HOW INTERIOR DESIGN CAN CREATE THE MULTIPURPOSE OFFICE YOU NEED

11 ways to transform your offices into more flexible workspaces

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MORE, OR MORE FLEXIBLE , OFFICE SPACE?

Transforming your office space is no small undertaking - whether driven by growth, employee feedback, or a desire to attract millennial talent.

You think you need more space. But, maybe, you just need more flexible options in the space you already have.

So, how do you do it?

No need to move or lease more space for a full redesign. These are big investments, and they don't guarantee creating the flexibility you really want.

All you need are smarter ways to re-think your office space - to integrate new forms and functions.

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STRATEGY:
INTERIOR DESIGN

Interior design - that is thoughtful and intentional - can successfully transform your current space.

Your offices can become highly efficient places, and useful in more ways to everyone - from the management team to your employees.
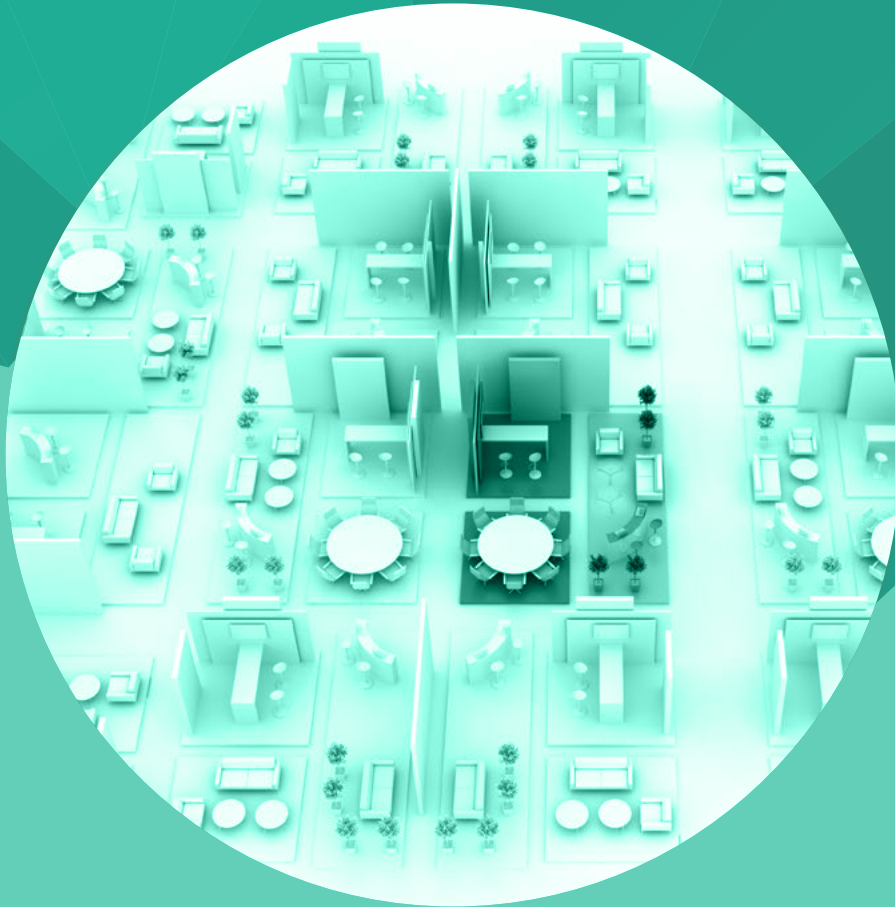
HOW-TO GUIDE FROM AURA OFFICE ENVIRONMENTS

This eBook will help you learn how to think "design".

You'll discover practical ways to use interior design to transform your office into multipurpose workspaces.

- Find 11 design ideas - and stunning images - to inspire limitless workspace options

- Learn basic interior design strategies using SPACE PLANNING and FURNISHINGS

SPACE PLANNING

Space planning defines the layout of your total area. Current trends try to offer a better balance between open and quiet work spaces - and you have many options for designing the right mix for your team.

To create more flexible work areas, you can use physical room dividers, create visual separations, or think even more "out-of-the-box".

What IS space planning?

"Office space planning describes the methods used to design and arrange office layouts so that staff can work together in departmental and team groupings, providing the best opportunity for efficient work flow, communication and supervision."

~ WIKIPEDIA (December 2016)

SPACE DIVIDERS

DEFINE PHYSICALLY

Single, or open spaces, can be divided with physical objects to form separate work areas.

The most effective methods are flexible enough to provide some privacy and, also, bring people together to collaborate at the right time.

DESKS

Efficient, with a Touch of Privacy

While placing many desks together is an efficient use of space, it usually provides people with little privacy - which can affect comfort and productivity.

Adding flexible or movable partitions can help define desk areas. If people need more quiet areas to focus, try to offer other workspace options throughout the day.

WALLS

Fast and Flexible

If your business is growing fast, your offices may need to reconfigure fast, too. But there's no time to wait for drywall!

Fortunately, new technologies in wall design make it possible to drastically change your space layout without the cost and inconvenience of construction.

Sliding, or suspended, doors and free-standing architectural wall systems offer flexible options. Even erasable glass or chalk boards can double as large room dividers.

STORAGE WALLS

Divide & conquer your clutter

Walls that are imagined as storage space can help you maximize your office area by serving a dual purpose - as room dividers and storage.

Storage walls can be fixed in place, or even put on wheels and moved, as needed, to redefine a larger space.

Flexible storage walls - such as tall shelving systems or floor-to-ceiling closed cabinets - can take care of clutter. And they can inspire creative ways to store unusual items, so you can get even more off the floor.

MOBILE STORAGE

Spontaneous dividers

Smaller storage units can also be movable and multipurpose. They add to your options for adapting spaces quickly.

Individual office items can often serve multiple functions - such as storage units that become space dividers and can double as a table top or seating.

One good use of mobile storage is to transform an empty conference room into flexible work areas for part-time team members.

SPACE DIVIDERS

SEPARATE VISUALLY

SPACE DIVIDERS

PAINT

Partition with color

Painting walls, or other architectural details, is a technique interior designers use to define spaces just by color - without a fixed divider. It's low-cost and easily changeable.

Color - which can promote feelings of energy or calm - also works to identify types of areas. Imagine a color-code for conference spaces vs. quiet rooms vs. individual departments.

Other space elements - from fabrics to furniture to lighting - are easily coordinated to design the perfect setting for whichever activity is planned.

FOCAL POINTS

Plan with precision

If dividers don't fit your space, change focus - literally - with a focal point.

You can define smaller areas, within a bigger space, by highlighting a unique feature - such as a large a piece of artwork or collection of hanging lights.

A prominent and colorful item - usually combined with furniture - can become the visual anchor to create a distinct space.

UNCONVENTIONAL DESIGN

Think outside the office box

SPACE DIVIDERS

UNCONVENTIONAL DESIGN

Imagine your 'look and feel'

Some interior design elements are strikingly noticeable - from wall systems to brightly colored paint.

Other techniques that you can use are more subtle - such as flooring transitions, lighting, and ceiling fixtures to signal where spaces begin and end.

Of course, with your imagination, the sky's the limit. Just one unexpected surprise can create a big statement about how you want people to think and feel within the place they work.

FURNISHINGS

Together with space planning, careful furniture selection is essential to the success of your multipurpose office.

As you've seen, the lines can blur between what is a space divider and what is simply furniture - so you have many options for creating the dual-purpose efficiency you'll need within your own office environment.

Let's explore how Interior Design supports mobility, community spaces, and the benefits of bringing the outdoor in.

MOBILITY

Everyone on the move

Now that many employees work using laptop computers and mobile devices, anywhere can be a workstation.

And providing your team with comfortable places to work on a laptop is key to good productivity at different locations.

Movable furniture and tables set at ideal, or adjustable, heights are great ways to change the flow and function of your workspaces.

SPACE DIVIDERS

COLLABORATIVE ACTION

Together, and apart

Understanding how your organization works - and how the work needs to get done - is important in designing the best flexible spaces for your team.

- Do groups collaborate on projects? They'll need the right size space or furniture.

- Do people need quiet locations to focus? Create more quiet spots.

- Are comfortably furnished areas - smaller or larger - good ways to 'change up' the work energy throughout the day?

First, learn what your office needs. Then, you can design the best spaces for innovation, productivity, and knowledge sharing.

COMMUNITY TABLE

Interactive ideas

COMMUNITY TABLE

Connections and shared knowledge

Spaces that encourage people to come together provide great opportunities to share ideas and build connections.

And the literal "community table" - in its various forms and sizes - can be one of many places team members interact.

Some offices may need formal conference rooms, and others make better use of gathering tables in different locations and spaces.

Some important items to consider for all furniture layouts:

- Orientation to foot traffic
- Acoustics and lighting
- Access to power

REVIVE WITH NATURE

Connect the outdoors

Humans respond viscerally to nature - an instinct that can work to trigger positive energy in your offices.

Together with lots of daylight, an investment in nature can give a boost to attitudes and productivity for everyone on your team.
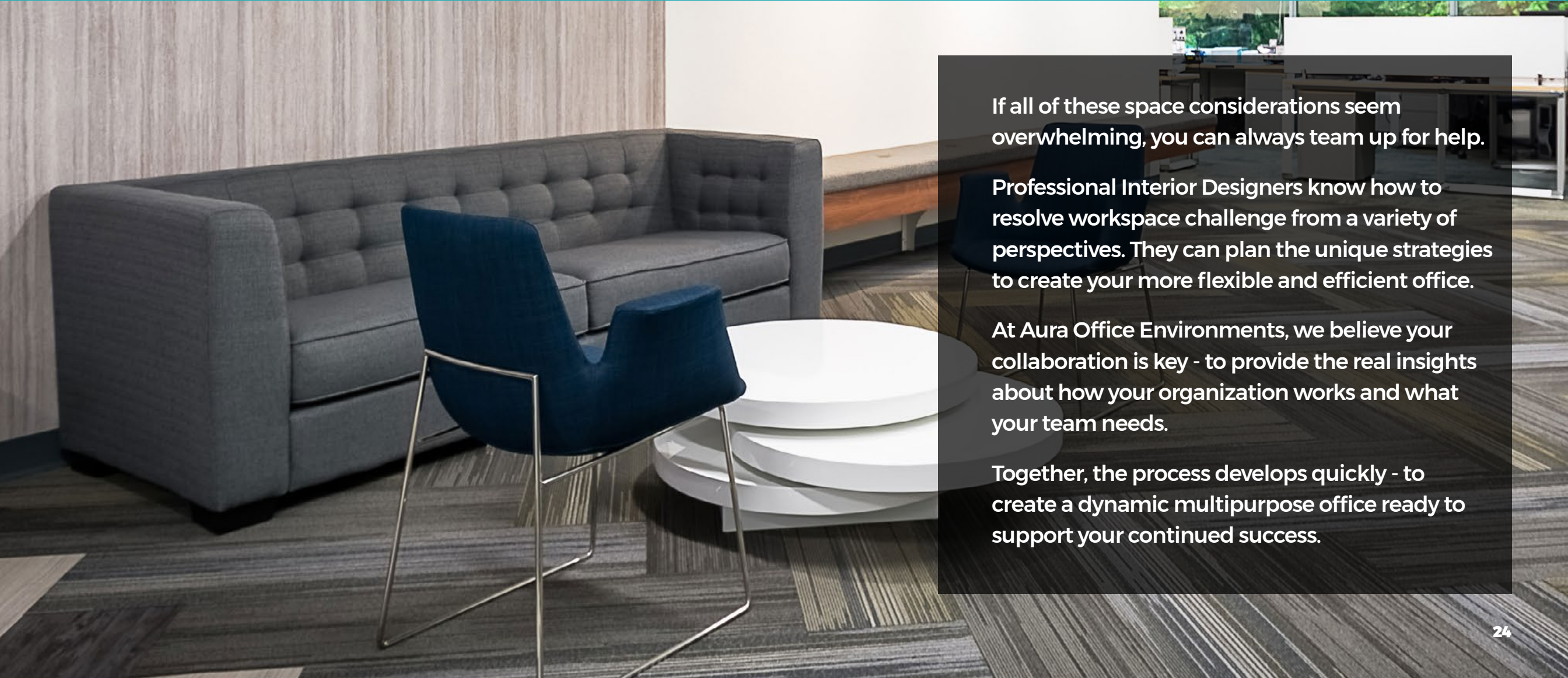
Some natural elements you can provide in your offices include: large plants as focal points; access to landscaped patios; outdoor gardens, and calming water features.

And fresh flowers on a community table are always a vibrant touch.

FIND MORE INSPIRATION

Experience to help create your flexible workspace

If all of these space considerations seem overwhelming, you can always team up for help.

Professional Interior Designers know how to resolve workspace challenge from a variety of perspectives. They can plan the unique strategies to create your more flexible and efficient office.

At Aura Office Environments, we believe your collaboration is key - to provide the real insights about how your organization works and what your team needs.

Together, the process develops quickly - to create a dynamic multipurpose office ready to support your continued success.

If you're looking for an interior design team to create a flexible and multipurpose workplace, we can help!

GET in touch to discuss your Interior Design, Workplace Strategy, and Space Planning.

Click here to request a Complimentary Design Consultation

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