

DESIGN TRENDS: What's Ahead for Office Design in 2018



These trends are part of a growing shift toward prioritizing not only productivity but vitality.

Well-being in the workplace will be the hot trend in 2018 office design. Creating healthier workspaces and fostering work-styles that create healthier choices will sharpen the focus on the human experience at the office.

The static workstyle of being tied to a cubicle or a desk is leaving the building. Flexible spaces that focus on the ability to improve the utilization of space for everyone and building a culture that recognizes an individual's value in the workplace will create a significant impact. This fresh approach is leading to some pretty unconventional workspaces with bolder colors and designs.

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These trends are part of a growing shift toward prioritizing not only productivity but vitality. Taking the office space beyond being a place we simply tolerate to becoming a place where we feel re-energized and full of possibility. Creating a user experience for your staff, like the one you create your clients with your brand, is taking center stage.

Businesses are putting people first. Other trends that are most likely to define office life in 2018 include:

Human-Centered Design

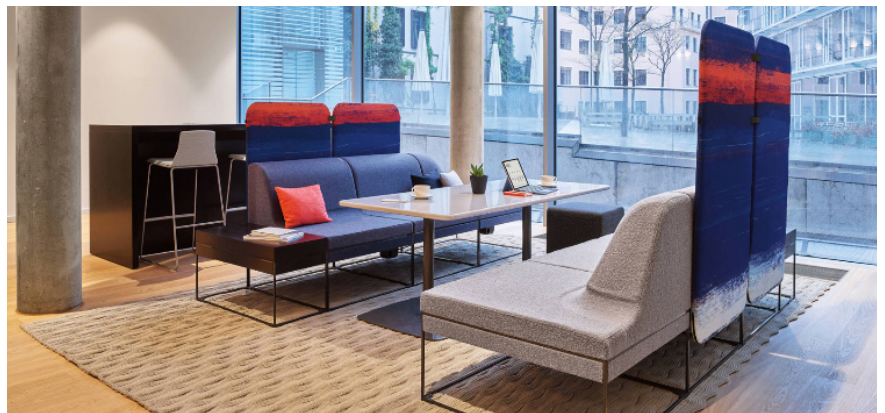
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Human-centered design in the workplace focuses on the right balance of elements that mentally excite and engage, physically comfort and emotionally support busy workers. Adapting the space to fit the human by providing opportunities for collaboration, team building and individual focus within your office design is human-centered design in practice.

Providing adaptable spaces can elevate your office functionality and will keep even remote employees coming back to the office for those amenities. It keeps everyone connected as a team. Technology has lead office innovation, and will continue

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to do so. But for all of it's mobile connectivity, the face to face human component has been missing. Human-centered design aims to bring that back.

Unconventional Spaces

The rise of more casual office environments has forced the serious corporate office demeanor to take a back seat as bright, vibrant colors take center stage. The distinctly contemporary edge that has been replacing traditional layouts and corporate aesthetics evolved out of the open plan concept.

Millennial trends encourage employees to socialize while boosting satisfaction and overall happiness. Designing a workspace to incorporate more relaxed interaction, fun and open communication is now a fixture. From big scale projects such as Google's indoor trees and slides to the simpler touches of brightly colored private seating booths or eccentric art murals, making the space a destination is now part of the design aesthetic.

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Transporting familiar aspects from the home to public spaces is trending across the design world and successfully attracting all ages with more appealing gathering places around the office. Innovative seating with playful designs that entice workers and visitors alike to de-stress encourages more casual interaction, increasing the likelihood that they will linger.

Diverse Materials

Materials create a sense of emotional wellbeing. When we're surrounded by digital tools all day long, we begin to yearn for a connection to nature



As the workplace hosts a broader range of cultures and generations, people are gravitating toward more natural textures and materials in their design. Hospitality design has lead this trend with a variety of materials, colors and design elements. It's about more than just finding the right spot for different modes of work. Comfort is key. Materials create a sense of emotional wellbeing.

When we're surrounded by digital tools all day long, we begin to yearn for a connection to nature. Biophilia, the principle that human beings have an innate desire to connect and bond with nature, is experiencing a resurgence because of the balance we need from our digital world and the benefit nature's restorative qualities provide to our wellbeing. Surfaces, colors, and textures that bring nature into the office will be present in 2018 design.

We are also seeing a heightened understanding of the need for respite within the workplace. Technology helps us be more productive, but its hard on your eyes. We need more opportunities to rejuvenate and refocus. A wider range of soothing neutrals, translucent and toned down colors as well as textiles with

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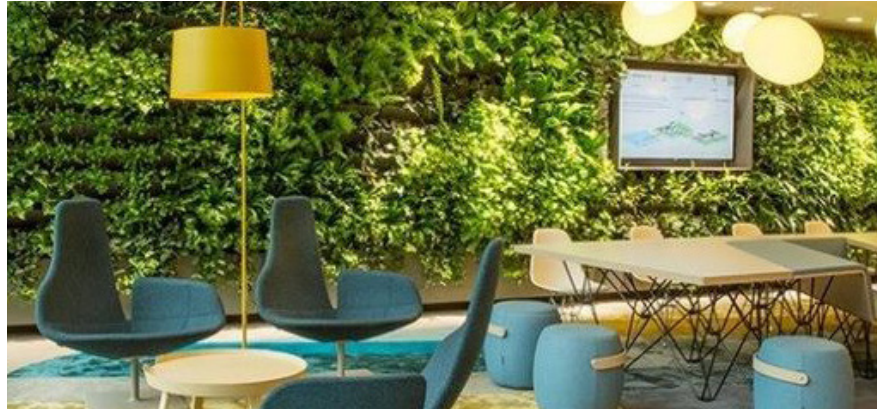
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a tactile and warm feeling offer calm and comfort in all areas of the workplace.

WELL Certified Design for Accessibility

The first protocol of its kind, The WELL Building Standard focuses on the people in the building. This model for design and con-

WELL empowers the creation of healthy environments for people to live, work and play, enhancing occupant health and quality of life globally.



struction codifies best practices and presents a performance-based system for measuring, certifying and monitoring features of the built environment that impact human health and well-being.

The WELL Building Standard is a tool to support the industry in comprehensively addressing human health within the built environment. WELL provides resources for designing and building towards healthy environments and a framework to measure and evaluate the human and financial impact.

WELL empowers the creation of healthy environments for people to live, work and play, enhancing occupant health and quality of life globally. Accessibility also plays a role in this story.

Adjustable height desks, adaptive chairs, quiet “library hours” floors, assistive devices are easier to create or attain to make sure all employees can thrive in their environments. The introduction of these items on a B2B level will help larger offices recognize,

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