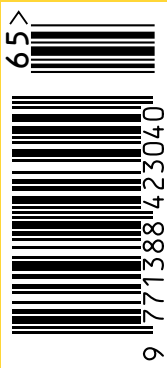


# FRAME

**THE NEXT SPACE**  
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## NEW TENDENCIES

**Award-winning and  
agenda-setting interiors**

# work

*From offices that teach sustainability to spaces that adapt to the mind, we break down three workplace phenomena that make environments more humane, mindful and future-ready. Together, they offer a roadmap for the evolution of work.*



**PAGE 97 Forum**, a 2,730-m<sup>2</sup> co-working space in Melbourne's Cremorne suburb designed by Foolsap Studio, is rich in amenities. A full-scale kitchen breakout area, golf simulator, collaboration spaces, library, sensory room and parents' room all contribute to making the office more attractive to workers.

**THIS SPREAD** Guests enter Design Hotels' new HQ in Berlin, designed by RHO, through a community area, where they are met with a floating reception desk. A Ligne Roset Asmara modular sofa creates space for informal chats and relaxed work, while a freestanding meeting room provides a venue for everything from community events to yoga sessions.

## C-SUITES

**With workers craving connection and comfort, workplaces draw on hospitality's playbook, creating environments that support a more human rhythm of work.**

The remote-first culture has reshaped workers' expectations, but it has also revealed the limitations of isolation. Now, as people return to the workplace – sometimes out of necessity, but increasingly by choice – they are looking for more than just a desk. They are looking for atmosphere and environments that support productivity and wellbeing. In response, offices are adopting the approach of boutique hotels: curated, sensory and attentive.

The core idea is to create spaces that restore as much as they demand. Comfort is becoming a strategy for sustaining engagement rather than an indulgence. However, incorporating hospitality into the workplace can create inherent tensions. The promise of hotel-like amenities can turn into subtle pressure to stay longer, be constantly available or blend personal routines with professional expectations. When meals, movement and mental resets are all provided on site, the office risks becoming an all-encompassing microcosm.

The most thoughtful workplaces today understand this. Rather than amplifying luxury, they amplify autonomy. Flexible zones support the ebb and flow of activity, quiet rooms provide space for relaxation, energizing social



hubs encourage collaboration and restorative natural materials and biophilic design elements connect people to nature. Intelligent scent plans mark transitions and support focus and relaxation, while sensitive lighting systems follow circadian rhythms. Amenities are no longer bait; they are tools that help people to structure their day in a way that feels human.

In C-Suites, offices draw inspiration from the hospitality industry but go beyond service to provide support. Rather than erasing the line between work and leisure, they embed care and balance into their architecture, turning workplaces into environments that people choose because they feel supported, grounded and connected.

## THE GREEN COLLAR OFFICE

**In an age of climate consciousness, offices are shifting from backdrop to guide, offering workers spaces that model sustainability through experience and architecture.**

As climate crises become lived realities and society grows more climate cognizant, people expect the places they occupy to reflect the kind of future they hope to inhabit. This is also true of offices. Climate-literate workers align their careers with their convictions and, in response, the workplaces of conscious companies are becoming visible expressions of environmental intelligence – architecture that performs responsibly while fostering awareness among occupants. Here, environmental integrity is not just stated but enacted through the design of space itself.

Transparency, once the preserve of consumer brands, is now also expected from employers. And not just in terms of their business. Workers want to know how their workplace was built, what resources it uses and who it impacts. This sentiment is reshaping design objectives. Office architecture starts to prioritize climate logic over aesthetic novelty. Buildings are designed to cool themselves through shade, orientation and airflow rather than using energy-intensive machinery. Materials speak of stewardship rather than spectacle: timber that stores carbon, low-emission concretes and dismantlable, repairable finishing systems that can be returned to circulation. Vegetation becomes an active environmental tool – tempering heat, purifying the air and carving out micro-habitats that bring life back to dense urban areas. Regional materials, endemic plants and biodiversity corridors integrate workplaces into local ecosystems.



Hampus Berndson

Circular thinking informs design: modular interiors, reversible construction and durable systems reduce waste and carbon impact. Landscapes, such as rooftop meadows, courtyard habitats and green corridors, support pollinators, provide shade and promote resilience and human wellbeing.

The Green Collar Office fosters a culture in which sustainability is embraced, not imposed. Workspaces become subtle educators, modelling reciprocity through their architecture, reflecting employees' values back to them and embedding ecological intelligence in everyday rituals. The office is becoming a small, working prototype of a more balanced world, signalling a future in which responsibility, resilience and planetary wellbeing are the new measures of workplace success.

**OPPOSITE** Instead of building anew, Pihlmann Architects mined Thoravej 29, a 1967 building in Copenhagen, Denmark, for structural logic, material value and latent spatial potential. Everything removed was treated as a resource, creating a material bank from which the building essentially rebuilt itself. The result isn't raw, but residual – an architecture defined by subtraction and regeneration.

**BELOW** In the historical milk factory at De Caai in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, BPD's new workplace unites industrial character, biobased and circular materials, acoustic comfort and lush greenery into a cohesive, future-oriented environment for both collaboration and focused work. Shortlisted for Small Office of the Year and designed by Ex Interiors, the project embodies the ecosystemic approach the area is known for – connecting humans, nature and technology.



Stijn Poelstra



Studio Prototype and Zenber Architects transformed Rijkskantoor B73 in The Hague, the Netherlands, into a workplace attuned to today's diverse employee needs, offering a range of work settings: a flexible foyer for meetings and collaboration, a raised timber platform leading to a more intimate work area, a tiered seating staircase for presentations and a leafy roof terrace.

Jeroen Mulisch

## DESK SPECTRUM

**Shedding one-size-fits-all design, workplaces are embracing neuro-inclusivity with adaptable, sensory-conscious environments that nurture focus and dignity for the full spectrum of minds.**

Work is entering an era shaped by heightened sensory awareness. Although neurodivergence has always been present in the workforce, its spatial implications have long been overlooked. But as conversations about wellbeing deepen and employee expectations evolve, there is a growing recognition that we are all wired differently and that design must reflect this. In order to support highly diverse teams, the workplace is becoming less a fixed environment and more a responsive ecosystem – one that acknowledges these differences not as exceptions, but as expressions of the cognitive spectrum that makes organizations richer and more innovative.

Consequently, offices are being reimagined as multisensory landscapes built around choice and clarity. Designers are introducing a wider variety of environments, from low-stimulation refuges to energizing collaboration hubs, each of which is designed through

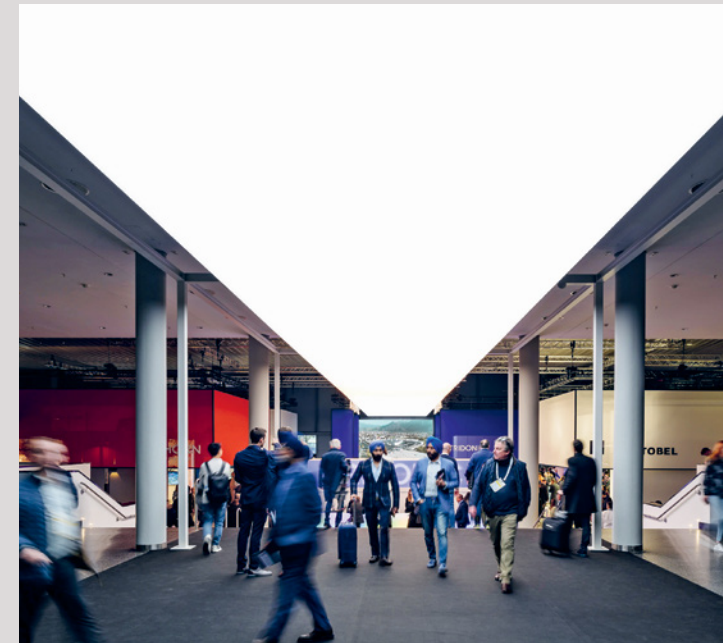
careful consideration of lighting, acoustics, spatial rhythm and materiality. Calm, predictable circulation supports those who rely on routine, while tactile or biophilic elements help to regulate overwhelmed nervous systems. Adaptive lighting and acoustics provide personalization on a moment-by-moment basis. Even wayfinding and scent, once peripheral considerations, now play a meaningful role in shaping psychological comfort. Rather than forcing every employee into a uniform behavioural mode, these environments allow individuals to gravitate naturally toward conditions that support their cognition, energy levels and emotional state.

Crucially, neuro-inclusive design is not about creating special zones for a minority. It's about recognizing that the entire workforce benefits when sensory needs aren't treated as an afterthought. With many individuals undiagnosed, undisclosed or simply sensitive to their environment, future-ready workplaces must anticipate variation rather than retrofit around it.

In Desk Spectrum, inclusivity is embedded in the architecture itself. By designing for the full spectrum of minds, organizations can cultivate environments that nurture human potential.

# Rethinking Light

**Light + Building 2026 looks at light as a transformative element in architecture and design – shaping atmosphere, guiding function and stirring emotion.**



Light serves more than just a functional purpose in spatial design; it shapes mood and identity, influences wellbeing and plays a key part in transforming an architectural space into a multisensory experience. Light + Building brings 2,000 exhibitors – from market leaders to ambitious newcomers – together in 2026 under the motto 'Be Electrified – Electrifying Places. Illuminating Spaces'. The convention is organized around three themes, one of which is Living Light. Held from 8 to 13 March in Frankfurt, Germany, the fair offers a comprehensive look at the future of lighting, design and smart energy infrastructure.

An extensive event programme, including talks, presentations and curated sessions, will be hosted at the Design Plaza (Hall 3.1), bringing ample insights and creative exchange to attendees. The best and brightest of lighting design will be celebrated here with the presentation of two awards: the Designplus Awards by Light + Building, and the IALD Lighting Design Awards.

Within the theme Living Light, the fair explores several sectors and applications. Smart & Human Centric Lighting presents lighting solutions that adapt

dynamically to people, time and environment. Light & Wellbeing and Emotional & Adaptive lighting are dedicated to the sensory and physiological aspects of deploying lighting solutions. The Urban & Retail Lighting Solutions section showcases how illumination enhances wayfinding and the atmosphere of public and commercial spaces, while the New Work Lighting Concepts section explores the best flexible solutions for the modern workplace.

### Light + Building 2026: a quick guide

From the aesthetic to the functional to the highly technical, the ten exhibition hall levels will be divided according to category. Technical lighting can be found in the Forum, as well as Halls 3.0 and 5.1. Design-oriented concepts are in Hall 3.1. Urban, emergency and specialized lighting are located in Halls 4.0 and 4.1. Residential, hospitality and lifestyle lighting will be in Hall 6, control systems and smart interfaces in Hall 8, and a separate Asia selection is available to view in Halls 10.1 to 10.3.

[light-building.com](http://light-building.com)