

Designing the Office of the Future | 9.15.22 | [EPISODE PAGE](#)

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Design

- The workplace is the physical manifestation of a company's brand and its design should reflect this; the days of identical floor plates stamped on multiple floors are over
- Themes - functional, egalitarian, flexible, purpose-built
- Form over function - furniture has to become more comfortable, if less Instagrammable
- Furniture should be flexible, able to support multiple working modes
- Better acoustics in call rooms and meeting spaces - not just insulated from the rest of the office but good sound to be heard by people calling in
- Dedicated offices are likely to be replaced with more meeting rooms and team areas
- Personal spaces should reflect the types of work being done, e.g., software engineers will need different types of space than designers or creatives

Trends

- Design trends are driven by the reasons people are coming to the office
- From project room to project suite (meeting room, phone booths, soft seating, some open desking) - reservable gathering of assets to be reserved for teams
- No longer 1:1 desking - calculating capacity has changed because metrics have changed - you are now counting other spaces like soft seating
- Spaces may seem substantially less efficient due to the absence of rows of desks, which may have been replaced by soft seating, etc, but this reflects the new office design driven by employee needs
- Do not benchmark tomorrow's space needs using yesterday's space needs

Future of the Office

- People won't return to the office for free ice cream and Friday lunches
- The space has to speak to a company's core values
- The office becomes the company's town square

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