before. The Domesticated Workspace trend stems from commercial spaces increased interest in hospitality environments, specifically hotels that cater to business travelers. The fusion of designs has the potential to revolutionize the way that office environments are perceived in the long run.

This design's benefits are twofold for office employees; one being an upgrade to a more welcoming and relaxed space that's overall more satisfying and conducive to working more effectively. The other benefit is to attract remote workers back into the office by creating offices that employees are excited about and engage with, strengthening team dynamics and morale.

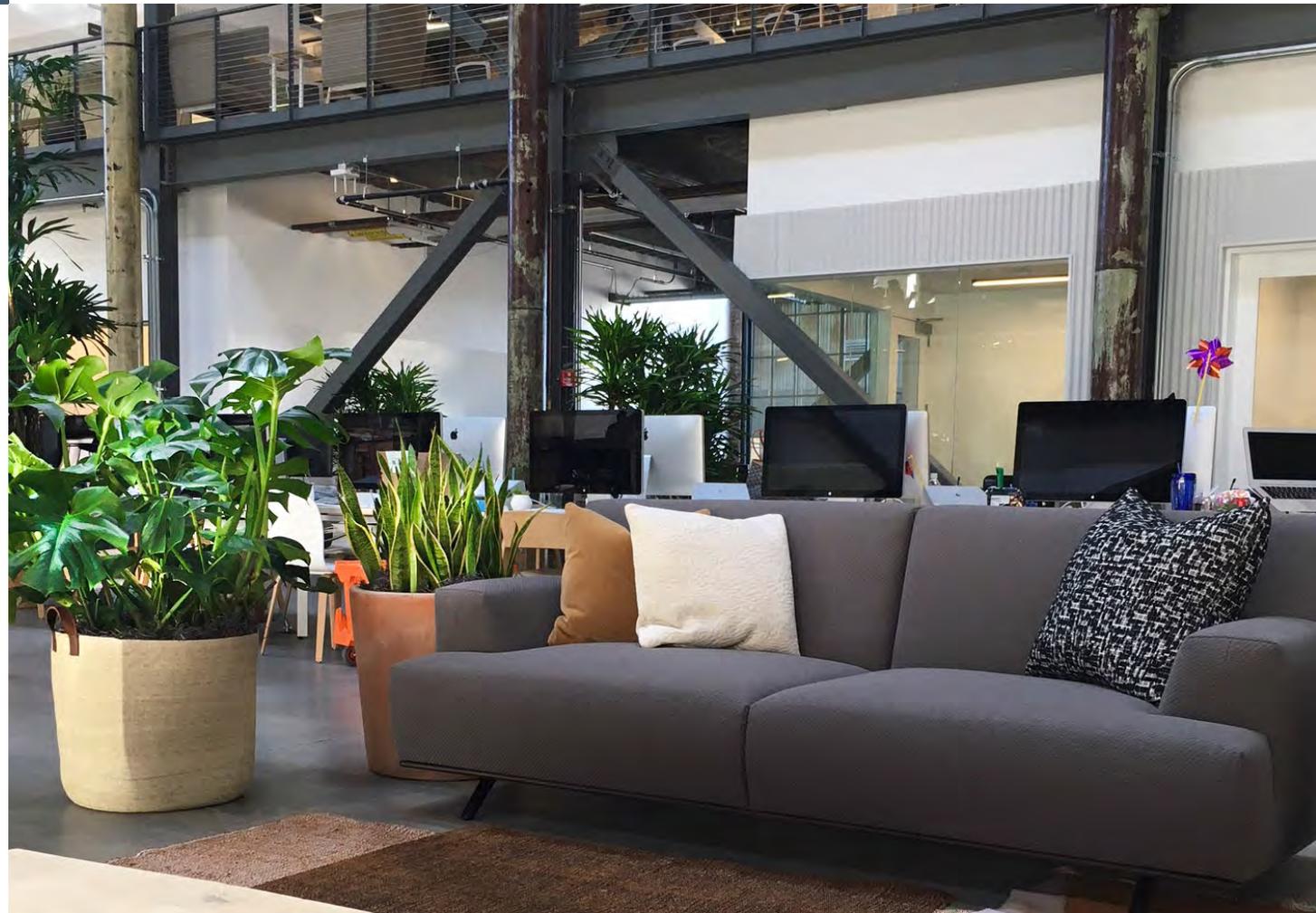
Inspirations

Workspaces that incorporate home-inspired designs and social elements centered on the people's desire to live, work, and play

- Office-hospitality fusion
- Warm and welcoming
- Millennial workforce
- Community oriented
- Comfort and liveable

Key Features

- Household amenities
- Varied potted plants
- Throw pillows and area rugs
- Coffee tables with board games
- Natural and organic textures



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+92 322 33 38733(eTree)
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