

## 4 CONSIDERATIONS IN OFFICE DESIGN THAT WILL OUTLAST ANY TREND

### WORKPLACE WELLNESS

**67%**

of office workers say they dislike sitting at work. Over 85% take regular breaks to get some relief.



### INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

**6%**

of office workers say they use a landline at home. Yet, 54% still use a landline at work.



### FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES

**88%**

of office workers say they have their best ideas when working in a flexible office design.



### WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION

**75%**

of office professionals say they respond to work-related texts outside of work.



Renovating your office space, when done correctly, has a huge impact on worker productivity and satisfaction. Put aside the paint chips and fabric swatches and start first with a thorough survey of how your business and work gets done. There is no single approach that works for every company. To give your office a competitive advantage, you need to take into account your unique processes and employee profiles. Then, consider these four factors for the greatest impact to your workforce and bottom line.

## FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES



The workspaces in your office have the single greatest impact on productivity. Whether you have an official policy on working remotely or not, your employees are doing work outside the office. Think about the number of emails or texts you answer during non-work hours. Expectations for work environments are being influenced by your employee's living room and local Starbucks.

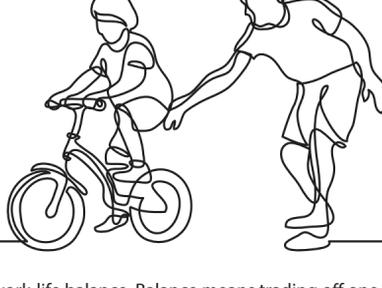
There is no longer a need for large personal workspaces, especially in offices that use laptops and cellphones. Many offices have greatly reduced the amount of paper they produce. Workers no longer need to be tied to their own personal desk.

The pendulum keeps shifting as to whether companies favor on-site workers versus remote. IBM and Yahoo made the biggest shift lately, requiring all remote workers to now come into a company office. There is even a gap generationally on preference. It might surprise you to know that many millennials actually prefer going into an office versus working remotely, 48% feel they are most productive when in the office. Only 19% of baby boomers felt more productive in the office.

Regardless of the fact work can get done anywhere, the office remains the best place to connect, collaborate and socialize. Connected workspaces that encourage innovation and collaboration are on the rise. Provide workers with choices that match their work preferences and offer task-based work spaces. Recognize that not every task can be done in the open, offer appropriate options for privacy.

In just a few years Generation Z will be entering the workforce, looking for a work environment similar to their college experience with collaborative, living-room-like spaces.

## WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION



We love the term work-life integration over work-life balance. Balance means trading off one for the other. Integration means finding ways to do both, without compromising commitment to family or work.

Allowing for work-life integration means allowing for flexibility of work place. Top initiatives for flexibility include:

- Enabling effective mobile working
- Enabling effective remote working
- Improving collaborative working technology

It also means an office environment that feels more like home. Underutilized meeting rooms can be transformed into breakout areas, communal domains and quiet rooms. Spaces become more flexible, more productive and promote interaction.

Being more comfortable not only helps accomplish tasks but it also helps your employees to look forward to work, every day.

## INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY



It is really hard to entice a worker to come into the office, when the technology they have at home exceeds the technology available at work. New hires and millennials expect offices to have:

- Wireless keyboards, mice, and headsets
- Personal laptops and tablets
- Smartphones
- Dual monitor setups
- Smartboards
- Adjustable work surfaces
- Media lounges
- Game consoles

Think about how your employees use, or want to use, technology. Reserving conference rooms online or via an app. Connecting wirelessly to any screen. Recharging devices wirelessly. Teleconferencing.

Keep in mind the next generation joining the workforce, Generation Z. Their entire learning and home environments have been enabled by technology.

## WORKPLACE WELLNESS



The sedentary nature of the office environment can no longer be ignored. The American office worker spends an average of 5 hours and 41 minutes a day sitting at their desk. Studies have long shown that lack of exercise leads to health issues. Initiating workplace wellness practices not only improves health, it reduces absenteeism, health insurance premiums and overall productivity.

Below are some key items to consider when it comes to wellness:

- Workspace ergonomics: find ways to encourage better posture, less sitting, and more movement; offer varied desk/work surface heights
- Take advantage of natural light
- Ensure your HVAC systems produce the best air quality
- Think twice about the cleaners you use, go green wherever possible
- Get the most of outdoor spaces by providing your employees an alternative break area
- Add showers to demonstrate your commitment to wellness, making it convenient for employees to squeeze in an exercise break
- Provide time and areas for office-wide stretch breaks
- Stock kitchens with healthy snack and meal options
- Look for offices with close proximity to public transportation and/or provide bike storage



## CONNECTING THE LINES. MAKING IT WORK FOR YOU.

Changing the design or layout of an office isn't about being trendier. Trends come and go. With thoughtfulness regarding your work and the needs of your current and future employees, you can make it a place that improves productivity and is a more inviting, enjoyable, and healthy place to work. A place employees want to be at every day. A place that gives you a competitive advantage to hire the best talent, now and into the future.

**Ready to get started?  
Why wait, contact us today.**

Edge Architecture provides architectural and design services. Edge Building and Construction provides construction services and management. Together, we can transform your vision into reality.

1-585-461-3580  
info@edge-architecture.com

www.edge-architecture.com  
www.edgebandc.com