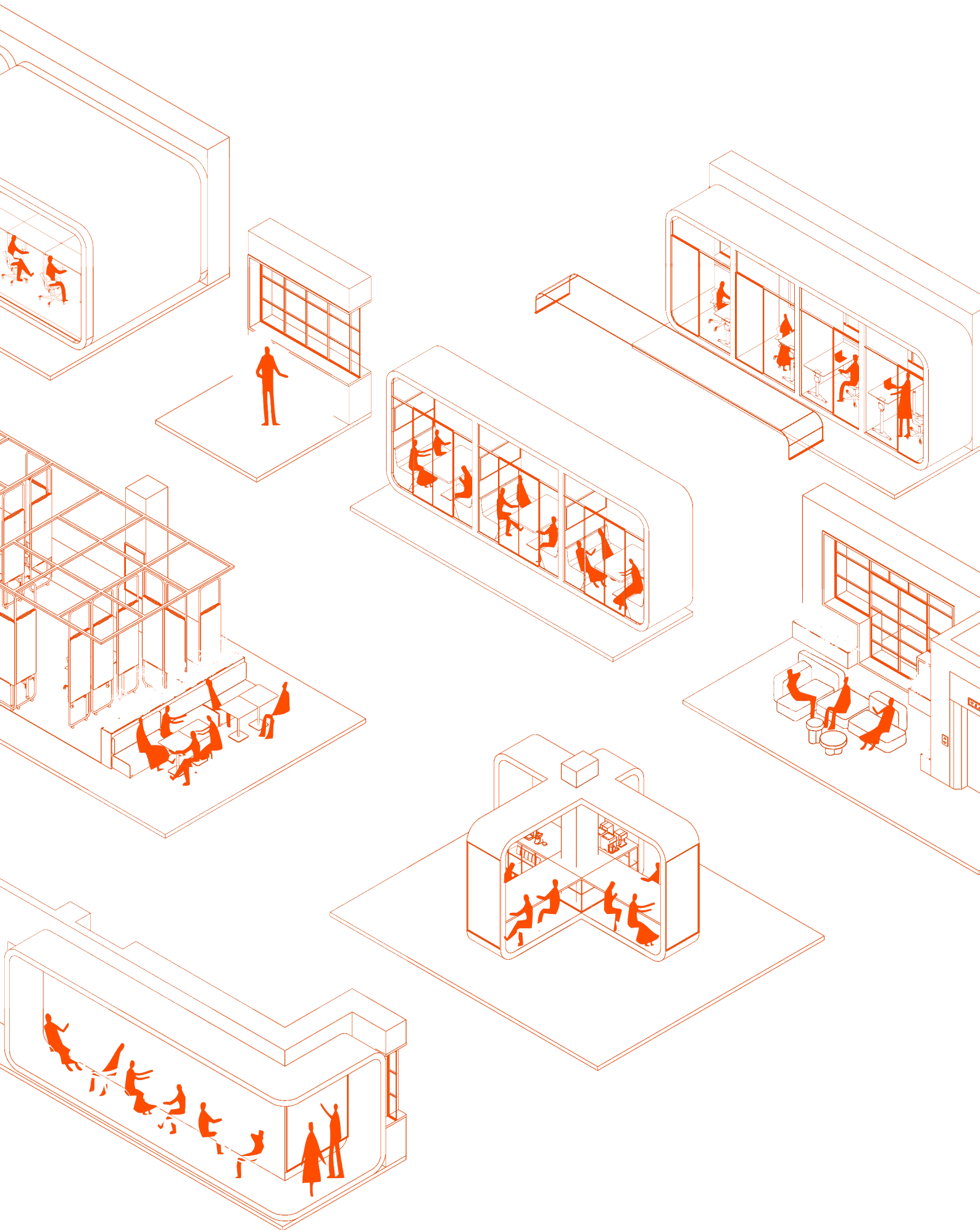




Future Collaboration Hub

Technology-driven well-being workspace
design strategies



Abstract

In the post-pandemic era, the hybrid work model has become normalized thanks to the influx of new generations and technology support in the workplace. Due to changes in the way of work, people have new expectations and demands for future workplaces. ‘Well-being’ has become the most crucial factor people consider when entering a workspace, and ‘Collaboration’ tends to become the primary modality of physical workspaces.

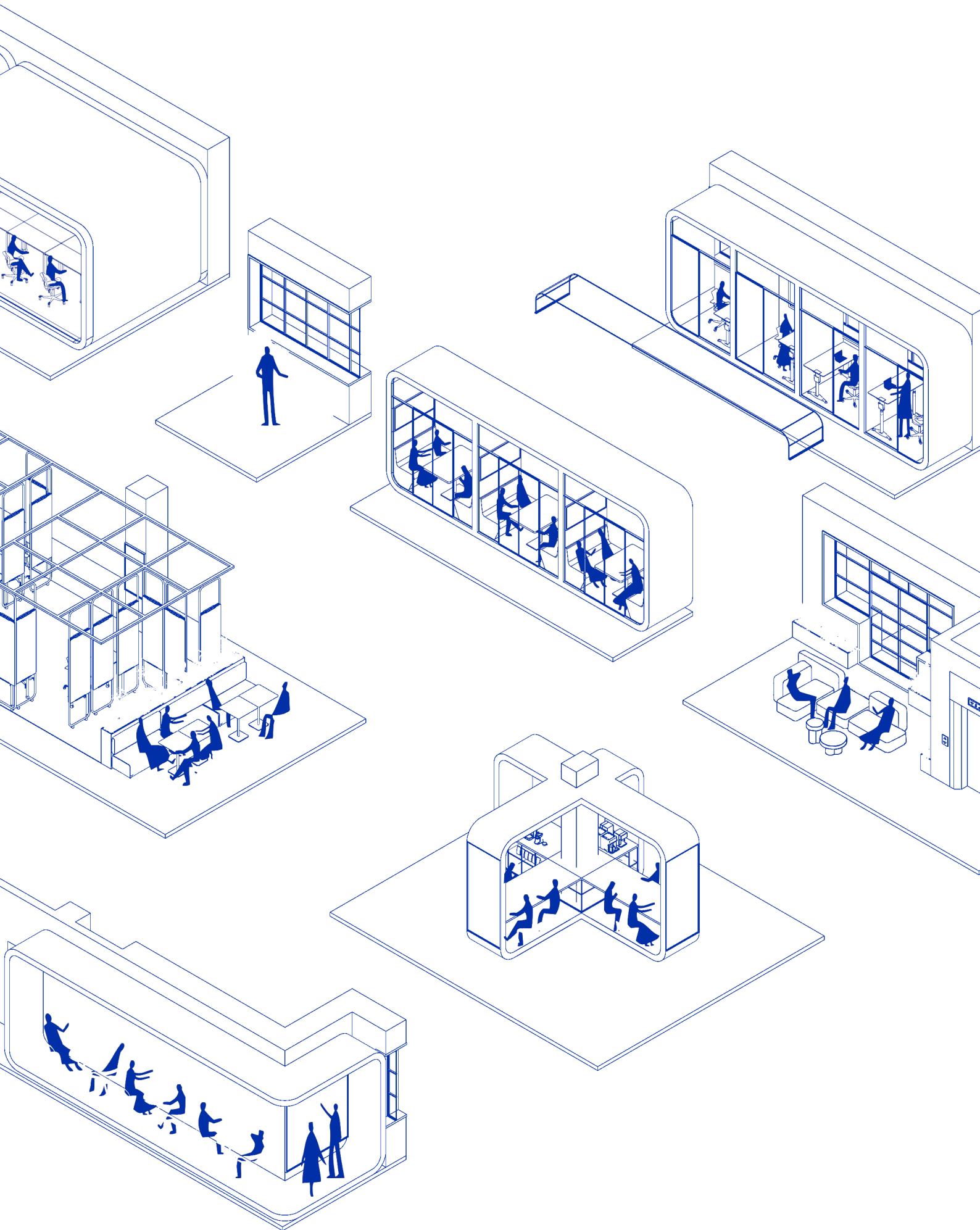
According to the user’s behavior and needs, the thesis reports in-depth research to obtain the design strategies for future collaboration space. Based on the design strategies acquired from the research, the Collaboration Hub, which is the core area of the WORK LIVING HUB project of Contest Design Studio (within the master’s degree in Spatial Design), was redesigned.

The design exploration primarily focuses on people, space, and technology, combining the physical and virtual spaces to create a comprehensive immersive experience, embedding well-being into the details of spatial design.

The combination of technology and space will bring people a better sense of experience aimed at truly realizing the well-being of the workspace that people expect.

Keywords:

Hybrid work, Collaboration space, Well-being, Activity-based work (ABW), Flexible space, Experience design, Inclusive design, Smart technology, Metaverse



Abstract

Nell'era post-pandemia, con l'ingresso delle nuove generazioni nel mondo del lavoro e il supporto della tecnologia, il modello di lavoro ibrido si è normalizzato. A causa dei cambiamenti nel modo di lavorare, le persone hanno nuove aspettative e richieste per lo spazio di lavoro futuro. Il 'Benessere' è diventato il fattore più rilevante che le persone considerano quando entrano in uno spazio di lavoro e la 'Collaborazione' tende a diventare la modalità principale degli spazi di lavoro fisici.

In base al comportamento e alle esigenze degli utenti, la tesi riporta una ricerca approfondita per ottenere le strategie di progettazione dello spazio futuro di collaborazione. Sulla base delle strategie di progettazione acquisite dalla ricerca, è stata riprogettata la Collaboration Hub, che è l'area centrale del progetto WORK LIVING HUB dello studio di progettazione Contest Design (all'interno del Corso Magistrale di Spatial Design).

L'esplorazione del design si concentra principalmente su persone, spazio e tecnologia, e combina gli spazi fisici e virtuali per creare un'esperienza immersiva completa, incorporando il benessere nei dettagli del design degli spazi.

Obiettivo della combinazione di tecnologia e spazio è di offrire alle persone a una migliore esperienza per raggiungere la condizione di benessere nello spazio di lavoro che le persone si aspettano.

Parole chiave:

Lavoro ibrido, Spazio di collaborazione, Benessere, Lavoro basato sull'attività (ABW), Spazio flessibile, Progettazione dell'esperienza, Progettazione inclusiva, Tecnologia intelligente, Metaverso

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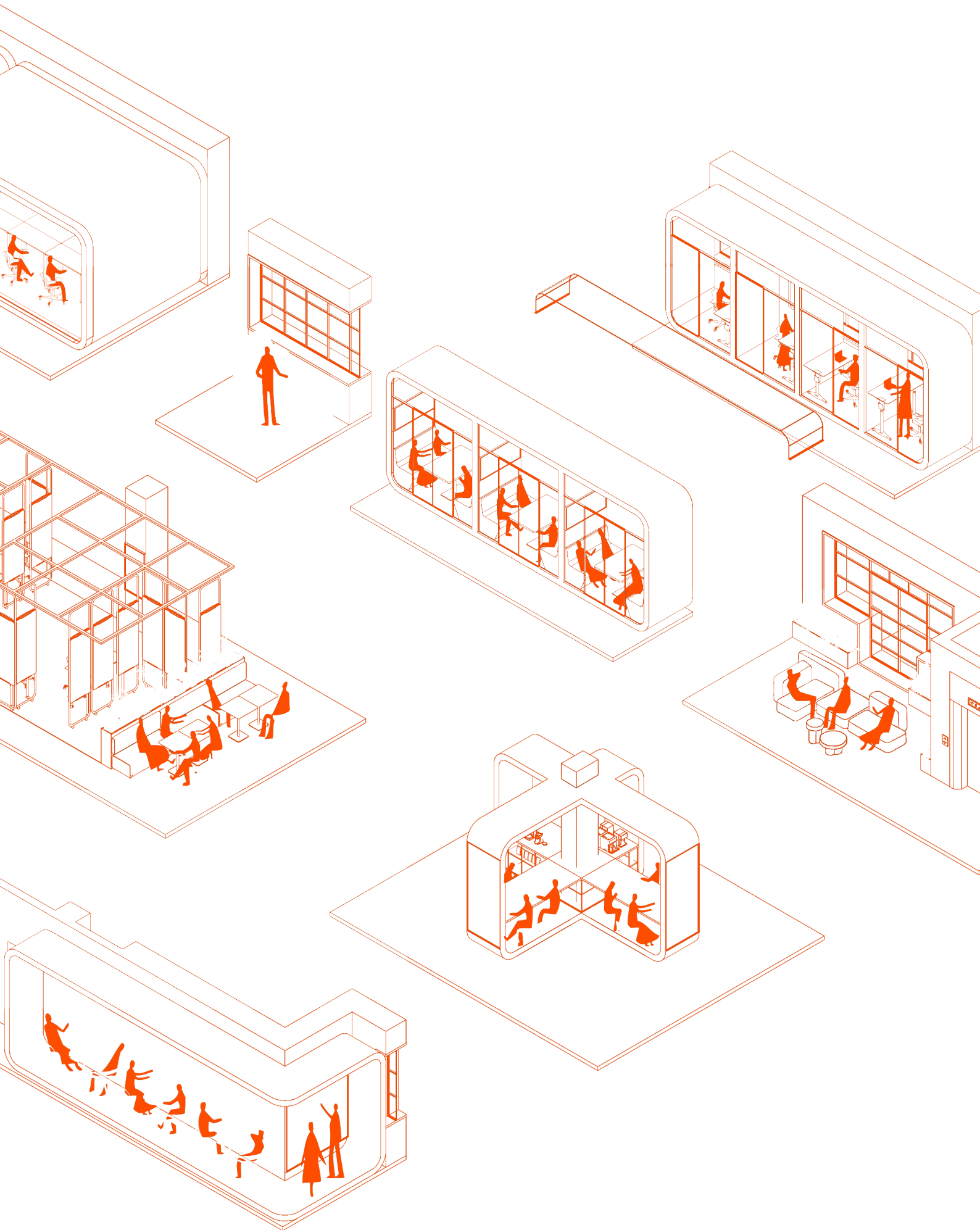
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1 Introduction

1.1 Statement of the problem

1.2 Objectives of the work

1.3 Methodology



1.1 Statement of the problem

The global landscape of work and lifestyle has undergone a substantial change in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, reshaping traditional paradigms and paving the way for a new normal — the era of hybrid working. This transformation has been propelled by a confluence of factors, including the imperative for flexibility, advancements in technology, and a heightened focus on individual well-being.

As we navigate the post-pandemic landscape, it is evident that the hybrid work model is not merely a transient phenomenon but a lasting evolution in how we approach work. The fusion of remote and in-person work will define the future of work environment. The key to the realization and generalization of the hybrid work model is the support of technology. Smart technology and the burgeoning metaverse will revolutionize traditional physical workspaces, challenging conventional notions of work and spatial arrangements. These technological innovations will redefine the contours of traditional physical workspaces, transcending conventional boundaries and presenting new possibilities for collaboration and productivity. The experiences garnered from the pandemic-induced era of remote work have also engendered a profound shift in priorities for employees. Work-life balance has emerged as a paramount consideration, and as individuals contemplate a return to physical workspaces, their expectations have evolved. Chief among these expectations is the aspiration for well-being, compelling organizations to reimagine work environments that prioritize the holistic health of their workforce. In the context of the hybrid work model, the functions of physical workplaces have undergone a metamorphosis. No longer the exclusive locus of daily tasks, these spaces have become hubs for collaboration, innovation, and shared experiences. The surge in demand for collaborative spaces underscores a fundamental change in the way people perceive and utilize their work environments.

Amidst these transformative dynamics, the urgent need arises for the design of new workplaces that seamlessly align with the requirements of hybrid work. The infusion of technology into collaborative spaces emerges as a key facet, not only enhancing productivity but also nurturing employee well-being. This exploration into the symbiosis of technology-enabled collaborative spaces and employee well-being stands at the forefront of the evolving narrative of the contemporary workplace.

1.2 Objectives of the work

The primary objective of this work is to investigate and propose innovative design strategies for future collaborative spaces that prioritize and enhance employee well-being through the integration of technology. The exploration of physical space design mainly focuses on the following three aspects:

1. **Activity-Based Work Design:** It explores and recommends design strategies that facilitate activity-based work within physical workspaces. This involves creating environments that cater to various work activities and tasks, promoting flexibility and adaptability to different work styles.

2. **Sensory Design for Physical Needs:** It investigates how sensory design can be leveraged to address employees' physical needs within the workplace. This includes considerations for lighting, acoustics, ergonomics, and other environmental factors to create a conducive and supportive atmosphere for employee well-being.

3. **Inclusive Design for Psychological Needs:** It examines the impact of inclusive design on employees' psychological well-being. This involves creating workspaces that foster a sense of belonging, support diverse workstyles, and consider psychological factors to promote a positive and inclusive work environment.

The thesis explores innovative ways to use technology to support hybrid working and promote employee well-being:

1. **Integration of Smart Technology:** It researches and evaluates the application of intelligent technology within physical workspaces. It focuses on exploring how technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT) devices and smart infrastructure can enhance the overall employee experience, streamline workflows, and contribute to well-being.

2. **Metaverse Technology Integration:** It investigates the potential of metaverse technology in connecting physical and virtual workspaces to better support hybrid work models. It explores how virtual collaboration platforms and immersive technologies can bridge the gap between physical and virtual environments, facilitating seamless communication and collaboration.

In summary, the work aims to provide practical insights and recommendations for creating future collaborative spaces that prioritize employee well-being and leverage technology to optimize the work environment for the evolving demands of hybrid work settings.

1.3 Methodology

(1) **Literature collection**

This study conducts a literature review to gather and review global academic journals, books, online articles, and relevant materials related to the subject. It identifies the latest and most comprehensive research outcomes, organizing them to serve as the theoretical foundation and analytical framework for the design of collaborative spaces.

(2) **On-site inspection**

In this work, the author conducted field research on two co-working spaces in Milan and the project site that needed to be designed. Through observation, photography, interviews, recording, research, design analysis and other methods, the author comprehensively and in-depth explored and discussed user needs and work experience.

(3) **Case analysis**

At each exploratory stage of the research, application cases of related concepts are searched on the Internet based on the corresponding themes and analyzed to provide a strong basis for project design.

(4) **Interdisciplinary research**

Future workplace design requires comprehensive knowledge of various disciplines, including architecture, psychology, aesthetics, technology, information communication, service design, interaction design and other disciplines. After a multi-faceted understanding and seeking inspiration for re-creation, this study integrates the relevant research strategies and results of major disciplines such as space construction and sensory experience, and reasonably applies them to the design process of this project.

(5) **Service design method**

During the project development stage, use service design research methods including service design process, service design tools, service blueprints, user portraits, user journey map to guide the design direction from the perspective of user experience.

2 Precondition

2.1 Hybrid work has become the new normal

2.2 Hybrid work will continue to exist in the future

2.3 The third space has become a new choice for hybrid work

2.1 Hybrid work has become the new normal

At the end of 2019, a sudden pandemic disrupted the pace of life and changed the way everyone works. The pandemic has sparked the world's largest "remote work experiment": a massive randomized trial testing the notion that whether many jobs can be done from couches and dining tables. In the "experiment", employees usually enjoyed a greater flexibility. For instance, as one of the online meeting leaders, Zoom has grown its daily active customers more than 30 times – from ten million to 300 million – during the Covid-19 pandemic (Draper, 2021). When the pandemic was brought under control, the tendency to telework continued to persist. Twitter announced that employees will be able to telework permanently even after the pandemic is over (Rose, 2020). The catalyst effect of the pandemic has accelerated the development of the telework ecosystem, which in turn has driven the digital transformation of enterprises (Chen,2022).

In this global "experiment" about how people work, the global workforce's demand for flexibility and autonomy has skyrocketed, and for them, how they work is more important than where they work. Employees tend to have more freedom and self-discretion to choose when and where to work, including choosing a hybrid model combining in-office and home working. There are indications that hybrid work model have become the norm for many organizations.

According to a 2020 research report by JLL, Reimagining Human Experience, hybrid work is the new normal and now the preferred way of working. 66% of employees surveyed are expecting to be able to work from different locations post-pandemic. 50% want to work both in the office and remotely, and 26% do not want to head to the office anymore.

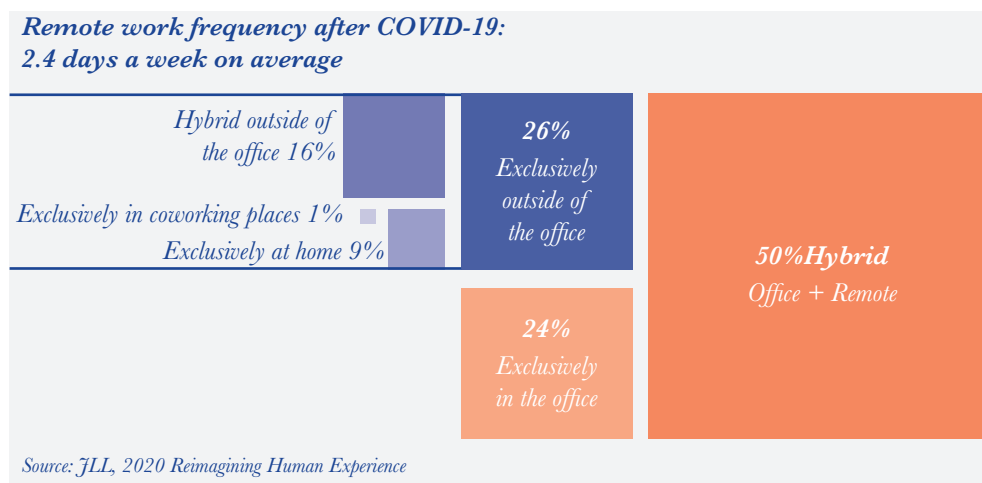


Chart 1: Remote work frequency after COVID-19

2.2 Hybrid work will continue to exist in the future

According to the report, The Future of Work Survey 2022 released by JLL in November 2022, for most enterprises the hybrid work trend will continue to exist. A quarter of enterprises said they had offered permanent telecommuting options to employees who needed them. Another 30% expect to implement such policies by 2025. Companies with more than 5,000 employees are more willing to provide employees with such choices.

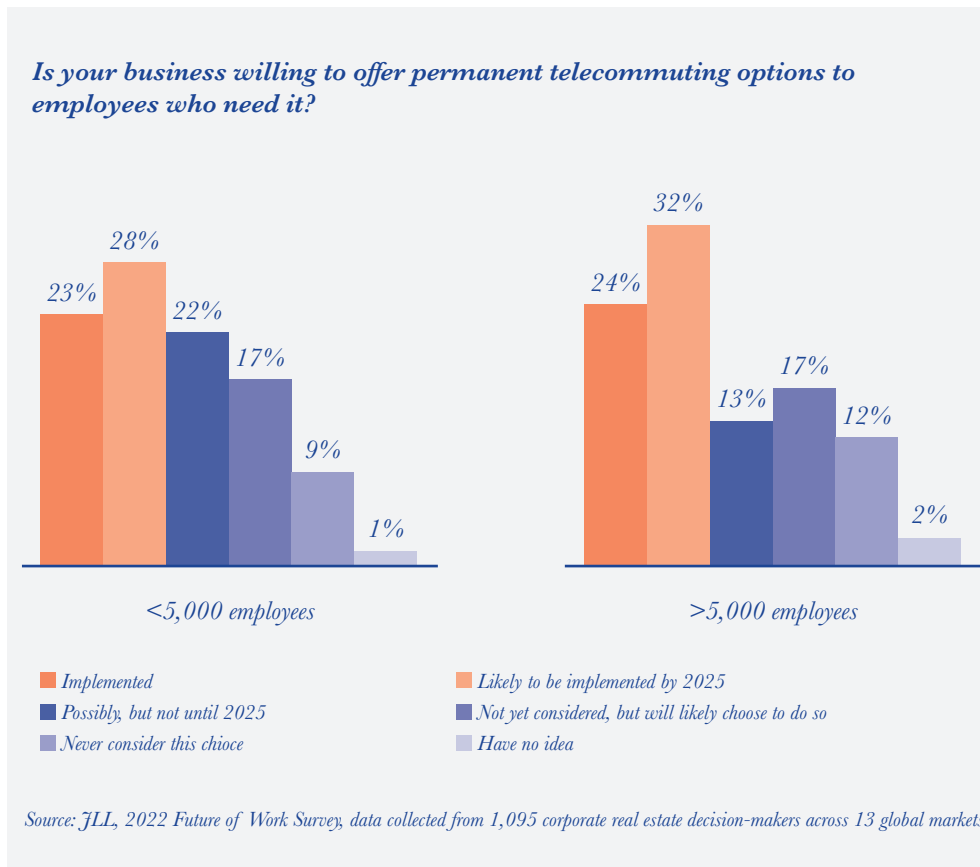


Chart 2: Companies offer permanent telecommuting options to employees who need it

The benefits brought by the transformation from onsite work model to hybrid work are obvious: in the future, employees will be given more discretion to make better use of work space, including more autonomous arrangements for their own way and time of work. Chart 2 shows that by 2025, more than half of enterprises will switch to a work model which focuses on employee choices, i.e., employees have the right to independently decide their own way of work. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, only 8% of enterprises were willing to provide employees with such work options.

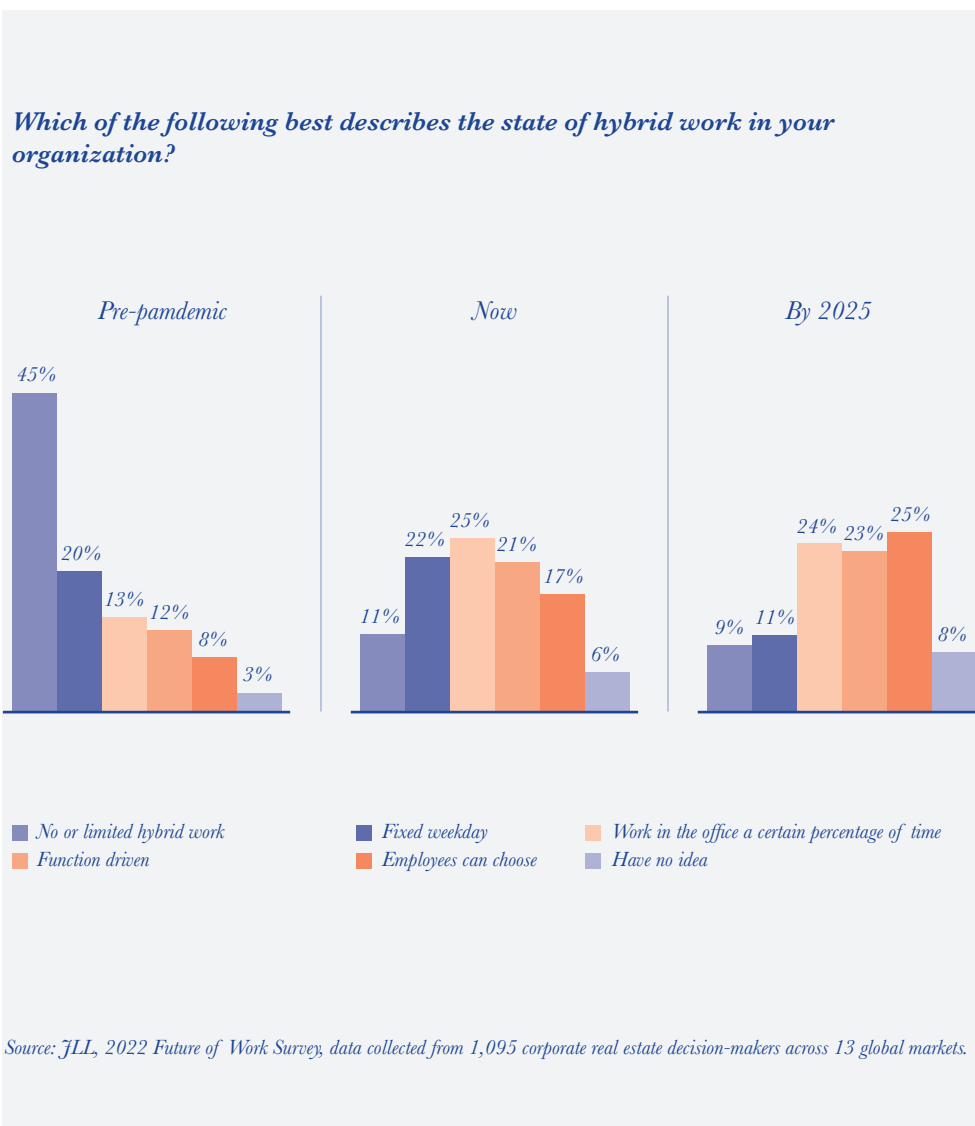


Chart 3: Description of hybrid work status in organizations

The interviewed companies said that in order to maintain competitiveness and attract the best talents, they need to plan their future work model, and a dynamic work strategy will be the key of the team building. More than three-quarters (77%) of businesses surveyed believed that offering remote or hybrid work options is critical to attracting and retaining the talents.

In the post-pandemic world, work is not only about where you are, but more about what you do. Employees have more freedom to decide when and where they work. Hybrid work has become the most popular way of work at present.

2.3 The third space has become a new choice for hybrid work

The global research report released by JLL in June 2022, Workforce Preferences Barometer, shows that the proportion of hybrid work model continues to grow. 55% of employees switch between locations on a weekly basis (a rise of 5% compared to March 2021). The gradual return to the office is a general trend: 73% of employees go to the office at least once a week (compared to March 2021, this proportion increased by 5%). The concept of hybrid work is further expanded and extended, as more and more employees not only work from home and in office, but also work in third places such as co-working space facilities. 36% of employees will work in a third places on a weekly basis (up 8% compared to March 2021). 33% of employees prefer to work from a co-working space or satellite office near home.

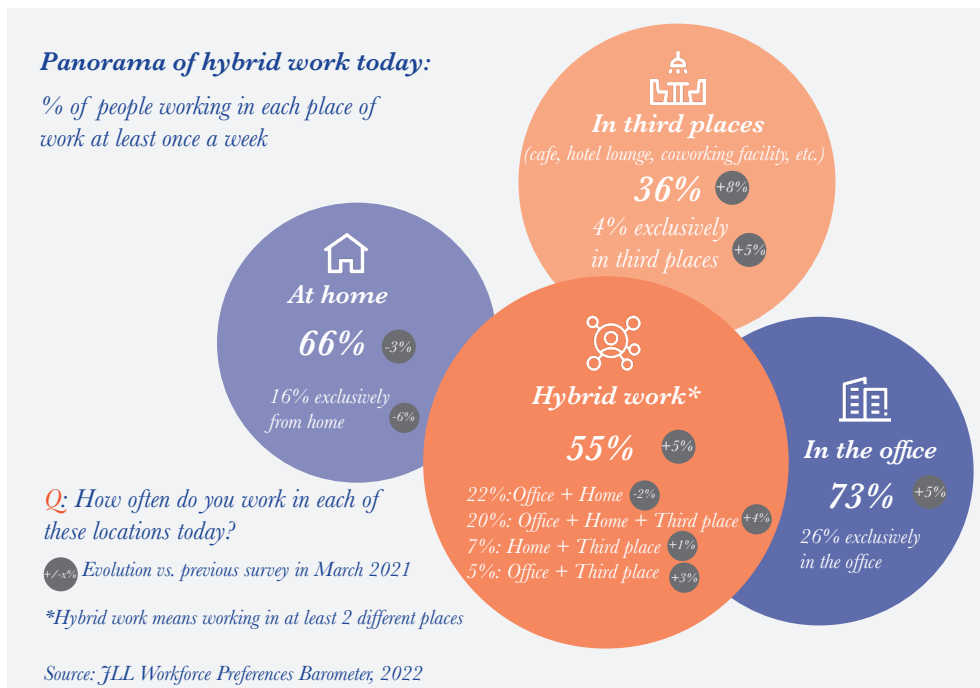


Chart 4: Panorama of hybrid work today

The Covid-19 pandemic has fundamentally promoted changes of traditional work habits and long work hours. Hybrid work enables employees to switch among different environments, depending on which one suits them best. For some, moving away from traditional work arrangements is an easy transition. For others, such rebalancing leads to a disconnect from colleagues and blurs lines between work and private life, which has been and will continue to be a challenging experience. At the same time, it also provides company managements an opportunity to reshape the future work of the organization. The flexibility of when and how people return to the office creates interesting challenges for workspaces redesign.

3 Technology Influences Workplace

3.1 Technology influences work behavior

3.1.1 The Technological Revolution: Typewriter and Telephone

3.1.2 The Digital Revolution: PC and Internet

3.1.3 Industry 4.0: Smart Technology and the Metaverse

3.2 Technology influences work space layout and experience

3.2.1 Early 1900s: Taylorism and the rise of the open plan office

3.2.2 1950s: Bürolandschaft and the dawn of office collaboration

3.2.3 1960s: Herman Miller and the action office

3.2.4 1970s: Rise of the word processor

3.2.5 1980s: Cube Farm

3.2.6 1990s: New open plan office space and hot desking

3.2.7 2000s: The emergence of casual offices and co-working spaces

3.2.8 2010s: Agile working and Activity-based working

3.2.9 2020s and beyond: Smart office and Infinite office

3.3 Summary

The normalization of hybrid working models has made the choice of work arrangements more flexible. Today, knowledge workers have more opportunities to choose where they work: in the office, at home or in a third space. The realization of such flexibility is inseparable from the development of science and technology. In the more than 100 years since the advent of the modern office in the early 20th century, with the continuous evolution of technology the work carrier of knowledge workers has moved from paper to typewriters, telephones, computers, projectors, and to the mixed-reality headset – the depth of spatial experience has been expanded from physical to virtual. Technologies such as the Internet of Things, artificial intelligence, big data, and cloud computing make physical space more intelligent and provide a more specific and comfortable experience, thereby expanding the breadth of physical space experience. What will the work space of the future look like? To answer this question, we need to first grasp the laws of historical development, learn ideas from excellent cases and draw lessons from failed cases, so as to better grasp the trends of design development and explore the future.

3.1 Technology influences work behavior

The Information Technology Revolution, a book edited by Tom Forester in 1985, defines an office as a place where people read, think, write, and communicate; where proposals are considered and plans are made; where money is collected and spent; where business and other organizations are managed. If technology is changing the way we perform such activities, the office needs to change in the nature and organization of office work. (Chevez, 2009)

3.1.1 The Technological Revolution: Typewriter and Telephone

The first modern office was born during the Technological Revolution. The widespread use of electric light eliminated the need for costly gas lighting and allowed employees to work efficiently. The impact of subsequent breakthrough of office technologies, such as typewriters and electronic calculators, vastly improved information processing and amplified productivity. Communication technology facilitated by the telegraph and telephone gestated the birth of dedicated office blocks, enabling seamless long-distance administration where companies first began to expand and decentralize their footprint.

3.1.2 The Digital Revolution:

PC and Internet

The Third Revolution, also known as the Digital Revolution, is the shift from mechanical and analogue electronic technologies of the Industrial Revolution towards digital electronics which began in the latter half of the 20th century, with the adoption and proliferation of digital computers and digital record-keeping, which continues to the present day (Steven, 2004). This revolution brought about the automation of factory production, telecommunications, the Internet, the use of personal computers and mobile phones. With the popularization of the Internet and mobile office equipment, remote working emerged as the times required. In 1973, Jack Niles, an American rocket expert, introduced the concept of telework (Lovelace, 2000). Due to the outbreak of the first global oil crisis at that time, Jack Niles proposed to build network equipment on the periphery of big cities so that everyone could work remotely by using electronic devices. In 1975, the first personal computers launched (Campbell-Kelly, 2001). Since then, portable personal laptops have been continuously updated, their costs have gradually decreased, and resource sharing has been promoted through the network. Network and equipment conditions have gradually matured, allowing people to carry laptops when traveling or working at home.

3.1.3 Industry 4.0:

Smart Technology and the Metaverse

With the arrival of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0), fundamental shifts are taking place in how the global production and supply network operates through ongoing automation of traditional manufacturing and industrial practices, using modern smart technology, large-scale machine-to-machine communication (M2M), and the Internet of Things (IoT) (Moore, 2019). In recent years, the development of automation and digital technologies such as cloud computing and big data has further reduced the market's demand for basic manual labor, while the demand for knowledge-based mental labor has continued to increase. Occupations in office-administrative and production lines are predicted to constitute the basic categories that will be excluded from employment until 2026. (Wilks et al., 2018).

The core of Industry 4.0, which is currently being actively advanced by different countries, lies in the system of combining virtual and reality, arguably the foundation of the industrial metaverse (Suzuki et al., 2020). Relying on a powerful communication environment, processing platform and

sensing equipment, the industrial metaverse can achieve better risk prediction, capacity management and renewable energy consumption. Technological innovations from Industry 4.0, such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain, 5G and VR, also bring opportunities to change the traditional working style (Javaid et al., 2022). With the continuous development of metaverse technology, remote office platforms are constantly being optimized from flat to three-dimensional, from voice, video, to immersive sensory experience.

Industry 4.0 is bringing people's work into a new and broader world. With the development of machine learning and artificial intelligence, more and more repetitive tasks have been automated, allowing workers to focus on more complex and creative work. We are witnessing a shift towards a more connected, digital and flexible work environment.

Case Study (Virtual collaboration platform)

Nvidia Omniverse: Virtual Collaboration and Simulation Platform

Location: Global Access

Time: Launched in 2020, ongoing

Designer: Nvidia Corporation

Introduction:

In late 2020, Nvidia launched a simulation and collaboration platform called Omniverse for creating and experiencing virtual worlds and simulations in a cross-platform, multi-user environment. It combines the power of real-time rendering, simulation and machine learning to enable users to interact in shared virtual environments in real time. Omniverse is designed to enable collaboration across multiple industries, including architecture, engineering, construction, film and gaming. From concept to final deployment, Nvidia Omniverse not only accelerates complex 3D workflows but also enables breakthrough new possibilities for visualization, simulation and code on the next frontier of creativity and innovation. For creators, Omniverse acts as a central hub for seamlessly connecting and enhancing 3D creative applications, unifying assets, libraries and tools, ensuring a truly uninterrupted workflow and enabling artists to reach new heights of creative freedom.

Reason for Selection:

The Nvidia Omniverse platform is a virtual collaboration solution that is used in some large creative companies. BMW is using Omniverse to make a digital twin of a factory. Volvo uses it to design vehicles prior to making the actual car, and Ericsson uses it to optimize its 5G network deployments. Omniverse provides an example for our research into the future of virtual collaboration.

Highlights:

Real-time collaboration in virtual environments.

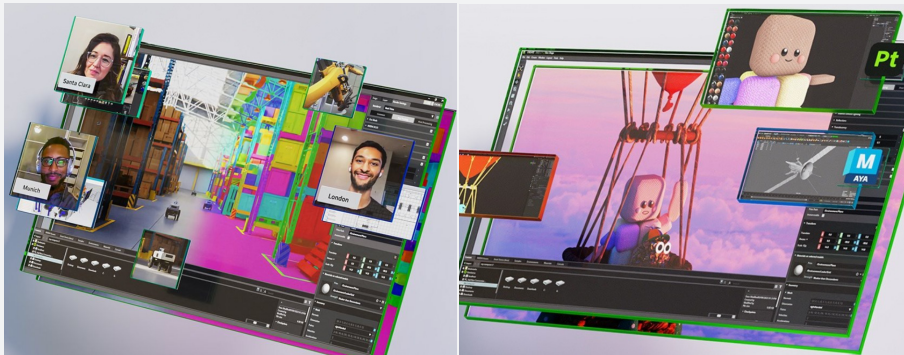


Fig. 1: Omniverse, a simulation and collaboration platform. Source: <https://www.nvidia.com/en-us/omniverse/>

3.2 Technology influences work space layout and experience

Today, the way we work has evolved beyond what people could have imagined 100 years ago. The office is no longer the building where everyone gathers, but our homes, local cafe and many other “third places” where people gather for virtual meetings. From the seriousness and restraint of the world’s first office to today’s free and flexible integration of reality and virtuality, how we got here - the introduction of new technologies and tools, changes in employee needs and work patterns, and the transformation from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy - is rooted in the offices of the past.

3.2.1 Early 1900s:

Taylorism and the rise of the open plan office

At the beginning of the 20th century, technology revolutionized the form and function of the workplace. With the invention of steel frames and elevators, buildings exceeded 10 stories for the first time in history. The invention and application of electric lighting and air-conditioning systems meant that new high-rise buildings did not require much natural light or ventilation. The buildings became sealed and workers were more isolated from the outside world. With the use of telephones and typewriters, offices turned to be very crowded and noisy.

Workspace design in the early 20th century was guided by Taylorism, where space was organized in a way to maximize efficiency. The most prominent feature of an office under the guidance of Taylorism is all-round openness and surveillance: a vast large room with neatly arranged seats inside, and no obstructions on the desktop. Managers could monitor the working conditions of employees at any time in the high-rise glass office. In terms of work routines, office staff became more similar to factory workers (Galloway, 1919). The office was divided into departments responsible for various specific tasks, and employees in the same department handle similar tasks in the same session. From the perspective of work space planning, the planning and design of interior space was efficiency-oriented and workflow-based with the specific goal of reducing unnecessary time expenditure or space movement. More desks were placed in the room, allowing for more employees and allowing managers and supervisors to monitor employees more easily. From the perspective of household equipment, space planning, light environment, interior decoration and other aspects, there was no essential difference between the work space and the working environment of the factory workshop at that time.



Fig. 2: The Larkin Administrative Building , designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1904, contained 1,800 workers processing 5,000 orders per day working in a central open space at the centre of the building. Source: <https://www.morganlovell.co.uk/the-evolution-of-office-design>

Summary

- 1. Typical layout:** Primitive office layouts were straight, linear and heavily influenced by the manufacturing industry.
- 2. Work models:** Standardized, repetitive work activities with heavy monitoring from management (such as counting the number of letters opened per hour or counting the typists' strokes).
- 3. Furniture:** Steel swivel chairs and carpentered wooden desks, comfortable furniture (such as armchairs) and roll-top desks reserved for senior staff.
- 4. Technology:** Electric lamps, telegraph, static phones, dictation machines.

3.2.2 1950s:

Bürolandschaft and the dawn of office collaboration

In the 1950s, technological advances led to further evolution of work space. Over the decades, modern materials such as steel and glass were more widely used, and innovative air conditioning systems and gas boilers replaced coal, greatly improving indoor air quality. This encouraged floor areas to increase and ceilings to lower. Wider, more open floors allowed employees to be placed almost anywhere. As the office environment became the primary environment for city dwellers, workplace furniture gradually became the focus. Bespoke workstations, seating and textiles developed by renowned architects and designers emerged.

After World War II, business theorists began to move away from Taylorism's "employee-based" concept and instead sought flat hierarchical structures that encouraged communication and interaction. In the 1950s, the German management consulting group Quickborner developed a new office layout called the Bürolandschaft. Bürolandschaft stemmed from organizational theory, which was based on more complex "human relations" principles than Taylorism. For the first time, the Quickborner team realized that office work types were diverse and designed different office layouts for different types of business. Unlike previous open-plan or streamlined work spaces guided by the strict and methodical Taylorism, the office landscape consisted of free and open furniture dispersed in large, loose and non-structurally divided spaces in different contexts. Through the creative use of partitions and planting, these different environments were less rigidly demarcated, and their nature was often determined by the type and function of the staff engaged within them. For example, workers in creative fields (such as advertising or media) could be grouped loosely so that they interacted more easily and frequently, while managements were in tighter, more segmented areas. Although the office layout was open plan, partitions and plants did create different areas and a degree of privacy. Cabinets and curved partitions were used to offset the noise and distractions of typewriters and telephone conversations. Informal spaces such as break rooms were first introduced to provide employees with an "escape" away from their desks. The workplace became more democratic and social, with employees at different levels encouraged to sit and work together to improve the collaboration and communication environment in the office. Therefore, Bürolandschaft is often cited as a principle of modern office design.



Fig 3: *The Bürolandschaft*, a new office layout in 1950s. Source: <https://hubblehq.com/blog/the-history-of-the-office>

Summary

- 1. Typical layout:** Prominent open-plan spaces with partitioned breakrooms.
- 2. Work models:** Single function tasks completed in isolated departmental groups.
- 3. Furniture:** Steel-tube swivel chairs, ergonomic executive chairs, office plants, G-Plan and mid-century modern desks, Rolodexes.
- 4. Technology:** Typewriters, filing cabinets, rotary telephones, air conditioning, fluorescent lighting.

3.2.3 1960s:

Herman Miller and the action office

From the 1950s to the 1960s, humanistic care gradually emerged, and the concept of architectural design progressively shifted from being based on process to being based on the needs of employees. Although the Bürolandschaft was briefly popular in Europe, its casual and open layout wasn't for everyone. Some employees wanted more privacy. Herman Miller Research Corporation evaluated the evolution of the "office" during the 20th century, specifically the way it functioned in the 1960s. Their research includes understanding how people work in offices, how information travels and how office layout affects their performance. They concluded that office staff require both privacy and interaction, depending on which of their many duties they were performing. (Leslie, 1998)

In 1964, the Herman Miller Research Corporation launched the Action Office I series of office furniture to solve the problems that plagued office staff at the time. Action Office I featured desks and workspaces of varying height that allowed the staff the freedom of movement and the flexibility to assume the work position best suited for the task. However, Action Office I was expensive and difficult to assemble, resulting in poor sales. By 1968, the company launched the Action Office II series. It was based around the mobile wall unit that defines space. The unit also supported multiple workstation furnishings that benefited from the vertically oriented work space. The components were interchangeable, standardized, and simple to assemble and install. More importantly, they were highly flexible, allowing the company to modify the work environment as needs changed (Leslie, 1998). The Action Office II lineup was an unprecedented success, often referred to as the birth of the modern cubicle, and was quickly copied by other manufacturers (Brooke, 2015).

Herman Miller's first modular furniture series, the Action Office series, was the first iteration of the modern cubicle. The series was designed to provide employees a variety of work environments, increased freedom of movement and greater privacy while working, as well as allowing employees to personalize their space. However, there were two sides of its impact on office design. The space required for rows of modular furniture increased, and individual workstations became larger and more enclosed. While it did provide ample workspace, people became less visible to each other, reducing interaction between colleagues. Over time, the form of cubicles gradually evolved, deviating from the original design intention of the Action Office series and later evolved into the cubicles of the 1980s.

At the same time, this decade also witnessed the rise of design-led office furniture, with seats designed to be more ergonomic and comfortable. Due to the popularity of plastics, office chairs came in a wider variety of colors and shapes.

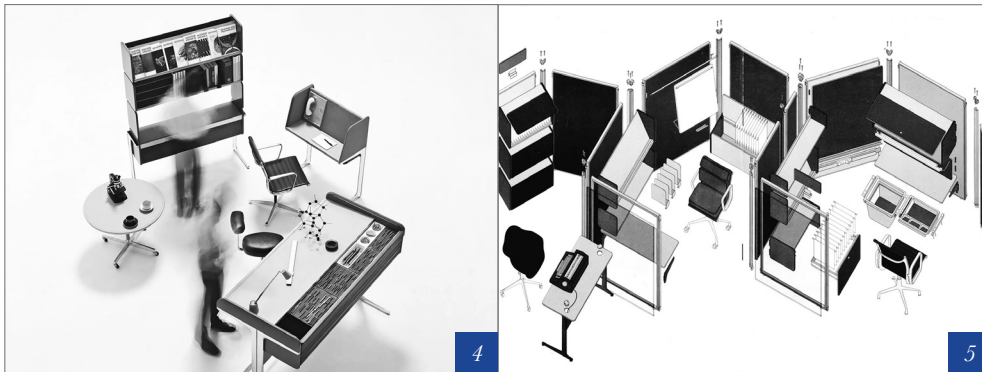


Fig. 4: Action Office I, 1964, with roll-top high desk, Perch stool, a separate telephone table, and freestanding shelves.

Source: <https://www.wired.com/2014/04/how-offices-accidentally-became-hellish-cubicle-farms/>

Fig. 5: Action Office II: It consists of three walls that can change the angle. The whole is open and dynamic, and employees can freely arrange the space. Source: <https://www.wired.com/2014/04/how-offices-accidentally-became-hellish-cubicle-farms/>

Summary

- 1. Typical layout:** Central bullpen workspace with formal boardrooms and break rooms lining the perimeter of the office.
- 2. Work models:** Labour and time-based approaches, fixed desk policies.
- 3. Furniture:** Modular furniture, wooden desks, sofas, plastic and steel chairs, moveable partitioning and walls.
- 4. Technology:** Handheld calculators, pocket dictation machines, fax machines, laser printers, photocopiers.

3.2.4 1970s:

Rise of the word processor

A typical computer at the time had only a basic word processor, as well as the first-ever spreadsheet. But early office automation tools, heavy and cumbersome, initiated a return to centralized clerical work, forcing offices to house the bulky machines in designated areas to minimize the noise they produced and allow room for tables and workstations to place them.(Shaban, 2023)

The concept of cubicles dominated throughout the 1970s. The health and ergonomics of employees received increasing attention: The design of office furniture fully considered the health and comfort of users, and the design of work space paid more attention to providing employees with the freedom to display their creativity and work independently.



Fig 6: The IBM 360 mainframe computing system with printing terminal. Source: <https://aeon.co/essays/the-1970s-librarians-who-revolutionised-the-challenge-of-search>

Summary

- 1. Typical layout:** Open-plan spaces blended with adjacent cubicles of lounge areas, boardrooms and collaborative workrooms.
- 2. Work models:** Ergonomics and employee health, collaborative working.

3. Furniture: Modular furniture, MDF desks, sofas, height-adjustable seating, personal pedestals.

4. Technology: Air conditioning, handheld calculators, floppy disks, fax machines, laser printers, photocopiers, local network (ethernet)

3.2.5 1980s:

Cube Farm

In the 1980s, computers began to become commonplace in the workplace as they shrank from bulky objects in designated rooms to boxes on every employee's desk. This marked the beginning of an era of new technologies that would forever change the workplace.

Many companies began to take advantage of spatial density by building linear cubicles, aiming to increase productivity of employees. The focus of office layouts shifted from a focus on healthy working conditions to the pursuit of greater productivity and profitability. Action Office series evolved into cheap modular cubicles, which completely deviated from the original design intention of Action Office series, causing the history of office design to completely diverge from the original humane development trajectory during this period. Desks were designed as bulky and complex units to accommodate the rise of word processors and fax machines. As the cubicles became smaller and more standardized, their "Taylorism" color became more and more intense, and like single-person cells, they became "management units" where profits came first. The method of communication between employees became a phone call from one cubicle to another, rather than the original in-person meeting.

This kind of working environment is not conducive to the physical and mental health of white-collar workers. There were a large number of patients with "high-rise syndrome" and even led to a shortage of skilled office staff.



Fig. 7: The Office Cubicle.

Source: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/a-brief-history-of-the-dreaded-office-cubicle-1399681972>

Summary

- 1. Office layout:** Cubicle farms and interior design dictated by technology and space densities.
- 2. Work models:** Decentralized workspaces with flatter organizational structures.
- 3. Furniture:** Ergonomic chairs with lumbar supports, whiteboards, steel workstations.
- 4. Technology:** Car phones, CDs, Email, bulky desktop computers, pagers.

3.2.6 1990s:

New open plan office space and hot desking

The cubicles of the 1980s continued into the 1990s. In 1991 the World Wide Web was opened to the public. The creation of the internet and improvements in connectivity made the workplace more dynamic and a place where information technology flowed freely, thus starting to open up more communications over a larger area. Free email was launched in 1996. Email provided companies with instant communication, allowing people to share messages and files like never before. It also changed the way employees interact with customers and colleagues. Widespread new technologies - the internet, laptops and mobile phones - could move offices, workers and work out of offices and into public transport, homes and cafes.

Mobile computers subverted the traditional model of a single employee fixed at a desk. Employees became more mobile and require more flexible working methods. The company sought to foster flexibility and collaboration in the booming information age and knowledge economy. Open-plan office design was becoming more popular, and concepts such as “hot desking” were beginning to emerge, allowing employees to choose available space rather than specific workstations, and requiring the entire office design concept to be supportive and inspiring.



Fig. 8: UK - London - 90s National Westminster Bank currency trading floor.

Source: <https://www.gettyimages.at/detail/nachrichtenfoto/an-interior-of-office-desks-and-90s-computers-in-the-nachrichtenfoto/527477862?adppopup=true>

Summary

- 1. Office layout:** Expanded cubicles to house departments and teams moving towards non-assigned workstations in the latter half of the decade.
- 2. Work models:** Hot-desking, telecommuting, heightened focus on collaboration and cooperation and the rise of “company culture”.
- 3. Furniture:** Personal lockers, U-shaped workstations, integrated personal storage, built-in filing cabinets, monitor arms, keyboard trays, cradle-to-cradle furniture lifecycles.
- 4. Technology:** Email, laptops, personal digital assistants, dial-up internet, mobile phone, document scanners.

3.2.7 2000s:

The emergence of casual offices and co-working spaces

By the turn of the century, mobile technology products such as thinner, lighter and more convenient laptops provided companies and employees with greater flexibility. Smartphones entered the mass market in the late 2000s, redefining the way people interact with each other. Remote and home office became feasible and work could be done from a laptop as long as there was a stable internet connection.

The rise of dot-coms and startups changed many practices and perceptions of behavior in the workplace. Work-life balance started to be integrated into workplace design, with many open-plan office spaces including break areas for employees to relax or collaborate, and more “fun” elements entering the office. Casual office environments were more common in industries such as technology, startups, and creative fields, where employees were allowed and even encouraged to wear casual clothing. Casual offices often promote creativity, innovation, and collaboration. A less formal atmosphere encourages

employees to share ideas more freely and engage in open discussions. Casual offices were becoming a trend, spearheaded by creative industry companies born in the information age. From large Internet giants such as Apple, Microsoft, and Google to small digital marketing startups, all these technology companies adopted a more casual office style, aiming to encourage highly personalized work spaces to relieve employee fatigue caused by long hours programming, data analyzing, links building or graphics designing.

As more and more people worked from home or in flexible remote environments, the concept of coworking spaces started to gain traction, providing an alternative to traditional offices. These spaces encourage collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing among freelancers, remote workers and entrepreneurs. The idea of working in a shared environment with other professionals became more popular.



Fig. 9: In 2000s coworking spaces have started to arise.

Source: <https://www.freeofficefinder.com/article/the-history-of-coworking>

Summary

- 1. Office layout:** Communal areas, quiet zones and interactive environments, touchdown spaces with extraneous coworking spaces.
- 2. Work models:** Neighborhood work environments, flexible working.
- 3. Furniture:** Meeting pods, shared sofas, modular seating, pool and ping pong tables, environmentally friendly furniture.
- 4. Technology:** 3G, WiFi, laptops, smartphones, Google, social media, teleconferencing software, acoustic planning.

3.2.8 2010s:

Agile working and Activity-based working

The rise of smartphones and tablets in the 2010s, along with the bring-your-own-device (BYOD) trend, resulted in more mobile workforces. Collaboration tools such as Microsoft Teams and Miro have proliferated, enabling real-time communication, file sharing and remote collaboration. High-definition video conferencing solutions such as Zoom and Cisco Webex improved the quality and accessibility of virtual meetings and further support remote work. These tools enable teams to work together no matter where they are. Smart office technologies, including IoT sensors, advanced building automation systems and energy-saving solutions, make work space more efficient and sustainable. Smart buildings optimize lighting, climate control and resource management. Virtual reality technology has developed rapidly in the decade, with VR and AR technology being used in office design, employee training and product development. These immersive technologies enhance project visualization and improve training and communication. Technology becomes ubiquitous and more subtly integrated into the fabric of space. From video conferencing equipment to interactive screens and to VR headsets, people expect technology to support workplace experiences.

Powered by personal communications technologies, workplace design in the 2010s drew from the exploration of different work space models that had come before. During this time, agile working practices gained traction in the software development industry, with many organizations adopting agile methods to improve project outcomes, enhance collaboration, and respond to changing customer needs. “Agile working” is an approach of work and work management which emphasizes flexibility, adaptability and collaboration, promoting flexibility in how, when and where work is done. It allows employees to choose the most appropriate method and location for their tasks. This flexibility includes remote working, flexible hours, and the ability to adapt to changing priorities. In addition, agile working places great emphasis on collaboration among team members. Cross-functional teams often work together to achieve common goals. Agile working has evolved in recent years and is no longer restricted to any particular industry, but is instead a set of principles and practices that can be applied to a wide range of work settings. It emphasizes flexibility, adaptability, collaboration and customer focus, and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of organizations and industries. Agile practices have also influenced the design and management of workplaces, resulting in agile work spaces that prioritize flexibility and collaboration.

In the early 2000s, the concept of Activity-based working (ABW) started to take shape as a more structured and strategic approach to flexible office design. ABW focused on the idea that different tasks and activities require different work settings. It sought to create a variety of workspaces within an office to match specific activities and personal preferences. ABW is arguably the most significant shift in office space use since the creation of the Taylorist ‘pool’ system in the early 20th century (Leyland, 2021). ABW has developed as a response to the changing nature of work, technology, and the need for more flexible, adaptable, and employee-centric office environments (Veldhoen + Company,2023). Its principles have been refined over the years to create spaces that support diverse work activities and promote employee well-being and productivity.

ABW and Agile are both people-centered change systems to help organize a company more flexibly, but some key differences exist. The key difference between Activity Based Working and Agile working is the focus on the individual (ABW) versus the emphasis on the team (Agile) (Veldhoen + Company,2023).

“There’s no conflict between ABW and Agile working. If ABW is a pie, Agile can certainly be a piece of that pie.” (Jonas Thelandersson Veldhoen + Company | Senior Consultant).

Both Agile and Activity-based workplaces are all about being flexible, but they do it in different ways. The engine of ABW is a flexibly designed working environment (both in and out of the traditional office); in Agile, its power comes from visualizing the work process. Agile workplaces encourage teams to work together and iterate which for some types of teams is a perfect fit, while ABW setups can work well in any industry because it adapts easily to many flexible ways of working (Veldhoen + Company,2023).

Summary

- 1. Office layout:** Variety of workspace environments, focused around formal/informal, collaborative/concentration, virtual/physical spaces.
- 2. Work models:** Coworking, virtual collaboration, delegated management, activity-based working.
- 3. Furniture:** Standing desks, private booths, bookable meeting rooms.
- 4. Technology:** 4G, artificial intelligence, cloud storage, software as service, occupancy sensors, digital signage.

Case Study (Activity-based working)

ASB North Wharf office design

Location: Auckland, New Zealand.

Time: 2013

Design Collaborators: BVN Donovan Hill in association with Jasmx

Introduction:

ASB is a major bank in New Zealand. The office design provides a wide range of work settings, including open workstations, informal lounge areas, formal meeting rooms, quiet zones for focused work, and collaborative spaces for team projects. Employees at ASB's North Wharf building have the autonomy to choose where and how they work. The flexible and agile working environment allows them to select the workspace that best aligns with their current tasks.

The office is equipped with advanced technology solutions, including video conferencing facilities, interactive digital displays, and seamless connectivity. This technology supports digital collaboration and remote work. Employee well-being is prioritized, with ergonomic furniture, access to natural light, and wellness amenities incorporated into the design. The building includes a wellness center and rooftop gardens to enhance employees' comfort and health. The office layout can be easily reconfigured to adapt to changing project requirements and accommodate dynamic teams. Mobile furniture and modular spaces allow for quick rearrangements.

Reason for selection:

ABS North Wharf building is a flagship example of an ABW workspace. The flexibility and choice of work settings contribute to high job satisfaction and well-being among employees. The open and diverse workspaces encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing among teams and individuals. The office layout allows employees to select work settings that best suit their specific tasks, leading to improved productivity and job performance. The design of ABS North Wharf's office supports the company's culture of innovation and experimentation.

Highlights:

Diverse work settings, Employee choice, Technology integration, Ergonomics and well-being, Flexibility and adaptability.

Discussion booth



Meeting booth



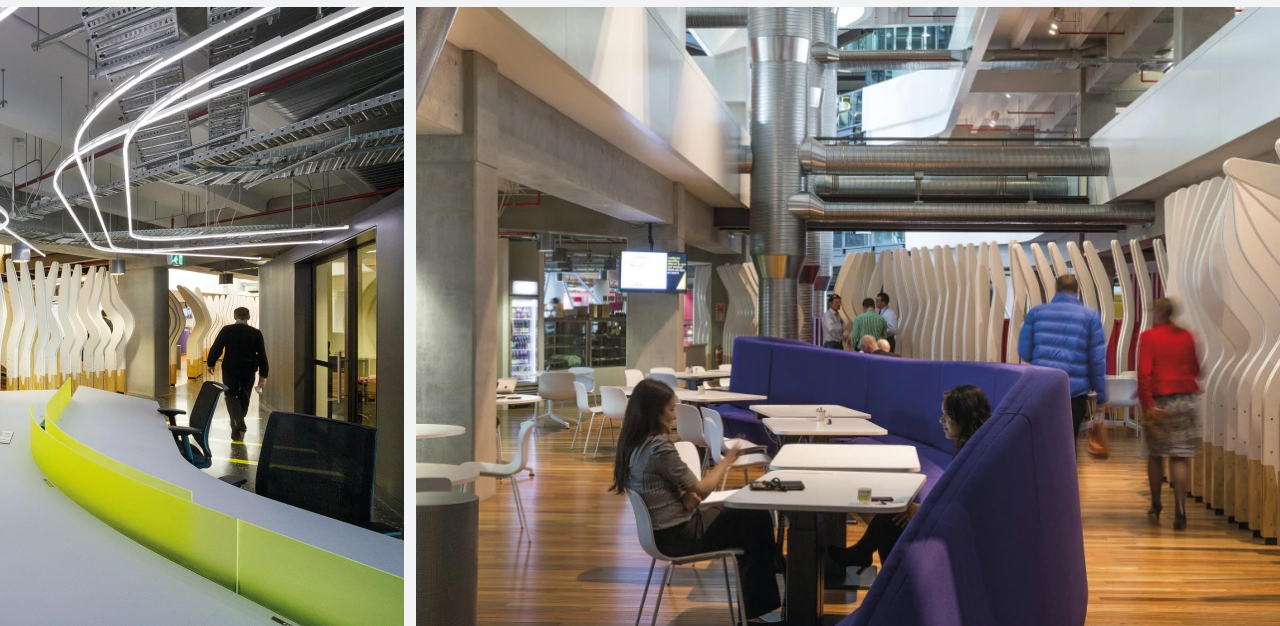
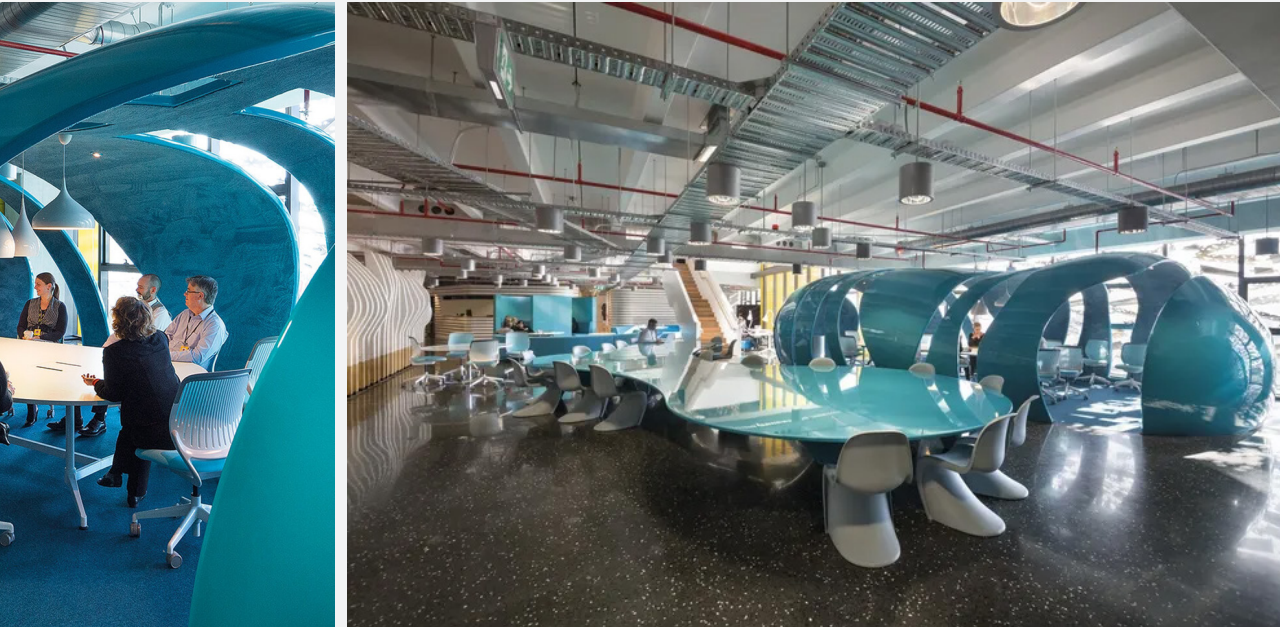
Open workstations



Informal lounge area

Fig 10: ASB North Wharf - Auckland, New Zealand. Source: <https://www.bvn.com.au/project/asb-north-wharf>

Flexible workspaces employees to 'dock' anywhere depending on their tasks at hand.



Informal lounge area

Case Study (Agile working)

While “Agile working” is often associated with methodologies and practices rather than specific office designs, many organizations have adopted agile principles in their office environments to promote collaboration, flexibility, and innovation.

Autodesk’s MaRS Solutions Studio office design

Location: Toronto, Canada

Time: 2018

Designer: The Living design agency

Introduction:

The office layout is open and fosters collaboration. It features flexible workspaces, open seating, and shared workstations to encourage teamwork and creative interactions. The office includes a variety of project rooms equipped with digital whiteboards and collaboration tools. These spaces are dedicated to specific projects and encourage cross-functional teams to work together closely. Employees are not assigned fixed desks. Instead, they can choose from a variety of work settings based on their needs for the day. This flexibility supports agile methodologies and allows employees to adapt to changing project requirements. The office is equipped with advanced technology, including video conferencing facilities, digital project boards, and interactive screens. This technology enables remote collaboration and seamless communication with Autodesk’s global teams. The office design incorporates elements that promote creativity and innovation, such as writable walls, brainstorming zones, and spaces for ideation and design thinking. The office includes comfortable lounge areas, a café, and recreational spaces to provide employees with areas for relaxation and informal meetings.

Reason for selection:

This case illustrates how an organization like Autodesk has applied agile principles to its office design to create a workspace that promotes collaboration, innovation, and flexibility. The open and collaborative layout of the office encourages cross-functional teams to work together and share ideas, aligning with agile principles. The flexible workstations and project rooms allow employees to adapt to the needs of their projects, fostering agility and responsiveness. The design elements that promote creativity support Autodesk’s culture of innovation, leading to

creative solutions and products. Technology integration enables seamless communication and collaboration among employees, including those working remotely or from other global locations.

Highlights:

Open and collaborative, Flexible workstations, Technology integration, Design for creativity.

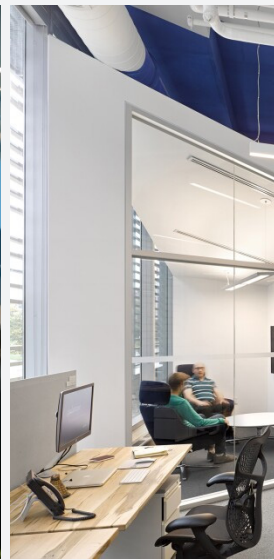
Café



Recreational space



Training area



Shared workstations and Boo

*Fig 11: Autodesk's MaRS Solutions Studio - Agile Office Design.
Source: https://www.architectmagazine.com/project-gallery/autodesk-mars-office_o*

Workshop area



th

Meeting room

3.2.9 2020s and beyond:

Smart office and Infinite office

In 2020, the sudden Covid-19 pandemic pressed the pause button on the development of physical work spaces, with millions of organizations forced to close their workplaces and shift to a full-time remote work model. After decades of development and accumulation, network technology has connected families around the world into a virtual work network. Hardware technology facilities such as personal computers and smartphones and various virtual collaboration and conferencing software provide smooth remote working support for people working from home.

Post-pandemic hybrid working models respond to the rethinking of work-life balance as people work from home during the pandemic. People choose work hours and locations based on their work needs. The support of virtual collaboration technology is particularly important for work spaces when members of the same team may not be in the same space at the same time. When people can choose their work location at will, the experience in the work space becomes a reason to attract people. The application of smart technology in work space will bring a new work experience to the physical space.

(1) Smart technology enables smart office

From smart building management systems to portable smart mobile devices that are connected in real time, people today are increasingly working in new types of workplaces, where technology optimizes the physical workspace to improve productivity, health and well-being. Behind the scenes is a growing number of technological tools enabling companies to measure the impact of improvements on various workplace functions through the data collection, data analytics, spatial intelligence and measurement techniques, which provide insight into workplace performance and behavior to Create the right environment for employees.

The development of IoT technology is increasingly moving from the home environment to smart enterprise buildings, while focusing on enriching the employee experience. A growing number of workplaces demonstrate a commitment to employee well-being through the WELL certification, which formally recognizes the ways in which every aspect of a building positively contributes to the well-being of occupants, including air, water and light to comfort, fitness and sleep quality. Sensors, for example, in addition to managing light and air quality, track how people use work spaces, introducing a data-driven dimension into design decisions.

Case Study (Smart office)

Deloitte's "The Edge" office design

Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Time: 2014

Designer: the Dutch architectural firm PLP Architecture

Introduction:

Deloitte's "The Edge" is a prime example of a smart office design located in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Completed in 2015, this building serves as Deloitte's Dutch headquarters and is renowned for its innovative use of technology to create an efficient, sustainable, and employee-friendly workplace. "The Edge" features over 28,000 sensors connected via IoT. These sensors monitor occupancy, temperature, humidity, lighting, and even the availability of parking spaces. The data collected is used to optimize various building functions, such as heating, cooling, and lighting, to create an ideal working environment while minimizing energy consumption. Employees have the flexibility to choose their workspaces through a mobile app. Desks are equipped with sensors to detect occupancy, and the app allows employees to find and reserve available workstations, meeting rooms, or quiet spaces. The building boasts a range of energy-efficient features, including solar panels, a rainwater harvesting system, and a thermal energy storage system. This results in "The Edge" being energy-neutral, producing as much energy as it consumes. The office design incorporates features like circadian lighting, adjustable sit-stand desks, and a gym to promote employee health and well-being. Employees can also track their activity levels using a mobile app. Meeting rooms are equipped with advanced audio-visual systems and scheduling tools. Employees can book rooms, control lighting, and set up presentations with ease.

Reason for selection:

Deloitte's "The Edge" in Amsterdam exemplifies how a smart office design, driven by cutting-edge technology and sustainability principles, can positively impact energy efficiency, employee well-being, and overall productivity. It serves as a model for the future of work spaces that are both environmentally responsible and employee-centric.

Highlights:

IoT and building automation, Personalized workspaces, Energy efficiency, Health and well-being, Smart meeting rooms.



Overview of building interior

Cafe



Leisure area

Fig 12: Deloitte's "The Edge" - Amsterdam, Netherlands. Source: <https://edge.tech/de/developments/the-edge>

Leisure area



Discussion Booth

(2) Metaverse as Infinite Office

Connecting remotely using video calls and shared desktops has become critical during the Covid-19 pandemic, and as hybrid working becomes the new normal, people would like to have the flexibility to choose where they work based on their needs. Despite the many advantages of working remotely, having only a computer screen in teamwork, social interaction and other scenarios, which usually require a greater degree of immersion and participation, might lead to experiencing video call fatigue and being unable to read the body language or and other nonverbal cues of colleagues. In other words, the sense of engagement with remote work is often limited.

Advances in virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies will mean that online and offline collaboration will be more immersive and efficient. New augmented reality and holographic technologies will seamlessly blend the digital and physical worlds around us. Even if participants are not in the same work space, VR can closely mirror the physical office setting thus allowing them to use avatars to occupy shared areas. Participants can use body language, gestures and facial movements to communicate with colleagues just as they would in a physical space. This is the Metaverse. From HR teams hosting more engaging onboarding meetings, to creatives working together on design concepts in different locations, people who use VR and AR will be able to create and share collaborative online worlds. No matter where they are, they can socialize, discuss or work together on projects, which can improve workplace productivity and enhance the hybrid work experience.

As organizations around the world come together to explore new ways of working remotely without losing the collaborative capabilities of the physical environment, VR can really make a difference. An article published by Meta company on its workplace website, *The future of VR – top trends for 2023*, shows that employees are already enthusiastic about the technology, with 60% saying they want to see VR headsets available to employees by 2024. 62% also want to experience VR spaces with digital avatars for collaboration.

The evolution of the Metaverse has made hybrid work easier and more inclusive for employees around the world. The limitations in physical space are extended in virtual space. Traditional office hardware, such as desktop computers and laptops, may one day be replaced by VR headsets and glasses, just as typewriters were replaced by personal computers. Metaverse would bring a surreal work experience to remote employees in future hybrid work and provide an infinite workplace for collaboration and innovation.

Case Study (VR)

Meta Platforms - Virtual Collaboration in the Metaverse

Location: Global Access

Time: Launched in 2021, ongoing

Designer: Meta Platforms, Inc.

Introduction:

On the official website of Meta Platforms, Inc., we know that there are currently three main ways to access the Metaverse: Virtual reality, Augmented reality and Smart glasses.

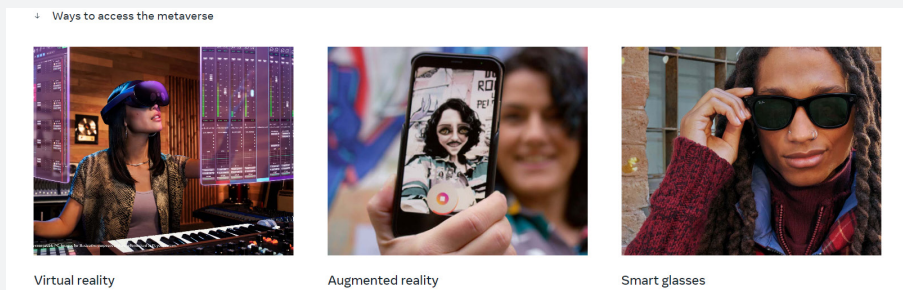


Fig. 13: The official website of Meta Platforms. Source: <https://about.meta.com/uk/metaverse/>

Virtual reality

Users can enter the Metaverse platform by wearing a VR headset and explore the shared experience of a new world. Meta Platform provides a multi-functional virtual reality space which basically covers all aspects of daily real life scenarios, including fitness, games, social interaction, entertainment, work, etc.

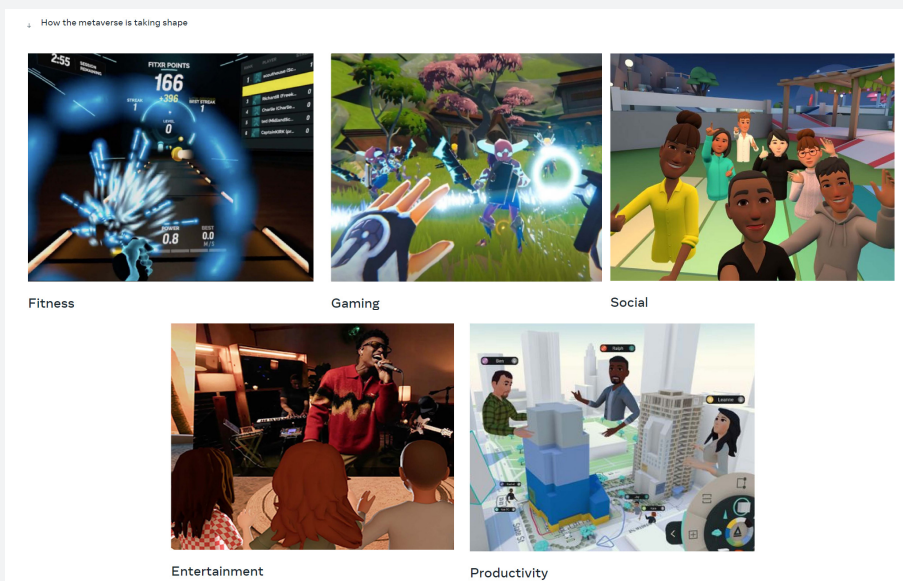


Fig. 14: Virtual reality on Meta Platforms. Source: <https://about.meta.com/uk/metaverse/>

In this world, all participants appear as 3D characters. Participants create their own avatar, which allows them to “pinch” their face to create a cartoon 3D character avatars which look like themselves. Gestures and expressions are well represented in the virtual space of meetings. People in the virtual world can also move around, participate in various activities, and interact with remote colleagues or friends in a virtual “face-to-face” manner.

In the Metaverse platform, the virtual space of work functions is mainly used in three fields: collaboration, prototyping and training. The corresponding applications are: Meta Horizon Workrooms, Gravity Sketch and Shape XR.


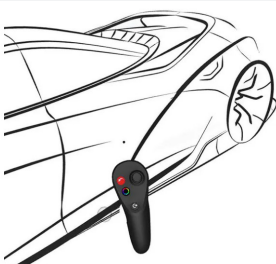



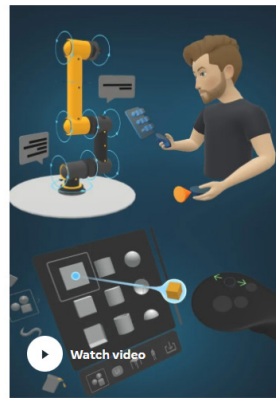
 <p>Better collaboration</p> <p>When you meet in virtual reality, you share a space, not just a screen. So, presenting and collaborating are more interactive and engaging.</p>	 <p>Faster prototyping</p> <p>Ideas on paper can be hard to visualise. In virtual reality, you can handle virtual objects, sketch in 3D and quickly turn plans into reality.</p>	 <p>Immersive training</p> <p>Virtual reality training provides a safe, cost-effective way to teach real world scenarios – from surgical training to aviation.</p>
 <p>Meta Horizon Workrooms</p> <p>Meta Horizon Workrooms is where you connect and collaborate with teammates from across the globe, even when you're across the world. Virtual reality workrooms transform your home office into an inspiring workspace.</p>	 <p>Gravity Sketch</p> <p>Gravity Sketch is a powerful and intuitive design platform that lets you express and iterate on anything from concept sketches to detailed 3D models, all in real time.</p>	 <p>Shapes XR</p> <p>In ShapesXR, anyone can create and collaborate in 3D. From immersive 3D storyboards to user flow prototypes, you can design, present and easily invite others to iterate in real time.</p>

Fig. 15: The virtual space of work functions in the Metaverse platform.
Source: <https://about.meta.com/uk/metaverse/>

We take Meta Horizon Workrooms as an example. Horizon Workrooms is an immersive virtual office where users can meet teammates, brainstorm ideas, share presentations and get things done, whether they're wearing a Meta Quest headset or joining from a 2D screen (Meta, 2023).

Work with your team like never before

Collaborate seamlessly in 2D and VR
Raise your hand, share your screen, message coworkers, react to conversations and attach links or files* – wherever you're joining from.

Persistent whiteboard
Use a virtual whiteboard in your meeting room or virtual personal office to sketch ideas or attach sticky notes, safe in the knowledge that they'll all still be there next time you check in.

Flexible rooms
Whether you need a presentation room for the big pitch, a discussion room with a round desk or a breakout room for brainstorming, you can always pick the right space for your meeting.

Join from anywhere
Workrooms may be a VR-first experience but anyone can get involved by joining from a standard video call and getting stuck in with their teammates.

More ways to meet with Zoom

Our integration with Zoom means that there's room for everyone to meet in Workrooms, whether you have a headset or not. Join a Zoom meeting directly from Workrooms or add Workrooms to any Zoom call** to connect with your team.

[Set up account](#)

Fig. 16: Meta Horizon Workrooms. Source: <https://about.meta.com/uk/metaverse/>

Users can create and enter virtual meeting rooms and customize avatars to represent themselves. These avatars mimic the user's head movements and facial expressions for more natural interactions. Equipped with tables, chairs and whiteboards, these rooms are designed to simulate real-world meeting spaces. Horizon Workrooms supports voice chat, spatial audio, and hand tracking, allowing users to communicate with colleagues as if they were in the same physical space. Users can access virtual whiteboards to draw and share ideas, as well as desktop sharing and screen casting for presentation and collaboration on documents

and applications. The platform supports integration with productivity tools like Zoom and Slack, allowing users to link Workrooms meetings with existing workflows. Users are also able to access their computer desktop in VR, which is useful for multitasking and accessing files and applications.

Reason for selection:

The design of future work spaces must consider various hybrid work scenarios, including interaction in physical space and collaboration with remote colleagues in virtual space. Horizon Workrooms demonstrates a new direction in virtual work space collaboration. Users can work, meet and socialize in immersive digital spaces, enhancing the experience of remote working and collaboration, and taking virtual meetings and teamwork to new levels of interactivity and engagement. It makes us convinced that remote collaboration in future office will be supported by powerful technologies.

Highlight:

Virtual space collaboration for remote work

Case Study (AR)

Dobe E-Manor of Baihang--Metaverse creative office park

Location: No. 1200, Zhongshan North 1st Road, Hongkou District, Shanghai, China

Time: 2022

Designer: DoBe Group

Introduction

The project was originally a creative office park transformed from an old aerospace factory in Shanghai. In 2022, Dobe used AR technology to implant virtual space into the original physical space, thereby bringing an immersive space experience that combines virtuality and reality. Visitors can explore virtual scenes using their mobile phones and VR glasses through the “wehome” app. After logging in to the application, users will enter a world where virtuality and reality merge. There are virtual signboards to guide users to various places in the park, and along the way they can enjoy virtual scenes such as cartoon characters, fireworks and ribbons against the real background. As users walk through the narrow alleys of the office campus, a virtual runway pops up, and the wall on one side turned into a huge billboard, and a bunch of cartoon characters appeared on the forward arrow, just like entering a VR parkour game. Compared with online games, this virtual universe community is based on a real community. All players are people working in the same office park. It's fun to meet new people through a virtual scavenger hunt in a real location.

Reason for selection:

In this case, the AR technology of Metaverse is used to integrate physical space and virtual space to provide users with an immersive interactive experience between people and space. The design which combines virtuality and reality makes communication and sharing no longer limited to entities, allowing creative inspiration to further burst out in the three-dimensional world where virtuality and reality blend. This case provides new ideas for virtual interaction for future physical work space design.

Highlights:

AR technology realizes the integration of virtual and physical space, immersive interactive experience.



Fig 17: Use AR technology to implant virtual space into the original physical space.
 Source: <https://www.dobechina.com/news/detail.aspx?id=1656>

Case Study (Metaverse in Space Design)

Red Bird Maker Space – Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Guangzhou Campus

Location: Guangzhou China

Time: 2022

Designer: reMIX studio

Introduction:

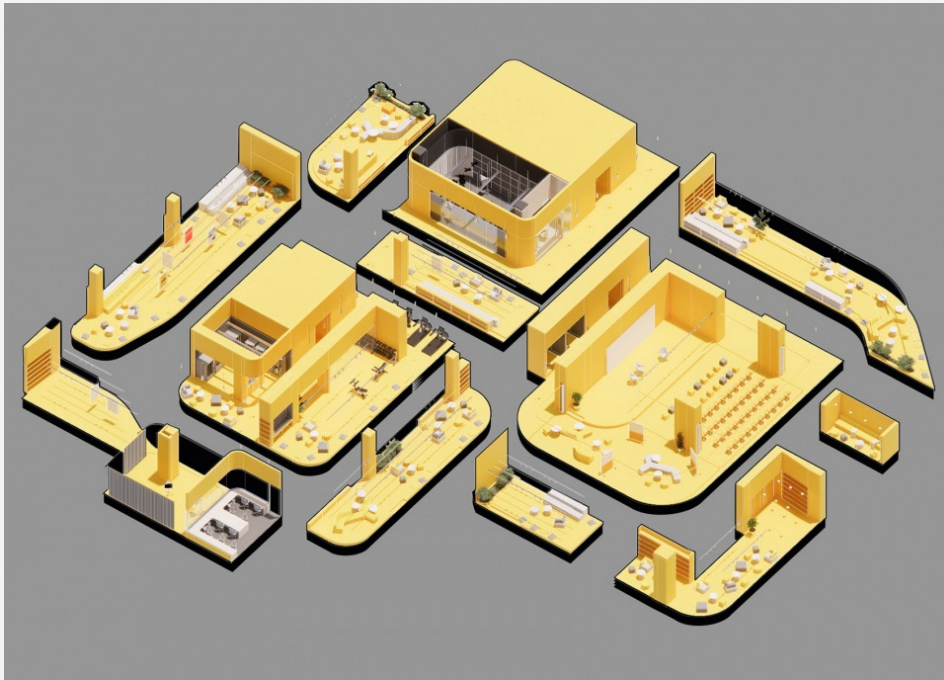
The Red Bird Maker Space studio is the core carrier of the cross-integration and shared creative education concept of different engineering disciplines on the Guangzhou campus of HKUST. The studio is equipped with a variety of furniture and space modules to carry out different types of group activities. The retractable socket hanging from the ceiling could “disappear” when not in use. Relatively independent glass partitions provide a quiet place for presentations and discussions. Private booths create conditions for one-to-one communication and solitary study scenes. On each floor, a series of different public nodes create a unique spatial experience. Lounges, restaurants, exhibition halls, gyms, cafes, lecture halls, recording studios, etc. provide a rich space for daily activities. In addition, in the Metaverse classroom, the motion camera system is combined with virtual reality technology, allowing students in the Guangzhou campus to seamlessly connect with the teaching activities on the main campus in Hong Kong.

Reason for selection:

In the design of the studio, the designer proposed a distinct design strategy: minimize fixed partitions to create a more flexible open plane; design richer space partitions to create conditions for activities with different levels of openness. This case shows how to combine various small spaces based on different activities in a modular form in an open space. In addition, this studio contains a space which uses the Metaverse - the Metaverse Classroom. Integrating virtual technology into real space provides some reference for the design of combining virtual and real spaces in future work spaces.

Highlights:

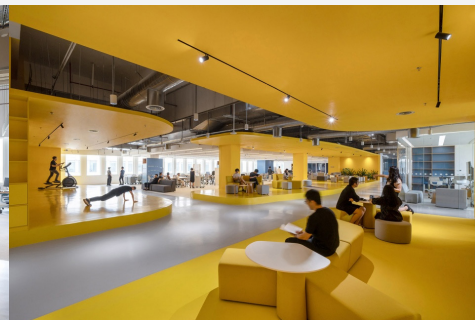
Activity-based collaboration space, Metaverse classroom



Atlas of the new inserted programmatic nodes



F4 studio: visual connections across different functional clusters



F4 studio: the central node with a large platform for exhibitions / resting and the gym



F5 studio: the central auditorium in open and closed configuration



F6 studio: four types of interactions: informal (resting area), group work (movable tables), 1-to-1 (niches), individual (booth)

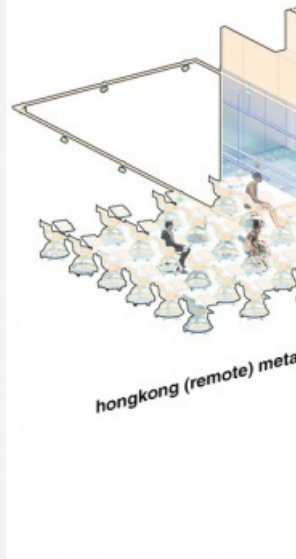
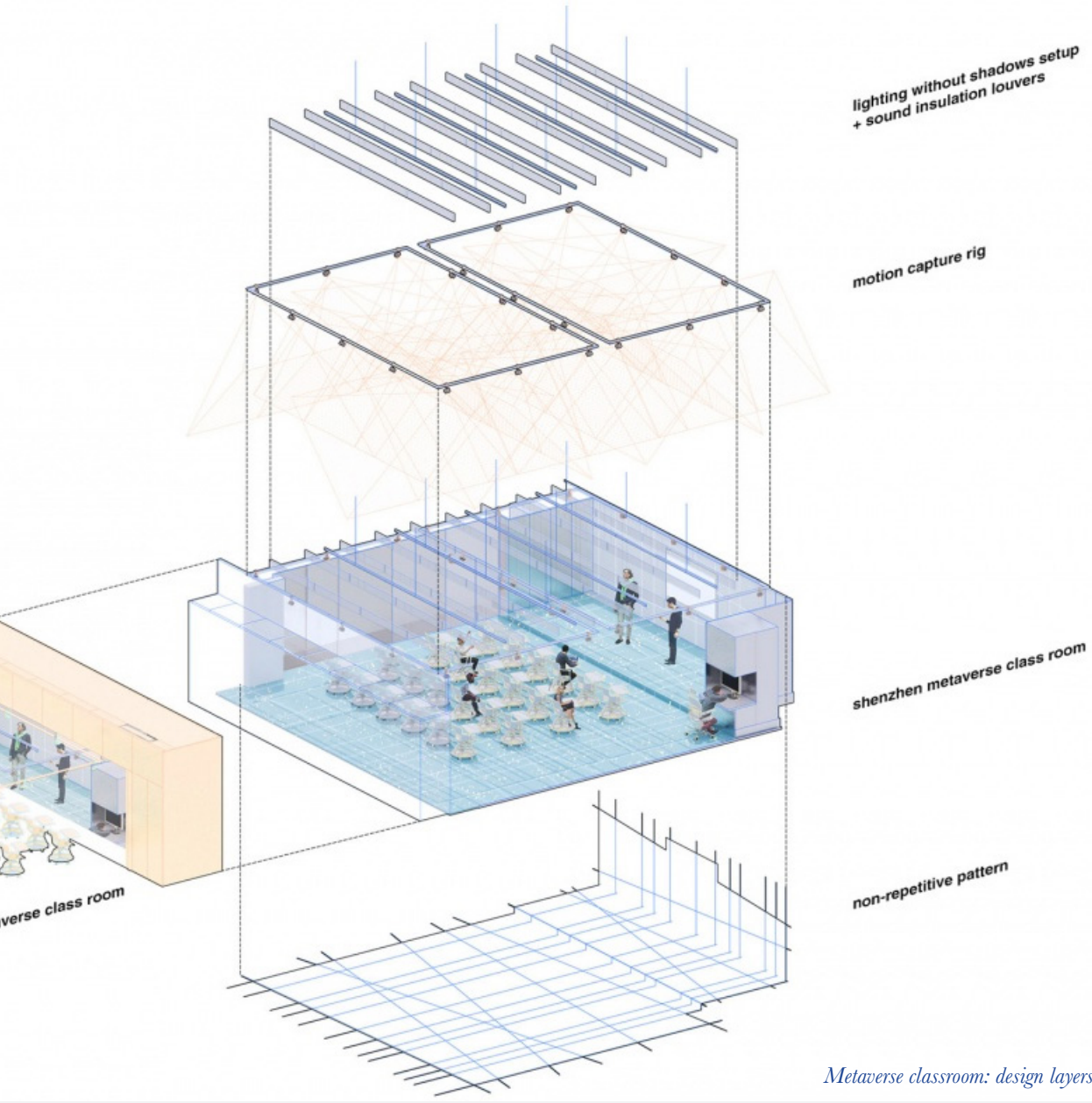


Fig 18: Red Bird Maker Space – Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Guangzhou Campus. Source: <https://www.goood.cn/red-b>

Metaverse classroom: motion-capture zone seen from the workshop



Metaverse classroom: workshop and discussion area



Metaverse classroom: design layers

3.3 Summary

In the history of office development over the past 100 years, we have seen that technological progress has been a continuous driving force for office design changes. From typewriters to the Internet, technology continues to simplify work processes and improve communication patterns. From strict hierarchies and fixed workstations to flexible, remote and hybrid work models, workspaces are constantly adapting to work dynamics and employee needs.

In addition to the impact of technology, the changing needs of employees are another driver of office change. For example, in order to get rid of the oppression caused by Taylorist open spaces to employees and solve problems such as inequality and lack of communication, the Bürolandschaft, which pursues freedom and equality, emerged. It used green plants to create a partial privacy space, and promoted equal communication among employees through more democratic and social elements. For the first time, the needs of employees were fully taken into account. On this basis, the Action Office series has developed modular office furniture which adapted to various work activities while maintaining a flexible layout. It not only ensured the flexibility and convenience of work space use, but also increased the sense of privacy and personalization. At the same time, ergonomic office furniture design has also received increasing attention. They were all developing in compliance with the law of “fully considering the needs and well-beings of employees”. The subsequent casual offices and co-working spaces were also born with the development of new technologies and the emergence of new needs of employees. Activity-based working, which emerged later, also inherited the flexibility and the idea of determining interactivity and privacy based on the needs of work activities that were followed when the Active Office series was originally designed. It has been continuously developed and improved based on employee needs and is still used today. Of course, there were also Taylorist negative cases like Cube Farm. Such negative cases were caused by excessive pursuit of profits and ignoring the needs of employees.

Following the above development venation of work space, we can summarize the following points:

1. In work space design, the development of technology and the needs of employees are indeed indispensable. The development of technology affects employees' needs by affecting the nature of work and behavior, employees' needs determine the form of space, and technology shapes space experience. The three complement each other.
2. Flexibility is the development trend of work space that has always been in line with the needs of employees. Flexibly movable modular office furniture, office plant landscapes, considerations of openness and privacy in work spaces,

design of activity-based work spaces, etc., are all experiences worth learning from. These experiences can be specifically applied or improved in the future based on changes in employee needs in different periods.

4 People's

4.1 Young people are the main

4.1.1 Who is Generation Z?

4.1.2 What does Gen Z want from

4.2 "It is important to focus on

4.2.1 Employees expect work

4.2.2 What is the well-being i

4.2.3 Technology improves wo

4.3 Collaboration becomes t

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4.3.4 Corporate real estate de
space where employees

4.4 Workers want a new mix

4.5 The third place has beco workplace ecosystem

Expectations and Needs for Workplace

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employees agree that: The primary purpose
‘collaborate’

decision makers: The future office is a
‘collaborate and create

of experiences

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4.1 Young people are the main force in future work

In a time of major change in the way people work, and the composition of the workers entering the workforce is changing, a key part of it shouldn't be overlooked: the youth.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, more than half of the professional workforce is now under the age of 45. Younger people, especially millennials and Generation Z (Gen Z), now make up more than 59% of the knowledge workforce. The World Economic Forum released a report in May 2022, Gen Z and the end of work as we know it, showing that by 2025, 27% of the workforce in OECD countries will be Gen Z. As Gen Z enters the workforce, the baby boomer generation is retiring and the labor market is undergoing a fundamental shift. Gen Z preferences and work styles will increasingly define the future of the workplace.

4.1.1 Who is Generation Z?

The Pew Research Center has defined 1997 as the starting birth year for Generation Z, based on “different formative experiences”, such as new technological and socioeconomic developments. Pew has not specified an endpoint for Generation Z, but used 2012 as a tentative endpoint for their 2019 report. Numerous news outlets use a starting birth year of 1997, often citing Pew Research Center.

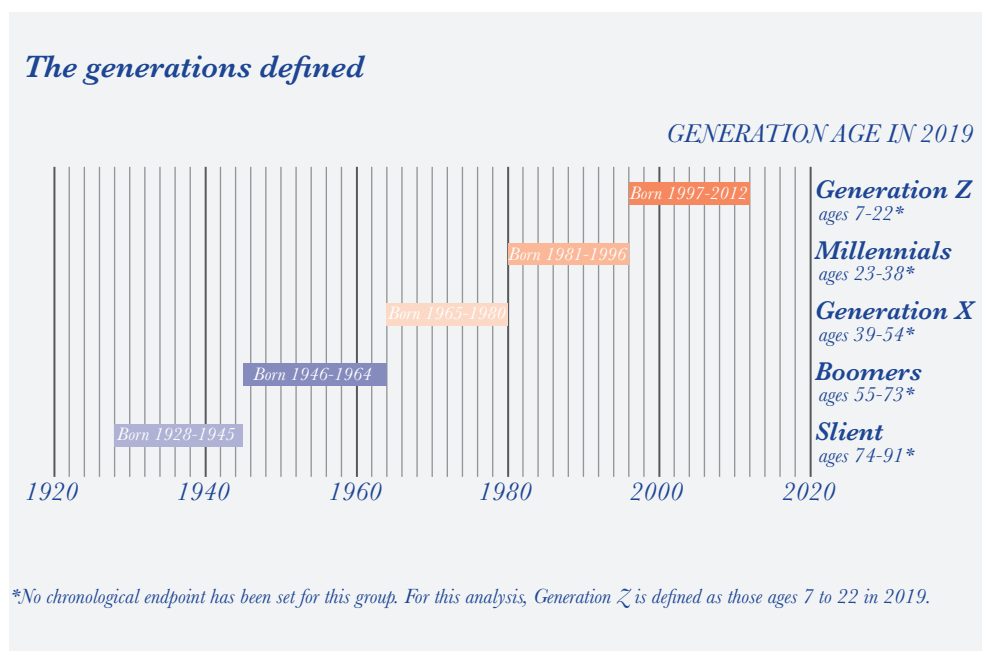


Chart 5: The generations defined. Source: Pew Research Center

Although many countries have aging populations and declining birth rates, Generation Z is currently the largest generation on Earth. Bloomberg's analysis of United Nations data predicted that, in 2019, members of Generation Z accounted for 2.47 billion (32%) of the 7.7 billion inhabitants of Earth, surpassing the Millennial population of 2.43 billion.

“They see the world so differently than those who came before them.” (Meghan Grace,2018)

Generation Z is the first group to have access to the internet and portable digital technology from the day they came to know the world. They were born around the time of the Web 2.0 revolution that took place in the mid to late 2000s and 2010s. They grew up with access to an unprecedented number of technologies, and the use of mobile devices has been growing exponentially over time. Their social world is full of instant messages, online likes and shares, and they access information via smartphone, tablet or computer and connect to online stores, payment and banking services. Gen Z has not lived a pre-digital life, hence a connection to technology is inherent in the way they think and behave.

On the other hand, they start their careers amid rising inflation, rising student loan debt, a housing crisis, a worldwide public health crisis and a looming recession. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, Gen Z were growing up under a cloud of uncertainty. Gen Z has yet to experience a career decline, but many have grown up watching their parents and older siblings struggle with unemployment and financial dilemma. Early exposure to economic uncertainty made this generation pragmatic and skeptical about their careers.

Most worryingly, Gen Z is more likely than other generations to suffer from mental health problems. According to a survey of 3,409 adults conducted by the American Psychological Association in August 2020, Generation Z adults (ages 18 to 23) had an average stress level of 6.1 out of 10, the highest of any generation, and all adults The average stress level is 5. Shockingly, 75% of Gen Z adults say they have experienced one or more symptoms of depression. The study cites uncertainty about the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as an ongoing sense of crisis and social unrest, as potential causes. It is clear that Gen Z is bearing the psychological impact of these uncertain times. The Economist has described Generation Z as a more educated, well-behaved, stressed and depressed generation in comparison to previous generations. (Economist,2019)

Overall, Gen Z is having a hard time and it is affecting the way they work.

4.1.2 What does Gen Z want from the future of work?

In an article by Forbes in May 2023, *How Gen Z's Impact On The Workplace Continues To Grow*, Mark Beal from Rutgers University stated, "Gen Z will transform and disrupt the workplace more than any generation. Gen Z will inspire leaders to focus on mental health, including offering mental health days as an employee benefit."

Greater flexibility

Many of the anxieties that Gen Z feel impact their experience at work. According to a 2021 Adobe survey, 59% of Gen Z respondents said they were dissatisfied with their jobs. Difficulty with work-life balance, long hours, time pressure and lack of flexibility were other major reasons for dissatisfaction, with 57% saying they felt pressured by the need to be connected at any time of the day. They feel that flexible work hours that they can control can relieve a lot of this pressure. Additionally, Gen Z tends to return to the office, but not full-time. This may be because 72% of Gen Z workforces lack a dedicated home work space, and 86% of Gen Z staff share a house with at least one other adult. They want to reap the social benefits of working face-to-face, and 41% feel they miss out on mentoring from seniors when working remotely. 70% prefer a hybrid work environment.

In this hybrid work model they expect, for Gen Z who have just stepped out of school, remote work means not only working from home, but also working from anywhere. According to Gensler's workplace research report released in 2021, only 66% of Generation Z employees prefer to work from home, 24% prefer alternative office locations, 16% prefer co-working locations, and 13% prefer spaces like coffee shops, libraries, or other third places. Two-thirds of Gen Z workers would trade their assigned desk for more opportunities to work outside of their desk or office walls. This also provides an important direction for the physical workplace in the future of hybrid work: flexible work space, which enables various work experiences.

If unhappy, will leave

What distinguishes Gen Z workforces from other generations is that they are more willing to leave jobs that are not suitable for them. A Deloitte survey of 14,808 Gen Z employees and 8,412 Millennial employees in 2022 revealed that 40% of Gen Z respondents plan to leave their jobs within the next two years, compared to just 24% of Millennials.

High levels of dissatisfaction with work make this generation a major departure risk. According to Adobe's 2021 survey results, 74% of people said they would change jobs to achieve a better work-life balance, and 66% said they would change jobs to gain more control over their work schedules, 63% would change jobs to choose remote work.

Greater Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)

Generation Z is the most diverse generation in the European Union in regards to national origin (European Parliament, 2020). When it comes to diversity and inclusion, many of Gen Z people feel that minorities are underrepresented in the workplace. This concern is very important when considering employment opportunities. In a September 2020 Tallo survey of more than 5,000 Gen Z youth, 69% of respondents said they are more likely to apply to companies that emphasize diversity and inclusion in their hiring process. One third said they would avoid opportunities to be treated unfairly because of their gender, ethnicity or racial identity. Diversity is important to them in many ways, not just in isolation of race and gender, but also in relation to identity and orientation.

As the most emerging force in today's labor market, the preferences of the Gen Z will greatly affect the future of work and the development trend of the workplace. There are various signs that hybrid work will continue and develop further in the future. The design of physical work space will take more into account their expectations about well-being, among which not only the physical and mental health of employees should be paid attention to, but also flexible space, diversity and inclusive experience are also particularly important.

4.2 “It is important to focus on well-being”

The lingering health risks of the pandemic and employee’s reflections on their experiences with the autonomous aspects of remote work during the pandemic have created new expectations for the future of work as people return to the office. According to a 2021 research report jointly conducted by Workplace Intelligence and WeWork, The future of work is hybrid, 95% of the respondents want to control their working hours, places and methods, and 62% of the respondents want to control their work and make life balance their first priority. 80% of respondents said it is important to focus on well-being.

4.2.1 Employees expect workplace well-being

A research report released by JLL in July 2022, Workforce Preferences Barometer, compared the priorities of employees before and after the pandemic, and found that work-life balance has always been the ideal state pursued by employees. In addition, the ranking of well-being factors in the minds of employees has increased to a pivotal position year by year.

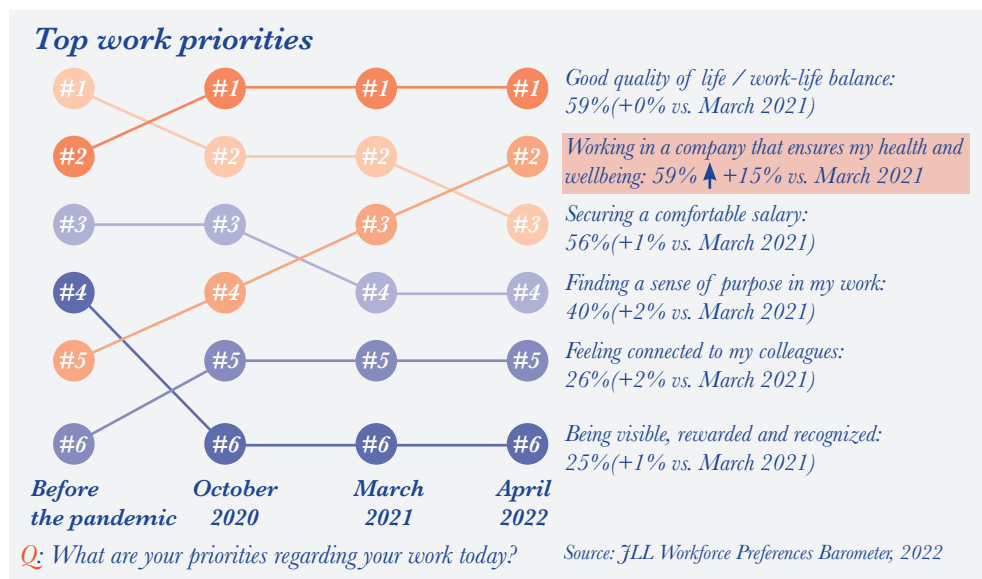


Chart 6: Top work priorities.

Part of creating a truly successful hybrid workplace is building offices that reflect the current and future needs of employees. After a difficult period of burnout and disconnection during the pandemic, a hybrid work environment allows people the flexibility to work when, where, and find the sweet spot for work-life balance. In line with the principle of people-oriented design, the design of work space should take the “well-being” that employees care about most as the starting point, create a unique experience for employees that can only be realized in the office, and make the office a uniquely connected medium that helps them do their jobs more efficiently.

4.2.2 What is the well-being in the workplace?

Since 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) has consistently defined health as a “state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity” (World Health Organisation 1948). In a broader context, wellbeing term is used to describe not only person’s state and affective evaluation of it but also a relationship with its workplace (organizational wellbeing) and quality of life in the community (social wellbeing). (Danivska et al., 2020)

According to JLL’s research report on restoring employee well-being, Regenerative Workplace, released in September 2021, the Workplace wellbeing model lies on three health pillars and nine resilience traits.

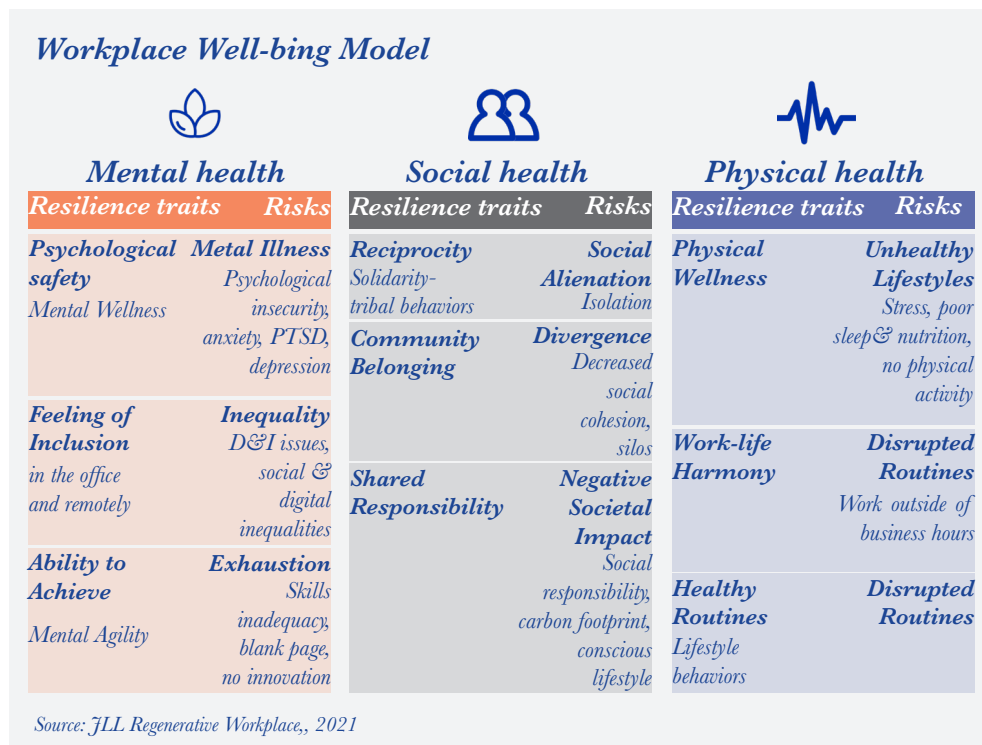


Chart 7: Workplace Well-bing Model.

According to the above model, when designing future workplaces, we should mainly consider employee well-being from three aspects: physical, psychological and social.

1. Physical

Support employees’ physical health and work-life balance. For example, in work spaces, we can protect employee well-being and care for their health by providing a high-quality physical environment — with ergonomic office furniture, healthy meals, fitness equipment, etc.

2. Psychology

Focus on employees' mental health and personal growth. For example, integrating design aesthetics into the office environment to create a relaxed working atmosphere; adopting activity-based workspace design methods to help employees improve work efficiency; creating leisure spaces to relieve work stress and increase job satisfaction and happiness; providing psychological support resources and space, etc.

3. Social

Create common areas where employees can gather, collaborate, and socialize to enhance a sense of community and belonging. Examples of workplace social affordances include coffee bars and food spaces, and opportunities for playful engagement such as games, comics on the wall, and kitchen facilities, as well as workspace personalization and physical assimilation or segregation of teams (Spreitzer et al., 2020).

4.2.3 Technology improves workplace well-being

Smart technology supports employee well-being

Regarding functional wellbeing, smart services are based on knowledge of the individual and his/ her environment. Services support a healthy and safe work environment and working conditions within the organization and office areas with workstations (Danivska et al., 2020). For example, IoT sensors are used to monitor various environmental factors in work spaces, including temperature, humidity, lighting, occupancy and air quality, provide real-time data, and make timely adjustments to improve comfort and efficiency.

With respect to mental health, smart wellbeing services are based on learning and they enhance behavioral change. With the help of collected data and machine learning, one can provide and get feedback about the behavior (Danivska et al., 2020). For example, employees can use mental health apps to access resources such as stress management, meditation and emotional support for mental health healing.

In terms of social wellbeing, smart services are based on networking and strengthened community support. Services allow users to join and operate in different communities and they connect multiple tools or service providers in the network (Danivska et al., 2020). For example, apps that facilitate mentoring and communication can help employees connect with colleagues who share common interests or career goals.

Metaverse technology supports employee well-being

Metaverse technology has the potential to improve workplace well-being in various ways by creating immersive, collaborative, and flexible environments.

Regarding functional wellbeing, metaverse technology would enable employees to work from anywhere, promoting work-life balance and reducing commute-related stress. Employees can customize their virtual workspaces, choosing layouts, decorations, and even the ambient environment. Personalization enhances comfort and satisfaction. Metaverse technology can provide accessible workspaces for employees with disabilities, ensuring that everyone can fully and comfortably participate in work.

With respect to mental wellbeing, virtual spaces within the metaverse can be dedicated to relaxation, meditation, or mental health resources. Employees can access these areas to de-stress and seek support when needed.

In terms of social wellbeing, immersive virtual meetings, gatherings, and team-building activities can help employees who work remotely eliminate feelings of isolation and enhance emotional well-being.

Case Study (Well-being)

National Australia Bank Headquarters office design

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Time: 2022

Design: Hassell

Introduction:

In this project, highly flexible and welcoming hybrid work spaces promote more interaction between people. NAB's employees and customers prefer more than one way to communicate at work. Especially in the post-epidemic era, the design provides them with a variety of flexible options to welcome them back to the office. The new office building supports a variety of work modes, such as team collaboration, hybrid work and focused work needs. The design also takes advantage of the differences in floors to create a series of small meeting spaces. In this way, some private space can still be retained in the open space. Diversifying employee well-being is NAB's top priority when creating work spaces. By introducing abundant natural light and outdoor views, the indoor space also flows. Recognizing that stress and anxiety are among the top factors limiting innovation and productivity, an entire floor of the building was dedicated to wellness, learning and training spaces. Employees can enjoy some solitude spaces, such as couches, meditation spaces, mother and baby rooms, prayer rooms for people of different faiths, and gyms. Hassell and NAB share common sustainable values, from locally sourced recycled building materials to abundant natural light and to green spaces everywhere, they help NAB realize its sustainable vision through various design initiatives.

Reason for selection:

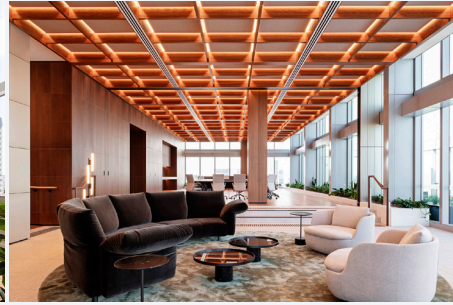
Employee welfare office design in the hybrid work model during the post-epidemic era. Flexible space planning allows open and private spaces to coexist. The main focus of the space design is employee well-being. This case explains employee well-being in the work space from three aspects: physical, psychological and social, which is completely consistent with the three aspects of well-being mentioned before.

Highlights:

Interpreting the well-being of office employees through space design from three aspects: physical, psychological and social aspects. Flexible and diverse work space. Biophilic elements and sustainable development.



A highly flexible and welcoming hybrid workspace



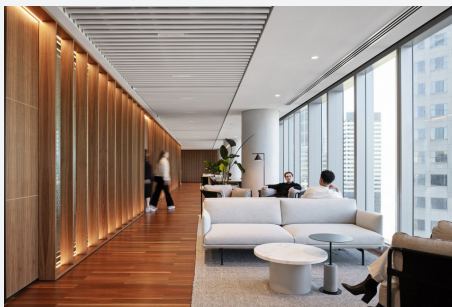
The lounge



A place for concentration and relaxation with greenery



A shared agile space



Spaces designed for physical and mental health and communication



The workplace brings employees together

*Fig 19: National Australia Bank Headquarters.
Source: <https://www.gooood.cn/nab-places-new-melbourne-hq-by-hassell.htm>*

4.3 Collaboration becomes the main activity

The rise of hybrid work model has brought a new understanding of how to work best, what types of spaces are needed, and the experience of hybrid work. People engage in a series of work activities and fundamentally need different workspaces to support them. Understanding employee's behavior is critical as workplaces are designed to meet the changing needs of them.

4.3.1 Employees spend more time collaborating

According to Gensler's latest research report on workplaces, Global Workplace Survey Comparison 2023, Employees across the world are spending the majority of their time working with others. Specifically, employees spend the majority of their workweek (42%) working with others, both virtually (14%) and in-person (28%). However, there is a potential overlap between face-to-face and virtual working modes, as more than half of hybrid meetings (which require both face-to-face and virtual participants) take place in offices. Working alone, whether or not it involves independent tasks such as deep concentration, reading or answering emails, accounted for the second most time (35%).

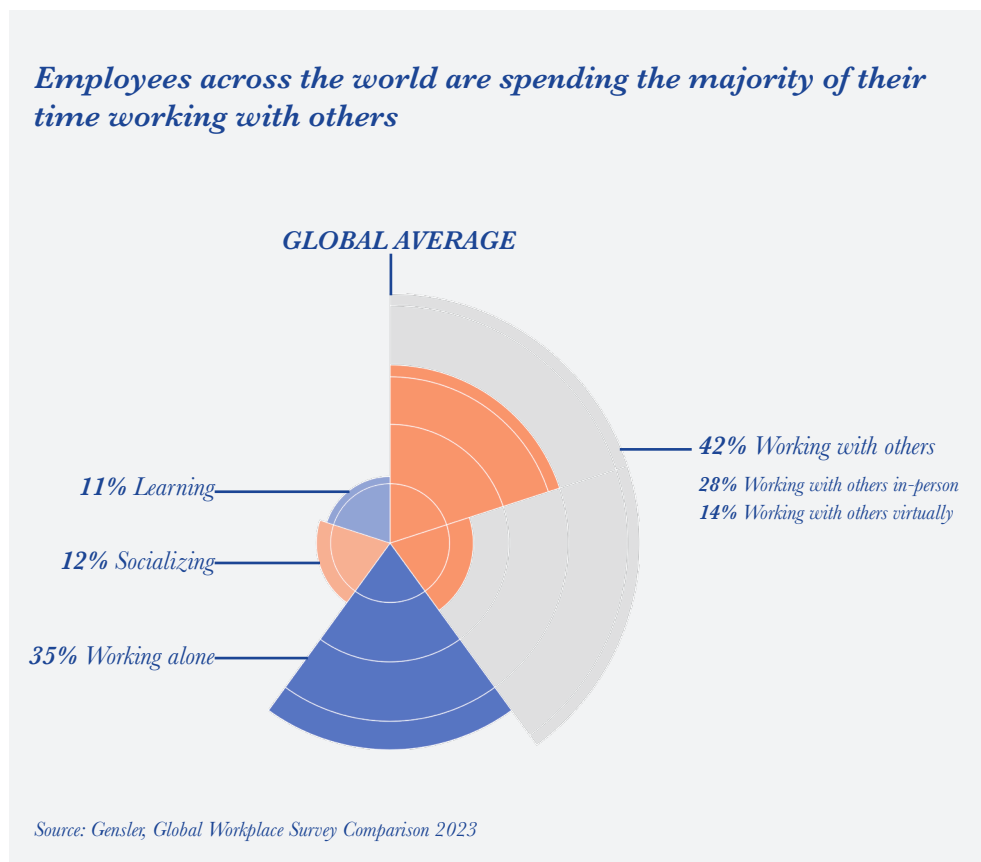


Chart 8: Employees across the world are spending the majority of their time working with others.

4.3.2 Increased number of collaboration spaces

VergeSense’s May 2022 State of the Workplace data report analyzed space utilization in 550 buildings around the world, including more than 100,000 spaces. According to the report, from the first quarter of 2021 to the first quarter of 2022, we saw a 45% increase in the average number of collaboration spaces per floor (Chart 9). Collaboration space utilization has increased by 88% in a short period between Q1 and Q2 2021. Additionally, utilization of these spaces has remained stable over the past four quarters (Chart 10). Combining these two sets of data, we can see that as the number of coworking spaces increases, utilization remains stable. This shows that employees come into the office more for “we” work than “me” work.

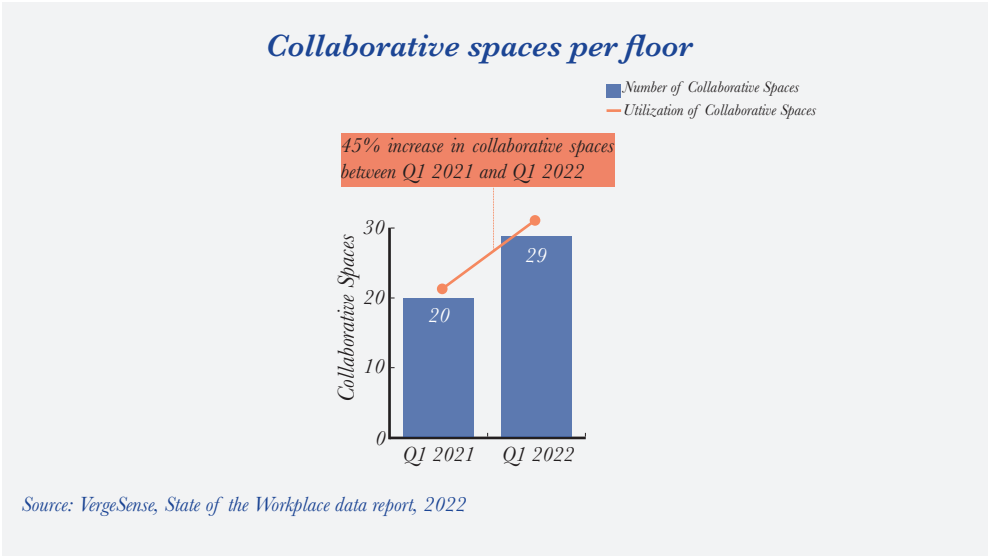


Chart 9: Collaborative spaces per floor.

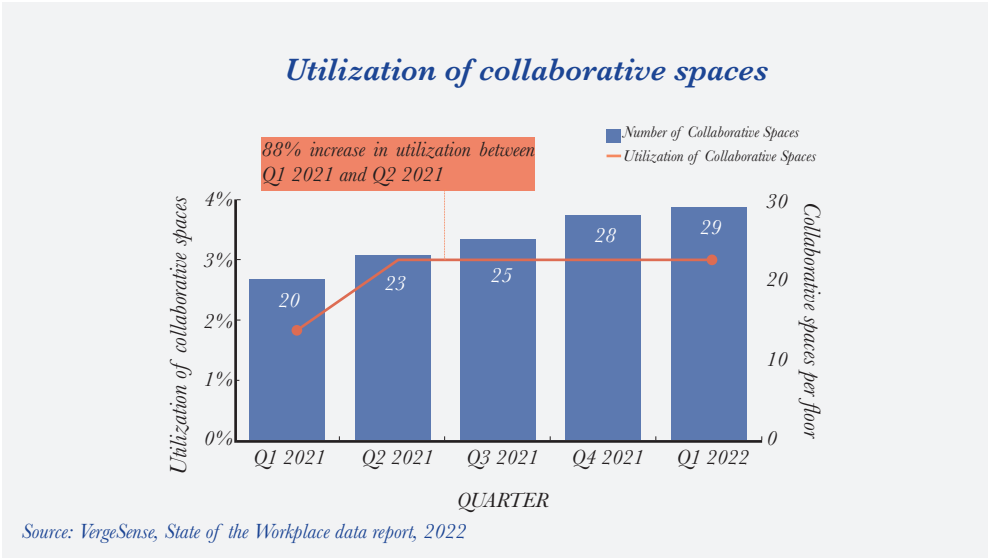


Chart 10: Utilization of collaborative spaces.

4.3.3 Four generations of employees agree that: The primary purpose of the office is to ‘collaborate’

In Gensler’s 2021 study on the workplace survey, four generations of people of different working ages, all of the more than 2,000 survey respondents were asked to choose from a long list of options their top ten reasons for using the office. In general, four generations agree that the primary purpose of the office is to “work with the team”. They say Zoom and other virtual collaboration tools used by home workers are not a good substitute for face-to-face work with teams and colleagues.

Q: In your opinion, the primary purpose of the office is to...

	Gen Z	Millennial	Gen X	Boomer
1	Collaborate with my team	Collaborate with my team	Collaborate with my team	Collaborate with my team
2	Meet with clients	Foster professional & personal relationships	Foster professional & personal relationships	Share knowledge and best practices
3	Maximize individual productivity	Share knowledge and best practices	Meet with clients	Access specific spaces, materials or resources
4	Be visible for promotion	Maximize individual productivity	Build social connections and fostering camaraderie	Foster professional & personal relationships
5	Inspire creativity and innovation	Meet with clients	Access specific spaces, materials or resources	Maximize individual productivity
6	Build social connections and fostering camaraderie	Access the latest technology and tools	Share knowledge and best practices	Meet with clients
7	Communicate shared mission, values, and culture	Build social connections and fostering camaraderie	Maximize individual productivity	Build social connections and fostering camaraderie
8	Access to senior leaders/ decision makers	Access specific spaces, materials or resources	Communicate shared mission, values, and culture	Access the latest technology and tools
9	Access specific spaces, materials or resources	Inspire creativity and innovation	Access the latest technology and tools	Communicate shared mission, values, and culture
10	Foster professional & personal relationships	Communicate shared mission, values, and culture	Access to senior leaders/ decision makers	Access to senior leaders/ decision makers

Source: Gensler, 2021 study on the workplace survey

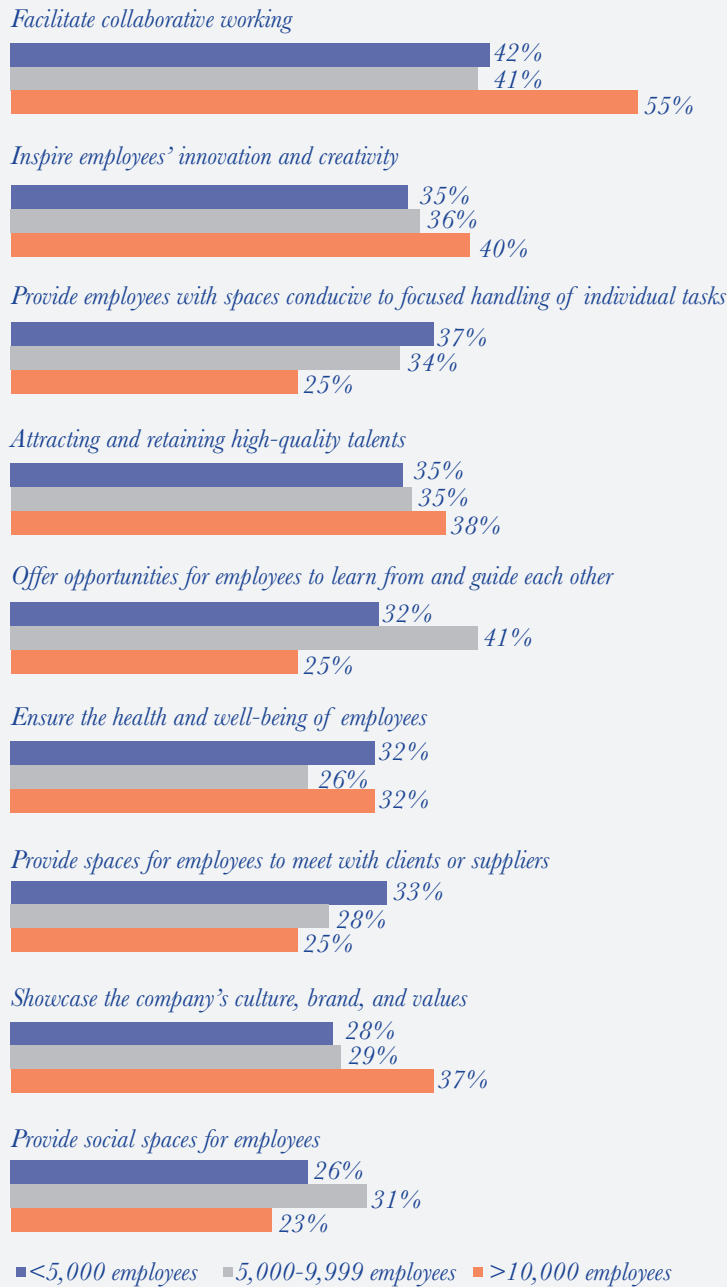
Chart 11: The primary purpose of the office.

4.3.4 Corporate real estate decision makers: The future office is a space where employees collaborate and create

JLL’s research, The Future of Work Survey 2022, shows that employees now see collaboration as the primary purpose of the office. 45% of respondents listed fostering collaboration as one of their top three workplace goals, rising to 55% for organizations with more than 10,000 employees (Chart 12). This reflects the growing challenge for enterprises to facilitate effective collaboration among large and geographically dispersed teams of employees. In addition, 40% of the respondents mentioned that the office of the future will also become a place to stimulate innovation and creativity. If employees are not working in the office, it is difficult for them to spontaneously share their thoughts on work, and they cannot enjoy a good professional learning

experience. Corporate real estate decision makers believe that the office will always be the most effective place to achieve the goals of employee collaboration, co-creation, professional learning experience and so on.

Q: What will be the main use of office space in your business between now and 2025?



Source: JLL, Office of the Future, 2022

Chart 12: The main use of office space between now and 2025.

4.4 Workers want a new mix of experiences

In the post-pandemic era, workplaces are moving towards diverse work environments and experiences to accommodate the dynamics of work. When employees return to the office, it's clear they expect a different set of experiences. According to the workplace survey released by Gensler in 2022, Returning to the Office, if the workplace provides employees with a creative experience, 83% of people say they will return to the office at least one more day per month. In addition, research shows that different generations prefer different combinations of experiences. The younger generation clearly prefers a combination of coffee shop and boutique hotel-centric experience, but older employees prefer a combination of coffee shop and enterprise-centric experience. Analyzing the characteristics of representative experience spaces chosen by employees, workplaces which are welcoming, aesthetically pleasing, easy to navigate, have controlled noise levels and equipped with the latest technology were identified as delivering the best experiences.

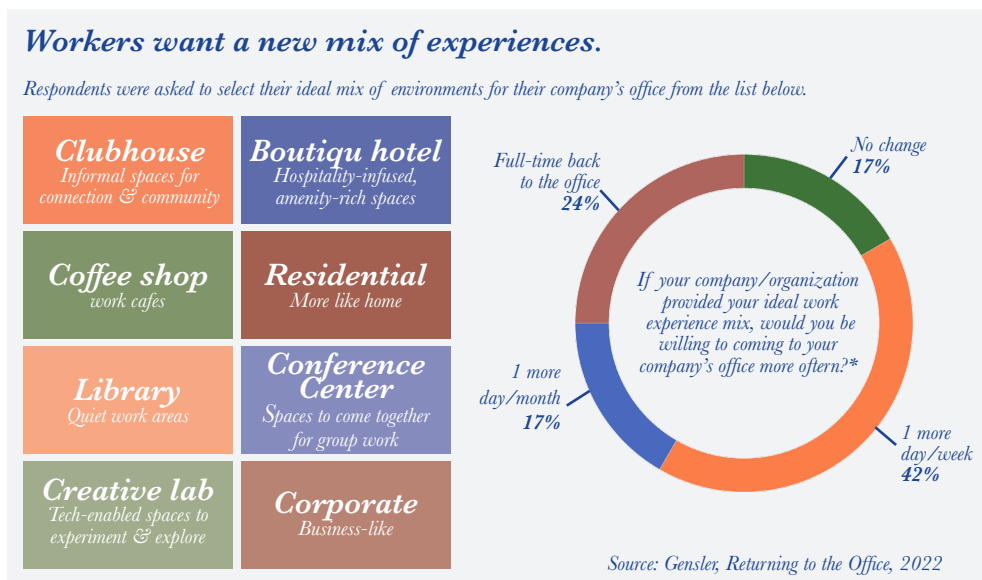


Chart 13: Workers want a new mix of experiences.

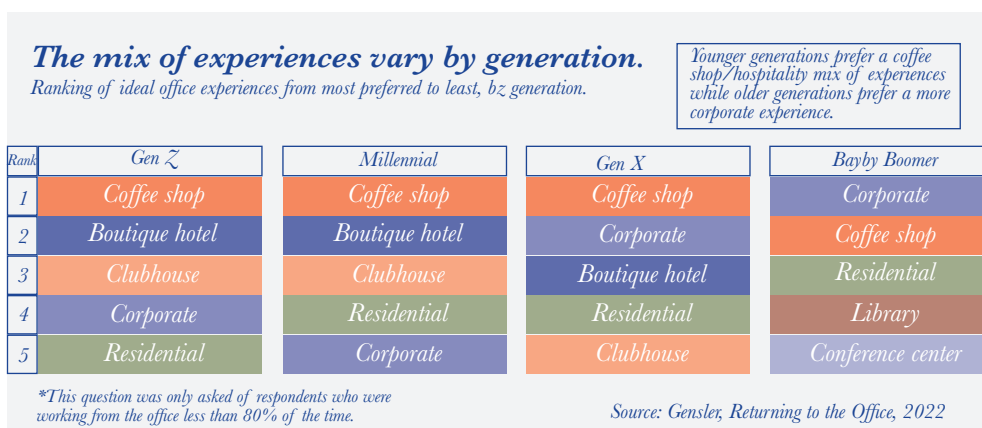


Chart 14: The mix of experiences vary by generation.

4.5 The third place has become an important part of the new workplace ecosystem

With the normalization of hybrid work, employees can independently choose when and where to work every day according to their own preferences and needs. In addition to working at home and in the office, many public spaces and facilities in the city have also become people’s choice of working places. These are the third places where places are collectively referred to, in addition to homes and business offices.

According to the workplace survey released by Gensler in 2022, Returning to the Office, Generation Z and millennial employees view third places such as cafes, libraries and parks as an important part of the workday and a place to get work done. While older generations tend to think of workplaces as binary - home or office, younger generations have fully embraced the concept of “work from anywhere”. Third places and co-working spaces are increasingly popular for a variety of work activities. For example, younger generations prefer to think/ideate on their own in the office compared to baby boomers who prefer to think/ideate at home. Younger generations are three times more likely to prefer a third place to reflect or conceptualize than baby boomers, who overwhelmingly prefer working from home. Gen Z also prefer third places for in-person feedback, connecting/networking with colleagues, and unplanned meetings. Elder employees have lower preference for the third place when carrying out these activities. It can be seen that the third place, which is popular among more and more young employees, will be an important part of the future workplace ecosystem.

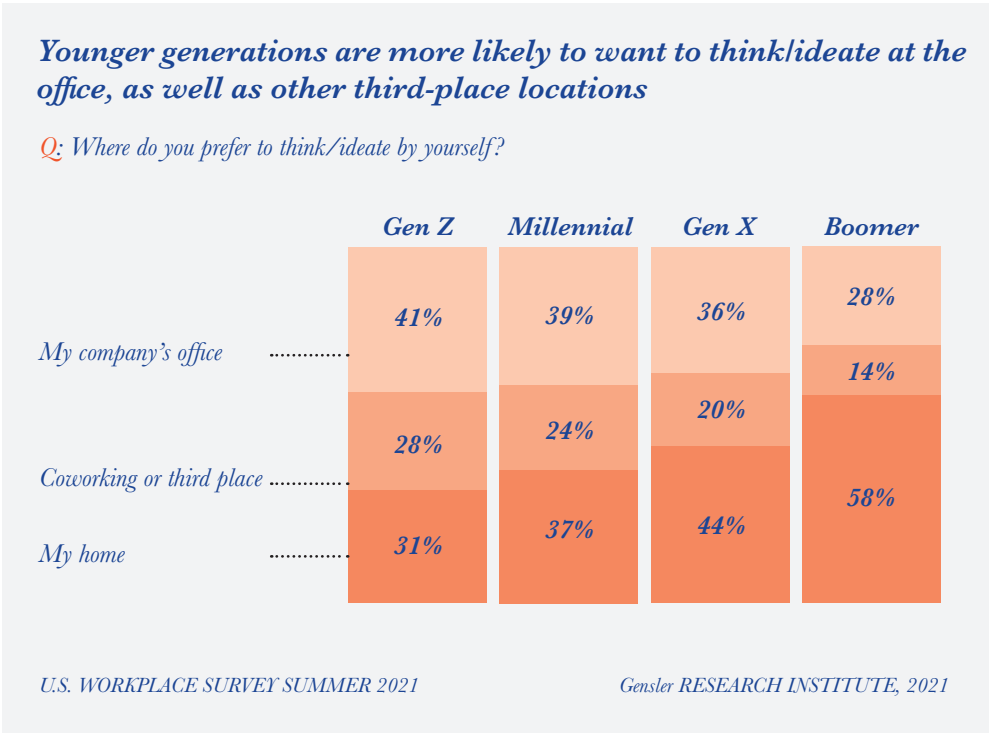
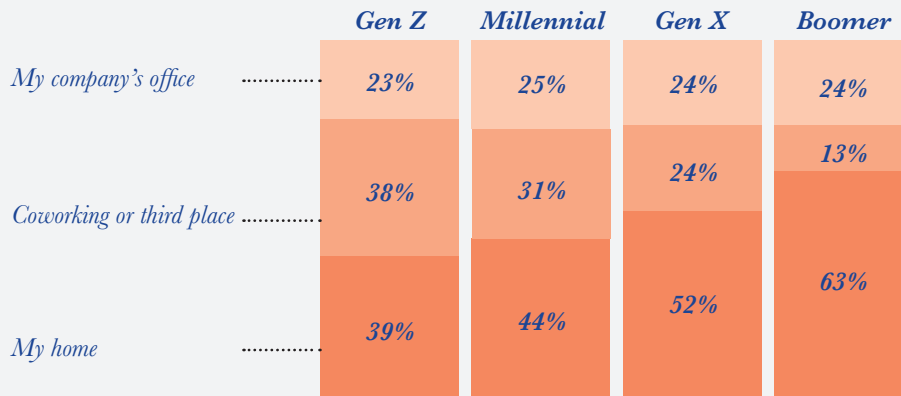


Chart 15: Younger generations are more likely to want to think/ideate at the office, as well as other third-place locations

As cities open up, third places are preferred to reflect/conceptualize

Q: Where do you prefer to reflect/conceptualize by yourself?



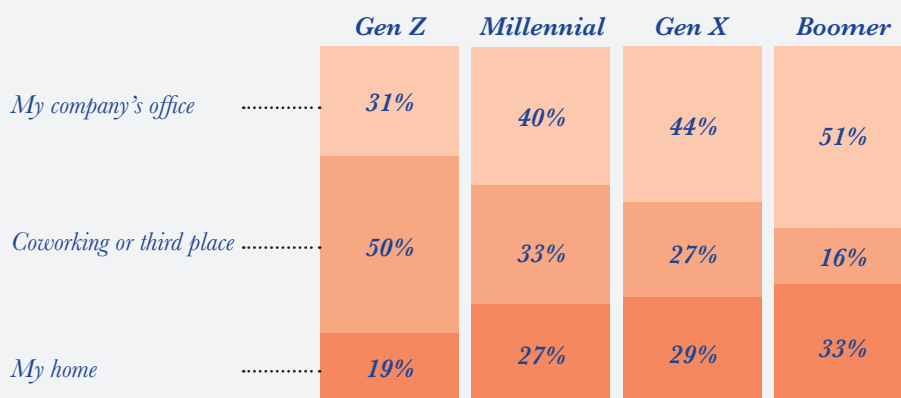
U.S. WORKPLACE SURVEY SUMMER 2021

Gensler RESEARCH INSTITUTE, 2021

Chart 16: As cities open up, third places are preferred to reflect/conceptualize

Younger generations prefer to receive feedback in-person, often in coworking or third places

Q: Where do you prefer to receive/give feedback on project work?



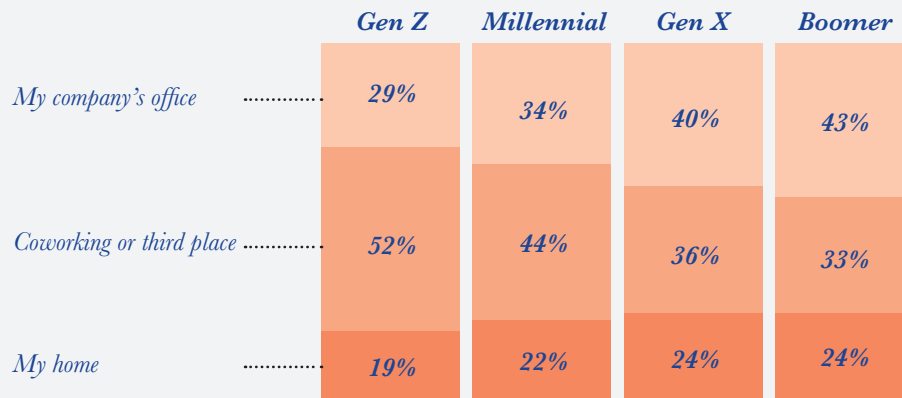
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Chart 17: Younger generations prefer to receive feedback in-person, often in coworking or third places

For social connections, younger generations prefer in-person connection away from the office

Q: Where do you prefer to connect/socialize with colleagues?



U.S. WORKPLACE SURVEY SUMMER 2021

Gensler RESEARCH INSTITUTE, 2021

Chart 18: For social connections, younger generations prefer in-person connection away from the office

Different work contents are suitable to be completed in different workspaces. Not only do different generations work differently, but they also value the workplace in and out of the office differently. Future workplace design will need to win over employees by creating a work experience based on inclusivity and flexibility, according to how each person works, what they want and need from the workplace.

5 Co-working Space in Hybrid Work

5.1 Co-working space has become a new choice to promote collaboration

5.1.1 More employers opt for co-working spaces

5.1.2 Advantages of co-working space in hybrid work environment

5.1.3 How does co-working space promote collaboration?

5.2 Case study of co-working space

5.2.1 WeWork

5.2.2 Talent Garden

5.1 Co-working space has become a new choice to promote collaboration

In the previous section, we knew that the way people work is undergoing tremendous changes driven by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the rise of the new generation and the development of technology. Hybrid work has become the development trend of future work. We explore employees' new expectations and needs for future work space. The workspace that attracts employees must be a flexible choice which is fully in line with the work, and the well-being of employees can be achieved by creating a good sense of space experience. The co-working space reconciles the contradiction between people's longing for face-to-face collaboration and socializing and their desire for the flexibility and freedom of telecommuting. With the convenient geographical location, complete office equipment and comfortable experience, co-working space has become an important option for people to work in the hybrid work environment.

5.1.1 More employers opt for co-working spaces

With the rise of hybrid work model, employers have learned lessons from the past three years to develop new workplace strategies and take the right stance for their businesses. Many companies – large or small, local or global – are experimenting with flexible workspaces to facilitate hybrid work model. The co-working space is a kind of area where employees, who are hesitate about returning to office, could find a solution. The co-working spaces not only are safe havens for tech start-ups and individual entrepreneurs, but have already attracted significant interest from large and established corporate players. Now that people are less constrained by physical work spaces than before, corporate use of co-working is booming.

According to statistics released by hybrid work brand WeWork in January 2023, bookings for monthly membership services have doubled in the year ending December 2022, as employers want to provide employees with more flexible options.

5.1.2 Advantages of co-working space in hybrid work environment

The professionalism, flexibility and experience of the co-working space adapt to people's needs in the hybrid work era. Co-working spaces provide an efficient, creative and satisfying working atmosphere: everyone can find a quiet corner to bury themselves in work, or a bright and open area to mingle with other professionals. Many people choose co-working spaces precisely for their social dimension – they are more focused when other people around them are doing the same, and they enjoy taking breaks to strike up conversations with others, which gives them the opportunity to seek out collaborations and expand business.

For employees, the advantages of co-working spaces include:

Easy to reach. Busy, long and congested commutes are one of the biggest barriers to returning to the office, so a well-located and easily accessible workspace is an important aspect of a successful collaboration space.

Tools for working efficiently. Coworking spaces are equipped with the latest and greatest technology. From high-speed internet to state-of-the-art computers to collaboration tools, these spaces are designed with efficiency and productivity in mind. Hybrid teams can be equipped with the tools and software they need to get work done no matter where they are, hence coworking spaces are able to provide employees with different type of tools which they don't have at home.

Enable collaboration. Coworking environments make it easier for teams to work together by freeing up more space for group work and discussions. In addition, coworking spaces can also bring people of different professions together and encourage spontaneous interactions, which allow people to build their networks and professional skills.

Provide flexibility. Coworking spaces offer companies the flexibility to expand without incurring long-term space costs, as well as opportunities for individuals to change the way they work day-to-day. Co-working spaces usually have different work environments, such as individual work spaces, conference rooms, cafes, etc. This enables individuals and teams to tailor their work environment to their specific needs.

Inspire innovation. Many people choose to work in co-working spaces because they have more contact with people outside the traditional network. Co-working spaces often attract entrepreneurs, freelancers, and start-ups who bring an innovative spirit into an environment that encourages innovation,

risk-taking, and creative problem-solving. Great ideas often come from the fringes who haven't yet been deeply embedded in a function's traditional expertise. Moreover, new innovations arise from bringing disparate ideas together in new ways to spark in-person creativity without the constraints of slow Internet connections or the (seemingly) ever-present technical issues.

Community drives connection. Many people choose coworking because of the community experience it offers. The desire to connect with others is part of being human. Much of the stress and anxiety caused by the pandemic is due to separation from others. Work is inherently social, therefore community, connection and friendship are the most effective parts of providing a sense of employee experience.

Enhanced well-being. Another advantage of the co-working experience is its contribution to well-being. It provides strong support for the work-life balance that people value. Co-working space can provide more activities throughout the day, which is associated with not only better physical fitness, but also better memory and learning abilities. Well-being can permeate all aspects of space design, from air temperature lighting to diversity and inclusive space design.

Overall, against a backdrop of dramatic changes in work styles and workplace models, coworking space offers a flexible, cost-effective and socially engaging alternative to traditional office environments. These advantages make them a popular choice for many professionals and businesses looking for a flexible, adaptable workspace.

5.1.3 How does co-working space promote collaboration?

The concept of co-working was originally born with “collaboration”. The history of coworking began in 1995, when a group of computer engineers created a “hackerspace” for them to collaborate in Berlin, Germany (Nicorici, 2018). While technically a coworking space, at the time it was not recognized as one. The term coworking was first introduced in 1999, referring to the way of working collaboratively, and not as a space to work in (Nicorici, 2018). The current understanding of the term “coworking” as a physical space was first introduced in 2005 by entrepreneur Brad Neuberg, who opened the first coworking space in San Francisco, California (Franzén,2020).

Spinuzzi et al. (2018) articulates the claim that “coworking is about community, specifically, the collaboration that takes place within communities”. A variety

of social interactions and collaborative activities help create a sense of community in coworking spaces (Spinuzzi et al., 2018). It follows that collaboration is the key concept of community created at coworking spaces.

Castilho and Quandt’s study (2017) looked at factors that influence intra-organizational collaboration in the context of the 14 coworking spaces. The pair found that coworking spaces can be divided into two simplified types of coworking spaces: convenience sharing and community building. Convenience sharing spaces are based more on sharing resources and reducing cost, while community building spaces rely more on collaboration and a collective view (Castilho et al., 2017). The two approaches provide four collaboration factors that are interconnected and can be summarized as below (Castilho et al., 2017):

- (1) enable knowledge sharing,
- (2) support collective action to an effective solution, while community building coworking spaces,
- (3) enhance individual action for the collective, and
- (4) enhance creativity.

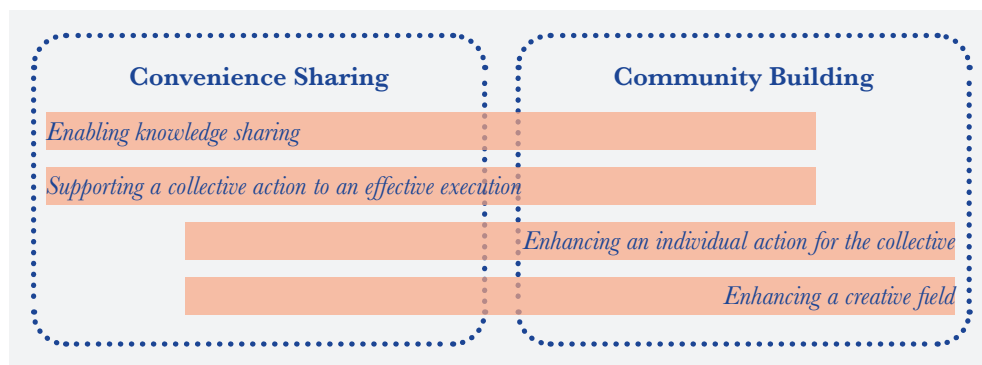


Chart 19: Recreation of prevalence of collaboration factors considering the convenience sharing and community building approaches (Castilho et al., 2017)

In a co-working space, the above four elements work together to create a favorable collaborative environment. The specific manifestations are as follows:

Shared Resources: Coworking spaces offer shared amenities and resources, such as meeting rooms, whiteboards, and projectors, making it easier for teams to work together and hold productive meetings.

Flexibility: Coworking spaces allow teams to scale up or down based on their project needs. This adaptability makes it convenient for startups, small businesses, and project-based teams to collaborate without the constraints of long-term leases.

Collaboration Software: Some coworking spaces provide access to collaboration tools and software that enable members to work together virtually, whether they're in the same space or different locations.

Knowledge Exchange: Professionals in coworking spaces often share their skills and knowledge with others. This knowledge exchange can lead to mentoring, learning, and collaborative efforts.

Diverse Community: Coworking spaces attract professionals from various backgrounds, industries, and disciplines. This diversity encourages the exchange of diverse ideas and expertise, leading to innovative solutions and collaborative opportunities.

Networking Events: Many coworking spaces host networking events, workshops, and seminars to facilitate interactions among members. These events provide a platform for individuals to meet, share and collaborate on projects.

Informal Gatherings: Common areas and lounges in coworking spaces provide informal meeting spaces for impromptu discussions and sharing of ideas. This fosters organic collaboration.

Community Building: Coworking space operators place a strong emphasis on community building. They create an environment where members feel a sense of belonging and are more likely to collaborate with others.

Inclusivity: Coworking spaces often embrace inclusivity and encourage individuals from various backgrounds to work together. This diversity can lead to broader perspectives and innovative solutions.

Professional Development: Coworking spaces frequently host events and workshops focused on skill development and industry-specific knowledge, providing opportunities for members to collaboratively learn and grow.

In the last chapter we learned that collaboration will be the primary purpose of the physical workplace of the future. The way co-working spaces promote collaboration has implications for future work space design. Next, we examine in detail the specific design elements of coworking spaces that promote collaboration through case studies.

5.2 Case study of co-working space

5.2.1 WeWork

WeWork co-working space

Location: Global Presence, Headquarters in New York City

Time: Founded in 2010, ongoing

Designer: WeWork Inc.

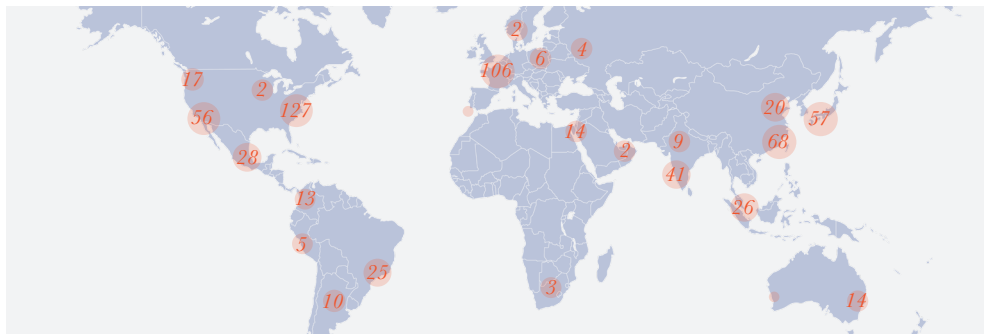


Fig. 20: WeWork offices around the world. Source: <https://www.wework.com/>

Introduction:

WeWork Inc. is a provider of coworking spaces, including physical and virtual shared spaces, headquartered in New York City. As of December 31, 2022, the company operated 43.9 million square feet (4,080,000 m²) of space in 779 locations in 39 countries, and had 547,000 members, with a weighted average commitment term of 19 months (U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2023). WeWork provides flexible workspace solutions and co-working environments for individuals, startups, small businesses, and large enterprises.

WeWork offers a range of workspace solutions designed to meet the diverse needs of its members:

1. **Hot Desks:** Hot desks are shared workspaces where members can choose any available desk on a first-come, first-served basis. This option is ideal for individuals who prefer flexibility in their work locations.
2. **Dedicated Desks:** Dedicated desks provide members with their own personal workspace within a larger co-working area. These desks are reserved exclusively for the individual, providing a semi-private working environment.
3. **Private Offices:** WeWork offers private work spaces for individuals, startups, and larger companies. These offices come in various sizes and can be customized to meet specific requirements.
4. **Enterprise Solutions:** WeWork's enterprise solutions are tailored for larger organizations. They provide custom work spaces, design, and services to meet the unique needs of corporate clients.

WeWork spaces typically offer the following features and amenities:

1. High-speed internet access.
2. Meeting rooms and conference facilities.
3. Phone booths for private calls.
4. Kitchen areas with coffee and refreshments.
5. Community and networking events.
6. Access to a global network of WeWork locations.
7. Professional on-site staff.
8. Printing and administrative support.

One of WeWork's distinguishing features is its focus on fostering a sense of community and collaboration among its members. They host events, workshops, and social gatherings to encourage networking and interaction. This community-building approach aims to create an environment where professionals from various backgrounds can connect, collaborate, and share ideas.

Reason for selection:

WeWork is one of the most recognizable and expansive co-working brands globally, with locations in major cities around the world. It offers a wide range of flexible workspace solutions, amenities, and community events, and is representative of the widespread perception of coworking spaces. Although WeWork is widely distributed around the world, its space facilities and services all follow the same standards, and its space solutions, community activities and virtual office products can be booked online.

Highlights:

Diverse workspace solutions, Complete facilities, Community and collaboration

One of WeWork office in Milan

Location: 4 Via Filippo Turati, Milan

The coworking space combines the best of both worlds—modern amenities and down-to-earth community. The entire nine-story building is dedicated to WeWork, featuring light-filled lounges, unique conference rooms, and sleek private offices.

Available workspace:



Private Office



Full-Floor Office



Coworking space:
monthly member

Coworking space:

Monthly member can work from hot desks, lounges, phone booths and more.

They can book meeting rooms and private offices with credits, and enjoy fast Wi-Fi, printing, unlimited coffee, and on-site support.

Shared amenities:

Meeting rooms

On-site staff

Lounges

Professional & social events

Cleaning services

Business essentials:

High-speed Wi-Fi, IT support and guest log-in functionality

Business class printing, office supplies and paper shredder

Unlimited coffee and tea

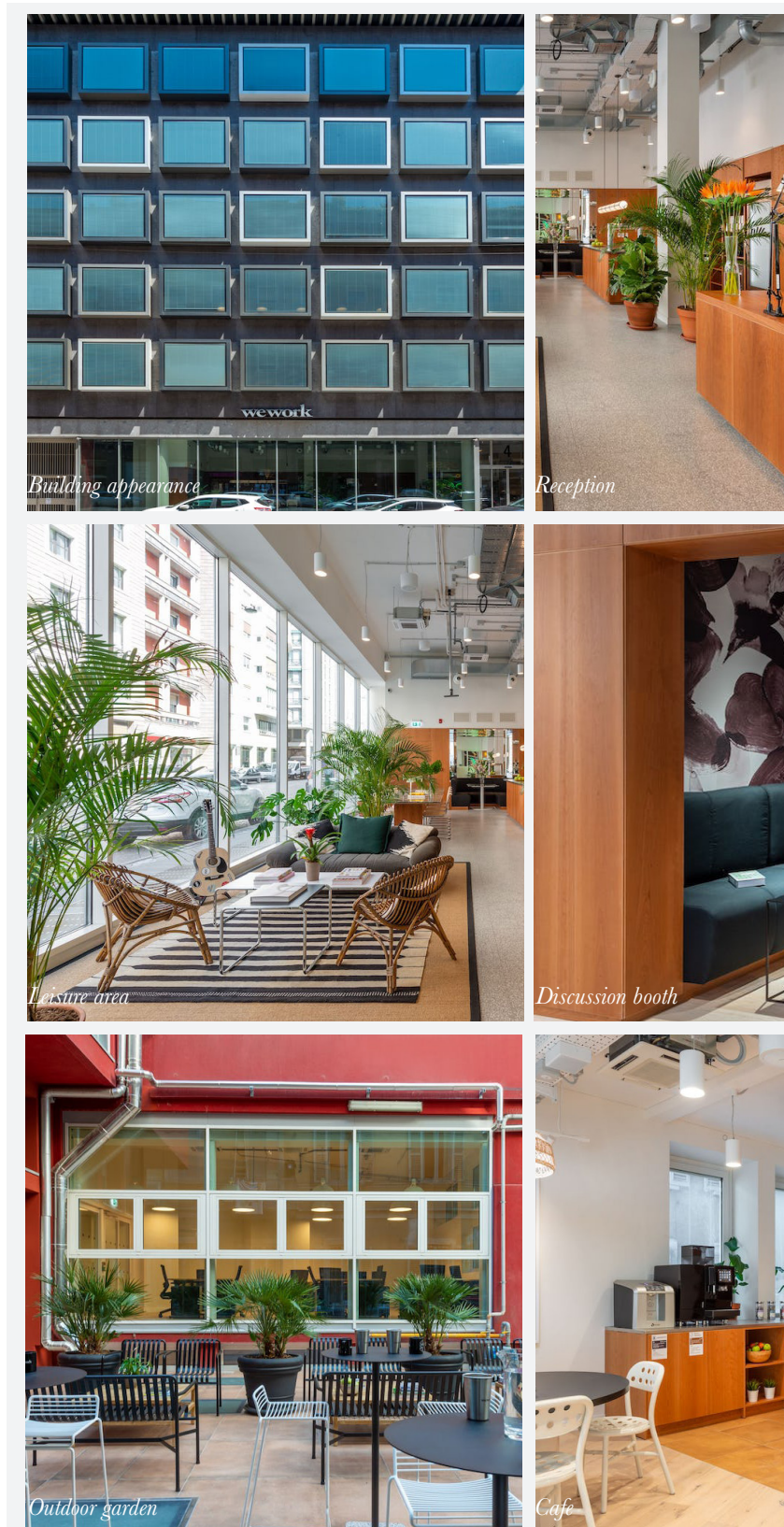
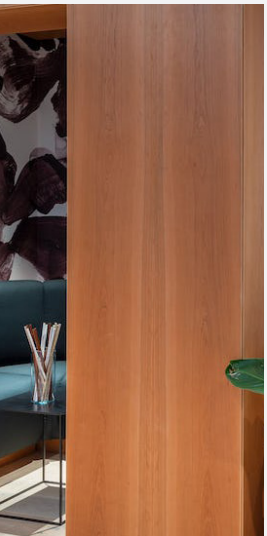


Fig 21: One of WeWork office in Milan



5. Access to a global network of Talent Garden locations.

6. On-site staff to support members.

Talent Garden places a strong emphasis on building a vibrant and innovative community among its members. The co-working spaces often host events, workshops, and networking opportunities to encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing.

Talent Garden positions itself as a hub for innovation, digital skills development, and entrepreneurship. The Innovation School offers a variety of programs and courses to help members enhance their knowledge and skills in these areas.

Talent Garden's focus on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship sets it apart from traditional co-working spaces. The platform aims to provide an environment where tech and innovation-focused professionals can connect, collaborate, and develop their skills. It caters to a diverse range of individuals and organizations seeking a dynamic and innovative workspace solution in Europe.

Reason for selection:

Talent Garden is a European co-working brand with locations in multiple countries. It focuses on fostering innovation and collaboration, particularly within the tech and digital sectors. This is a representative co-working space in the innovative collaboration category, which is consistent with the technical elements in this study and helps to explore the key points of collaborative space design supported by technology.

Highlights:

Flexible space options, Focus on digital skills, innovation, and technology

One of Talent Garden office in Milan

Location: Piazza Città di Lombardia, Milano

Located inside the Lombardy Region building, in one of the most vital and sought-after areas of Milan, with a surface area of 2,000 square meters it offers workstations for 180 professionals and inside there are 2 classrooms for the courses of the Innovation School, Talent Garden's training school dedicated to the world of innovation and digital, common areas and an Innovative Food Lab. Talent Garden is an innovation space that hosts a community of talents operating in the food-tech sector, with numerous important partners in the sector present within it.

Available workspace:



Offices of all sizes



Event spaces
(10m²-1,000m²)



Meeting rooms



Dedicated desk
within a shared
space

Coworking space:

A vibrant coworking community for digital or technology professionals. Members also receive exclusive access to the Talent Garden Innovation School, which provides industry-leading training for every level of experience, from recent graduates to seasoned professionals.

Shared amenities:

24/7 Access

Dedicated community

Community & relaxation areas

Free workshops & upskilling activities

Meeting rooms & event spaces

TAG Cafe & Restaurant

Business essentials:

High-speed Wi-Fi

Mail and package handing

Unlimited coffee and tea

Talent Garden is committed to building a vibrant knowledge-sharing community, attracting more professional talents, and providing them with courses to improve their skills.

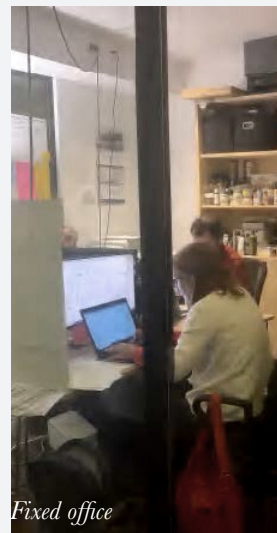
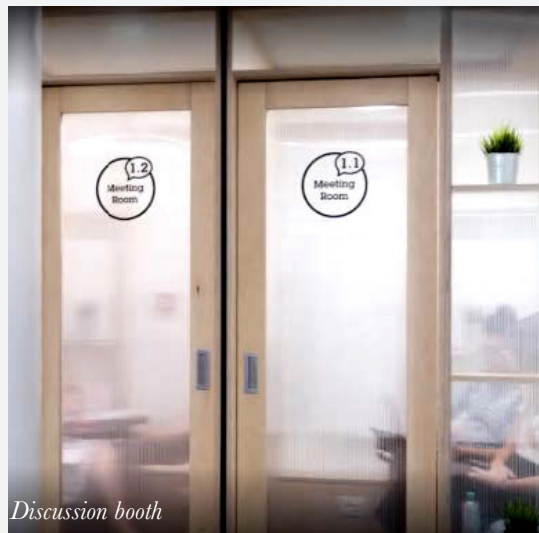
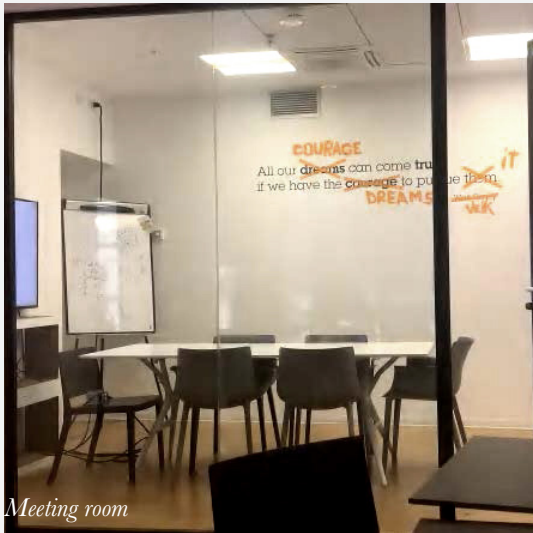
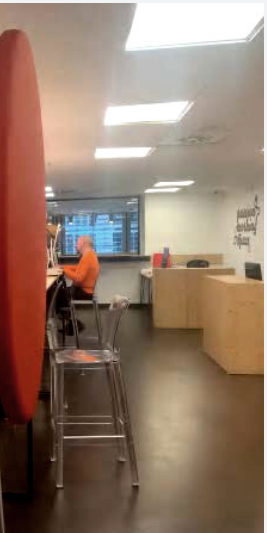


Fig 23: One of Talent Garden office in Milan



Cafe



Meeting room



Food Lab

6 Design Strategies

6.1 Three elements of workplace: people, technology and space

6.2 Design focus: Collaboration and innovation in technology-driven wellbeing spaces

6.3 Design strategies for technology-driven well-being work space

6.3.1 Design strategies for physical work space

6.3.2 Vision of virtual work space: Metaverse technology contributes to hybrid work

In the research in the previous chapters, we first clarify a major pre-condition: hybrid working models would continue to exist now and even in the future. Next, following the historical development of work space, we see that the development of technology has driven changes in work space. We realize that meeting the changing needs of employees is the right direction for the development of work space and recognize that many design methods and elements worth learning and applying. By collecting a large amount of data and analyzing it, we research the characteristics, needs, work behaviors and preferences of “people” in the future workplace, and learned that well-being is the main expectation of employees for the future workplace, and collaboration is the main purpose to the future workplace. Then, with respect to the coworking space – the kind of work space increasingly chosen by people to facilitate collaboration – we study its benefits, features and how it facilitates collaboration. Finally, based on the above researches, we explore design strategies for future work spaces.

6.1 Three elements of workplace: people, technology and space

If we want to predict the future, we must first discover some persistent laws from the changes in historical development. In the above study on the development process of work space, we found that: the needs of employees are constantly changing, technology is constantly developing, and work space is constantly evolving. These three are eternally changing, while at the same time they maintain a relatively synchronized and stable dynamic balance. Therefore, we treat people (corresponding to employee needs), technology, and space as the three elements of work space, and use them as a starting point to implement strategic analysis of future work space.

(1) **The dimension of people**

The human dimension (employee needs) requires us to adhere to the people-oriented principle. In the design of future work spaces, attention should be paid to the behavioral, sensory and psychological factors of space users.

(2) **The dimension of technology**

From the dimension of technology, on the pre-condition of a hybrid work model, intelligent technology and metaverse technology would be used to upgrade traditional physical work spaces.

(3) **The dimension of space**

From the dimension of space, future work space can be divided into physical space and virtual space with the support of technology. In the hybrid work model, employees would be able to feel the new experience brought by the integration of reality and virtuality all the time.

6.2 Design focus: Collaboration and innovation in technology-driven well-being spaces

In the above researches, we learned that in the hybrid work model post pandemic, 1) employees' greatest expectation for returning to the work space is well-being; 2) people can complete personal and focused work at home, and the main purpose of coming to the office is to collaborate and socialize. Therefore, when exploring future work space design strategies, we must first clarify the following points:

1. The design of future work spaces must put employee well-being first;
2. Carry out space design based on users' behavioral activity needs, sensory experience and psychological needs at work to create a well-being work space that promotes collaboration and innovation;
3. Apply the most cutting-edge technology to the design of work space to bring a better work experience to users, thereby achieving employee well-being.

6.3 Design strategies for technology-driven well-being work space

According to the technology-driven space form, this study divides the space into two parts, physical space and virtual space, for exploration.

6.3.1 Design strategies for physical work space

Physical work space is a real space that employees can actually touch and feel while working. Employees' work behavior activities, employees' sensory experience and psychological needs are the starting point of space design.

1. Behavior

Compared with the past, today's daily work has more fluctuations and a higher degree of digitalization, and needs to be more flexible and agile in response to changes. Not only does the work content often change, but the working methods even change multiple times a day - from cross-team brainstorming to intra-group problem solving, from in-depth phone calls with customers to concentrating on the work at hand... Daily work involves both movement and stillness, groups and individuals. In conclusion, a productive day is dependent on communication, collaboration, concentration, and thinking. Therefore, designers need to design corresponding spaces based on employees' work behavior activities to create a good work experience.

Regarding designing space based on activities, we have to mention the concept of "Activity-based working". For every organization, the pandemic has accelerated the global shift from fixed to flexible, predictable to emergent, simple to complex. Given the changing nature of the world of work, an activity-based approach enables the adaptivity required to understand the evolving functional requirements of organizations (Veldhoen + Company, 2020).

Activity-based working (ABW) is a way of working in which employees make shared use of a diversity of work settings that have been designed to support different kinds of activities (Meel, 2020). There are three crucial elements in this concept:

Diversity

The office provides a diversity of work settings to support different kinds of activities and work styles. The essence of ABW office is to provide users with choices. Further than open or closed spaces, this option offers employees a variety of environments in terms of openness, furniture, scale, technology and atmosphere. For example, a combination of regular workstations, phone booths, quiet areas, break areas, break rooms and project spaces. People can always choose the settings that suit their tasks, mood, and personal preferences.

Sharing

In ABW office, all work settings are available to everyone, regardless of their levels in the organization or functions they hold. The logic behind the “free seating” approach is well known: Traditional workstations tend to be underutilized because people spend most of their working time in meetings away from their desks, chatting at the water cooler, on the road, and working from home. By sharing workspaces, a more diverse set-up can be provided while saving square meters.

A way of working

ABW is a way of working and not just a design concept. The core idea is that employees work in a mobile and flexible fashion, making their own decisions as to where and when to work (Meel, 2020).

As the word “activity-based” indicates, ABW office should provide a work environment that matches the types of activities people perform. Diversity and flexibility have become two major themes in work space design.

(1) Diversity of space types

Different space types are divided according to different activities:

- **Workspaces:** spaces for desk-bound/computer-related activities (In a hybrid work model, this space may be at home, office, or a third space);
- **Collaboration spaces:** spaces for meetings and other types of interaction;
- **Support spaces:** spaces for practical activities like printing and getting coffee.

The following are the possible space forms that may appear in these three types of space, which would be increased, decreased, or adjusted according to the needs of specific work space design projects.

Workspaces

Workspaces are defined here as those spaces that are specifically designed for desk-related activities such as reading, re



Open workstation

Workstation placed in an open area, typically in groups of 4, 6 or 8 units. Suitable for collaborative work and general office tasks that require a medium level of concentration. This type will usually make up the majority of work settings. Make sure that they are all of equal (good) quality so there is no inclination to compete for a particular workstation

Size: 4 to 6 sqm

Ratio: 4 to 6 per 10 employees

Position: Away from busy circulation areas and social functions

Semi-open workstation

Workstation with semi-high enclosure (a modern version of the classic cubicle), providing a sense of visual and acoustic privacy in the absence of floor-to-ceiling partitions. Suitable for activities which demand medium concentration and medium interaction.

Size: 4 to 6 sqm

Ratio: 1 to 2 per 20 employees

Position: Close to open workstations

Focus room

Fully enclosed, soundinsulated room that allows people to escape the buzz of the open work area. Suitable for activities that require concentration and/ or privacy. Ideally, the room should be designed in such a way that it can also be used for small meetings and phone/video calls.

Size: 4 to 8 sqm

Ratio: 1 to 2 per 20 employees

Position: Close to open workstations

Note that the above dimensions and proportions come from **ACTIVITY_BASED WORKING: The Purnet Practice** and even from department to department. Therefore, in order to determine what is needed, it is important to analyze Does the activity involve the use of specific equipment? How do the activities relate to each other? All these kind of c

searching, writing, phoning. The main difference between the different kinds of workspaces is the degree of enclosure.



Study

Enclosed room with multiple workstations, intended for ‘heads-down’ work in a group setting. A getaway from the chat and interruptions of open work areas. Similar to a library reading room (phone-free, muted conversations only).

Size: Dependent on number of workstations
 Ratio: 1 per 50 or 100 employees
 Position: Close to open workstations or centralized

Phone booth

Enclosed or semi-enclosed area where people can go when they have to make or take a phone call or video call that requires a degree of focus and privacy. Can be used as a way of removing noisy activities from open work areas.

Size: 2 to 4 sqm
 Ratio: 1 per 20 to 30 employees
 Position: Close to open workstations

Project room

Enclosed room with several workstations, combined with collaborative features such as meeting tables and whiteboards. Suitable for project work or teamwork that is confidential and/ or demands frequent consultation.

Size: Dependent on number of workstations
 Ratio: Dependent on degree of project work
 Position: Close to open workstations or deliberately away from them

Guide (Meel,2020), which are general guidelines. The exact need for space varies from organization to organization and what people do in the office. What are the characteristics and nature of their tasks? How many people are involved? These questions need to be determined according to the specific space design project.

Collaboration Spaces

As the name implies, collaboration spaces are spaces that are explicitly designed for collaboration, such as formal meetings.



Booth

Semi-enclosed space for small meetings, collaboration and individual work. Typically has highbacked seating, as in a classic diner booth, that provides a sense of visual privacy while still being part of the open space around it. In some cases, booths are ceilinged.

Size: 5 to 8 sqm

Ratio: 1 to 2 per 50 workstations

Position: Close to work and meeting areas. Can be part of kitchenette/restaurant.

Huddle

An open meeting space with an informal, comfortable feel. It can function as a congregating point for teams or departments. Suitable for informal discussions, relaxation or work, should people so wish.

Size: 20 to 32 sqm

Ratio: 1 per 100 workstations, or 1 per floor

Position: Close to kitchenette or other shared facilities that attract people.

Stand-up space

Open or semi-enclosed space for 'stand-ups' (a specific kind of meeting associated with scrum/agile working). Suitable for informal discussions and meetings that do not require seating. Typically features a large video screen and/or a writeable 'scrum board'.

Size: Dependent on team size

Ratio: Dependent on number of scrum/agile teams

Position: Close to/inside the work areas of the people making use of this space

Note that the above dimensions and proportions come from **ACTIVITY_BASED WORKING: The Purnet Practice** and even from department to department. Therefore, in order to determine what is needed, it is important to analyze: Does the activity involve the use of specific equipment? How do the activities relate to each other? All these kind of c

meetings, informal chats, brainstorming sessions, one-on-one conversations, 'stand-ups' and other kinds of interactions.



Small meeting room

An enclosed meeting room for two to four persons. Suitable for small meetings and confidential discussions. Typically available on a first-come-first-served basis. Can overlap/be combined with focus rooms to create flexibility in use.

Size: 6 to 10 sqm
 Ratio: 1 per 10-20 workstations
 Position: Close to open workstations

Medium meeting room

Conference room for planned group meetings with larger groups (8-12 persons). Should provide wall space for writing, brainstorming or presentations. It can be a good idea to create meeting rooms with different ambiances for different kinds of meetings.

Size: 24-30 sqm
 Ratio: 1 or 2 per 50 workstations, or 1 per floor/security zone
 Position: Close to office floor entrance and main circulation areas

Large meeting room

Conference room for planned group meetings with larger groups (≥ 14 persons), typically providing some formality and privacy. Should provide wall space for writing, brainstorming or presentations.

Size: 48 sqm or more
 Ratio: Dependent on frequency of large meetings
 Position: Centralized, usually grouped with other facilities in a conference zone

Guide (Meel,2020), which are general guidelines. The exact need for space varies from organization to organization and what people do in the office. What are the characteristics and nature of their tasks? How many people are involved? These questions need to be determined according to the specific space design project.

Support Spaces

Support spaces concern the practical facilities that provide employees with water, food, storage, stationery and other social interaction within an organization.



Kitchenette

Facility that gives employees easy access to water, coffee and tea. Sometimes it is a full kitchen with refrigerator and microwave. Ideally designed as a place that encourages socialization as it is a destination where people run in to each other.

Size: 6 to 15 sqm, depending on the available facilities
 Ratio: 1 per 50 employees, or 1 per floor/security zone
 Position: Close to work areas, but beware of noise issues (people chatting, coffee grinding)

Locker space

Area with lockers for the storage of personal items. It is often decided to give everyone their own personal locker, even though shared lockers are more efficient.

Size: 0.5 sqm per locker
 Ratio: 1 locker per person or shared lockers (e.g. for 60% of employees)
 Position: Close to entrance of office floor/building, or close to team zones/anchors

Storage (group/individual)

Space for the storage of documents or other 'stuff'. Can be either individual or group storage. The need for storage is very much dependent on the nature of people's work processes and the degree of digitalization.

Size: 1 sqm per person (preferably less)
 Ratio: 1 storage point per team/group
 Position: Close to workstations

Note that the above dimensions and proportions come from **ACTIVITY_BASED WORKING: The Purnet Practice** and even from department to department. Therefore, in order to determine what is needed, it is important to analyze: Does the activity involve the use of specific equipment? How do the activities relate to each other? All these kind of c

essentials. Because of their practical purpose, support spaces tend to attract people, so they can be used to influence



Print/copy space

Enclosed space containing a multifunctional machine for copying, scanning and printing. May also accommodate a shredder and office supplies.

Size: 5 sqm
 Ratio: 1 per floor/security zone
 Position: Close to main circulation, away from open work areas

Lobby

Entrance area with seating for visitors and reception desk and/or reception screen. Provides visitors with their first impression of the organization. Large lobbies can double as informal meeting areas when combined with a coffee facility.

Size: site dependent
 Ratio: 1 per building/office unit
 Position: Close to elevators, stairs and meeting rooms

Restaurant

Facility where employees can go for lunch and in some cases breakfast and dinner as well. Can be designed and serviced in such a way that the areas can be used as informal meeting or workspace outside mealtimes.

Size 2.5 sqm per seat
 Ratio: 1 per building/office unit
 Position: Central, close to entrance

Guide (Meel,2020), which are general guidelines. The exact need for space varies from organization to organization and what people do in the office. What are the characteristics and nature of their tasks? How many people are involved? Questions need to be determined according to the specific space design project.

(2) Flexibility of space functions

Flexible and moveable space fixtures or office furniture can quickly adapt to the needs of various work activities.

Faced with changes in where and how people work, the workplace of the future will need to have multi-purpose spaces that can support various types of activities. Creating an agile, flexible work environment could ensure that elements of the workplace meet the needs of different employees for different tasks. Choose flexible, modular and adjustable furniture, reduce fixed or built-in furniture, and create different space experiences through the recombination of furniture.

Flexible furniture and technology allow employees to experiment with inclusive configurations that can fit their teams needs as they evolve over time (Linton, 2023).



Fig. 24: The Flex series of movable office furniture developed by Steelcase. Source: <https://www.steelcase.com/>

For example, the Flex series of movable office furniture developed by office furniture brand Steelcase provides flexibility for team collaboration (Steelcase). It enables teams to easily move and reposition furniture in the same space based on the needs of their work activities, making it easy to transition from brainstorming to workshops, or from daily stand-ups to sprint reviews.

Mobile and smart technologies

Mobile and smart technologies upgrade physical work space experience

Mobile devices: light, powerful tools with long battery lives that can be quickly launched from any location.

Top-notch infrastructure: all the practicalities: docking stations, power sockets, a robust Wi-Fi network and high-quality screens.

Collaboration apps: applications that allow employees to stay in touch in an easy and intuitive way. Whether employees are in the office or working remotely, video conferencing and collaboration tools can enhance communication and collaboration. These technologies increase productivity and connectivity.

Space occupancy and utilization sensors: these sensors monitor work space usage, helping organizations optimize layout and allocate resources more efficiently.

Automated task management: use task management applications and automation tools to help employees organize their work, streamline workflows, and manage projects to create a more efficient work environment.

Workspace booking app: smart room booking system is used to book workspaces, meeting rooms and amenities within offices to enhance workspace flexibility.

Mobile and wayfinding app: Mobile apps can provide employees with wayfinding assistance within the office, helping them locate specific workspaces or amenities. This simplifies navigation and saves time, contributing to a more stress-free work experience.

Artificial intelligence helps employees: use an AI chatbot or virtual assistant to answer common employee questions and provide instant support.

Cafeteria and catering services: implement a smart ordering system or cafeteria service app that allows employees to reserve meals or customize food selections.

Community building apps: create apps that help with community building, employee networking, and shared interest groups within the office.

Cloud solutions: Internet-based applications and filing systems that allow employees to work from anywhere.

Blockchain security: Implement blockchain technology to enhance the security of sensitive data and transactions within the office.

Well-being

In activity-based work space design, employee well-being is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

- More autonomy in choosing where to work
- More choice and variety in work settings
- Advanced technologies that facilitate mobile working
- More contact with colleagues
- Fewer hierarchical differences
- A less sedentary, healthier workstyle
- Fewer but better workplaces

2. Senses

We experience the world around us through our senses: sight, smell, touch, taste and sound, plus balance and body awareness. Sensory design is the purposeful design of spaces to engage the full range of human experiences. Engaging our senses in a 'sensory experience' impacts our thoughts, emotions, behavior, performance, memory and overall wellbeing (Foster,2023).

Vision:

Vision is considered the most important sense when understanding office design, conveying the information presented by the composition of the work space, since it provides an environment that can be summarized at first glance.

1. **Natural Light:** Maximize natural light by incorporating large windows, skylights, and glass partitions. Exposure to daylight has been linked to improved mood, reduced stress, and increased productivity. Consider adjustable blinds or curtains to control glare.

2. **LED technology:** LED technology also plays a role in the overall employee experience. In addition to providing dimmable lighting, giving employees the option to change the colors within a work setting can help benefit employee productivity and mood (Stueve, 2023). For example, warm lighting, including red and orange tones, can help create a feeling of comfort and relaxation, while cool tones of blue and purple can help increase alertness and reduce fatigue. Realizing multiple purposes in a single space requires various lighting solutions. The selection is based on function and design, creating a balance between decorative lighting, task lighting, and accent lighting (Ruelas, 2023).

3. **Color Palette:** Studies have shown that color has the potential to affect mood, emotions, concentration, and even physical health (Stueve, 2023). By incorporating principles of color psychology into the workspace, employee mindsets are subconsciously enhanced (Stueve, 2023). Choose a color palette which aligns with the desired atmosphere. For instance, use calming colors like blues and greens in relaxation areas and energizing colors like yellows and oranges in creative spaces.

4. **Biophilic Design:** Viewing greenery and natural landscapes reduces symptoms of ADHD (inattention and impulsivity) (Kuo et al., 2004). Incorporate nature-inspired elements in workspaces, such as indoor plants, green walls, or nature-themed artwork. These visual cues from nature can promote a sense of well-being.

Hearing:

Sound is probably the most concerned sensory experience in the workplace after sight. With the rise of collaborative and open work spaces, it is critical to consider acoustic privacy and comfort when creating a balanced layout of focus and collaborative zones, quiet spaces, and third spaces.

1. **Acoustic design:** The radius of distraction in most modern space is about 60 feet. By adding sound masking and good acoustical absorptive materials the radius can shrink down to 10-15 feet (Johnson, 2023). Implement acoustic panels, ceiling treatments, and sound-absorbing materials to reduce noise levels. The more sound that is captured in proximity to the conversation, the less will transfer to neighboring areas. Hard ceilings, glass and sheetrock surfaces should be covered or simply left unused (Johnson, 2023). Designated quiet zones provide employees with a peaceful retreat when needed.

2. **Soundscape:** Consider using ambient sounds, like flowing water or gentle nature sounds, to create a calming auditory environment. Some employees may benefit from music zones where they can personalize their listening experience.

Smell:

One of the most powerful senses when designing for an office – yet it is often one of the most neglected. As with our auditory senses, our sense of smell can strongly connect us with memories and emotions. Using scent is a wonderful way for space to create a more immersive experience that is positive and memorable (Shah,2023).

1.**Air circulation:** Keep indoor air fresh with an air purification system.

2.**Natural Scents:** Plants in the office naturally give off a fresh smell. If possible, use materials and finishes with natural scents, such as wooden furniture or stone surfaces. They can provide a subtle and pleasing aroma to the workspace.

3.**Aromatherapy:** Introduce subtle scents using essential oil diffusers, scented candles, or air purification systems. Scents like lavender or citrus can have calming and mood-boosting effects.

Touch:

A 2016 study from Harvard University showed that touch can release serotonin and dopamine, brain chemicals that can enhance our mood (Kuehn,2016). The joy we can feel with positive experiences of touch are some of the simple yet most meaningful pleasures of life (Shah,2023).

1. **Texture and Materials:** The integration of unique materiality and textured fabrics create an added level of comfort for employees (Stueve, 2023). Incorporate various textures and materials in the design, such as soft fabrics, warm woods, and tactile elements that employees can interact with.
2. **Ergonomic Furniture:** Provide ergonomic office furniture, including adjustable desks and chairs, to support good posture and reduce physical strain.

Taste:

Food experiences can also provoke strong feelings. This is evident in the way many cultures associate food with community and social connections – things that also bring us feelings of happiness (Shah,2023). Café areas and lunch spaces will invite employees to come together and boost collaboration, work and relaxation over a cuppa.

1. **Wellness Nutrition:** Offer access to nutritious snacks and beverages in the office, encouraging healthy eating habits. Consider providing spaces for employees to prepare and enjoy their meals.
2. **Community Dining:** Design communal eating areas that promote social interaction during breaks and foster a sense of belonging and camaraderie among employees.

Smart technology

Use smart technology to control and adapt to sensory elements.

1. **Smart Lighting Systems:**

- 1) **Circadian Lighting:** Install smart lighting systems that adjust the color temperature and intensity of lighting throughout the day to mimic natural daylight patterns. This regulates employees' circadian rhythms, improves mood, and enhances well-being.
- 2) **Personalization:** Allow employees to adjust the lighting in their workspaces to their preferred brightness and color temperature. Personalized lighting can create a comfortable and productive environment.

2. **Climate Control:**

- 1) **Smart HVAC:** Implement smart heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that use sensors to detect occupancy and adjust temperature and ventilation settings accordingly. This ensures a comfortable and healthy indoor environment.
- 2) **User-Controlled Zones:** Enable employees to control the temperature and air flow in their individual workspaces using mobile apps or control panels. This level of personal control can enhance well-being.

3. **Aromatherapy Systems:**

- 1) **Scent Dispensers:** Install scent-dispensing devices that release various fragrances based on user preferences or time of day. For example, calming scents could be diffused during relaxation periods.
- 2) **Customizable Aromas:** Allow employees to customize the scent profile in their workspaces, providing a personalized sensory experience.

4. **Acoustic Control:**

- 1) **Sound-Masking Systems:** Utilize sound-masking technology to create a consistent background sound that helps mask speech and reduce noise distractions.
- 2) **Adaptive Noise-Canceling:** Implement adaptive noise-cancelling systems that adjust based on real-time noise levels to provide employees with a quieter environment when needed.

5. **Touch and Ergonomics:**

1) **Adjustable Furniture:** Use smart, ergonomic furniture that automatically adapts to employees' preferences. For instance, desks could be adjusted to the desired height, and chairs could provide real-time feedback on posture.

6. **Digital Art and Creative Displays:**

1) **Digital Art Walls:** Incorporate digital art displays that can be controlled and customized by employees. They can change the artwork, colors, and patterns based on their preferences.

2) **Interactive Art:** Implement interactive art installations that respond to employee gestures or facial expressions, creating a visually engaging and dynamic experience.

7. **Food and Beverage Services:**

1) **Smart Vending Machines:** Install smart vending machines that offer a variety of healthy snacks and beverages, which employees can access using mobile apps or touchless payment methods.

2) **Automated Coffee Stations:** Provide automated coffee and beverage stations that allow employees to customize their drinks and control the preparation process.

8. **Feedback and Adaptation:**

1) **Sensory Feedback Collection:** Use smart sensors and IoT devices to collect data on employees' sensory preferences and well-being. This feedback can provide reference for adjustments to the office environment.

2) **Machine Learning and AI:** Implement machine learning and AI algorithms to analyze sensory data and continuously adapt the office environment to optimize well-being.

9. **User-Friendly Interfaces:**

1) **Mobile Apps and Control Panels:** Offer user-friendly mobile apps or control panels that enable employees to adjust sensory elements with ease. The technology should be intuitive and accessible to everyone.

10. **Privacy and Data Security:**

1) Ensure that the use of smart technology respects employee privacy and data security. Clearly communicate how sensory data is used and protected.

By integrating smart technology in these ways, future work spaces would be able to create a sensory-rich environment that adapts to individual preferences and needs, ultimately improving employee well-being, comfort, and productivity.

Well-being

In work space design based on sensory experience, employee well-being is mainly reflected in the following aspects:

- Multi-sensory experience to gain mental and emotional health
- Biophilic design improves air quality and promotes physical and mental health
- Ergonomic office furnitures to improve physical comfort.
- Intelligent technology integration allows for personalized adjustments to the environment, improving overall comfort and happiness.
- Social interaction and community belonging

3. Psychology

We define space through our activities and perceive space through our senses, but when we truly want to connect with space on a deeper level, we need to turn our gaze toward the heart. Only when our psychological needs can be met in a space do we truly belong there.

(1) Spatial translation of “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs”

80 years ago, American psychologist Abraham Maslow proposed “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs”, which provided a prescient perspective for us to study psychological needs.

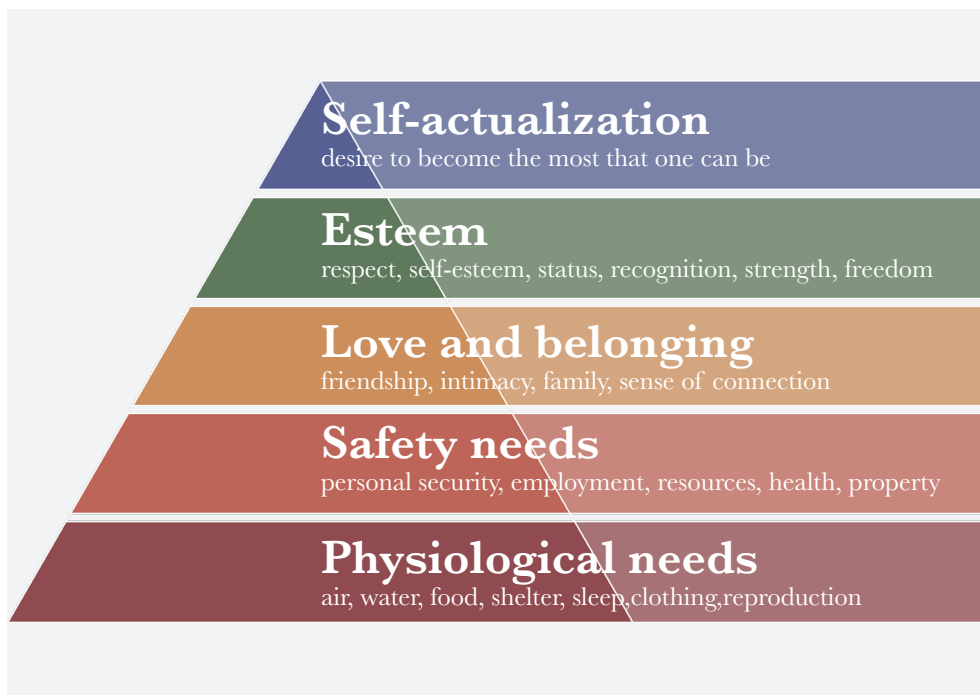


Fig. 25: Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. Source: <https://www.thoughtco.com/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-4582571>

- According to Maslow, human beings have five categories of needs: physiological, safety, love, esteem, and self-actualization.
- In this theory, Maslow believed that higher needs in the hierarchy begin to emerge when people feel that they have adequately satisfied previous needs.

From the perspective of space design, we can translate this “needs pyramid”:

1. **Physiological needs** are the design content analyzed from a sensory perspective mentioned in the previous section, i.e., a comfortable physical work space environment and good office infrastructure. Employees would not come to work space if their basic needs could not be met, such as it's too hot or cold, too noisy, or the glare of the sun makes it difficult to read a computer screen.

2. **Safety needs** can be understood as a healthy and safe office environment when applied to work space design. For example, during the Covid-19 pandemic, when the health and safety environment in the office cannot be guaranteed, people prefer to stay at home and work where the physical conditions and safety are met. In the future work space design, it corresponds to the health and safety protection of the physical space and the data security protection facilities of the virtual space.

3. **Love and belonging needs** correspond to space design that promotes interpersonal relationships such as collaboration and social interaction in workplace design. From this stage, people's needs would shift from Me to We, and people need to connect with others in the workplace. For example, after people are quarantined at home during the pandemic, their desire for face-to-face communication, collaboration and community interaction is particularly strong. In the future, collaboration and social interaction would become the main functions of work spaces.

4. **Esteem needs** map to inclusivity and accessibility in workspace design. People who work together in this work space should not be treated differently because of differences in race, age, gender, culture, sexual orientation, etc., nor would they encounter obstacles in using the office because of physical disabilities. Everyone in the office is respected and understood, and has equal opportunities for professional development. Correspondingly, the design process of work space also considers inclusivity and accessibility more.

5. **Self-actualization** needs can be space design that encourages innovation, creativity and personal growth, when applied to the design of work spaces. This could include spaces such as brainstorming area, creative lab or flexible work environment, or any other design element that inspires creativity.

In short, future work space design must fully consider the psychological needs of the above five stages, and carefully design offices to promote the realization of employees' self-worth.

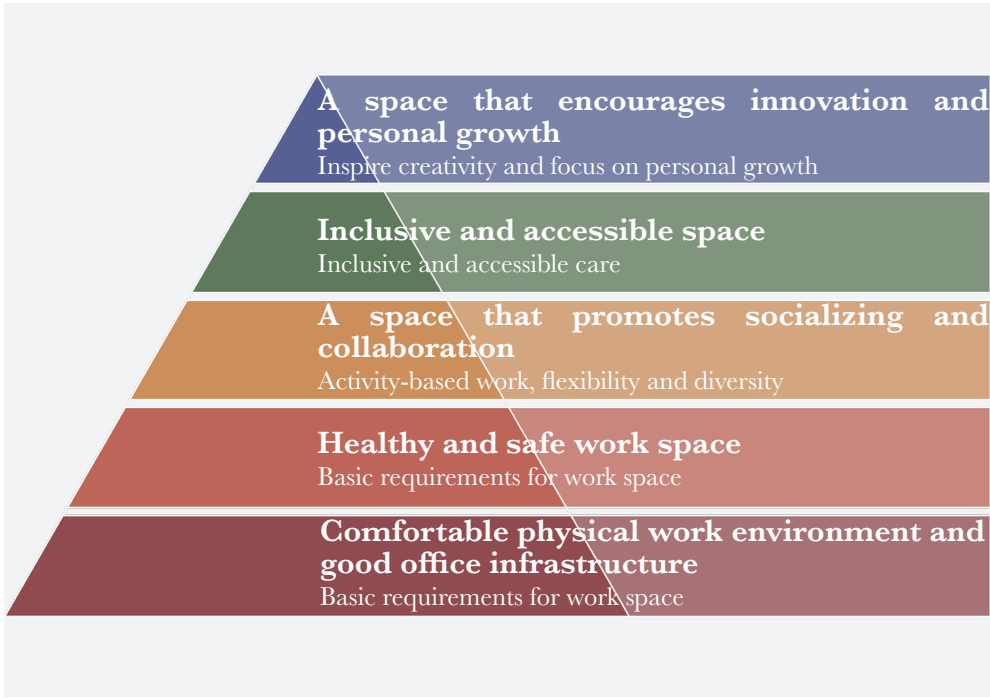


Fig. 26: Spatial translation model (drawn by the author)

The picture above is a spatial model translated from “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs” theory. The first three stages in the model correspond to the analysis in previous sections. Next we continue our exploration of inclusive and accessible design strategies for stage four of the model, as well as design strategies for creating spaces that encourage innovation and personal growth.

(2) Inclusive and accessible space design

The world is diverse, and people working in the same work space are also different in one way or another (as shown in Figure 27). An inclusive and accessible workplace design ensures that all employees, regardless of their abilities, backgrounds, preferences, or needs, can perform their tasks effectively, comfortably, and safely. It also fosters a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion, which can boost innovation, productivity, and engagement (LinkedIn,2023).

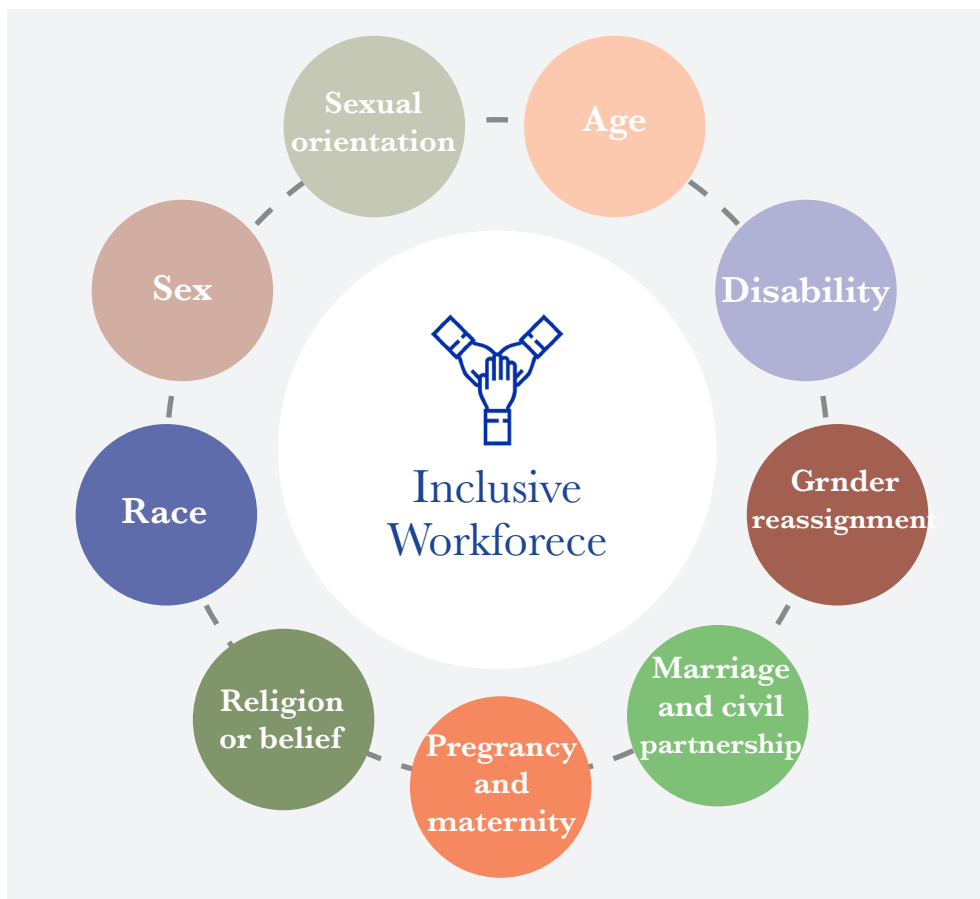


Fig. 27: Inclusive Workforce.

In the design of future workplace, inclusive and accessible spaces can be designed through **universal design principles** and **assistive technology**.

Universal design is an approach that aims to create products and environments that are usable by all people, regardless of their abilities, age, or background (Linkedin, 2023). By considering the diverse needs and abilities of all throughout the design process, universal design creates products, services and environments that meet people's needs (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2021). Seven principles to guide universal design were developed in 1997 by a working group of architects, product designers, engineers, and environmental design researchers led by Ronald Mace at the Center for Universal Design at the North Carolina State University (NCSU). They developed these principles to guide a wide range of design disciplines including environments, products and communications.

The **seven principles** are as follows:

Principle one: Equitable Use

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Principle two: Flexibility in Use

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Principle three: Simple and Intuitive Use

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Principle four: Perceptible Information

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Principle five: Tolerance for Error

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Principle six: Low Physical Effort

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Principle seven: Size and Space for Approach and Use

Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Copyright 1997 NC State University, The Center for Universal Design

Applying these principles to work space design, we need to consider the accessibility of physical locations. If workplace accessibility is considered, automatic door openings can help people carrying heavy boxes or recovering from injuries, as well as people with permanent mobility impairments. Consider accessibility within the workspace, with adjustable tables, spread out spaces and movable seating ensuring that people using wheelchairs can easily move through the workspace. Provide various barrier-free facilities, and set up clear and easy-to-read signage and identification symbols, etc.

Accessibility considerations, in addition to physical disabilities, also need to take into account factors such as mental health, neurodiversity and personal work styles.

About 15%-20% of the world’s population is neurodiverse – and across the spectrum of neurological differences, individuals can react to certain elements or situations within a space that leads to the loss of productivity (Stueve, 2023). As we design the workplace of the future, we must be aware of these differences. Some employees may need to work in an environment where music is playing and the chatter of distant colleagues can be heard. And for some, however, working in an open environment can be distracting and stressful. Therefore, designers must provide employees with diverse workspace options. There are slightly noisy open seating spaces and cafe spaces to promote communication and collaboration, as well as quiet, softly lit library-like spaces to support focused work, or increasing the number of relaxation rooms or wellness rooms to help ease employees’ work stress and care for their mental health.

Our Audience is all of us.

We consider the user-experience for a wide range of individuals.

Bring “able-bodied” is always temporary.

					
<i>Mobility</i>	<i>Sensory and Communication</i>	<i>Lived Experience</i>	<i>Wellbeing</i>	<i>All Bodies</i>	<i>Neurodiversity</i>
<i>Mobility devices, endurance</i>	<i>Vision, hearing, speech</i>	<i>LGBTQIA+, gender, race, age, cultural inclusion, personal sensitivities</i>	<i>Pregnancy, temporary disabilities, allergies, chemical sensitivities</i>	<i>Physical size (tall, large, short) and physical differences</i>	<i>Autism, differences in attention, learning, and cognition</i>

“Everyone” and “diversity” includes the people in historically well-represented majorities as well as under-represented groups.

Fig. 28: Audiences for inclusive design. Source: <https://www.gensler.com/blog/why-embedding-inclusive-design-is-critical>

Technology support

Various technologies can support the inclusive design of future workplaces, ensuring that all employees, regardless of their abilities or diverse needs, can access and engage with the workspace effectively.

1. **Digital office equipment, applications and services website:**

Allow employees to work online without any barriers.

2. **Smart Assistive Devices and technologies:**

Help people with disability use access and use online resources. For example, people with low vision may use screen-reader software which reads out what is on the computer screen. People who do not have access to a keyboard or mouse can use voice-activated dictation software to enter information into a computer.

3. **Sensory Enhancement Technologies:**

Sensory enhancement devices can amplify and clarify audio for employees with hearing impairments, as well as enhance visual content for those with visual impairments.

4. **Real-Time Captioning and Sign Language Interpretation:**

Provide real-time captioning services and sign language interpretation through video conferencing and live events to support employees with hearing impairments.

5. **Touchscreen and Gesture Control Devices:**

These technologies can assist employees with mobility issues by allowing them to control devices and interact with digital content through touch or gestures.

6. **Wayfinding Apps and Beacons:**

Wayfinding apps and Bluetooth beacons can provide navigation assistance within the workspace for employees with visual or mobility impairments.

7. **Smart Building Systems:**

Implement IoT solutions for building control, which can include voice-activated controls, automated doors, and adjustable lighting and temperature settings to cater to individual needs.

8. Adaptive Furniture and Ergonomics Tools:

Implement adaptive furniture and ergonomic tools that can be customized to meet the specific physical needs of employees, such as sit-stand desks and ergonomic chairs.

9. Physical and Mental Health Apps:

Provide access to physical and mental health apps that support employees in managing stress, improving mental health, and promoting well-being.

10. Machine Learning and AI:

AI-driven chatbots and virtual assistants can provide personalized support for employees with diverse needs, including answering questions, providing information, and assisting with daily tasks.

(3) Space design that encourages innovation and personal growth

Self-actualization needs is the last level in “Maslow’s hierarchy of needs” theory and is also the ultimate goal of future work space design. We can meet the need for self-actualization by designing office environments that inspire employees’ creativity for personal growth.

How does space design inspire employees’ creativity? We begin by exploring what creativity is.

Creativity is much broader than what we think of traditionally. Beyond an ability to draw or sculpt or paint, it’s the capacity to generate ideas, solve difficult problems and exploit new opportunities (Brower et al., 2017).

Dr. Tracy Brower offers a four-point description of how people get things done through creativity (Brower et al., 2017):

- Creativity isn’t only about group collaboration. It also requires individual focus. Exposure to diverse perspectives and the thinking of the group is important, but so is the time for quiet reflection and the incubation of ideas.
- Creativity doesn’t just encompass the realm of ideas. It also involves action. Creativity requires divergence, and plenty of new ideas that move in multiple directions. But it also entails convergent thinking in which we cull, select, prioritize and take action.

- Creativity isn't just about immersing ourselves in the problem, it also benefits from distance and the opportunity to get away, rejuvenate and seek inspiration outside the boundaries of the problem.
- Creativity doesn't just solve known problems, it also anticipates problems, proactively seeks out problems and solves them in new ways.

We can adopt corresponding design strategies in space design.

Me+We

Support both personal focus space and team collaboration space.

In addition to formal and informal collaboration spaces that are conducive to teamwork, personal focus spaces such as focus rooms, phone rooms, etc. not only respect personal privacy, but are also conducive to the burst of inspiration during focused thinking.

Fixed to Flexible

From fixed space to flexible space. The practicality of flexible and movable space devices and office furniture has once again been affirmed in stimulating creativity. Creativity and innovation sometimes happen spontaneously rather than planned, and having flexible spaces can help us facilitate these moments.

Work+Others

In addition to providing work space, there are other spaces besides work. Whether it's a five-minute diversion that boosts focus, or a 17-minute coffee break that improves performance, mental downtime can increase productivity and replenish energy during demanding workdays. Disengaging from work gives people the ability to think more inventively (Symes, 2016).

Physical + Virtual

Combining physical and virtual workspaces (supported by technologies). In addition to interacting with a comfortable physical environment, virtual digital technology also provides strong support for employees to expand their thinking. For example, advanced digital collaboration platforms, virtual whiteboards, and interactive displays will facilitate real-time brainstorming and idea sharing among remote and in-house teams. VR and AR technology will be integrated into the workspace to create immersive environments for design thinking, prototyping, and data visualization, fostering creativity. Interactive touchscreen displays and digital whiteboards will encourage creative problem-solving and idea generation by enabling employees to draw, write, and manipulate digital content. AI algorithms and machine learning models will assist employees in generating creative ideas by analyzing data and suggesting innovative solutions.

6.3.2 Vision of virtual work space: Metaverse technology contributes to hybrid work

The need for remote social interaction in hybrid work models are accelerating the development of Metaverse technology. In future work space design, the metaverse is another trend to be considered as part of the new workplace experience (Mejia, 2023).

The metaverse is the realm of computer-generated, networked extended reality, or XR, an acronym that embraces all aspects of augmented reality, mixed reality and virtual reality (AR, MR and VR) (Anderson et al.,2022). Among them, Virtual reality (VR) experience requires people to enter an immersive virtual environment through head-mounted devices and tactile controllers. These virtual scenes can be entirely computer-generated content, simulations of the real world, or a hybrid of the two (Anderson et al.,2022). Augmented reality (AR) is an interactive experience that combines real-world and computer-generated content. People can see digital information superimposed on the real world through smartphones, tablets, and head-mounted displays, thus enhancing their perception of reality. Mixed reality (MR) allows people to interact and manipulate computer-generated images in the real world in real time. Accordingly, AR and VR could be understood as technologies that create certain degrees of MR and enable users to experience a sense of immersion in a synthetic environment where physical and virtual objects co-exist (Serio et al., 2013).



Fig. 29: Reality-Virtuality continuum (Milgram & Kishino, 1994).

Metaverse provides a new way of interaction for future hybrid work. Just as the web used to consist of text and images before videos and other media were added, the metaverse is intended to represent the next level and place the user at the center of interaction (Blazek,2022). It is conceivable that in future work spaces, people can connect with colleagues or partners around the world through the Metaverse and work together in an immersive way. How will future work spaces provide employees with Metaverse technology support and empower hybrid work? Starting from of Activity-based work, an effective way for employees to work in the work space, we continue to explore.

According to the Activity-based working method, the workspace in the metaverse can also be divided into personal workspace, collaboration space and support space.

Personal workspace

Individuals can focus on their work and communicate with colleagues working remotely or clients in remote locations.

1. Mixed Reality Workstations:

Incorporate mixed reality workstations within the physical work environment, which allow employees to access their personalized metaverse workspace. These workstations might consist of headsets or smart glasses that seamlessly blend the physical and virtual worlds.

2. Personalized Avatars:

Enable employees to use personalized avatars when they enter their metaverse workspace. These avatars can be customized to reflect individual identities and preferences.

3. Virtual Desk Setup:

Each employee's metaverse workspace includes a virtual desk with customizable features. This virtual desk can mimic a real-world workspace, offering a digital representation of a physical desk and equipment.

4. Digital Twins:

Create digital twins of the physical work spaces within the metaverse. This allows employees to virtually enter the office, interact with colleagues, and work in a familiar, physical-like setting even when working remotely.

5. Ergonomic Integration:

Integrate ergonomic customization options within the metaverse workspace. Employees can adjust the height, angle, and layout of their virtual workspace for optimal comfort and productivity.

6. Virtual Office Privacy Settings:

Offer privacy settings that allow employees to control who can enter their virtual work space, creating a focused work environment with minimal distractions.

7. Seamless Digital Collaboration:

Enable real-time digital collaboration within the metaverse workspace. Employees can work together on projects, share ideas, and conduct meetings with the same level of interactivity as in a physical office.

8. Advanced Communication Tools:

Provide advanced communication tools, including voice, text, and video chat, to facilitate interactions within the metaverse workspace. These tools should feel natural and intuitive.

9. Personalized Sensory Environment:

Allow employees to customize their sensory environment in the metaverse, including lighting, sounds, and even scents, to create an atmosphere that enhances focus and comfort.

10. Data Integration and Storage:

Integrate data storage and access to digital resources within the metaverse workspace. This enables employees to access documents and data seamlessly.

11. AI-Powered Assistance:

Utilize AI-driven virtual assistants within the metaverse workspace to provide support, reminders, and recommendations to enhance productivity.

12. Physical and Mental Health Resources:

Provide access to wellness and mental health resources, such as relaxation activities, mindfulness sessions, and stress management tools within the metaverse.

13. Regularly Updated and Improved Design:

Continuously update and improve the design of the metaverse workspace based on feedback and evolving needs, ensuring that it remains a productive and personalized environment.

Collaboration space

Formal meetings, informal meetings, group discussions, brainstorming, etc.

1. Metaverse Integration Hub:

Designate a central integration hub within the physical work space, equipped with mixed reality workstations, headsets, and other Metaverse technology. This hub serves as the entry point to the collaborative Metaverse environment,

and could also serve as the entrance to leisure and social spaces.

2. Virtual Collaboration Rooms:

Create virtual collaboration rooms within the Metaverse that mirror the layout and design of physical meeting spaces in the office. These rooms can be customized to cater to different types of collaborative activities, such as brainstorming sessions, project meetings, or virtual conferences.

3. Virtual Whiteboards and Interactive Displays:

Equip Metaverse collaboration rooms with virtual whiteboards and interactive displays. Employees can sketch, write, and draw on these digital surfaces, making it easy to share ideas and concepts in real-time.

4. Cross-Platform Compatibility:

Ensure that Metaverse technology used for collaboration is compatible with various devices, operating systems, and platforms, allowing for seamless communication between remote and in-house teams.

5. Digital Prototyping and Visualization:

Use Metaverse technology to facilitate digital prototyping and 3D visualization of projects and designs. Employees can collaborate on virtual 3D models and prototypes to enhance creative and technical discussions.

6. Persistent Collaboration Spaces:

Create persistent collaborative spaces within the Metaverse, where teams can store project-related content, ideas, and discussions. These spaces remain accessible and organized for ongoing work.

7. Dynamic Virtual Environments:

Customize virtual environments to support specific collaboration needs. For example, a virtual beach environment could be used for casual team meetings, while a virtual boardroom setting could be chosen for more formal discussions.

8. Personalized Workstations:

Offer personalized virtual workstations within the Metaverse collaboration environment. Employees can customize their virtual desks and digital tools to suit their collaboration requirements.

9. Secure and Private Interactions:

Ensure secure and private interactions within the Metaverse collaboration rooms. Sensitive discussions and intellectual property protection should be top priorities.

10. Project Management Tools:

Integrate project management tools into the Metaverse to allow teams to track progress, set goals, and assign tasks, enhancing project collaboration and productivity.

11. AI-Enhanced Collaboration:

Implement AI-driven features that enhance collaboration, such as real-time language translation, sentiment analysis, and suggestion engines that help with decision-making and idea generation.

12. Community Building:

Use the Metaverse for community building and team-building activities. Host virtual events, social gatherings, and team challenges to foster a sense of togetherness among employees.

13. User Training and Support:

Provide training and support to employees on using Metaverse technology for collaborative workspaces, ensuring they are comfortable and proficient with the tools.

Leisure and social space

Rest, socialize, have fun.

1. Virtual Lounge Areas:

Create virtual lounge areas within the Metaverse that mimic real-world relaxation spaces. These spaces can be used to host casual interactions, coffee breaks, and informal discussions.

2. Interactive Events and Gatherings:

Host interactive virtual events and gatherings within the Metaverse. These can include team-building activities, social hours, and celebrations that promote social connections.

3. Art Galleries and Exhibitions:

Create virtual art galleries and exhibitions within the Metaverse, presenting employee artwork, digital art, or cultural displays that enhance the visual and social experience.

4. Personalized Social Spaces:

Allow employees to customize their virtual social spaces based on their interests and preferences, creating areas for hobbies, passions, and socializing with like-minded colleagues.

5. Virtual Travel and Exploration:

Design virtual travel and exploration spaces within the Metaverse, where employees can visit digital replicas of famous destinations, explore new worlds, and share experiences with others.

6. AI-Enhanced Virtual Social Hosts:

Implement AI-driven virtual social hosts and entertainers within the Metaverse who can engage with employees, lead activities, and provide entertainment.

7. Themed Social Spaces:

Create themed virtual social spaces within the Metaverse, changing the environment and activities based on various themes and occasions.

In the future, Metaverse technology will, like the Internet today, completely change the way we work and become a powerful tool in our hands. The Metaverse will not replace the office, but will be an addition to both the home office and the office (Blazek, 2002). Just like we carry our laptop from one workstation to another today, in the future we will take the XR headset for a walk (Blazek, 2002). Janna Anderson and Lee Rainie noted in their 2022 book, *The Metaverse in 2040*, that a notable share of experts argued that the embrace of extended reality in people's daily lives by 2040 will be centered around augmented-reality and mixed-reality tools, not in the more-fully-immersive virtual reality worlds many people define today as being "the metaverse." (Anderson et al.,2022) The augmented metaverse will fundamentally change society, altering our world into a merged reality of real and virtual (Anderson et al.,2022).

7 Project Development

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7.1 Project brief

This project is a **continuation** of Contest Design Studio project. Contest Design Studio project WORK LIVING HUB mainly focused on the theme of Workplace ecosystem for behaviors of the future. The aim of the Studio was to design an ecosystem made of different types of spaces, a hub of functions to support new working behaviors, open to other services to support the daily life of the individual and the community. This project is an in-depth study and redesign of the **Collaboration Hub** part of the original group project.

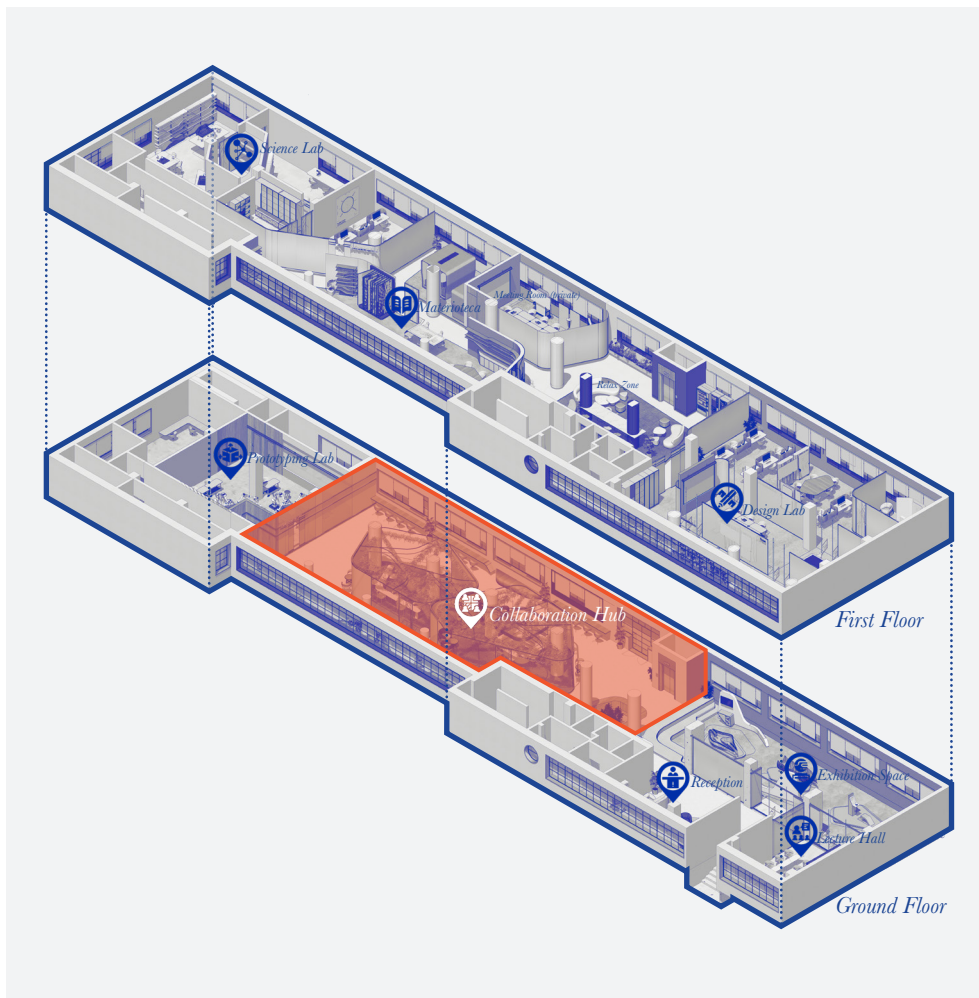


Fig. 30: Original project design plan, in which the orange area is the new renovation design scope

As shown in Figure 30, the design area of the original project was divided into two floors: the ground floor and the first floor. The central part of the ground floor (the area **marked in orange**) is the **Collaboration Hub**, which is the **design area** for in-depth research and renovate this time.

7.1.1 Site analysis

Dergano

The work site is located in **Dergano**, a neighborhood in **northern Milan**. This area was once a rural village, which was then united with Milan in 1923. Today, Dergano maintains that same small town atmosphere with a central square and a rich platform of cultural and commercial activities. Situated just a stone's throw from Bovisa and the Politecnico di Milano, the area has slowly been imbued with design culture, lending its industrial spaces to young creatives as showrooms and sets for years (Marelli, 2019).

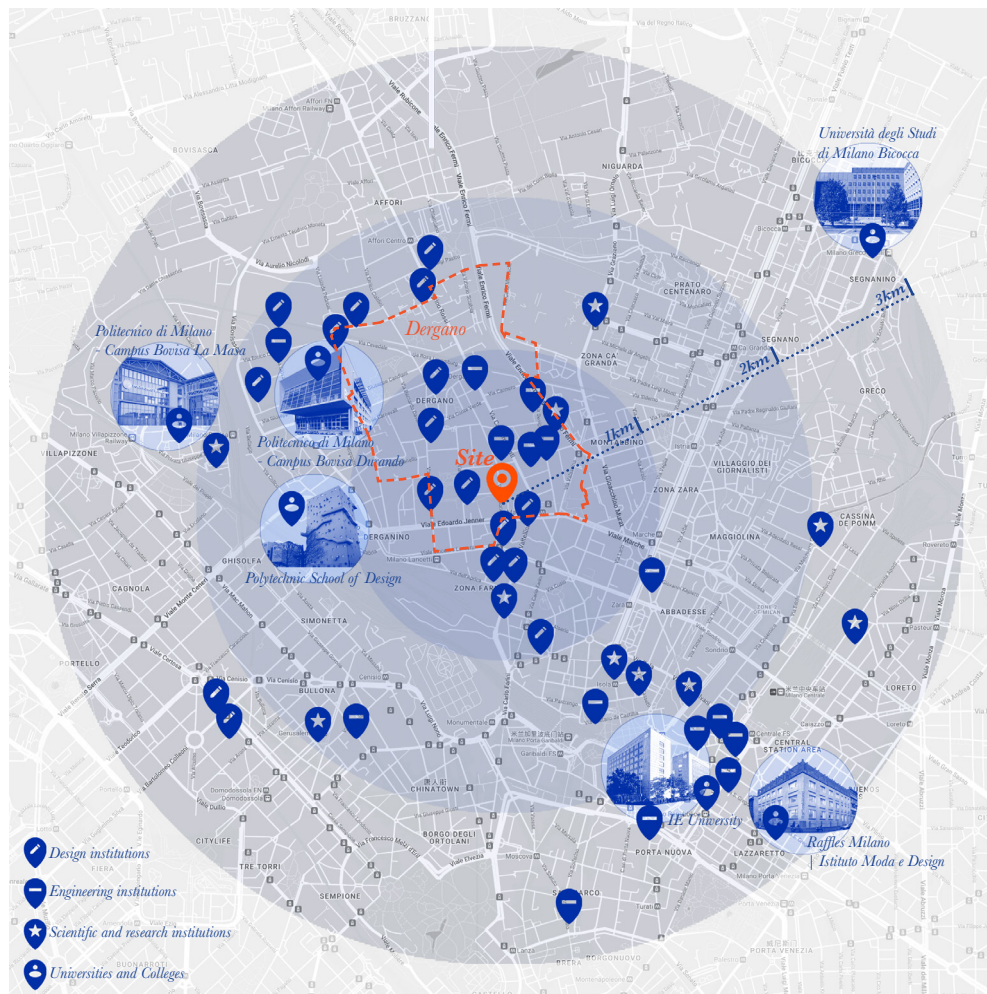


Fig 31: The location of the project and the distribution of innovative institutions within the surrounding 3km area, including design institutions, engineering institutions, scientific research institutions and universities.

In 2019, the area participated in Milan Design Week for the first time as the newest design district. This area will be relaunched the periphery as a territory with innovative, inclusive, and collaborative activities in locations experimenting with new and diverse focuses (Andonini, 2019). In Figure 31, we can clearly see that there are rich innovation resources gathered around the project location.

Site surroundings

The specific location of this project is at the intersection of Via Legnone and Viale Jenner, was the Italcima chocolate factory designed by Gio Ponti and Luciano Baldessari in 1935, when northern Milan was still an industrial area.

Three long buildings, parallel to one another, are divided according to a rigorous and Rationalist compartmentalization. Spaces accommodate for offices and a private home for the owner, along with a doorman and factory floor. The factory itself was set back from the street, featuring long ribboned windows that accentuate the composition's sweeping width.

The building has since been converted as a residential and corporate complex, remaining one of the most important examples of Milanese Rationalism (Marelli, 2019).



Fig. 32: Environment within 200 meters around the project site, public transportation, life facilities, greening and sunlight conditions

Surrounding environment: There are subway stations and bus stations within a 200-meter walk, and transportation is convenient. There are restaurants, gyms, cafes, pharmacies, supermarkets and other living facilities. There are also two parks where many people take a walk and rest.

Surrounding the building: The building where the design project is located faces a garden and has a beautiful environment. There is a small sports ground next to the building.

7.1.2 Original design plan

This interior design project is the design of a co-working space, covering the ground floor and first floor of the building. The main **target users** are designers, engineers, and scientific researchers. It is also open to other innovative workers and university students in related majors. The main purpose of this project is to provide an experimental co-working space for innovative workers, provide a good working environment for their research, collaboration and socialization, and stimulate creativity.

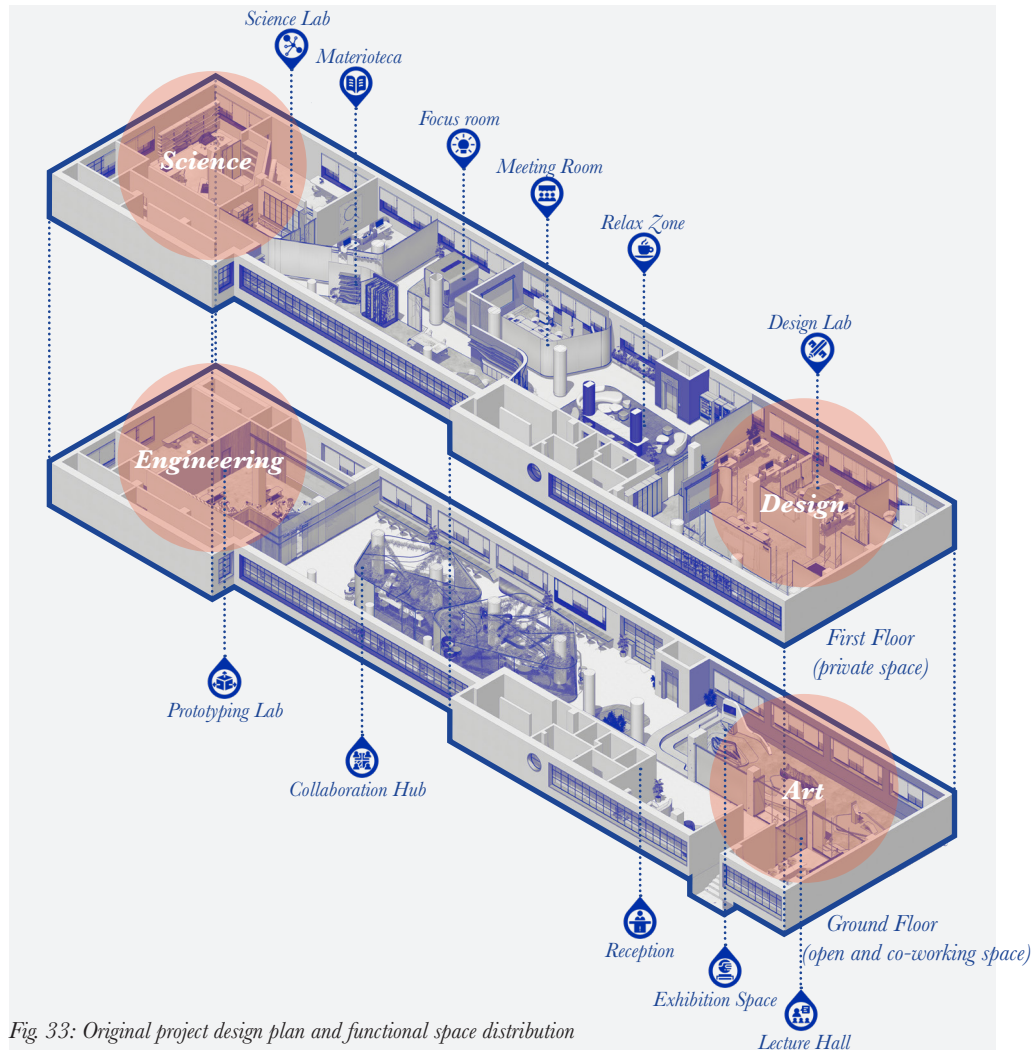


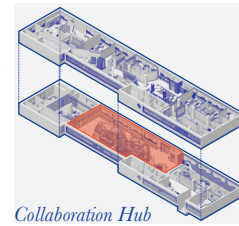
Fig. 33: Original project design plan and functional space distribution

Private and open working spaces: the first floor of the original design project is a private office space, mainly provided for project teams who work here for a long time. The ground floor is open and co-working space for all innovative workers (including long-term, short-term and related major student users).

Functional spaces: first floor (private): science lab, design lab, materioteca, meeting room, focus room and relax zoon; ground floor (open): prototyping lab, collaboration space, exhibition space, lecture hall and reception.

7.1.3 Redesign part: Collaboration Hub

Collaboration space is the focus of research in this consolidation thesis. The design chapter will further research and redesign the collaborative space part of the Contest Design Studio project.



Original design plan analysis

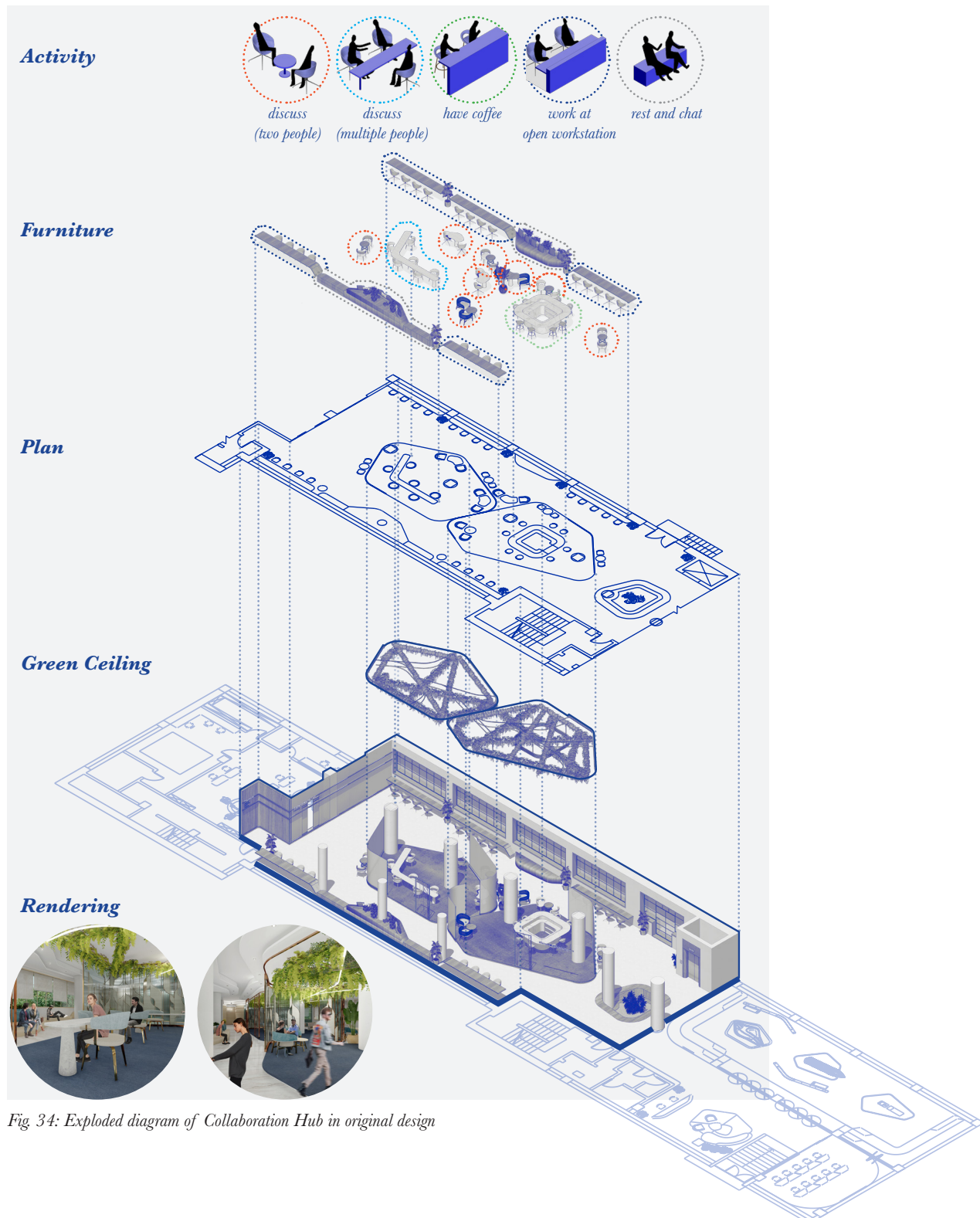


Fig 34: Exploded diagram of Collaboration Hub in original design

Advantages: 1.biophilic design benefits employee well-being; 2.large leisure and informal discussion areas create a relaxed social atmosphere.

Disadvantages: 1.the original work did not fully take into account the diversity of user activities in the Collaboration Hub, such as focused thinking, brainstorming, formal and informal meetings, face-to-face collaboration and collaboration with remote colleagues, etc., which all require different types of spaces. 2.it did not take into account neurodiversity, for example some people prefer to work in open spaces and some prefer to work in relatively closed quiet spaces. 3.furniture in the central area is disordered and scattered, and the overall area is more like a leisure area. The one-sided linear workstation near the window is not conducive to promoting collaborative activities.

The Collaboration Hub carries important collaborative functions throughout the co-working space. As shown in Figure 35, innovative workers from all over the place gather here, and the design of the Collaboration Hub should provide corresponding space support for their activities.

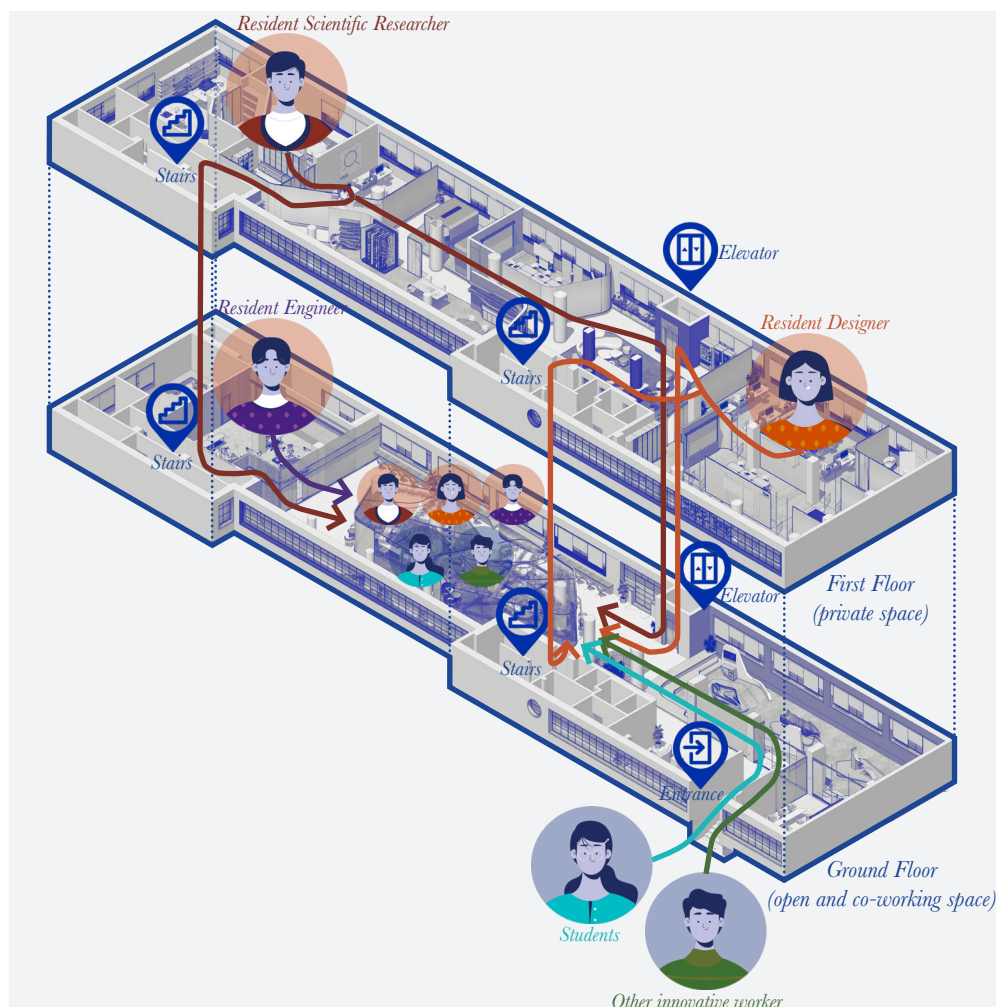


Fig 35: Users of the Collaboration Hub and their arrival trajectories

7.2 Design drivers

Space design drivers can be mainly divided into three contents: user type, the experience provided by the space and unique characteristics of the space.

7.2.1 Target users

As mentioned in the 7.1 project introduction, the users of the co-working space (including the ground floor and the first floor) are innovative workers, including:

1. long-term user: scientific research teams and design teams on the first floor, and the engineering teams working with them.
2. short-term users: innovative workers from other individuals or organizations and students from nearby universities or colleges.

As part of this co-working space, the Collaboration Hub is open to all long-term and short-term innovative workers (including students). Users of the Collaboration Hub are mainly divided into three categories: scientific researchers, designers and engineers.

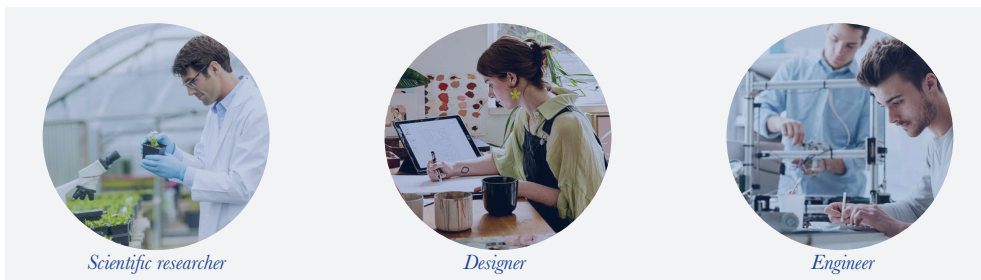


Fig 36: Target user types of the Collaboration Hub

7.2.2 Interview: user needs

Through interviews with innovative workers around the area where the project is located, we understand the main needs of potential users in order to shape and provide the activity spaces that users need in collaboration. The interviews mainly focused on three aspects: user activities, employee well-being and technology drivers.

Questions:

- What activities require collaboration in your daily work?
- What kind of space experience can meet your expectations for well-being?
- What technologies do you think can support your collaboration with colleagues?

The survey results are shown on the next page. Although the needs of each major group may be very similar, the differentiated needs of individuals also need to be considered.

The answer to: What activities require collaboration in your daily work?

	<i>Work content</i>	<i>Detailed description</i>	<i>Activity form</i>	<i>Corresponding space</i>
Scientific researcher	Data Sharing and Analysis	Collaboratively managing and sharing research data with team members.	Group discussion	Booth, Discussion room or area
		Conducting data analysis collectively using statistical tools and software.		
	Experiment Design and Planning	Collaborating on the design and planning of experiments or research studies.	Group discussion	Booth, Discussion room or area
		Discussing methodologies, variables, and potential challenges.		
	Results and Findings	Sharing and discussing preliminary and final research results.	Group discussion	Booth, Discussion room or area
		Collaboratively interpreting data and drawing conclusions.		
	Peer Review	Participating in peer review processes for research papers.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Providing constructive feedback on colleagues' work.		
	Lab Meetings and Seminars	Participating in regular lab meetings or seminars to discuss ongoing research.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Sharing updates on individual projects and seeking input from colleagues.		
Collaboration with External Partners	Collaborating with researchers from other institutions or industry partners.	Meeting	Meeting room	
	Facilitating communication and coordination between different research groups.			
Training and Skill Development	Sharing expertise and skills within the research team.	Training	Training room	
	Collaboratively organizing training sessions or workshops.			
Designer	Brainstorming Sessions	Designers collaborate to generate and share ideas for a project.	Group discussion	Huddle, Booth, Discussion area, Stand-up space
		Use of whiteboards, sticky notes or mind mapping tools to capture and organize thoughts.		
	Concept Development	Collaborative sketching or prototyping to explore and refine design concepts.	Group discussion	Booth, Discussion room or area
		Sharing and critiquing different design iterations.		
	Design Reviews	Regular meetings to review and discuss design progress.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Providing constructive feedback and suggestions for improvement.		
	Client Collaboration	Involving clients in the design process through collaborative workshops or presentations.	Workshop	Open collaborative area, Meeting room
Gathering client feedback and incorporating it into the design.				
Cross-Functional Collaboration	Collaborating with other departments to ensure design aligns with overall project goals.	Meeting	Meeting room	
Training and Skill Development	Sharing knowledge and skills within the team through training sessions or mentorship.	Training	Training room	
Engineer	Design Collaboration	Collaborating on the design of products, systems, or structures.	Group discussion	Booth, Discussion room or area
		Sharing and reviewing design schematics, blueprints, and CAD models.		
	Brainstorming and Ideation	Participating in brainstorming sessions to generate creative ideas for solving engineering challenges.	Group discussion	Huddle, Booth, Discussion area, Stand-up space
		Collaborating on the conceptualization of new projects or features.		
	Problem-Solving Sessions	Collaboratively addressing engineering problems and challenges.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Brainstorming solutions and evaluating their feasibility.		
	Meetings and Updates	Participating in regular team meetings to discuss progress, challenges, and updates.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Providing status updates on individual tasks.		
	Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration	Collaborating with engineers from different disciplines to integrate various components of a project.	Meeting	Meeting room
		Interacting with professionals from other departments.		
Training and Skill Development	Sharing technical skills and knowledge through training sessions.	Training	Training room	
	Collaboratively participating in professional development opportunities.			
Client Collaboration	Engaging with clients to understand requirements and expectations.	Meeting	Meeting room	
	Collaboratively iterating on designs based on client feedback.			

The answer to: What kind of space experience can meet your expectations for well-being?

	<i>Space experience</i>	<i>Detailed description</i>	<i>Design elements</i>	<i>Corresponding space</i>
Sensory	<i>Comfortable Furniture</i>	<i>Ergonomic chairs and desks that support good posture.</i>	<i>Ergonomic furniture</i>	
		<i>Adequate desk space for tools and materials.</i>		
	<i>Natural Light</i>	<i>Designing workspaces with ample natural light to reduce eye strain and improve mood.</i>	<i>Light</i>	
		<i>Incorporating adjustable window coverings to control light levels.</i>		
	<i>Task Lighting</i>	<i>Providing adjustable task lighting to reduce eye strain during detailed design work.</i>	<i>Light</i>	
		<i>Allowing users to control the lighting in their immediate workspace.</i>		
	<i>Inspiring Aesthetics</i>	<i>Incorporating elements of inspiration, such as artwork, design samples, or mood boards.</i>	<i>Decoration</i>	
		<i>Using a color scheme and layout that fosters creativity and focus.</i>		
	<i>Greenery and Biophilic Design</i>	<i>Introducing plants and natural elements into the workspace.</i>	<i>Plant</i>	
		<i>Incorporating biophilic design principles for a connection to nature.</i>		
<i>Cafe and Healthy Food Options</i>	<i>Offering access to healthy food options in cafe or break areas.</i>		<i>Cafe and dining area</i>	
	<i>Creating communal spaces for shared meals and breaks.</i>			
Work	<i>Flexible Workspaces</i>	<i>Providing options for standing desks or flexible seating arrangements.</i>	<i>Flexible and moveable furniture</i>	<i>Open collaborative area</i>
		<i>Designing versatile spaces that accommodate different work styles and preferences.</i>		
	<i>Quiet and Focused Work Areas</i>	<i>Designating quiet zones for focused work or concentration.</i>	<i>Sound-absorbing materials</i>	<i>Focus room</i>
		<i>Implementing sound-absorbing materials to reduce noise levels.</i>		
	<i>Breakout Areas and Relaxation Spaces</i>	<i>Designing comfortable breakout areas for relaxation and informal meetings.</i>		<i>Breakout Areas and Relaxation Spaces</i>
		<i>Incorporating features like lounge seating and recreational activities.</i>		
	<i>Technology Integration</i>	<i>Providing access to the latest design tools and technology.</i>	<i>Technical support</i>	
		<i>Ensuring reliable and fast internet connectivity for seamless work.</i>		
	<i>Well-Defined Work-Life Boundaries</i>	<i>Encouraging a healthy work-life balance by defining clear boundaries.</i>	<i>Area boundaries</i>	
	<i>Professional Development Opportunities</i>	<i>Providing opportunities for skill development and continuing education.</i>		<i>Training/meeting room /Open collaborative area</i>
<i>Supporting attendance at design conferences and workshops.</i>				

The answer to: What technologies do you think can support your collaboration with colleagues?

<i>High-speed internet</i>	<i>Communication Platforms</i>	<i>Real-time collaboration tools</i>	<i>Virtual meeting platform</i>
<i>Cloud Storage and File Sharing</i>	<i>Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR)</i>	<i>IoT (Internet of Things) Development Platforms</i>	<i>Artificial intelligence system</i>

7.2.3 User portraits

Persona 1

Scientific researcher

“Every sustainable material we discover is a step closer to a greener, more responsible future.”

Maira



Age: 30

User type: long-term

Key Attributes:

- Holds a Ph.D. in Sustainable Materials Science.
- Published researcher with a focus on eco-friendly and renewable materials.

Short Description:

Maira is a dedicated researcher committed to advancing sustainable materials science, exploring innovative solutions for reducing environmental impact.

Needs:

- Collaboration with designers and engineers to apply research findings in real-world applications.
- Sensitive to noise and need to work in a quiet environment.

Challenges:

- Obsessed with research and seldom socializes
- Work-life balance

Opportunities:

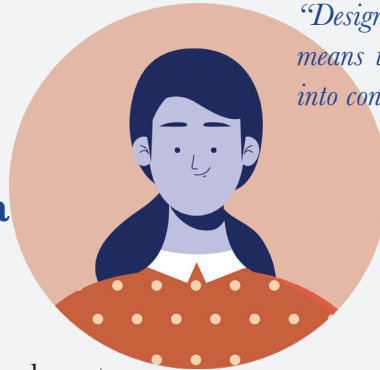
- Discuss the application and promotion of eco-friendly materials with professionals from various industries

Persona 2

Designer

“Designing with a green mindset means turning nature’s inspiration into conscious creations.”

Olivia



Age: 25

User type: long-term

Key Attributes:

- Environmental design advocate with a degree in Sustainable Design.
- Passionate about creating aesthetically pleasing designs with minimal environmental impact.

Short Description:

Olivia is a creative designer focused on integrating environmentally friendly materials into functional and visually appealing designs, aiming for a harmonious balance between form and sustainability.

Needs:

- Flexible collaboration space to adapt to fast-paced work needs.
- Collaborative design tools for real-time ideation.
- Personalized workspace inspires design

Challenges:

- Sitting for long periods of time while drawing design drawings caused physical discomfort. Unable to maintain one posture for a long time at work.

Opportunities:

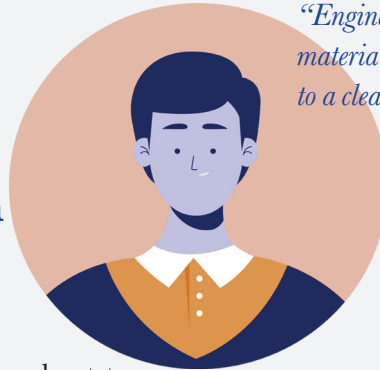
- Communicate with professionals in various fields to expand more knowledge and better assist design capabilities.

Persona 3

Engineer

“Engineering with sustainable materials is about building a bridge to a cleaner and smarter tomorrow.”

Ethan



Age: 34

User type: short-term

Key Attributes:

- Holds a degree in Environmental Engineering.
- Specializes in developing sustainable technologies and applications.

Short Description:

Ethan is an innovative engineer dedicated to implementing environmentally friendly materials in technological solutions, striving for a balance between technological advancements and ecological responsibility.

Needs:

- Collaborate with materials researchers and designers to implement eco-friendly solutions into projects.
- Work remotely with colleagues around the world to prototype and test on a real-time collaboration platform.
- Choose working methods independently according to work needs.

Challenges:

Often faced with work challenges, the psychological pressure is relatively high.

Opportunities:

Improve problem-solving skills by communicating with people from different professions.

7.2.4 Proposed activities and corresponding space

Based on previous research, interviews and case studies, a series of activities that take place in the Collaboration Hub are proposed to meet the different needs of target users. While some activities are available to all users, some are designed to address the specific needs or issues of some users. These activities are divided into two main types: collaborate and social, and are composed of sub-activities that can be linked to other activities in different groups when needed. Through the analysis of activities, four functional spaces were finally obtained to meet these activities: multi-functional collaboration area, multi-functional booth, multi-sized meeting room, and leisure area.

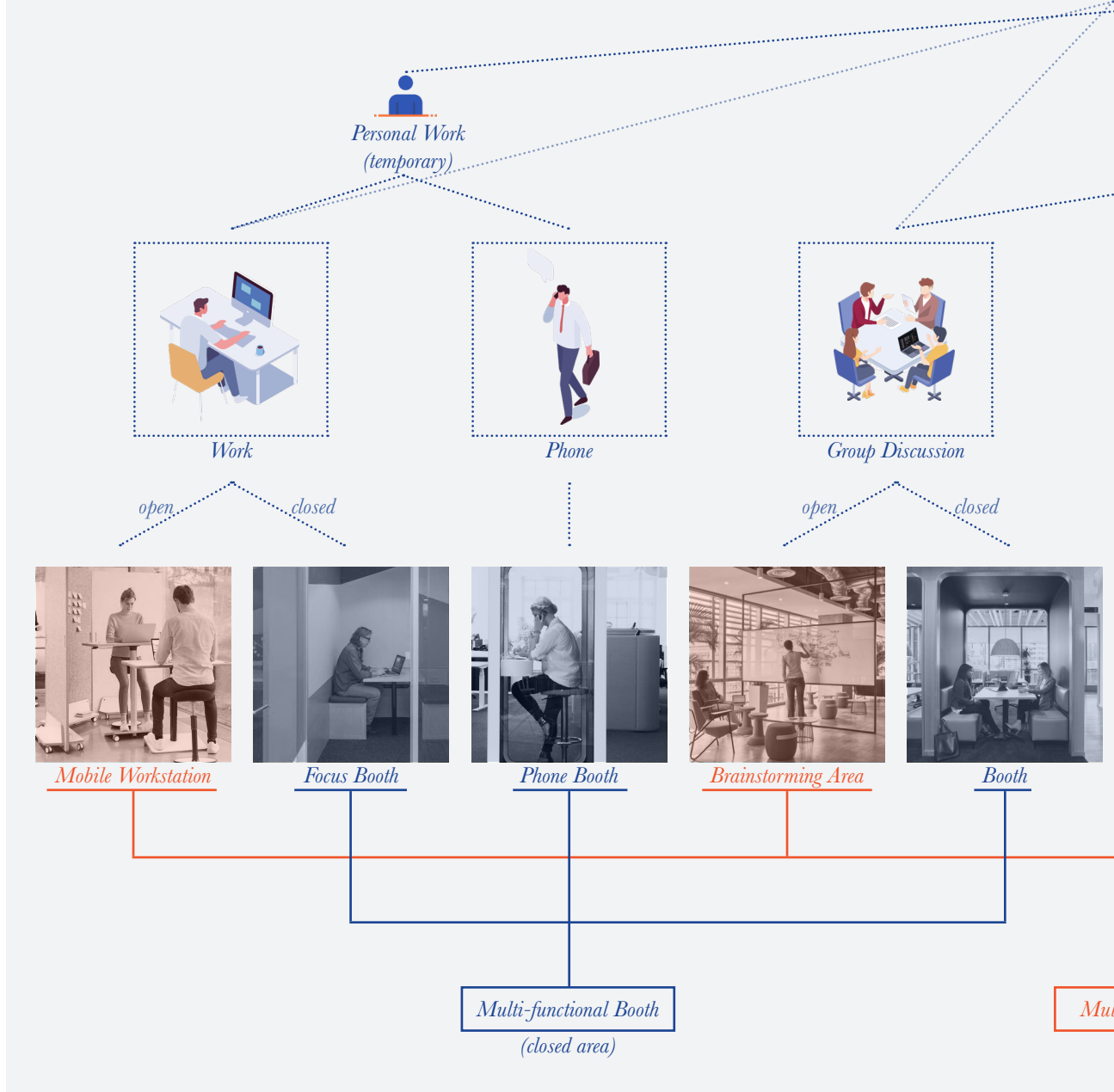
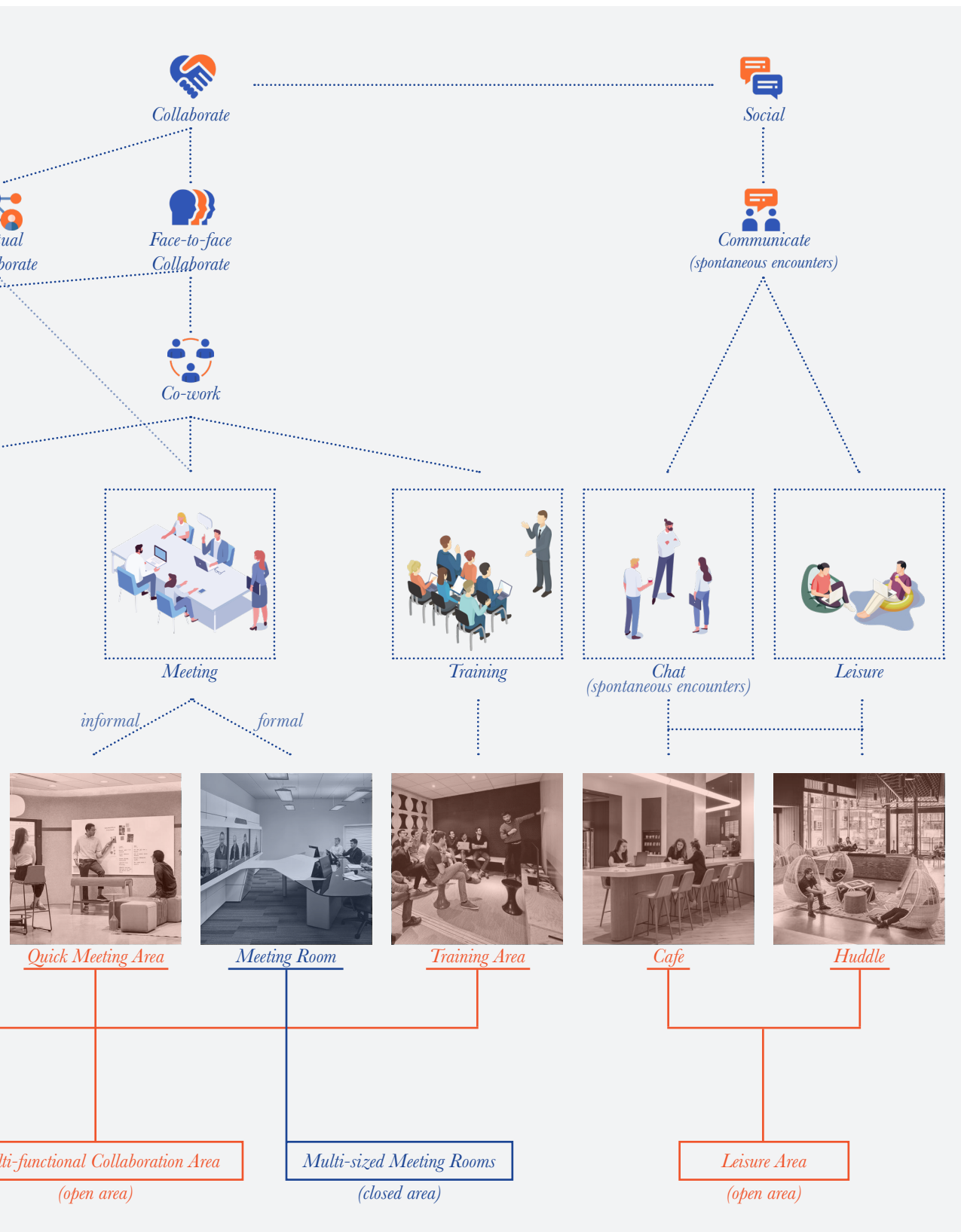


Fig. 37: Activity types and corresponding spaces in the Collaboration Hub



7.2.5 Service diagram

In the Collaboration Hub, the four functional spaces that have been identified are: multi-functional collaboration area, multi-functional booth, multi-sized meeting room, and leisure area. As shown in Figure 38, visualize functional areas, users involved, activities that users can do in the space, features of the space and technical support through bubble diagramming.

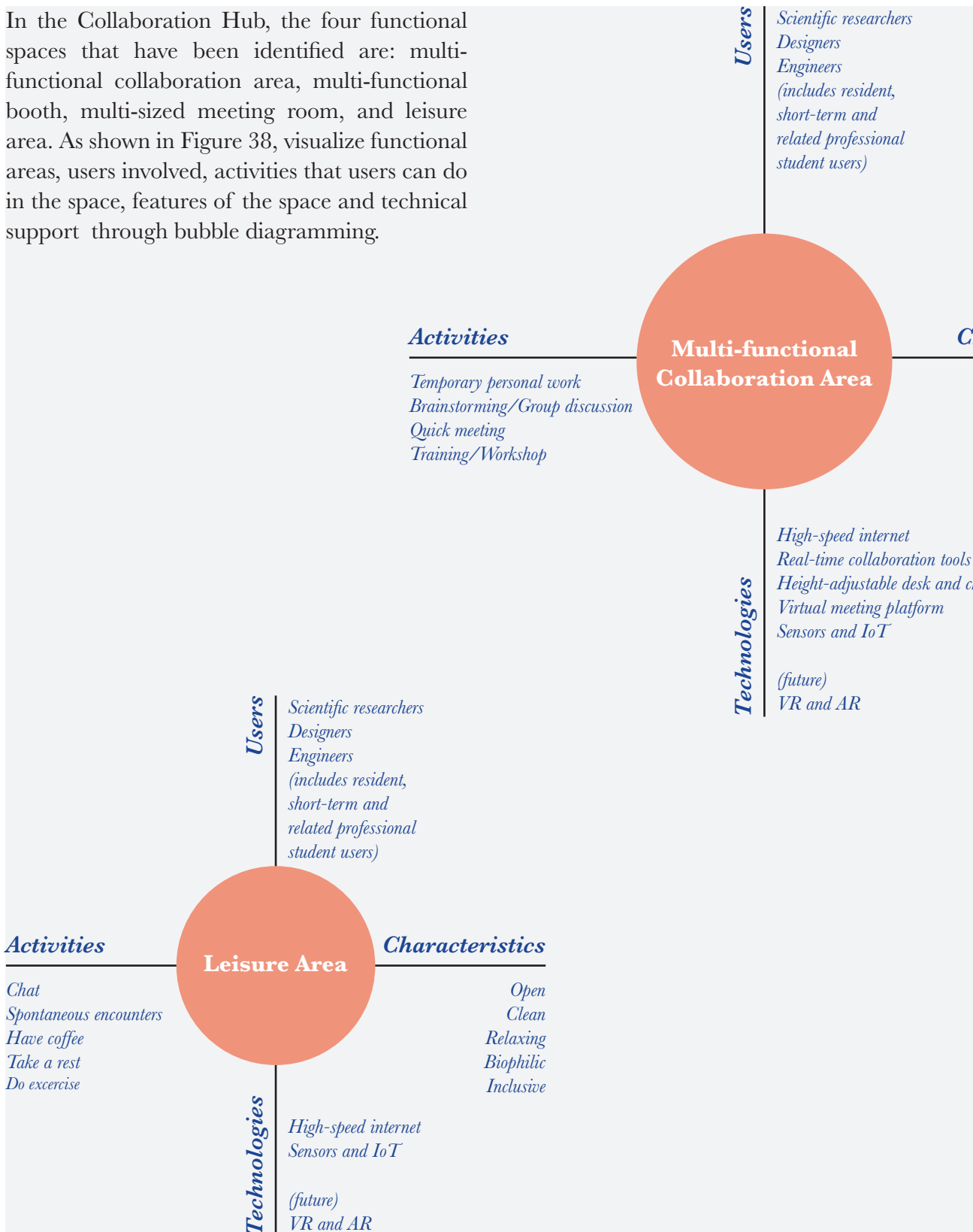
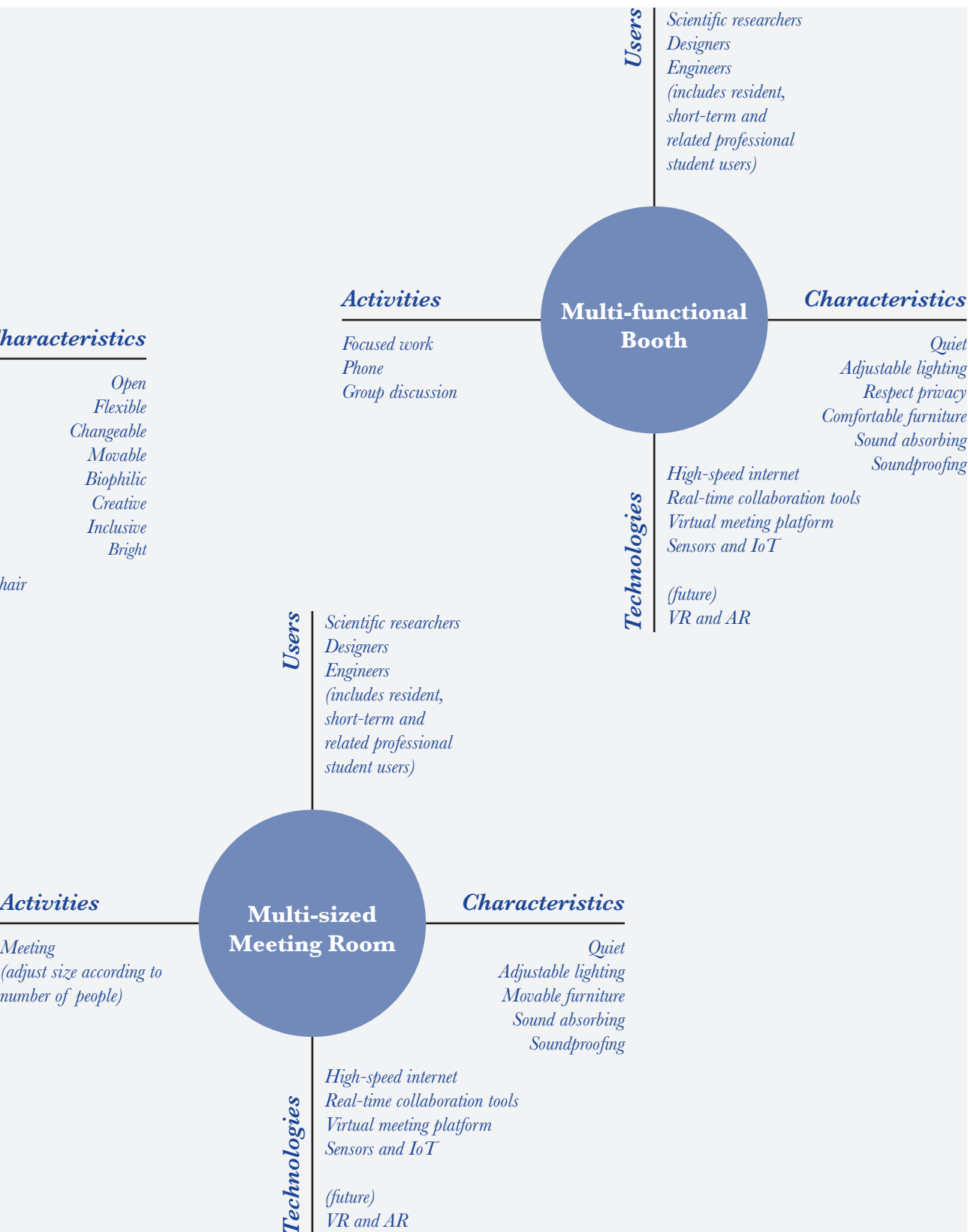


Fig. 38: Service diagram of functional spaces in the Collaboration Hub



7.2.6 User experience

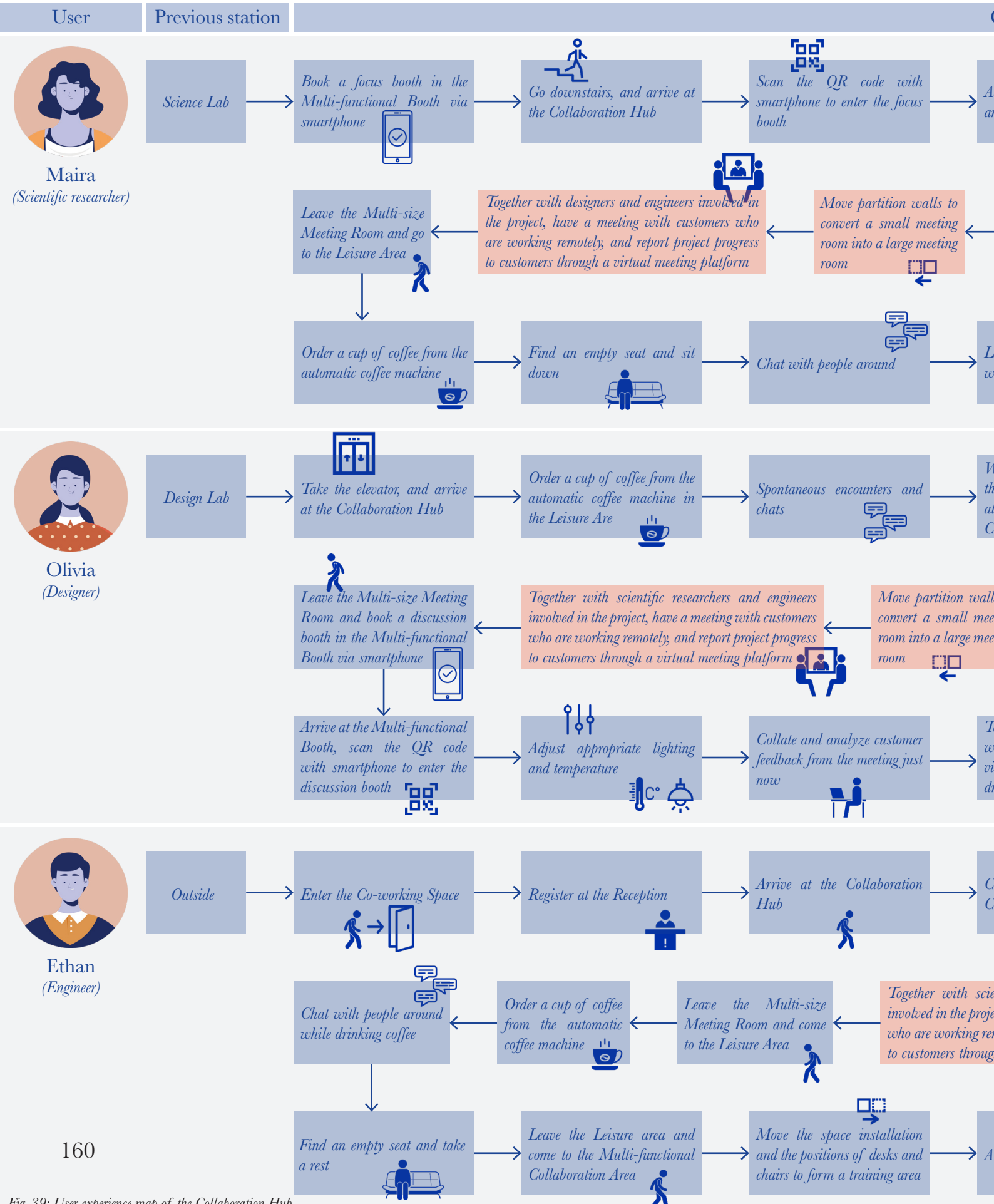


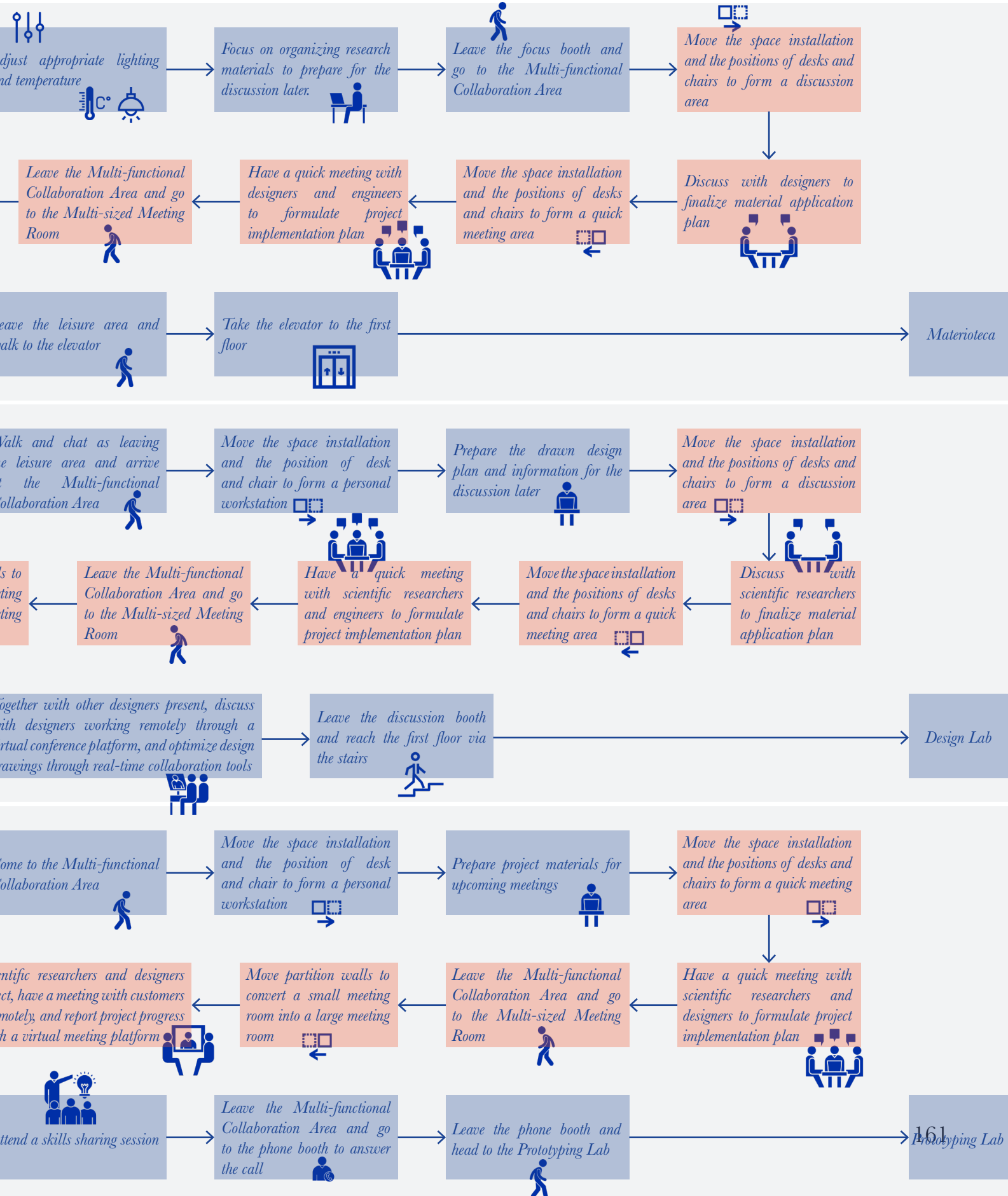
Fig. 39: User experience map of the Collaboration Hub

Individual experience

Collaboration experience

Collaboration Hub

Next station



7.2.7 Visual journey

Collect and clusterize images that can inspire the atmosphere of those functional areas, turn the user experience into a visual journey.



Fig 40: Visual journey map of the Collaboration Hub

7.3 Concept

During the design-driven analysis process, the user types, space functions, and user experiences of the Collaboration Hub were determined. Next comes the concept development phase, exploring how to organize the functional spaces and infuse space with qualities and atmosphere.

7.3.1 Metaphor

The design inspiration of the space is closely connected with the cultural elements of Italy, the country where this project is located.

Scuola di Atene



Fig. 41: Scuola di Atene

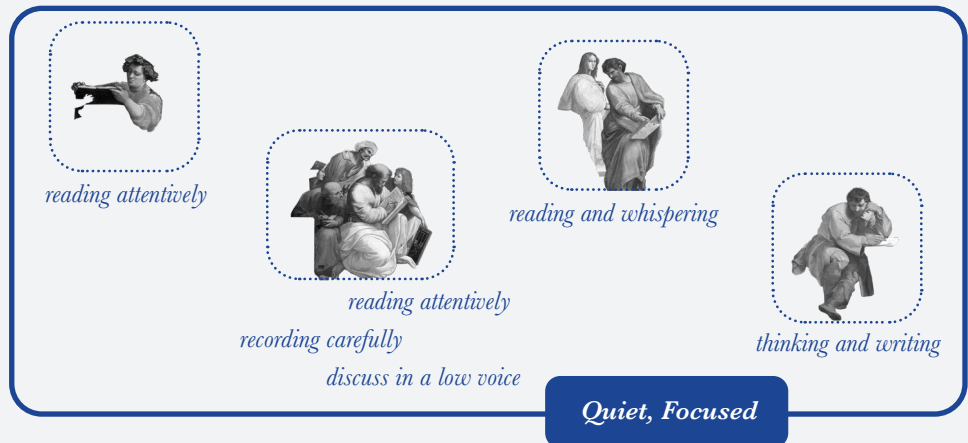
In the painting *Scuola di Atene*, Raphael gathered people from different periods in one space. More than fifty philosophers, artists, and scientists from ancient Greece, ancient Rome, and Italy of the painter's time gathered together. In this painting, we can see human wisdom and innovation crossing the divide of the times, closely linking the past, present and future. The scenes of brainstorming, intense discussions, and focused thinking among today's innovative workers in collaborative spaces remind me of the painting. By deconstructing the character activities and spatial distribution in the painting, the spatial layout of the collaboration center can be inspired.

Spatial divisions in the painting



Actions of the characters in the painting

Space atmosphere in the painting



Corresponding spatial distribution logic in interior design

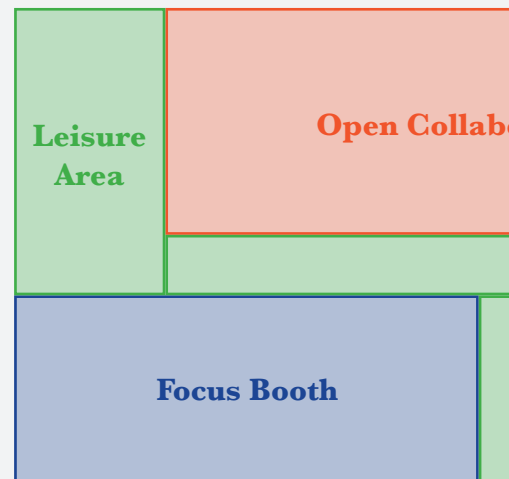
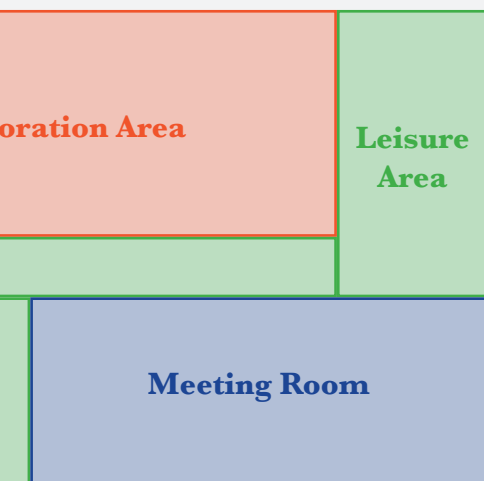
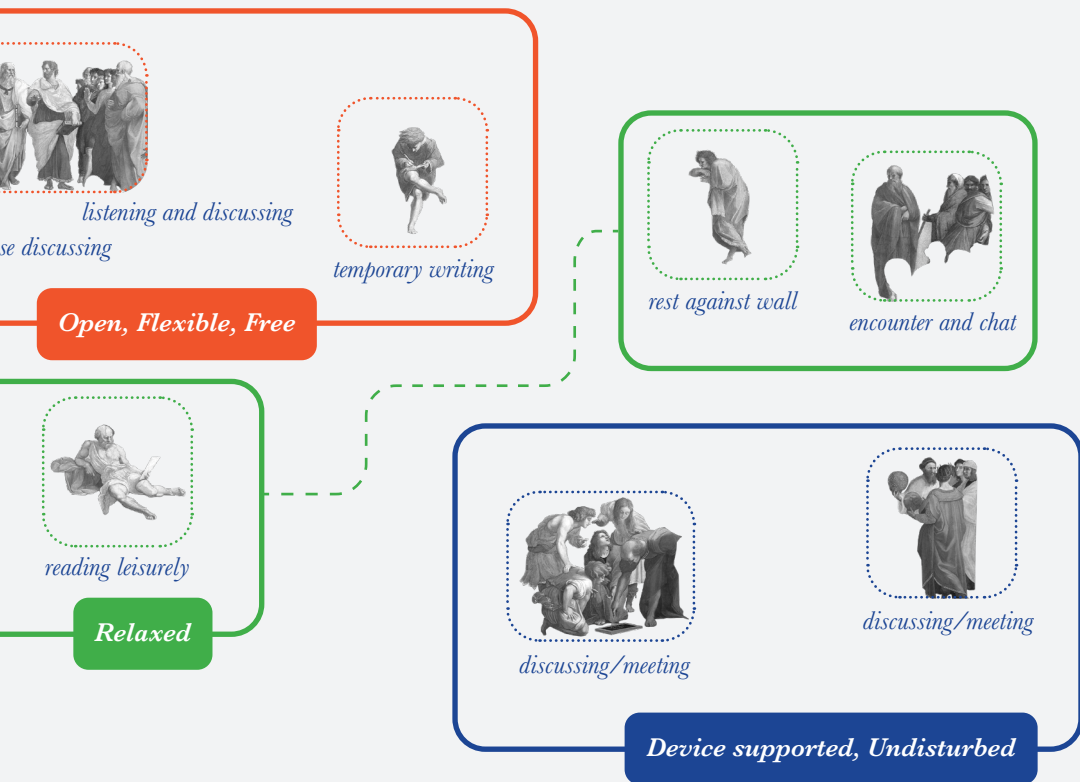


Fig 42: Analysis of the spatial atmosphere in the painting and the corresponding transformation space



7.3.2 Zoning

Main function distribution

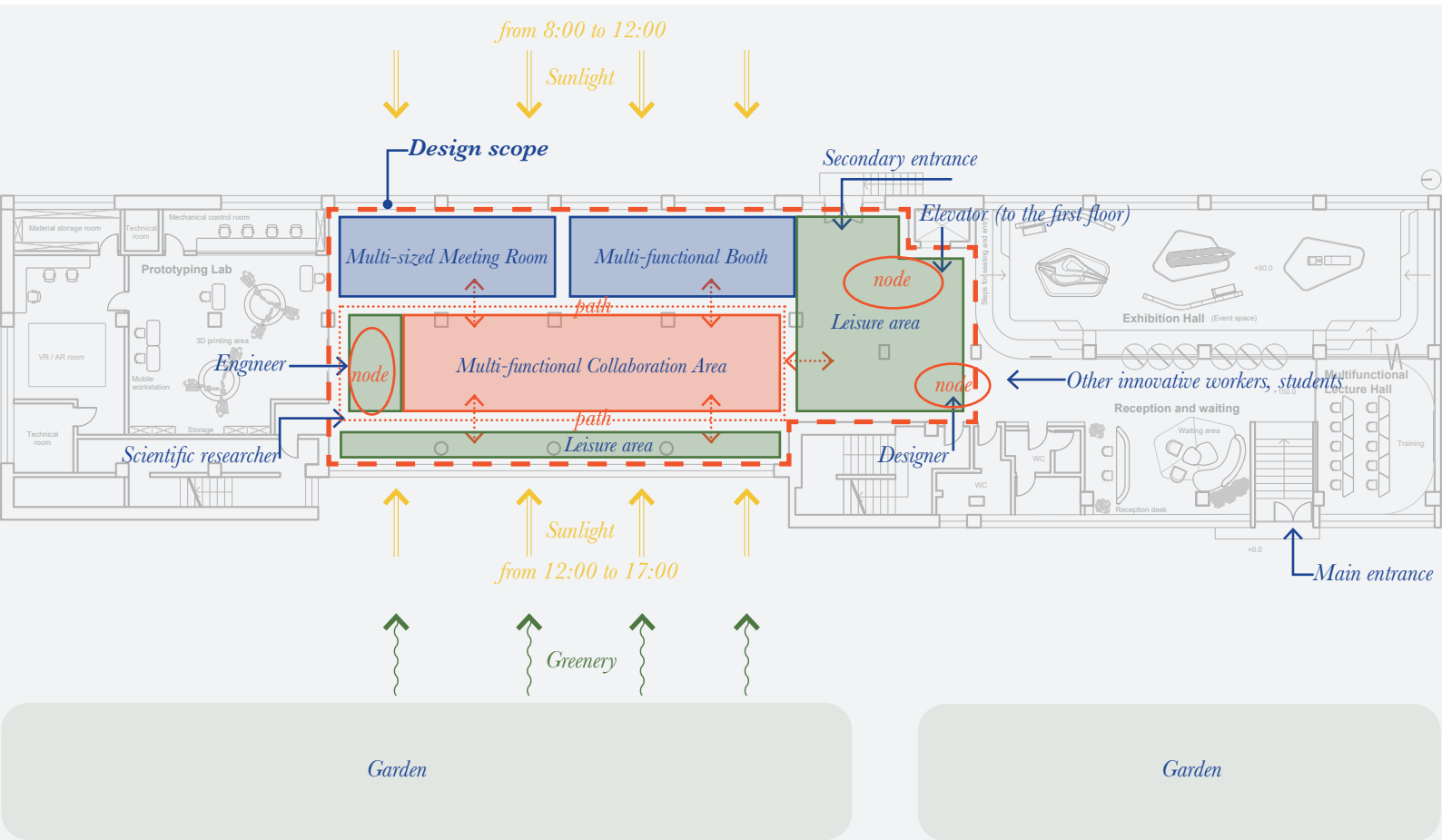


Fig 43: Initial functional space division

Improve the function

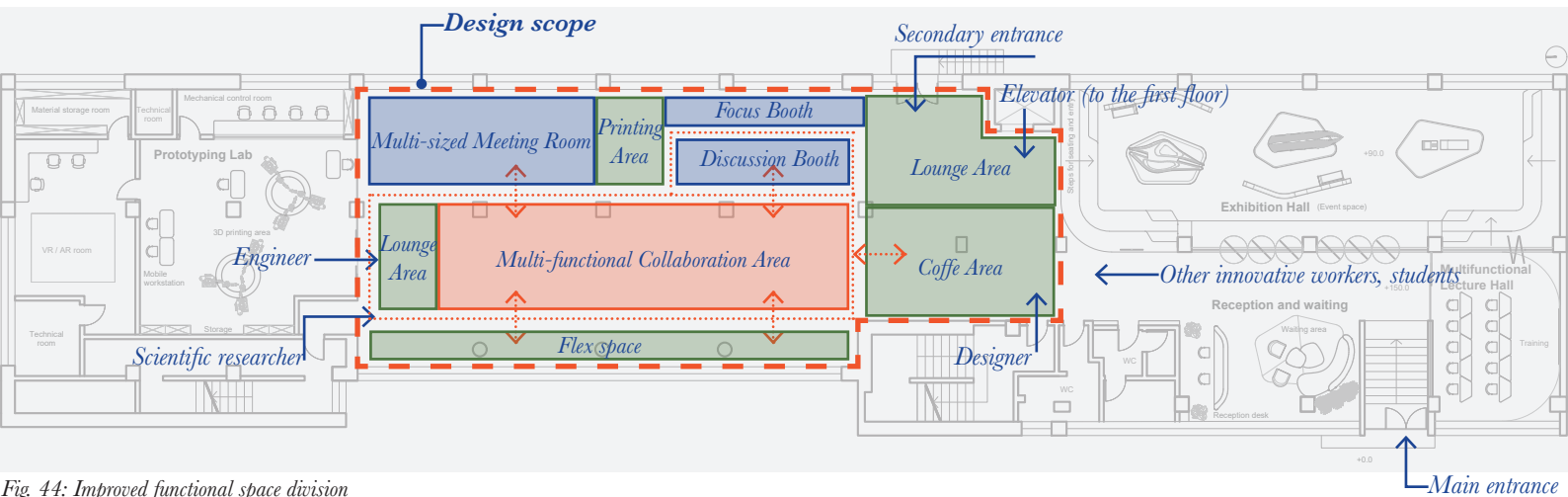
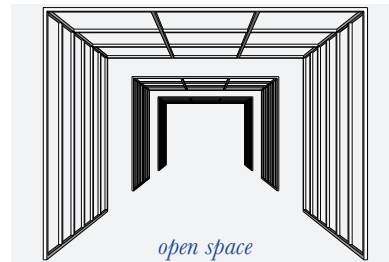


Fig 44: Improved functional space division

7.3.3 Identity of spaces

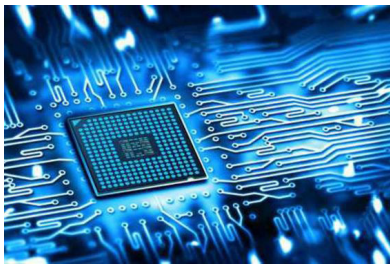
Scuola di Atene: wisdom and innovation



Spatial elements

Drawing on the method of space limitation in the central core area of the painting, the spatial elements are abstracted and simplified. The spatial limitation method of open collaboration space comes from this.

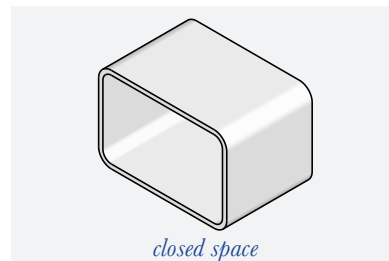
Technology: interconnection



Linear element

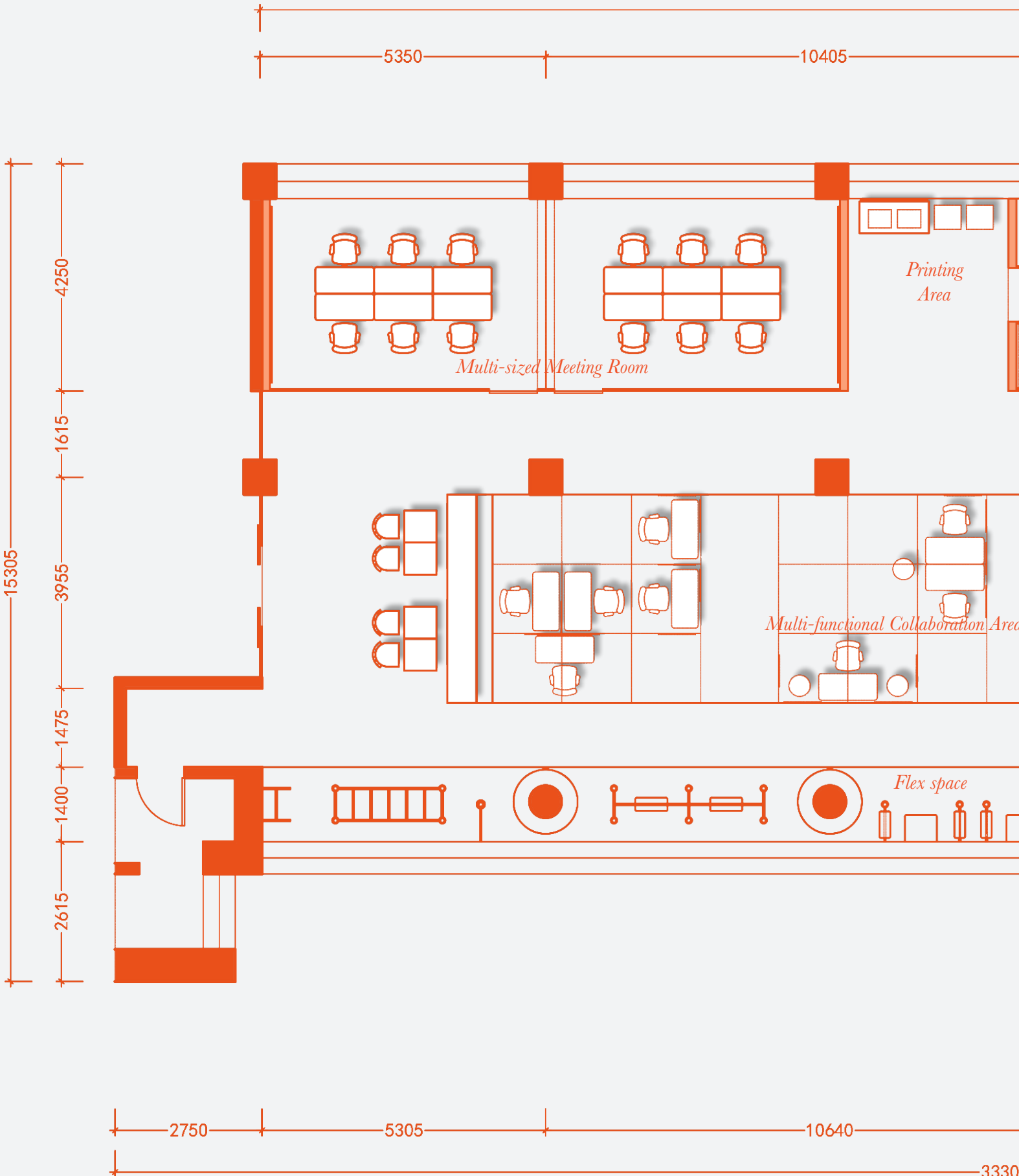
Linear elements symbolize the connection of spaces, connect onsite and remote. Reality and virtuality are connected. Everything is also connected through the Internet.

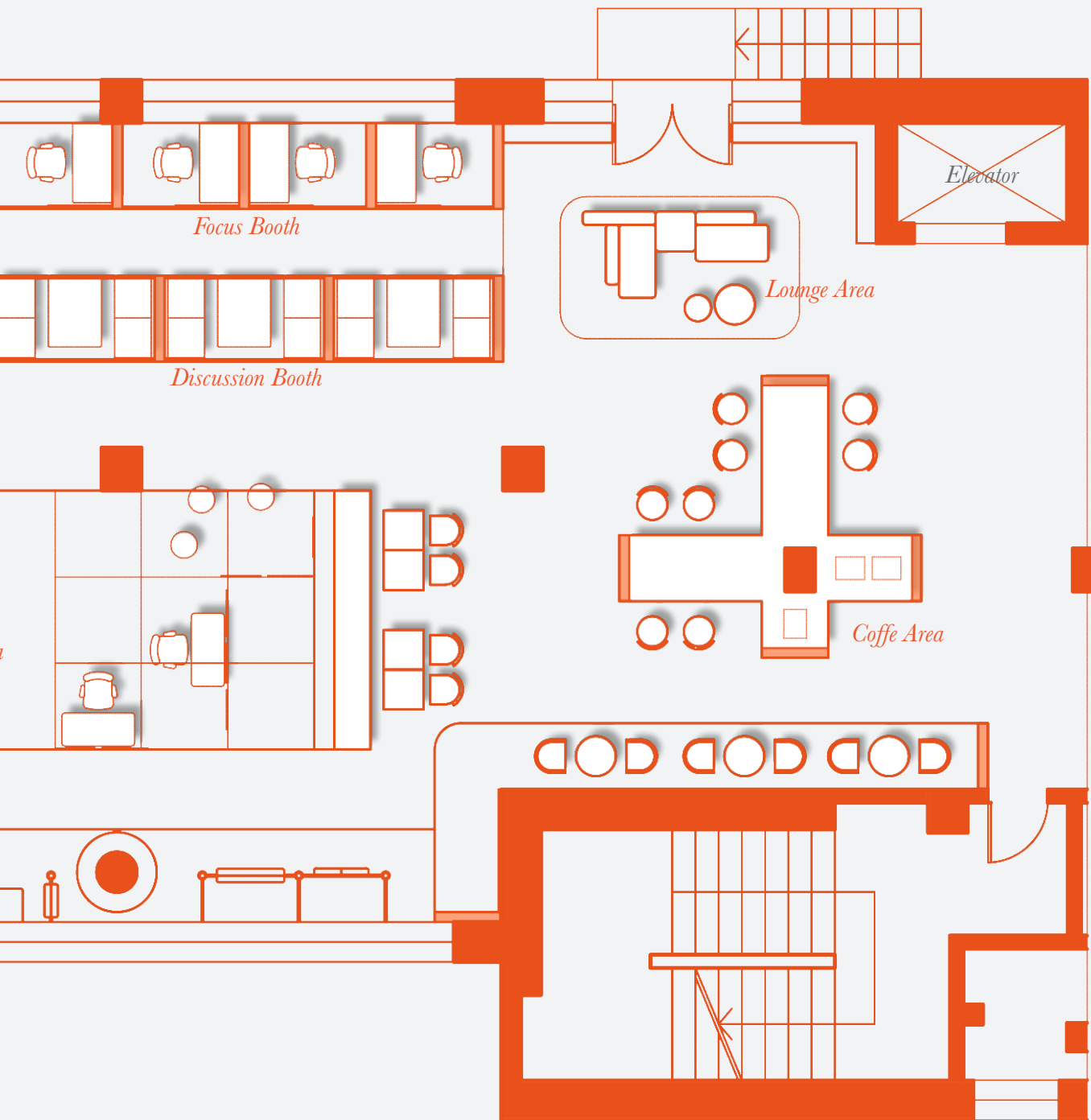
Space capsule: explore the future



The space capsule symbolizes the entrance into the future of exploration. The enclosed environment of the space capsule isolates external noise, and together with adjustable lighting, controllable temperature, and professional equipment, it provides an immersive atmosphere for focused work and discussion. At the same time, it also provides a good environment for entering the virtual world through VR devices.

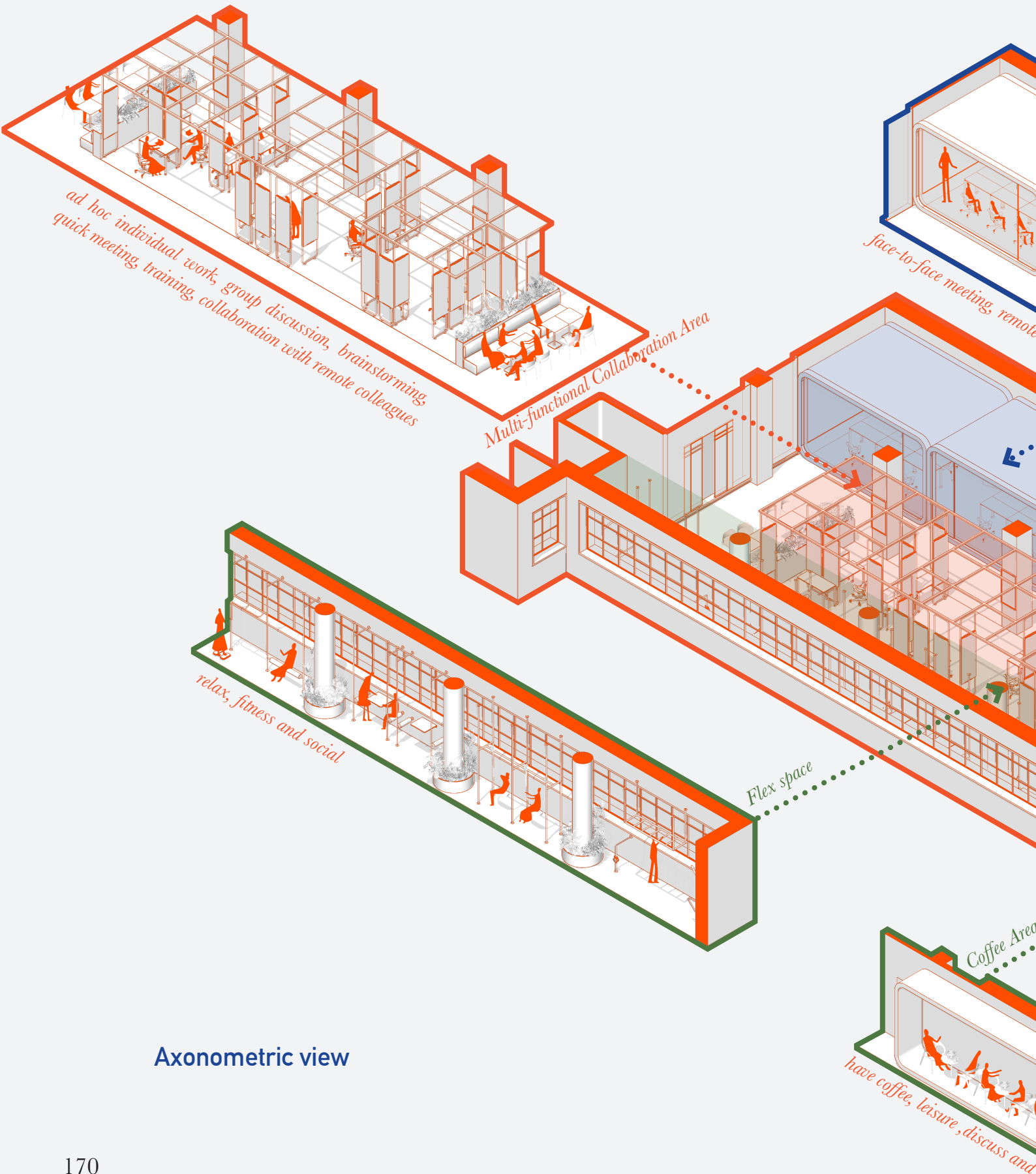
7.3.4 Plan



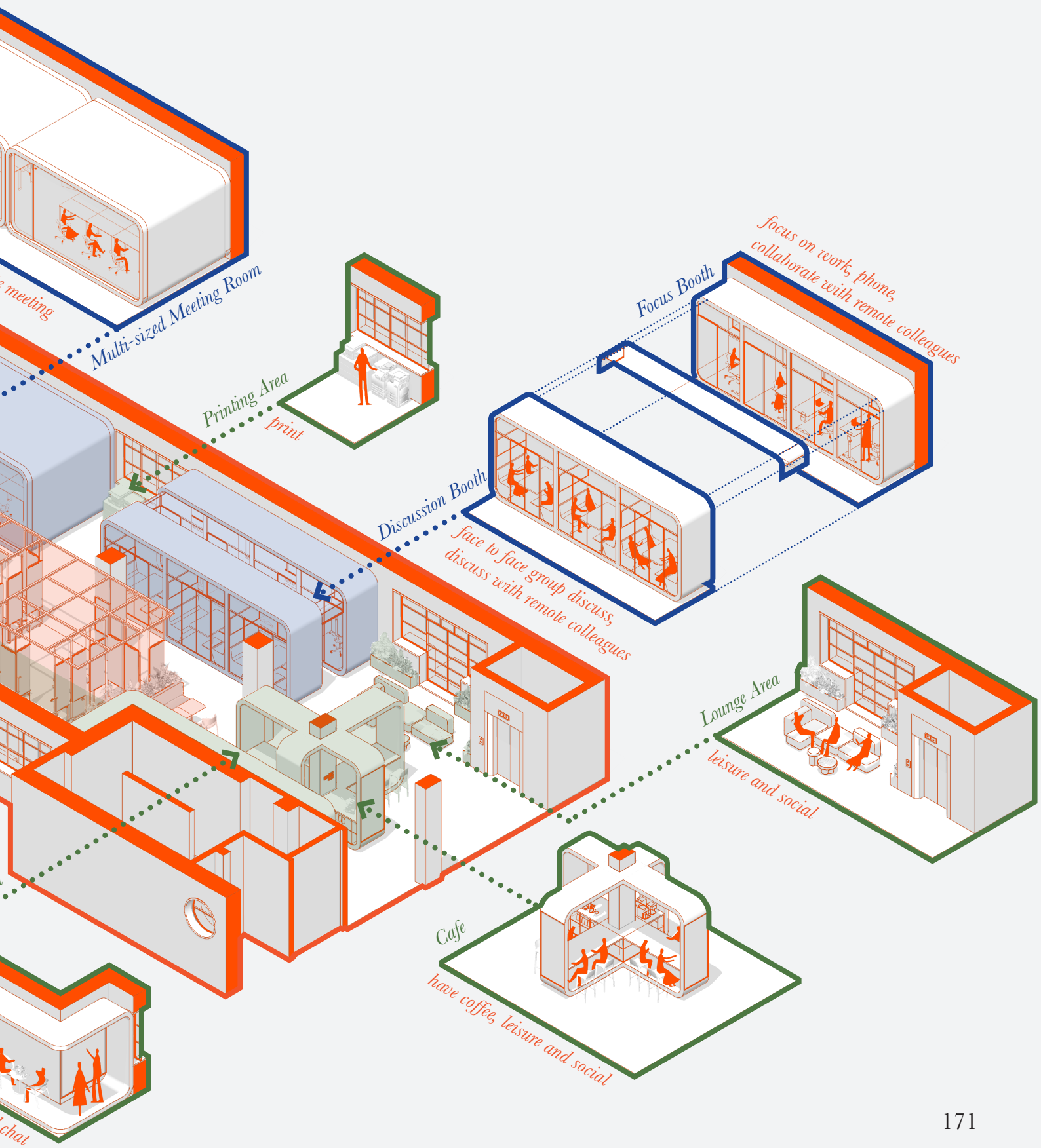


7.4 Detailed design

7.4.1 Activity-based workspace

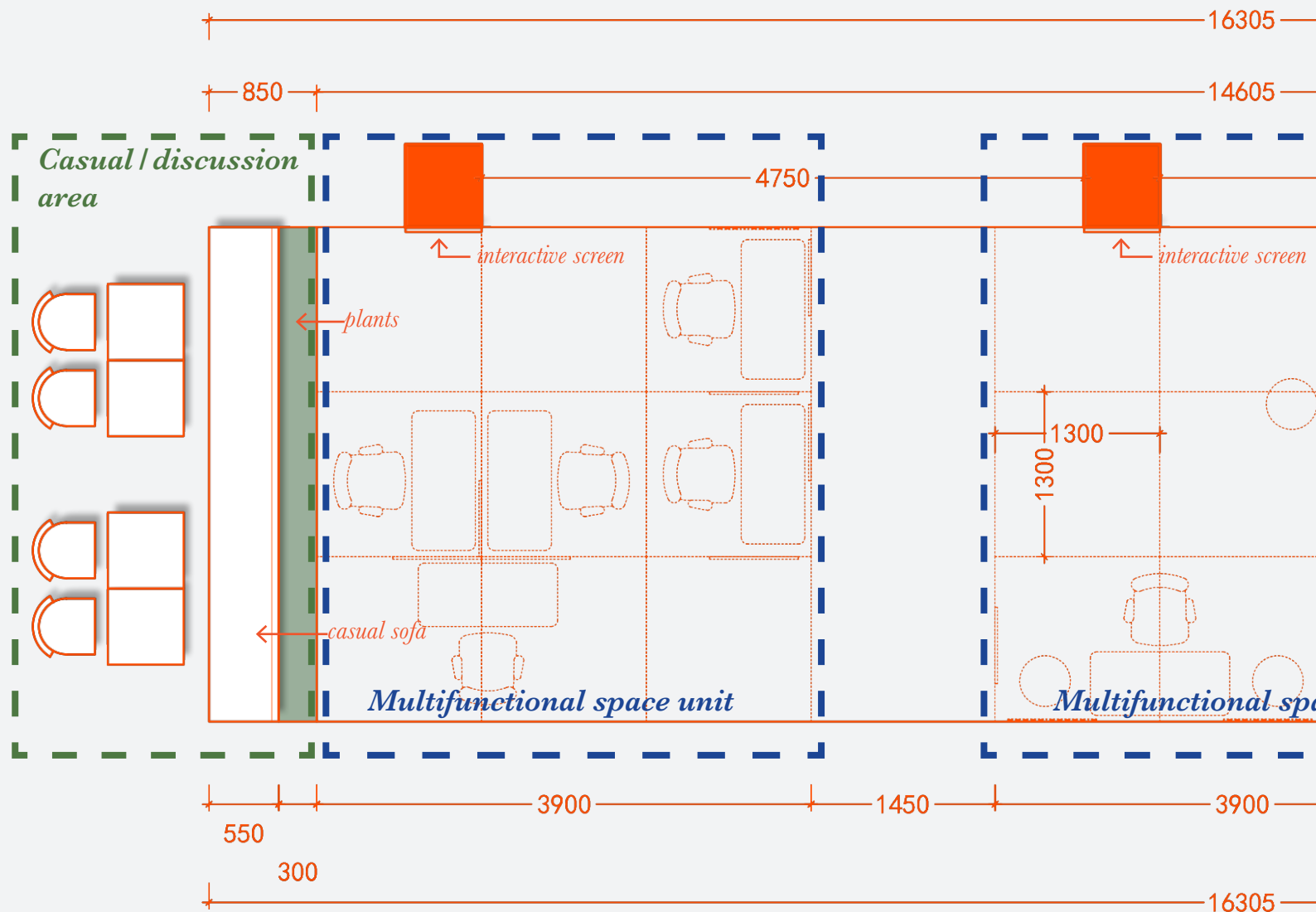


space
activities

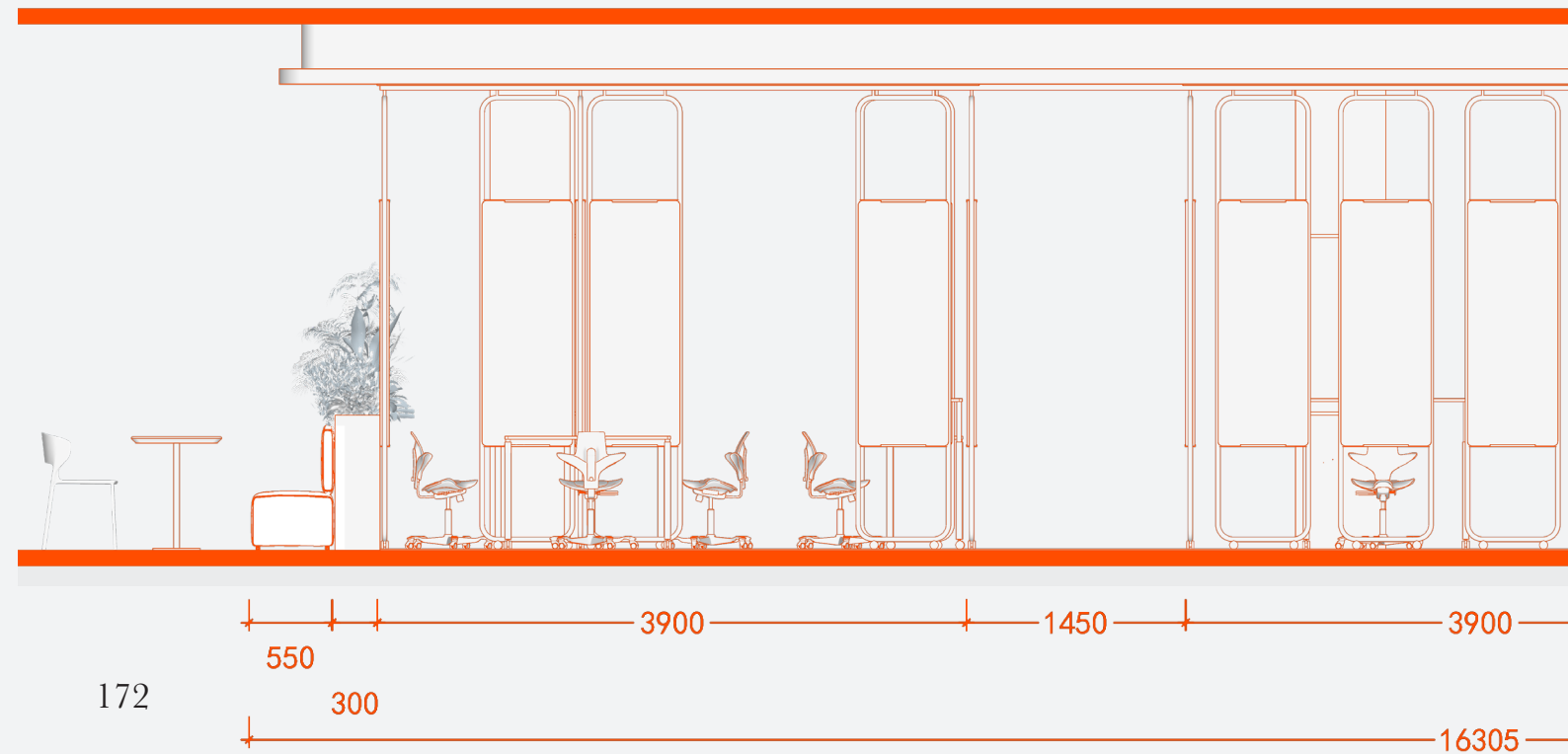


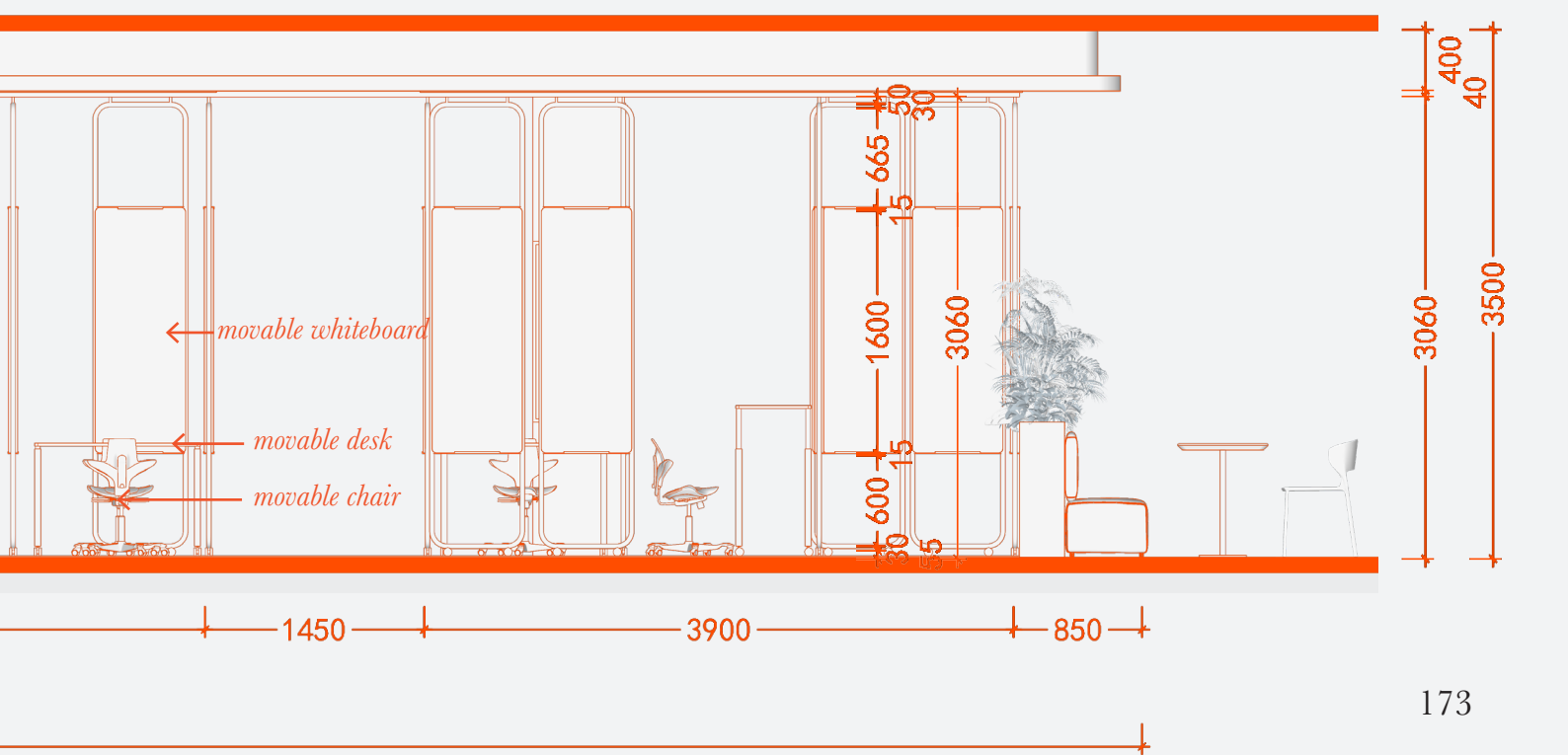
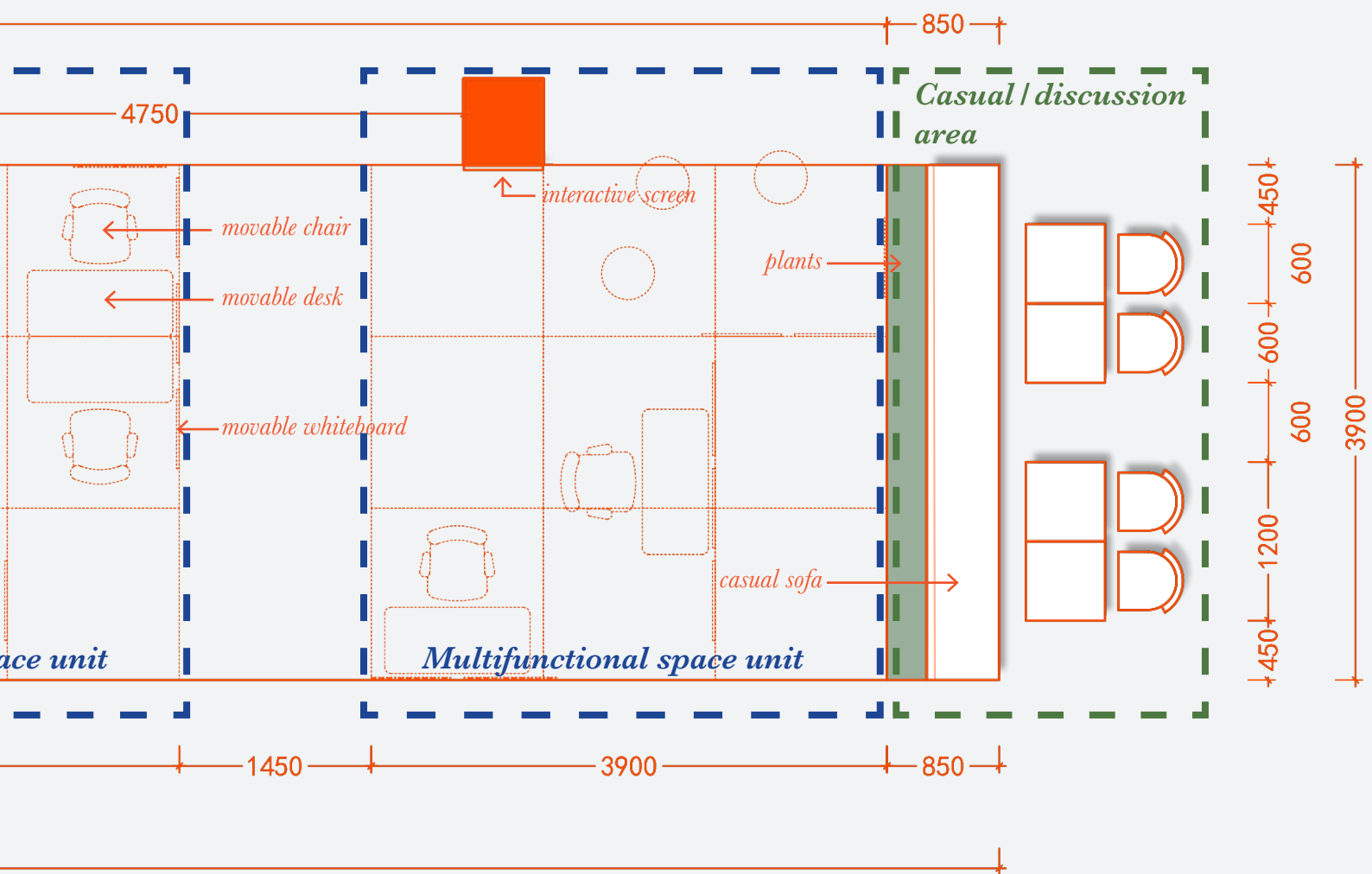
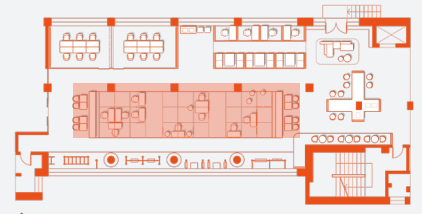
Multi-functional Collaboration Area

Plan

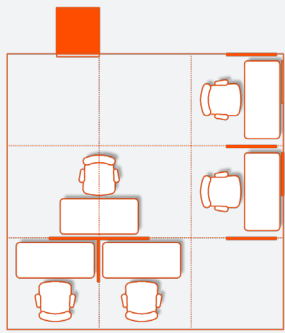


Elevation



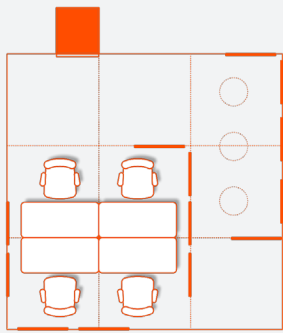


Multifunctional space unit: activity types



Ad hoc individual work

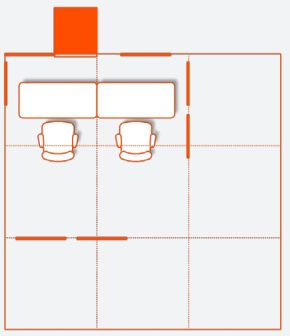




Group discussion/brainstorming

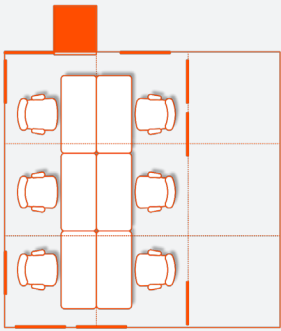


Multifunctional space unit: activity types



Collaboration with remote colleagues

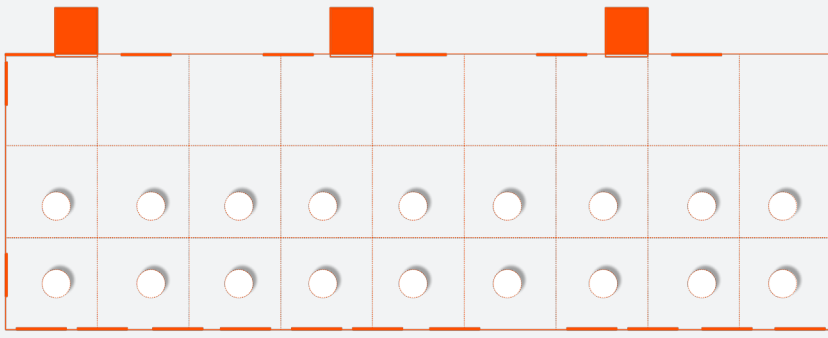




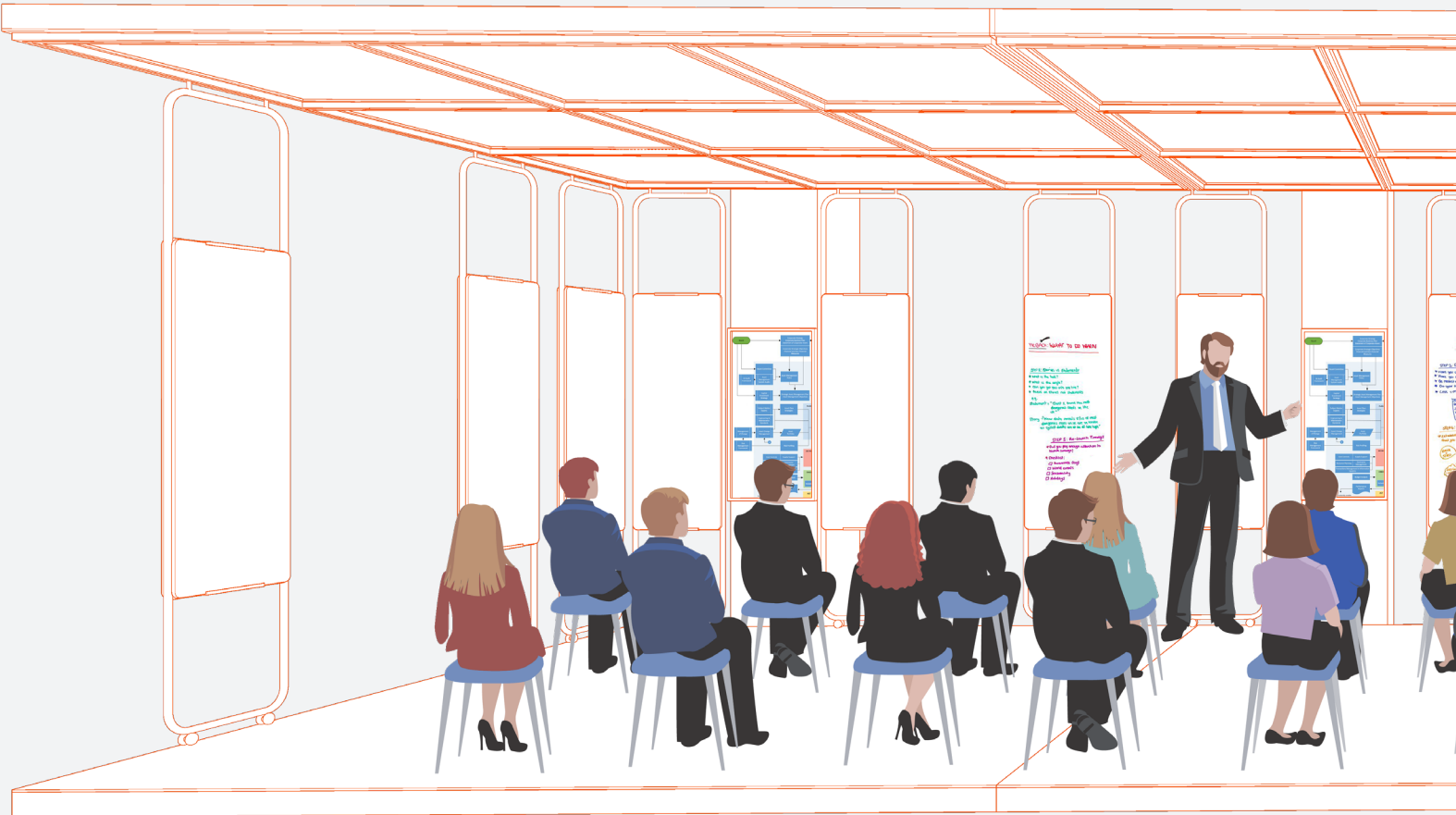
Quick meeting

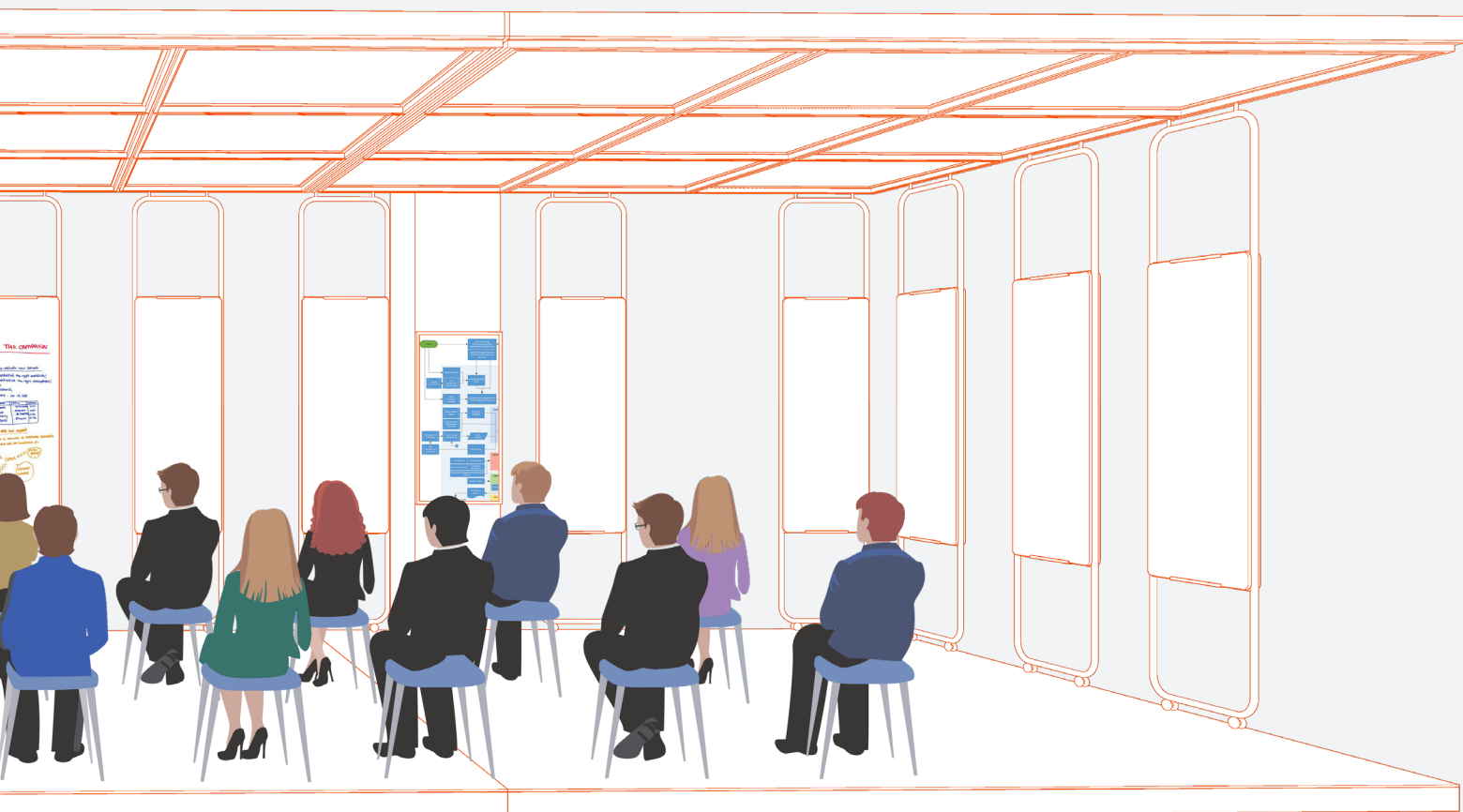


Multifunctional space - three units merged: activity type



Training

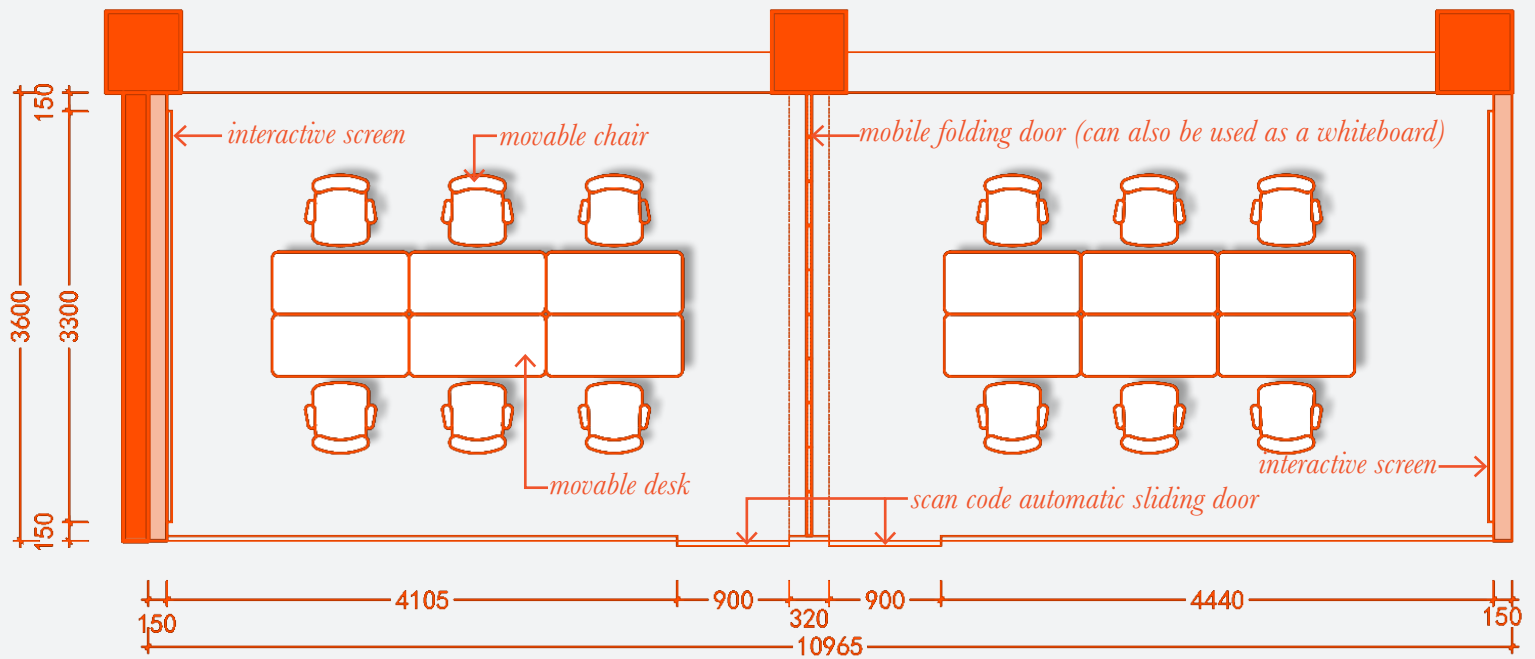




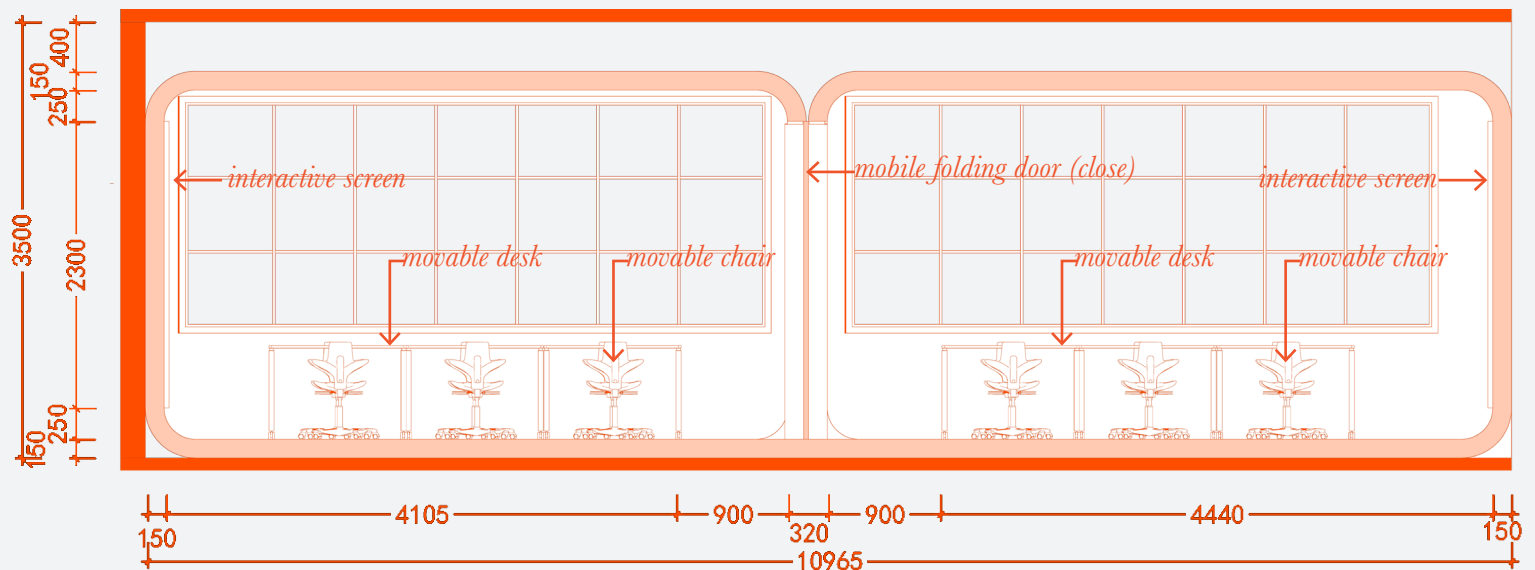
Multi-sized Meeting Room

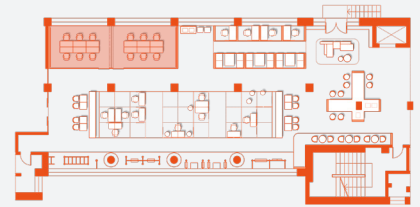
Plan 1

Close the mobile folding door: two 6-person meeting rooms



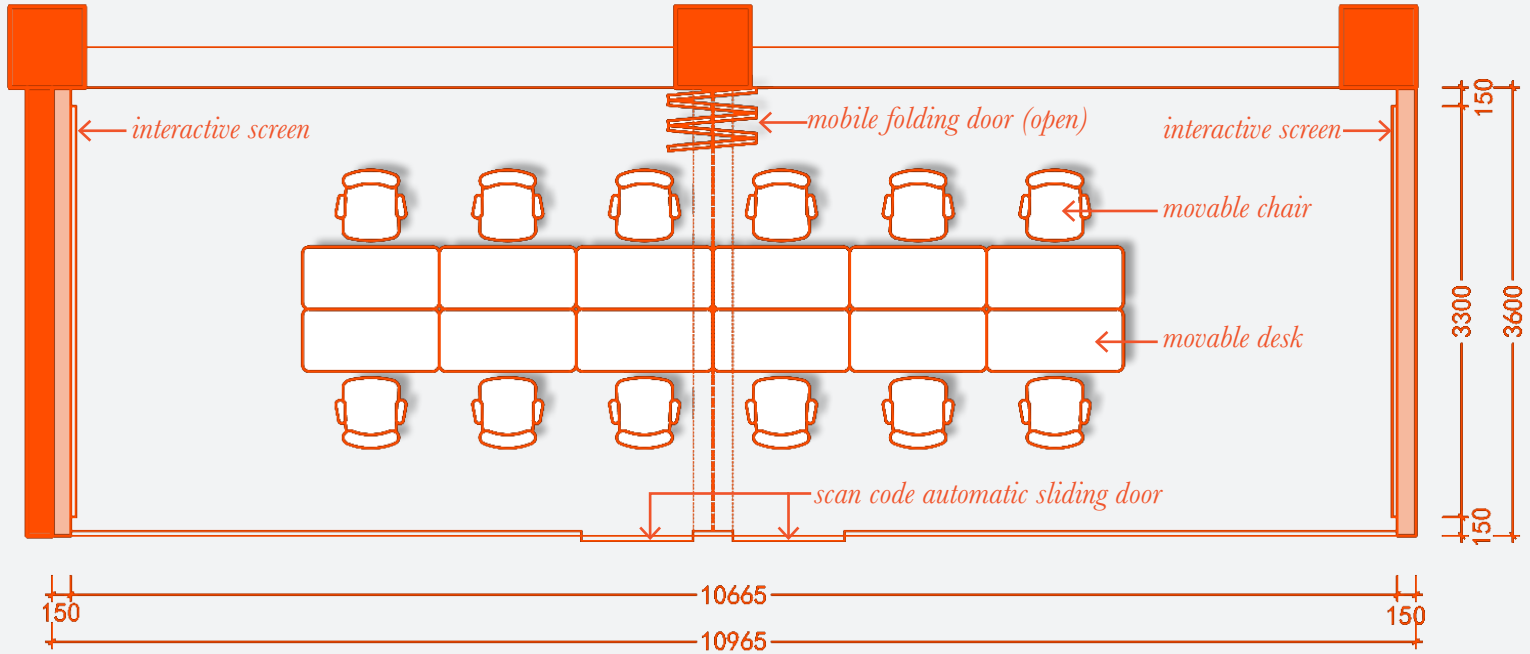
Elevation 1





Plan 2

Open the mobile folding door: one 12-person meeting room



Elevation 2



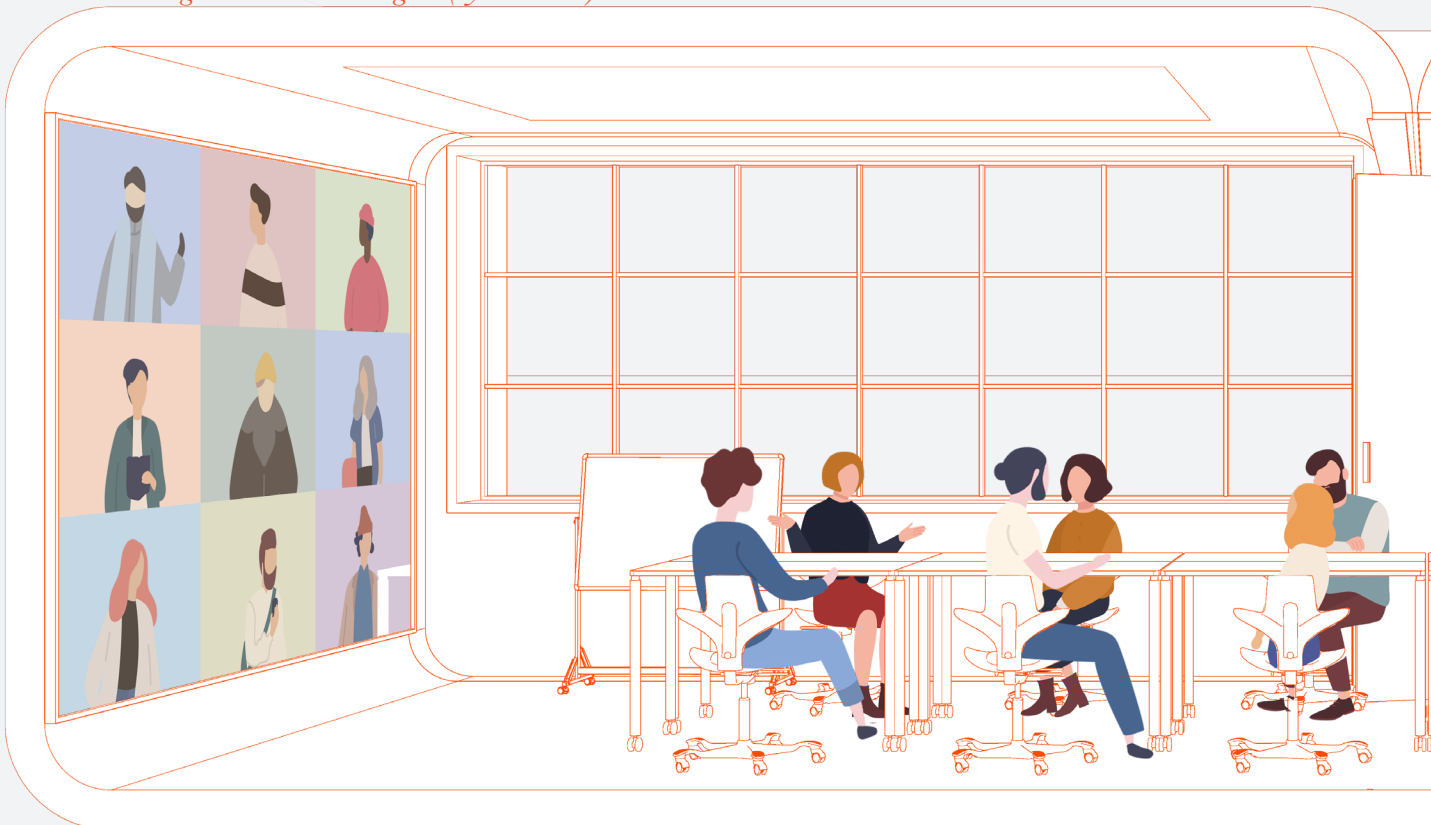
6-person meeting room: activity types

Meeting room 1: Meeting with remote colleagues (hybrid work)

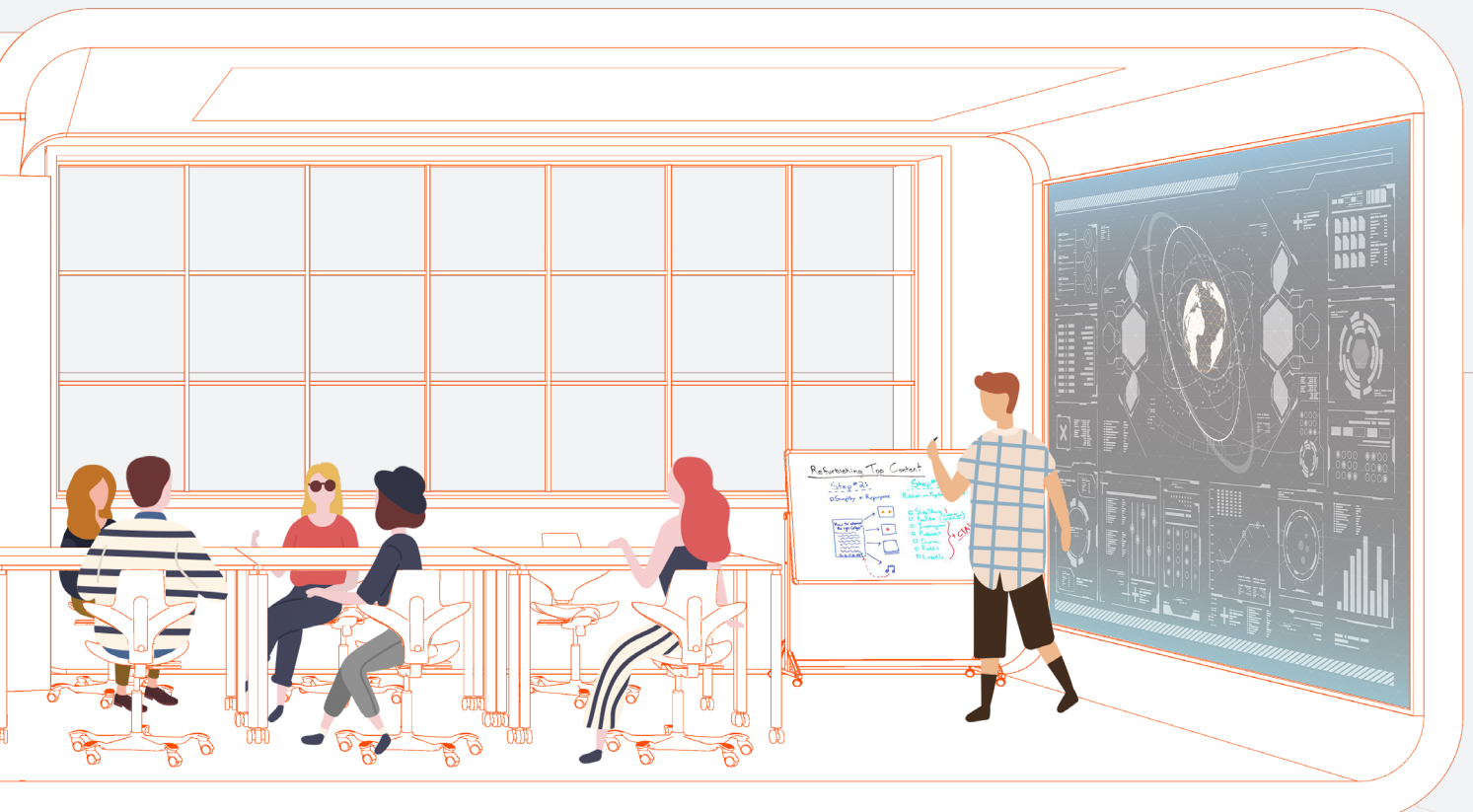


12-person meeting room: activity type

Meeting with remote colleagues (hybrid work)

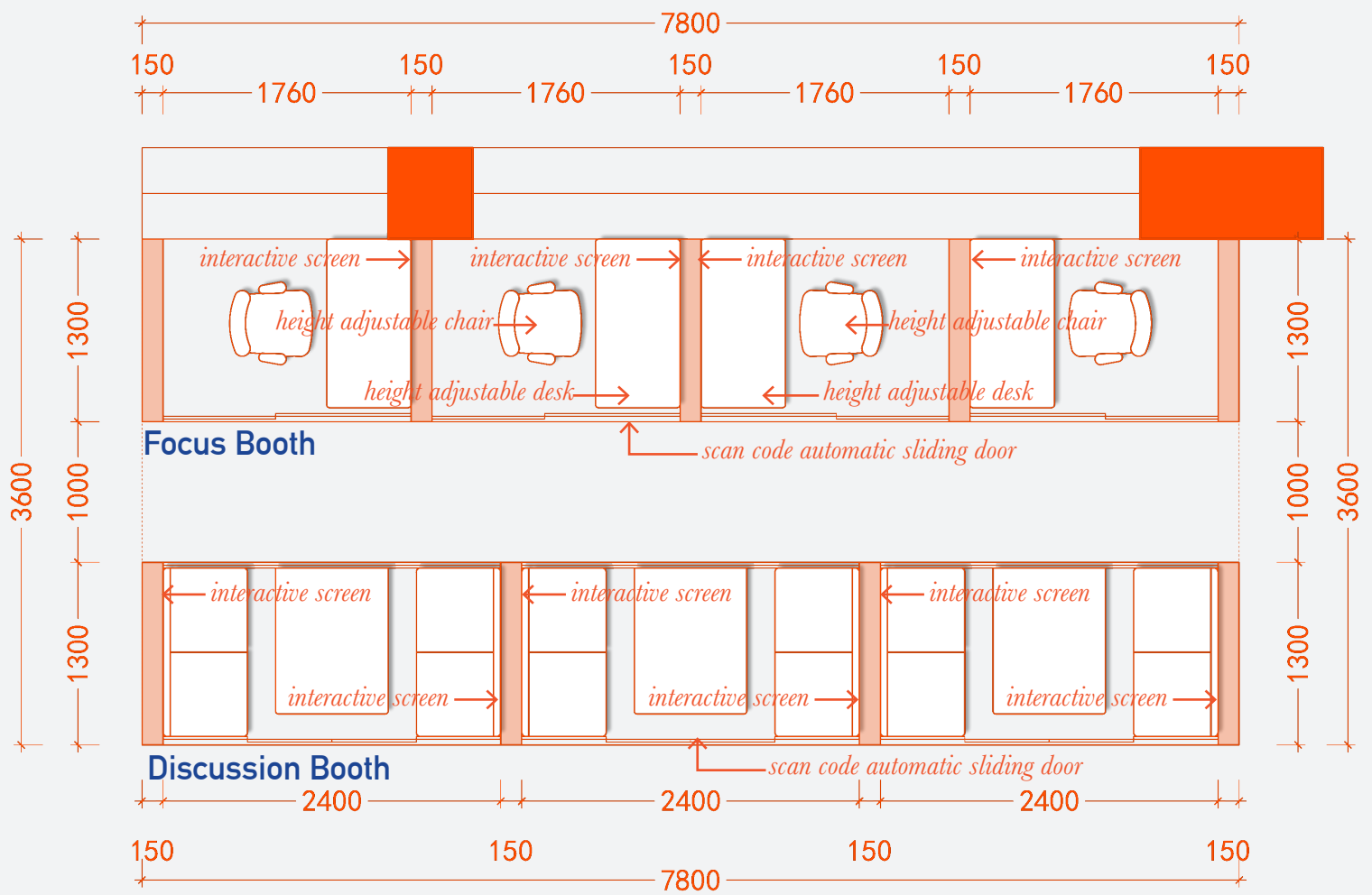


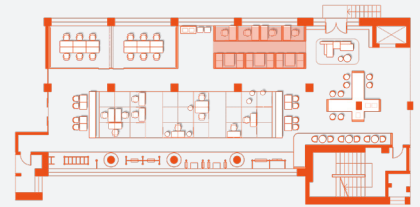
Meeting room 2: Face-to-face meeting



Multi-functional Booth

Plan

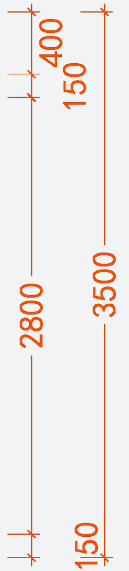
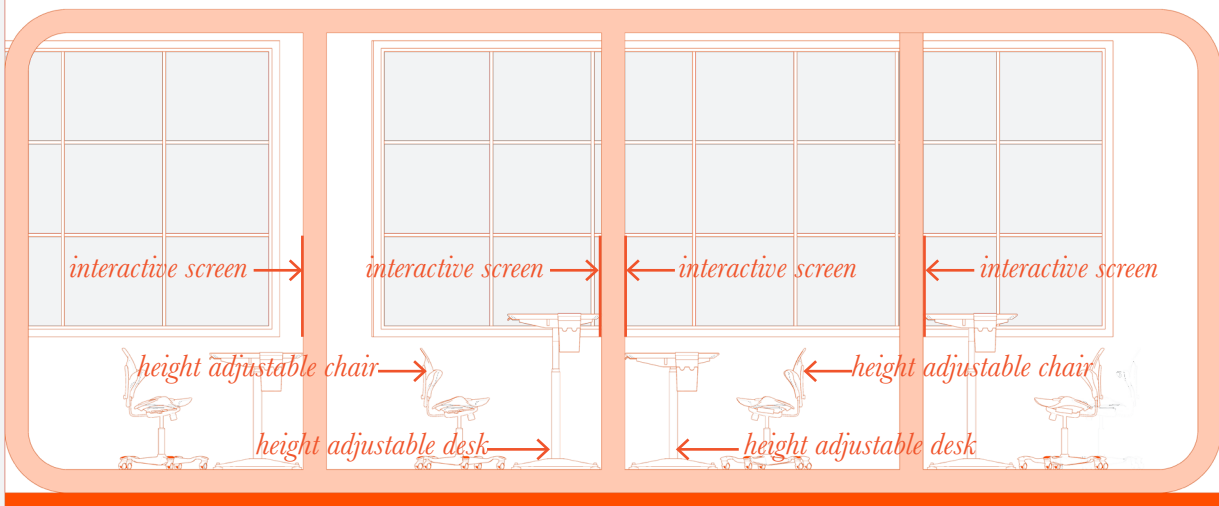




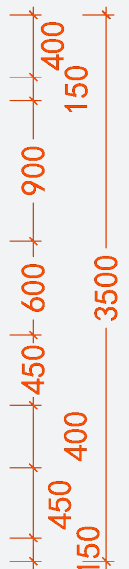
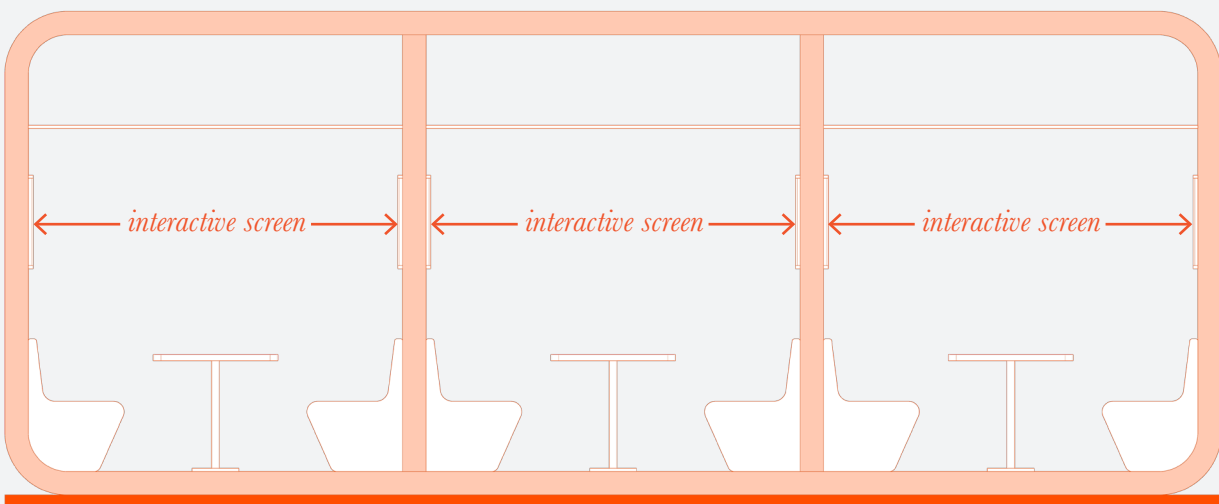
Elevation



Focus Booth



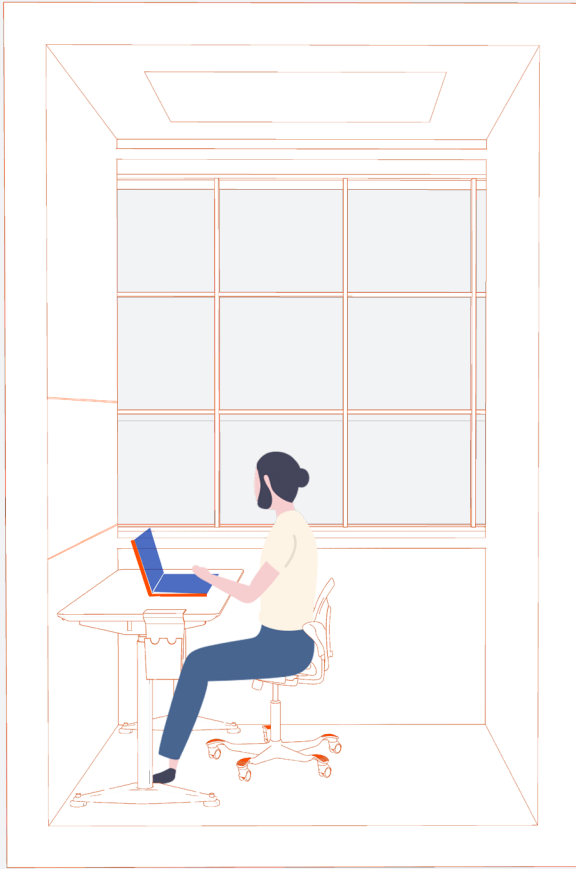
Discussion Booth



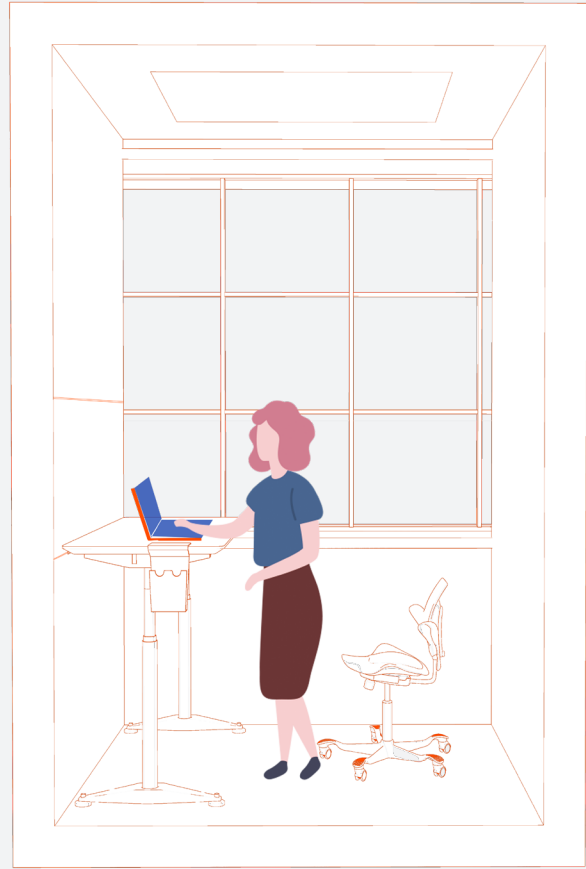
Multi-functional Booth

Focus booth unit: activity types

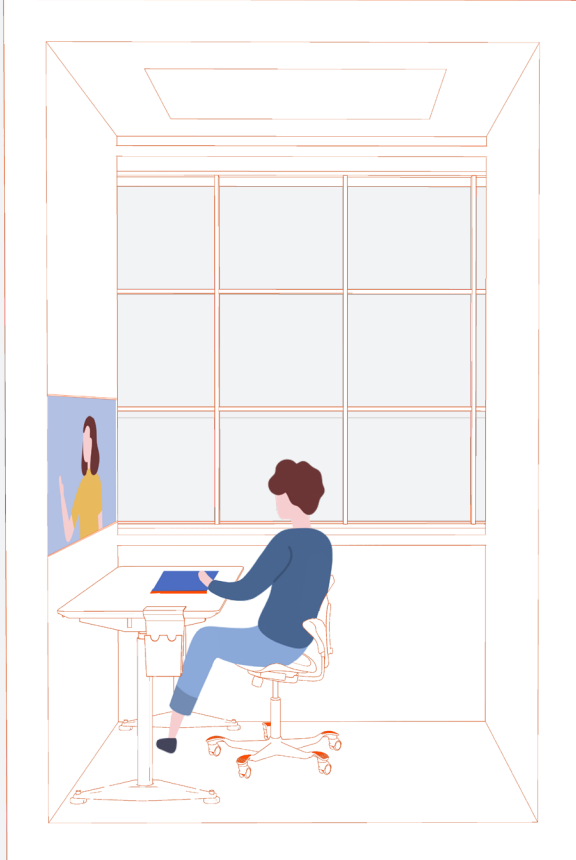
Focus on working independently (sit)



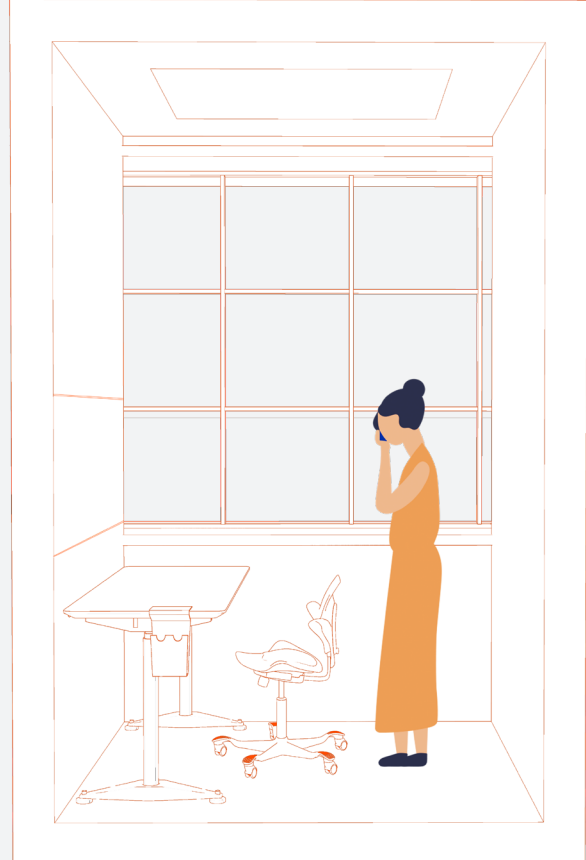
Focus on working independently (stand)



Collaborate with remote colleague (hybrid work)

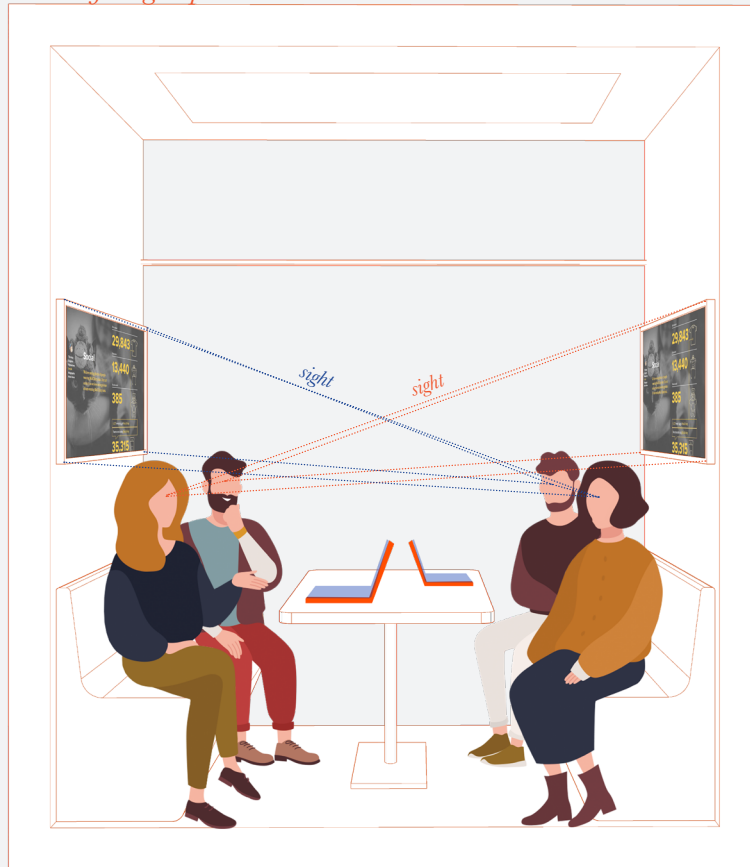


Phone

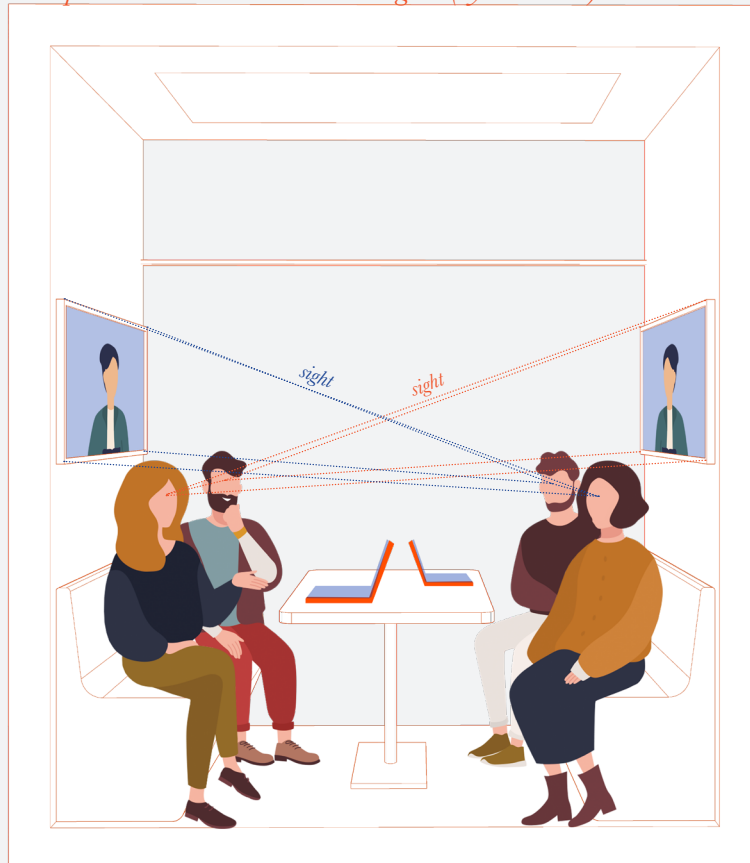


Discussion booth unit: activity types

Face to face group discussion



Group discussion with remote colleagues (hybrid work)

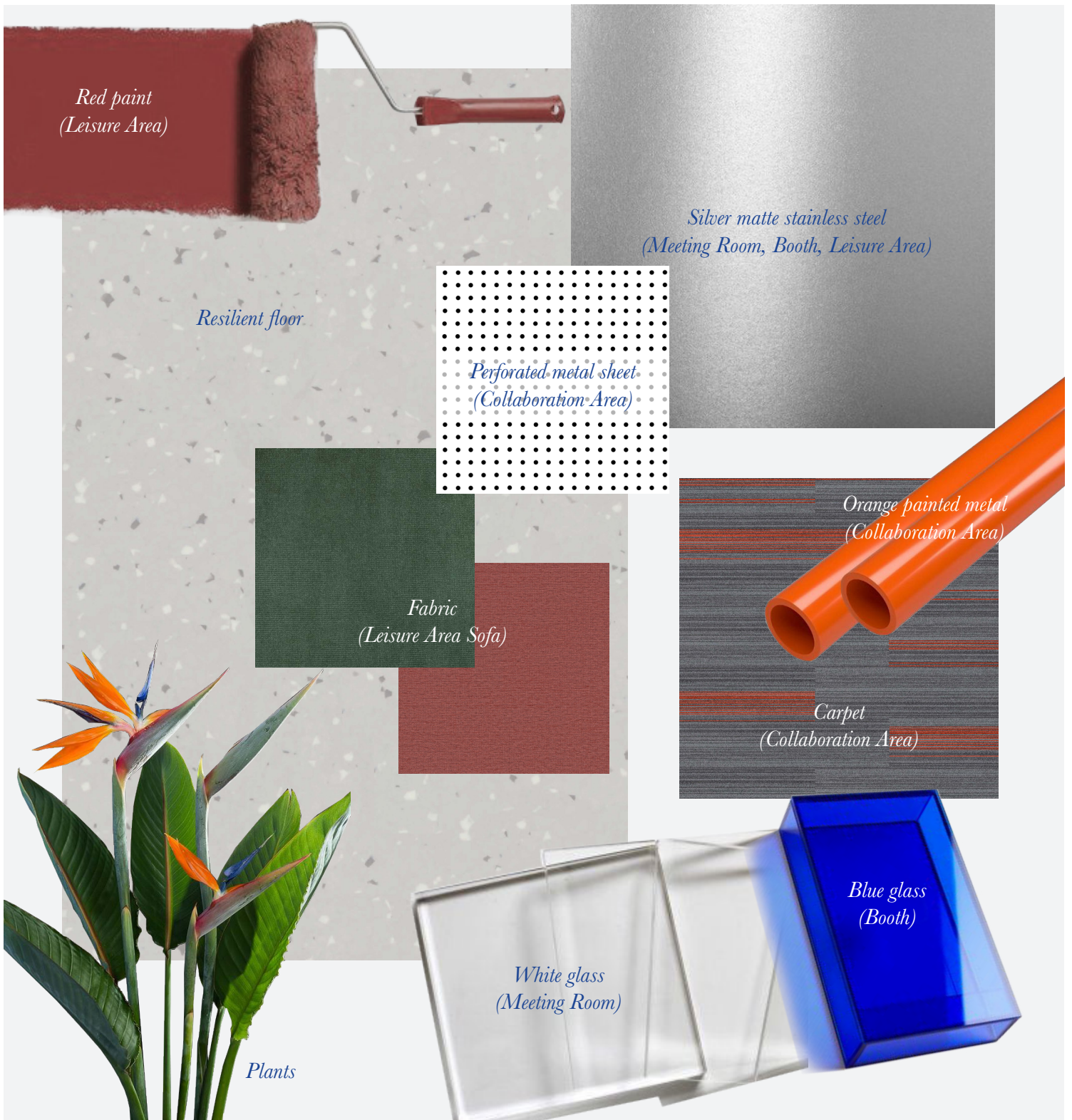


7.4.2 Sensory experience workspace

Color palette

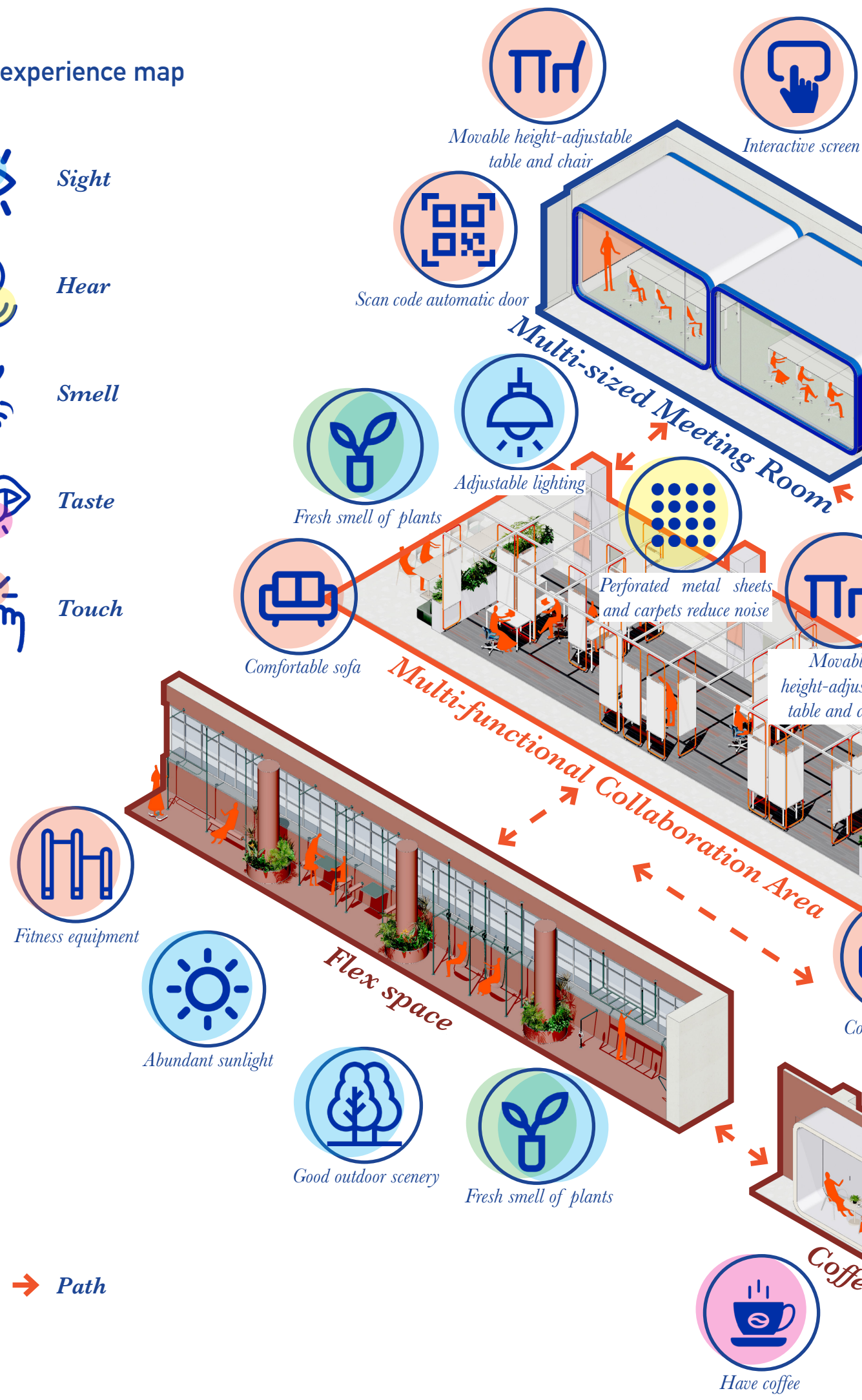
<i>Color ID</i>	<i>RGB: 255,77,0</i> <i>CMYK: 0,82,93,0</i> <i>#ff4d00</i>	<i>RGB: 0,47,167</i> <i>CMYK: 100,88,0,0</i> <i>#002fa7</i>	<i>RGB: 130,54,46</i> <i>CMYK: 32,81,74,41</i> <i>#82362e</i>	<i>RGB: 66,84,67</i> <i>CMYK: 77,60,76,24</i> <i>#425443</i>
<i>Color Character</i>	<i>Vibrant, Creative</i>	<i>Technological, Calm</i>	<i>Passionate, Sporty</i>	<i>Natural, Relaxing</i>
<i>Inspiration Source</i>	 <i>Microsoft office logo</i>	 <i>Meta logo</i>	 <i>Playground</i>	
<i>Space</i>	<i>Collaboration Area</i>	<i>Meeting Room, Booth</i>	<i>Leisure Area</i>	<i>Leisure Area Furniture</i>

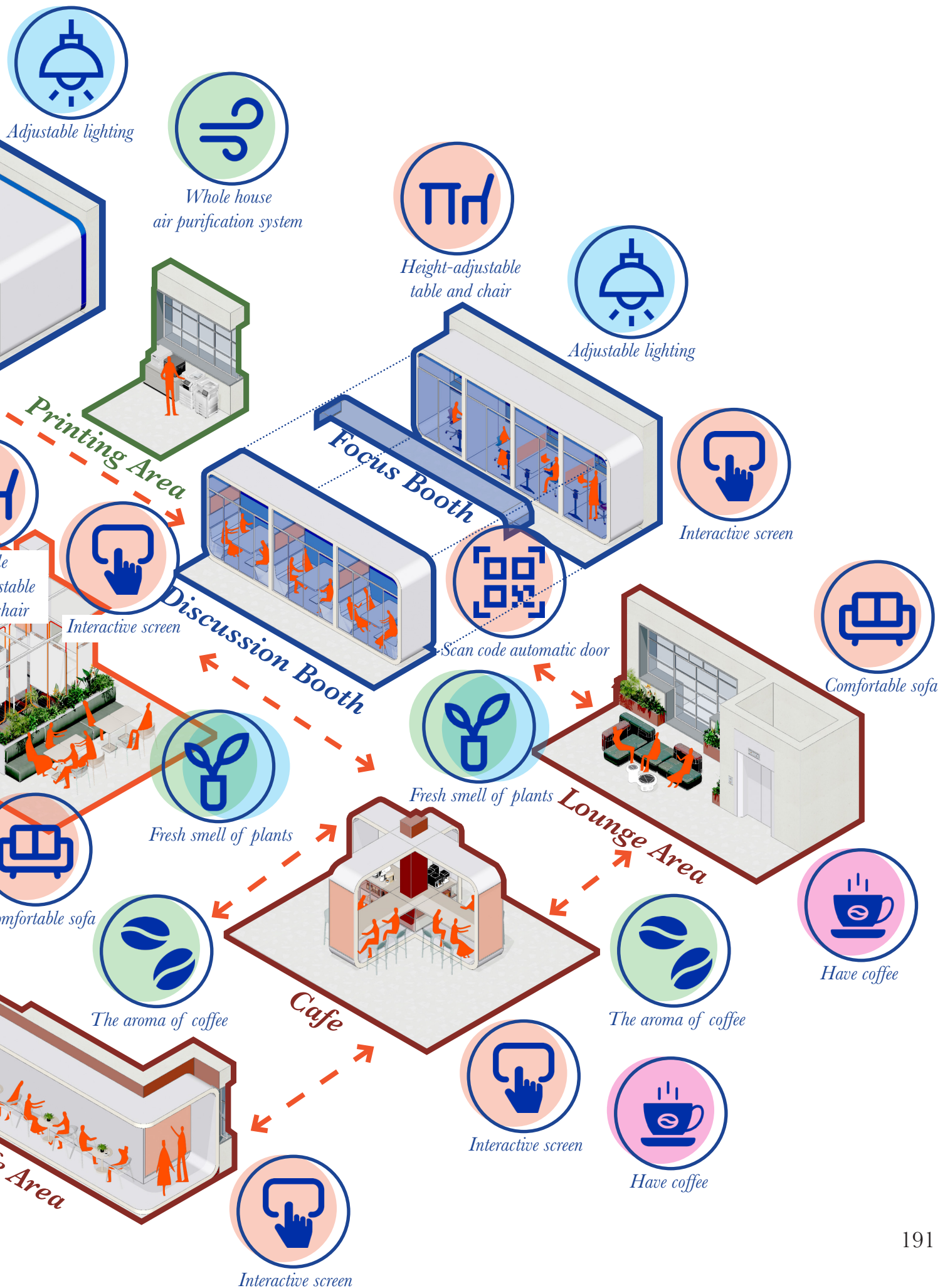
Material board



Sensory experience map

-  *Sight*
-  *Hear*
-  *Smell*
-  *Taste*
-  *Touch*



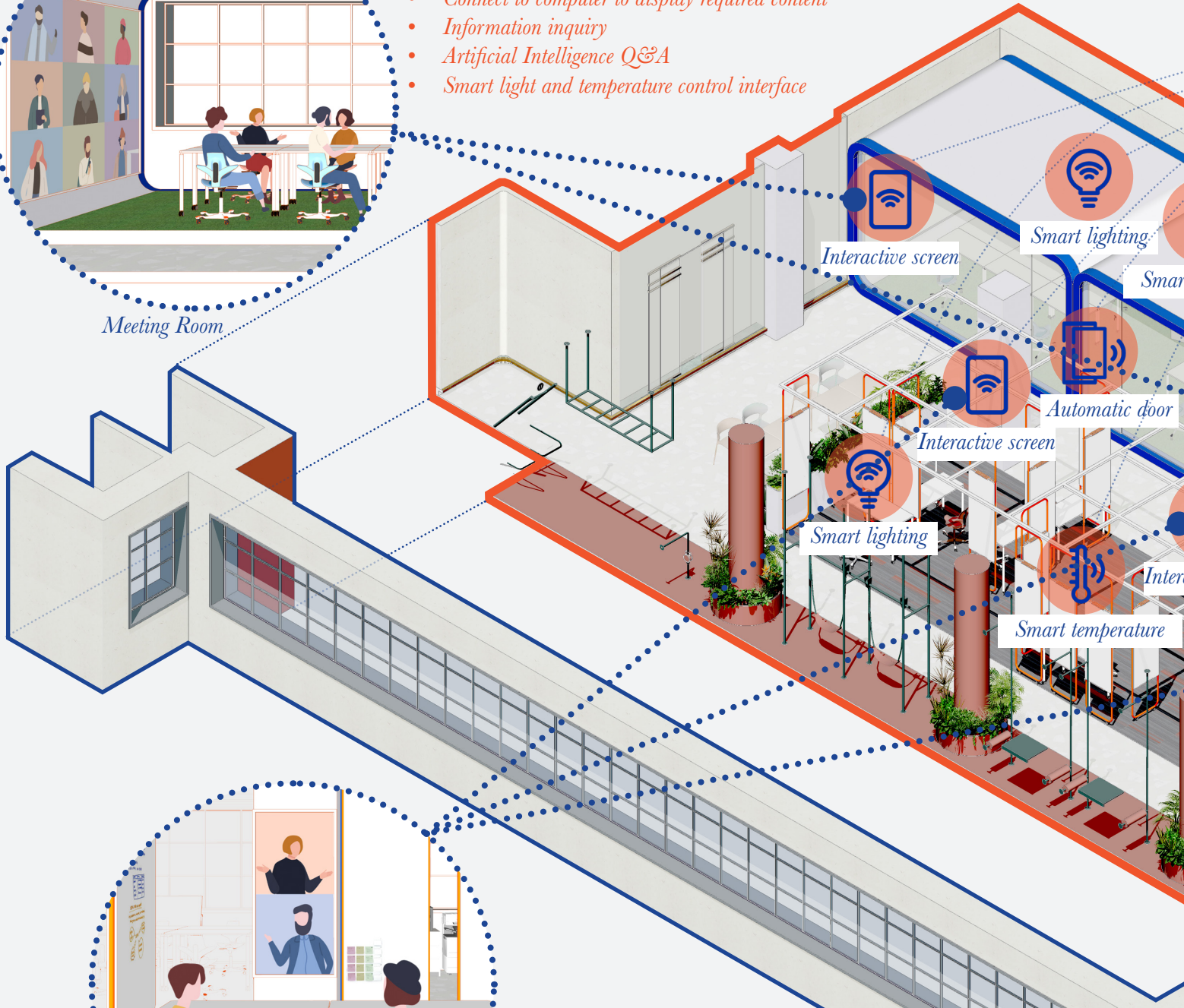


7.4.3 Smart technology-enabled workspace

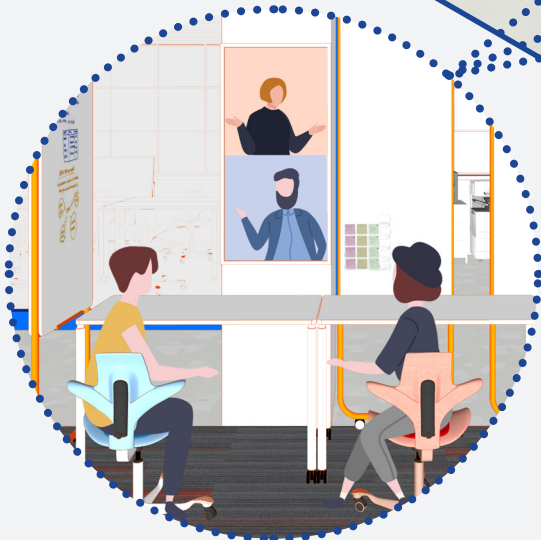


Meeting Room

- Interact with remote colleagues
- Connect to computer to display required content
- Information inquiry
- Artificial Intelligence Q&A
- Smart light and temperature control interface

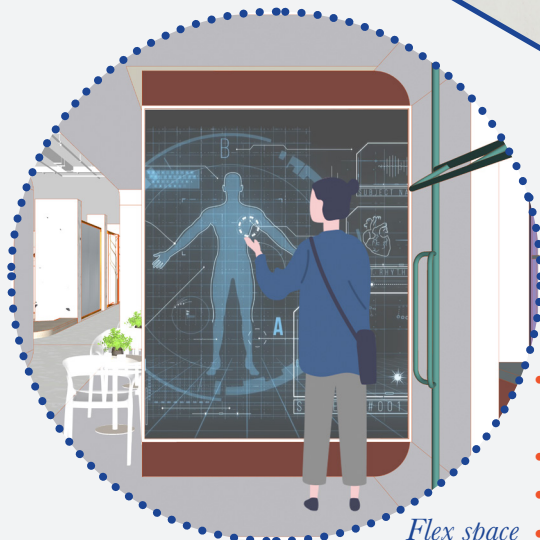


- Interactive screen
- Smart lighting
- Automatic door
- Interactive screen
- Smart lighting
- Smart temperature



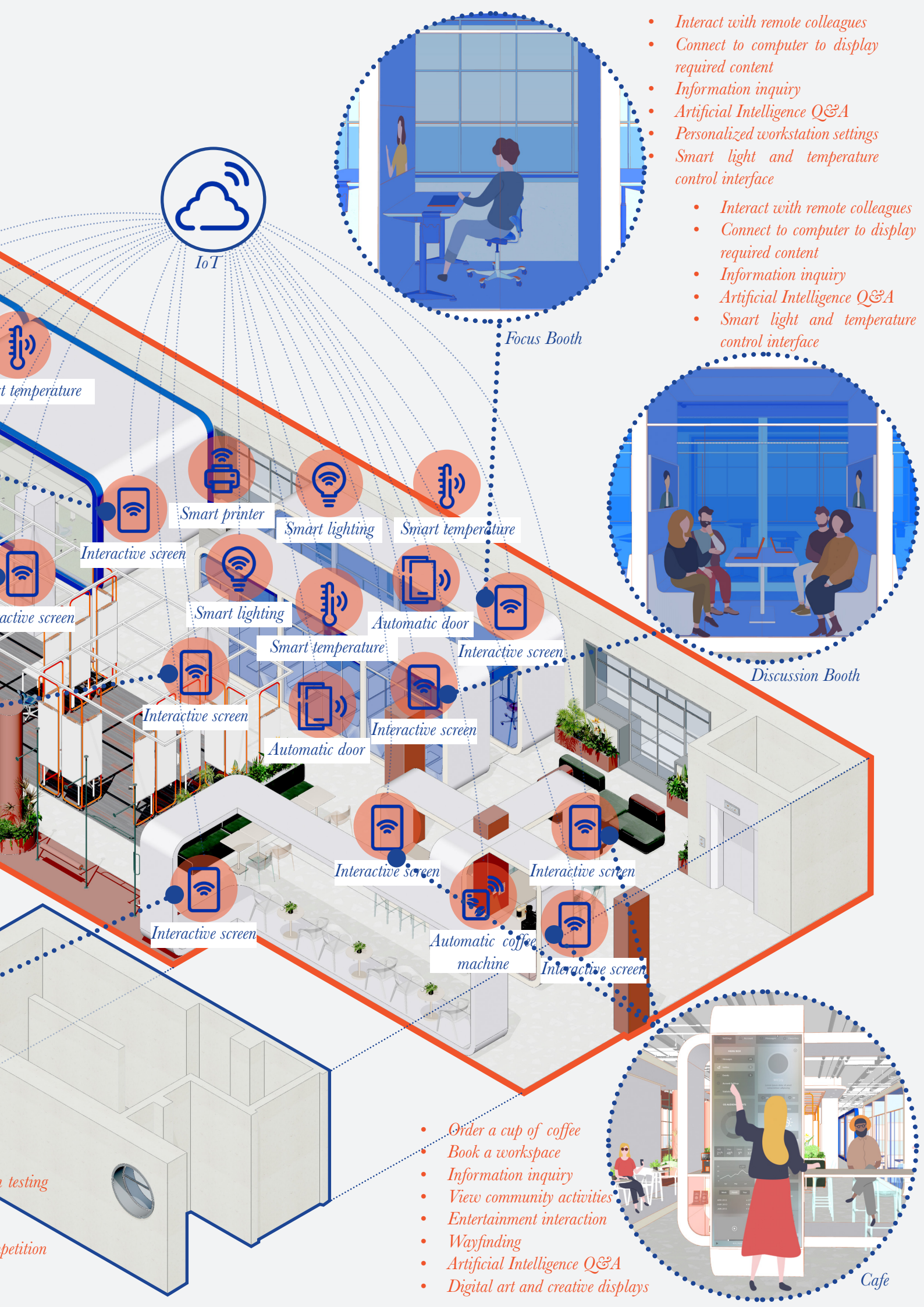
Multi-functional Collaboration Area

- Interact with remote colleagues
- Connect to computer to display required content
- Book a workspace
- Information inquiry
- Artificial Intelligence Q&A
- Smart light and temperature control interface
- Digital art and creative displays



Flex space

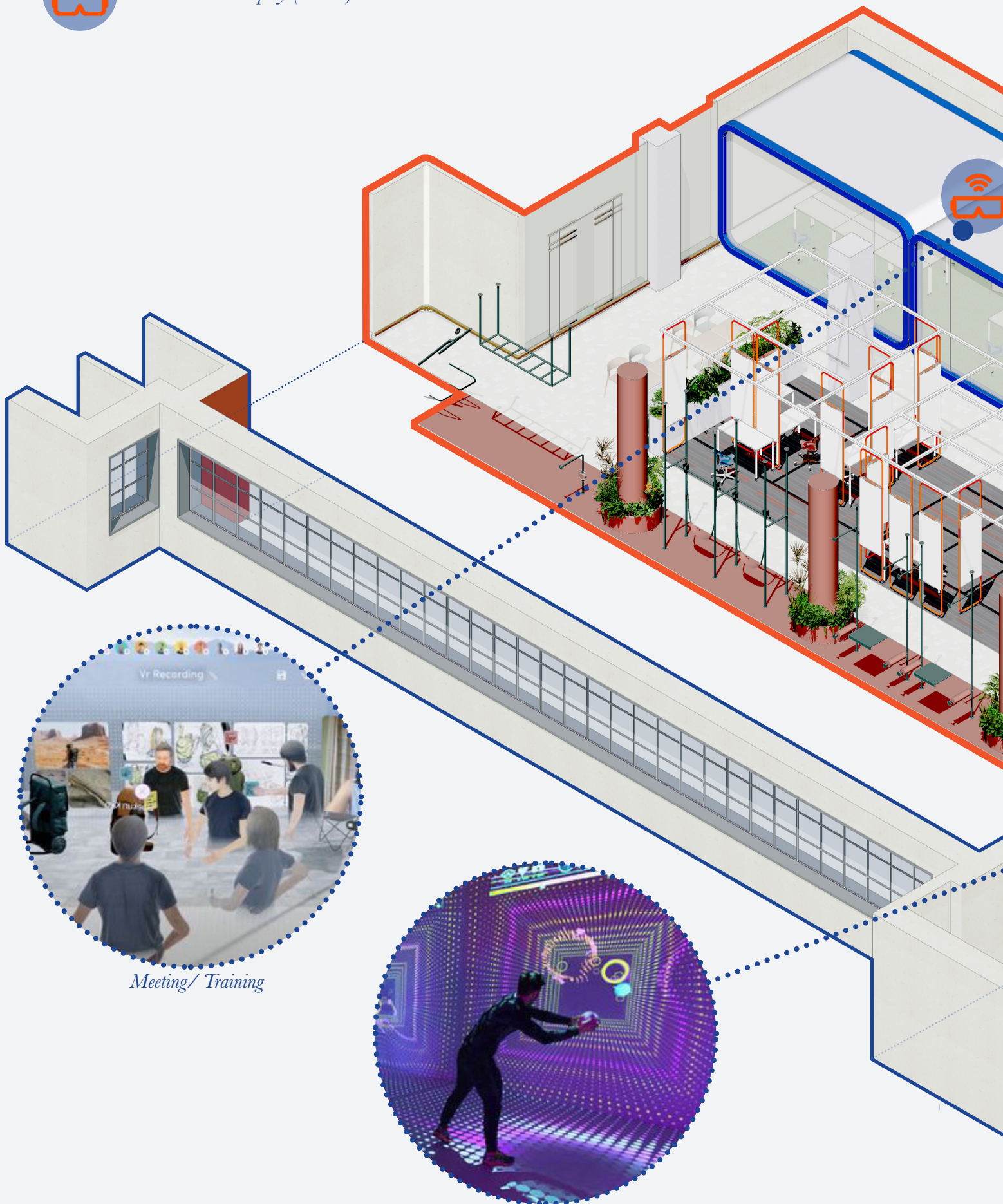
- Physical and Mental Health and feedback
- Sports interactive games
- Community online sports com
- Artificial Intelligence Q&A



7.4.4 Vision of virtual workspace



Head-mounted display (HMD)



Meeting / Training

Entertainment / Sports



Group discussion



Personal work



7.4.5 Rendering

Coffee area



Settings Account Messages 5 Favorites

MENU BOX

- Messages 24
- Favorites 3
- Events 5
- Account Settings
- Statistics

MD Joy

23 841 49

CLUJ-NAPOCA / RO

FRI 29/06 24°

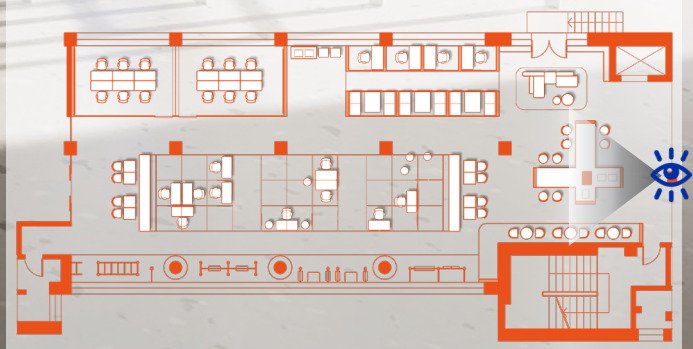
SAT 29/06	25°
SUN 30/06	22°
MON 01/07	24°
TUE 02/07	26°
WED 03/07	27°
THU 04/07	29°

LATEST TWEETS

Ice-cream trucks only play music when out of ice-cream. Well played dad. On @Quora 3 minutes ago

We are in the process of pushing out all of the new CC apps! We will tweet again once they are live #CreativeCloud 6 hours ago

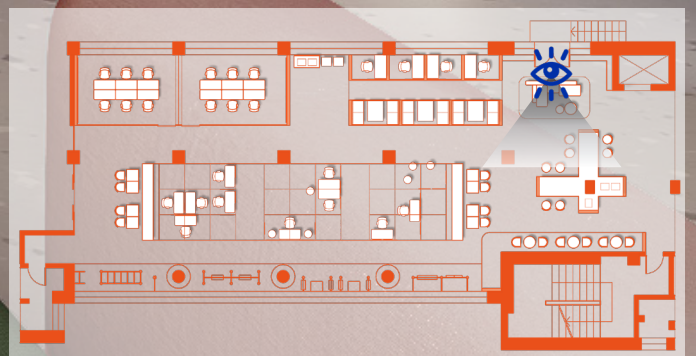
SUBSCRIBE TO FACEBOOK



7.4.5 Rendering

Lounge area

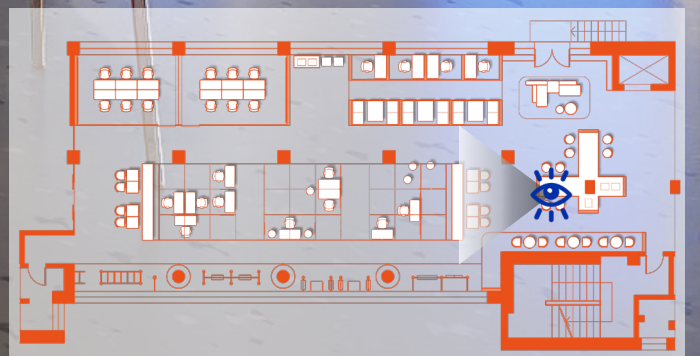




7.4.5 Rendering

Flex space, Multi-functional collaboration area, Discussion booth

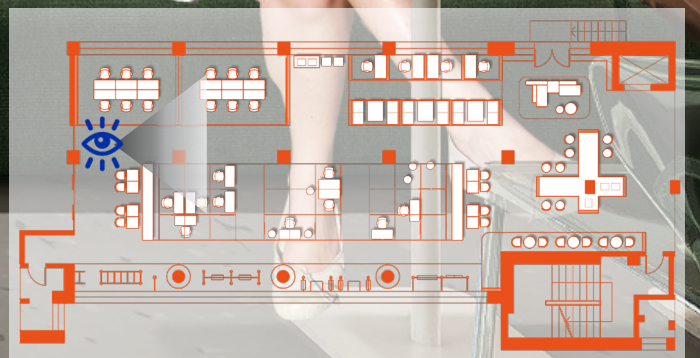




7.4.5 Rendering

Multi-sized Meeting Room, Multi-functional collaboration area

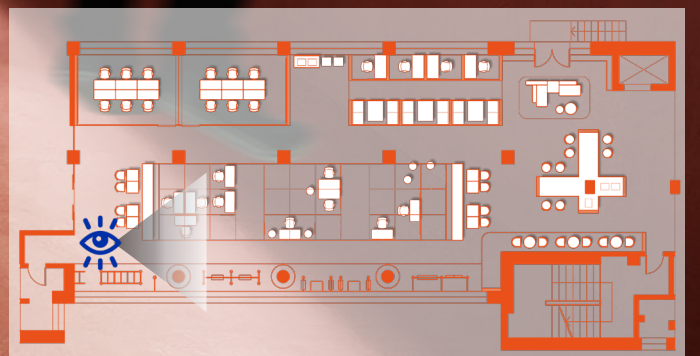




7.4.5 Rendering

Multi-functional collaboration area, Flex space





7.4.5 Rendering

Discussion booth, Focus booth





8 Conclusion

8 Conclusion

In the wake of the global pandemic, the dynamics of work have undergone a significant transformation, ushering in the era of the hybrid work model. Embracing the flexibility of the hybrid work model, individuals now have the autonomy to tailor their work hours and locations to align with the demands of their roles. The role of physical workspaces has also changed. Based on the background of this ongoing hybrid work model, this paper explores future work space trends from three aspects: technology, people and space.

A historical examination of the nexus between technological advancements, work behaviors, and work spaces reveals a recurring theme: adaptable workplace that cater to employees' evolving needs emerges as the focal point in the evolution of work environment. The intricate dance between technological progress and human behavior creates a cyclical relationship, where technology shapes work behaviors, which, in turn, dictate the requisites of workspaces. Concurrently, technology serves as a catalyst, providing necessary supports to meet the diverse needs of individuals in their professional endeavors. The overarching influencers shaping the trajectory of future work space development converge around the dual forces of employee needs and technological innovations. Young people who have just entered the workplace now are the main force in the future work space. A deeper exploration of the people element involves dissecting the work characteristics of Generation Z, a cohort seamlessly integrating into the workforce amidst the ubiquity of the internet. The “people needs” focus on well-being, which includes physical, psychological, and social aspects. Collaboration emerges as a pivotal purpose for physically attending work. At the same time, people seek a diverse experiential combinations in workplace. Co-working space has emerged as a compelling alternative for employees in the new normal of hybrid work. This kind of space not only offer heightened flexibility but also foster collaboration and innovation.

The thesis delves into the design strategies for technology-driven well-being work space, embarking on a user-centric journey grounded in activity-based work, sensory design, and inclusive design. The exploration navigates through user behaviors and work requirements, emphasizing physical sensory experiences and the satisfaction of psychological needs. In future workspace design, intelligent technology and metaverse technology will stitch together physical workspace and virtual work space. Virtual spaces will complement rather than replace physical workspaces. The use of technology in physical workspace design strives to enhance the overall work experience and safeguard employee well-being.

The design section of the thesis focuses on the application of strategies grounded in activity-based work. Use service design tools to systematically explore user needs, pay attention to users' sensory experience and psychological needs, and integrate technology to optimize employee well-being. The ultimate goal is to harmoniously blend technology and design to create a flexible, activity-based collaboration space that not only adapts to the changing nature of work, but also enhances employee well-being.

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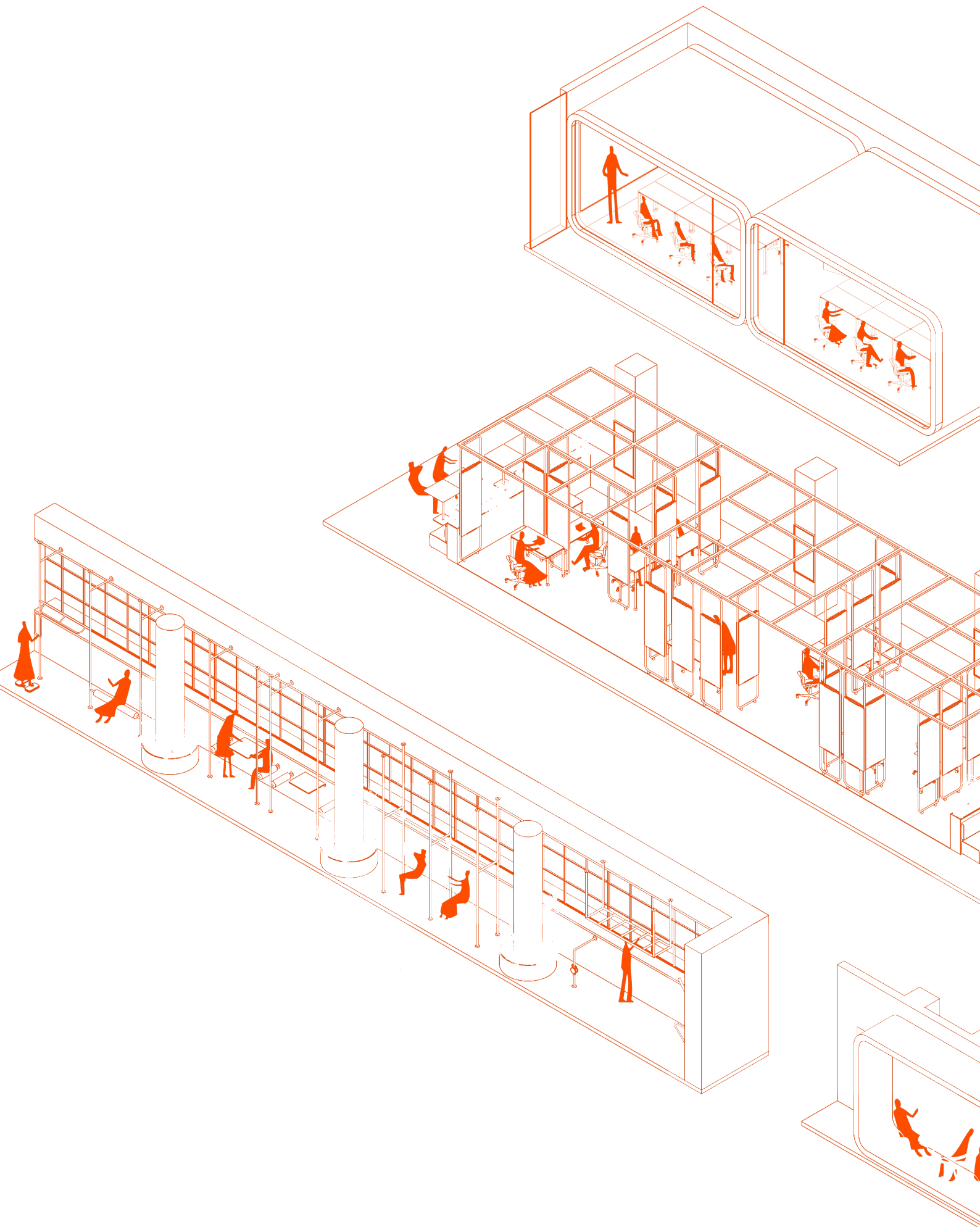
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