



Workspaces of the future: it's all about balance

We've teamed up with Jack Morrish, Creative Designer at Spacestor, creators of awesome workspace furniture which is a blend of California cool and London design. Jack has shared his unique insider insight into what the workplace of the future might look like – including the key role light and shading will have to play.



Jack Morrish Creative Designer, Spacestor

A combination of elements including ever evolving technology, changing employee attitudes – especially from millennials and, increasingly, Generation Z, are changing all aspects of working life. Physical workspaces are no exception. While no one can predict the future, by thinking about and planning how workspaces may need to evolve in years to come, organisations can help to provide the best possible and most productive working environments for current and future employees.

Drawing on our extensive experience in delivering cutting edge and innovative work spaces, we have outlined the key themes that will shape the workplace of the future.

FIT FOR PURPOSE



Activity based working – where the workplace is set out to provide employees with areas to conduct specific tasks such as learning, focusing or collaborating – is a concept that has been gaining in popularity in recent years.

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While the open plan office is unlikely to disappear completely, the increase in individual working spaces to suit particular jobs is likely to continue. This is in large part due to the flexibility this approach to working offers, which is hugely appealing to the younger generations entering the workforce.

However, organisations must be mindful of creating the right balance between collaboration areas, and places where individuals can work quietly and privately when necessary – for example by introducing quiet acoustic pods (such as the [Spacestor Railway Carriage](#)) alongside modular bleacher systems for creative brainstorming.

GETTING THE ENVIRONMENT RIGHT



The theme of customisable and flexible workspaces is set to influence the wider office environment beyond physical items of furniture. It is well known that the working environment is key to productivity – temperature, lighting and air quality can all impact on employees.

Lighting in particular plays a huge role in getting an office environment that will result in happy, productive employees. Expect to see an increase in technology that will allow individuals to automate and easily control blinds and window shading, in order to keep consistent light and temperature levels that suit them.

Colours also have a big impact on energy levels and using different colours to inspire particular moods will also continue to influence the design of workspaces in the future. This is an element that will also tie back in well to activity based working. For example, white or light blue can be used to drive creativity.

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INTELLIGENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY



We're already seeing the innovative use of [Artificial Intelligence \(A.I\)](#) and machine learning technology to help streamline and make processes more efficient in the workplace. The opportunities for A.I are almost endless, and as its use in the office environment increases, it will also impact on how workspaces are set up.

As A.I starts to take over more and more 'mundane' tasks, it will free up employees, allowing them to spend more time collaborating and coming up with creative ideas. This in turn may well drive the need for workspaces that are conducive to creativity, with lots of modular or reconfigurable seating areas.

Whatever the future holds, it looks as if there are exciting times ahead for helping to shape flexible, customised and balanced workspaces that will foster creativity, harmony and productivity.

