

Office Design Trends in 2023

by [Erin Sevitz](#) on September 15, 2022



A 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job doesn't look like it once did. The pandemic caused workplace design trends to shift in recent years. Companies have been at odds with their expectations, predictions, and aspirations of what the office “is” and “should be.” While the debate has been controversial, it does have its upside. Employers are now looking at what the employee wants, trying to meet their needs – if not completely, partially. 2023 workplace trends will be similar to today's latest trends but with a more profound emphasis on elevating employee well-being and productivity.

Most notably, the rise in hybrid work has changed how companies occupy their office space. Workplaces get less traffic than pre-Covid, forcing office trends to evolve and be

redefined. Companies are reconsidering their physical footprint, adapting to the changing market, and balancing new business strategies.

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Hybrid Workplaces: Focusing on collaborative spaces

Jobs were once firmly rooted in office buildings. But now – with the hybrid work model – workers want their office time to be more purposeful and productive. The hybrid model supports a blend of in-office and remote work. Once professionals realized the benefits of remote work, it was clear it had to stay in some capacity. Now workers expect more when in the office, looking for what they cannot access at home. Hybrid work calls for office space to improve the employee experience and enable better collaboration.

So, what does this mean for office design?

The traditional workplace is designed to accommodate more staff than the hybrid workplace. Due to not needing to inhabit as many employees at one time, businesses can downsize large floor plates to accommodate smaller capacities.

Downsizing and saving on operating costs means employers can re-invest the money in new office features. They can provide amenities for their employees that improve their quality of life at work. Fewer cubicles and a more open floor plan allow for a fully equipped cafeteria and casual seating areas. The office can also integrate more agile workspaces such as comfortable benches and booths or even treadmills at stand-up desks.

The hybrid model impacts the physical office by designing a workplace as a social anchor for human interaction. More hybrid office layouts now include breakout areas, whether this is a café, lounge, or meeting room. Ultimately, the goal is to support the employees' well-being and promote teamwork.

Sustainability: Making the office more energy efficient

Companies are no longer turning a blind eye to sustainable initiatives. On the contrary, employers are becoming champions – searching for ways to make the office more energy efficient and worker-friendly. Their dedication to sustainability has influenced workplace design current trends.

A sustainable building is much more than an office layout with recycling bins. It involves meeting new standards – such as the [WELL Building Standard](#) – that focus on the holistic well-being of building occupants. The WELL Building Standard aims to deliver more thoughtful and intentional spaces. Sustainable office designs improve the quality of our water, light, and air.

Employees increasingly expect businesses to reduce their carbon footprint. To accomplish this, companies can choose green appliances such as energy-efficient water coolers, vending machines, and printers. Ultimately, decreasing the greenhouse gases we generate has a positive impact on our planet.

Companies can also have a sustainable impact by including:

- Upcycled furniture
- Materials with high recycled content
- LED lighting
- Paper-free policies
- Reusable coffee cups and plates

Looking ahead to 2023, businesses are committed to prioritizing the health and safety of their people. [BREEAM](#) or [LEED](#) are great certifications for assessing the sustainability of buildings. Both understand that designing an environmentally responsible space improves the quality of life. After all, sustainable designs fuel our bodies, keep us connected, and inspires our best work.

Smart Offices: Using technology to make physical offices more accessible

Smart offices bring technology, data, and workplace design together. Specifically, intelligent technology collects building data to help make informed design decisions. This includes using sensors to monitor air quality, space utilization, and natural light levels to better understand how areas are used and adjust accordingly.

Recently, [Gymshark](#) installed human-centric smart lighting (HCL) – a system that creates lighting which mimics natural daylight. The commercial HCL constantly assesses and optimizes Gymshark’s office design as the business evolves. Considering HCL’s benefits – improved employee concentration and work performance – more companies are looking to follow their lead.

Smart technology, such as [desk booking](#), can determine occupancy across desks, which directly influences workplace design. This data helps decide how many desks a company should have, where the desks should be placed, and how to reimagine extra desk space. Modern office layouts reflect this with wider walkways, fewer desks, and more “relaxation” spaces. This office trend gives workers more space to feel more secure.

Modern Office Design: Offering amenities to fight employee burnout

As a result of remote and hybrid work, businesses have found creative ways to repurpose remaining vacant floor plates and buildings. They attempt to fight employee burnout with a modern office design.

It is no secret that professionals today struggle to find work-life balance. Most lack self-care, refusing to take PTO and working excessive hours – even when sick – due to over-prioritizing their work. Employees even get [Zoom fatigue](#) after getting off virtual calls, where their energy levels plummet. Companies are investing in reservable amenities to counteract this.

Some modern offices incorporate a built-in fitness center. Employees can meet their coworkers for workouts or fitness classes to socialize and relieve stress. To combat [burnout](#), yoga and meditation programs have been among the most popular.

Other amenities modern layouts include are:

- Drop-in daycare
- Printing center
- Game room
- Dining hall
- Relaxation room
- Wider walkways – both indoor and outdoor

With the help of a better layout design, the office can become a feel-good place that promotes self-care and boosts focus. The hybrid model supports work-life balance when the office layout is centered around the employee experience.

The Office, Re-Imagined

Modern reality has changed greatly in recent years, and so have our working environments. Looking to 2023, we anticipate that these office design trends will continue to gain traction. The overwhelming shift to hybrid work endures, and as more companies adapt to the new model, more offices will be re-imagined. Downsizing buildings and cutting real estate costs allow employers to invest in their staff's well-being.

While the debate on the *ideal office* remains, employees' needs are the same. They desire an office that gives them what their home can't – unique settings to concentrate, collaborate, and recharge. Between the upsurge in hybrid work and the latest design trends, the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. job holds a new meaning.