

Workplace Interior Design Trends

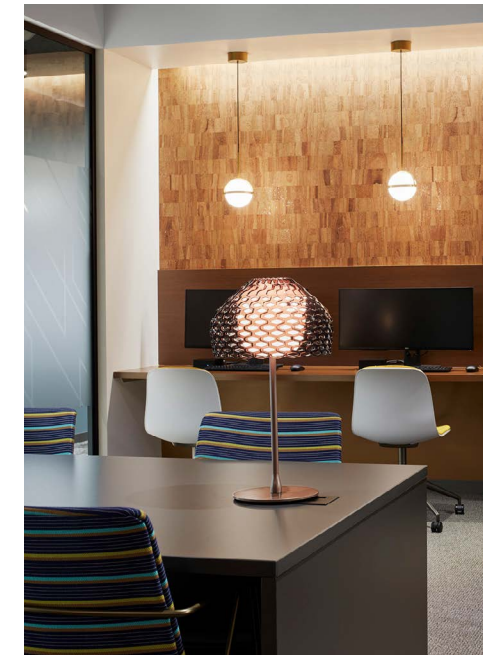
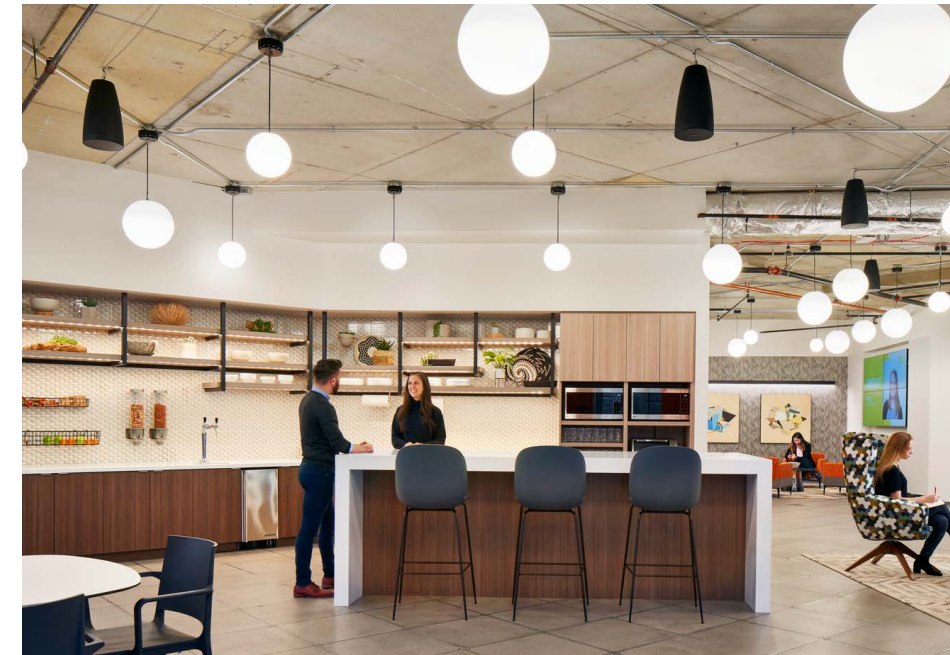
Design excellence stems from not accolades or aesthetics, but tangible, measurable, positive effects for the client and community. A successful approach is one that uses design to successfully integrate interiors with architecture to the benefit of users and the overall client organization.

Since the rise of hybrid work, our design teams have been receiving questions about how to utilize and incorporate interior design to serve the whole project and improve hybrid work. Here are some answers to some of the most common questions.



HOW DID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CHANGE THE OFFICE INTERIOR DESIGN SECTOR?

Most of what we saw being implemented during the pandemic — such as distancing; shutting down kitchens and shared amenities; and see-through barriers — didn't last. Hybrid work is what has taken hold and is the driving force impacting the offices of tomorrow. Despite some organizations pushing for a full return to office, 74% of U.S. companies are using or plan to implement a permanent hybrid work model. Employees crave flexibility and offices that support collaboration and a new way of working. This has radically shifted how we envision our experience of the workplace and what it should include.



WHAT WORKPLACE DESIGN TRENDS CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE MORE OF IN 2023?

A focus on user wellness (mental, physical, emotional) will be front and center this year. We'll see more amenities, spaces, programs, and materials that enhance comfort, security and health. With this focus on wellness comes a stronger emphasis on healthy materials that support user health. This includes everything from interior finishes and flooring to furniture and insulation. These spaces will also create a sense of belonging that encourages authenticity and creativity.

Companies will downsize square footage and put more emphasis on the quality and purposefulness of the space that remains. Workplaces will continue to become about a planned work experience, and the home office will be the realm of productivity. This will include greater investment in amenities that are thoughtful and connect to culture. The savviest organizations will design programs and events to take full advantage of their spaces as enrichers of culture.

Room design will center technology and we'll see more purposeful technology suites. These suites will better support hybrid work with shifting displays that transform the in-office and virtual experience and allow for constant video/audio connectivity through the office by camera. The technology that is present will emphasize mobility — including laptops, mobile devices and high-speed Wi-Fi mesh networks — over hardlines and collaboration. This blending of technology and design will help employees better collaborate while being in different places.

Lastly, we'll see more evidence-based design services that leverage hard data, such as employee utilization, productivity drivers, effectiveness and quality, and culture building.

ARE THERE ANY TRENDS THAT YOU EXPECT TO SEE DECLINING IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS? WHY?

Our design leaders predict that we'll continue to see a decline in private offices for most roles. The home office is now the private office and commercial workplaces are the spaces for community and collaboration. We'll also see a decrease in fully open offices and design strategies that center around personal workstations. The expectation that everyone will be in the office at the same time focusing on individual work is eroding. **Now, when we come together, we will do it to be together.**

ARE THERE ANY OTHER INSIGHTS YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?

Companies that are trying to attract talent back to the office shouldn't try to compete with the home office. Attempting to compete with someone's home for comfort and productivity is a losing battle. Instead, organizations will benefit from creating spaces that enhance the few days of work being done in the office. Spaces that offer community, creativity, technology and ample opportunities for collaboration. Those are the corporate spaces that will stand out in the future of work.



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