

THE BENEFITS OF CREATING A CAFE WORKSPACE VIBE



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Traditional office design had begun gradually shifting to a more casual vibe before the pandemic forced working from home. We saw this in the styling of predominantly *resimercial interiors* at work. Working from home allowed for an even more casual work style that has now become a marker for investing in a workplace culture that embraces a community of change.

“It’s no secret that many creative and successful ideas happen away from the desk. Freelancers, flex workers and telecommuters have long embraced the coffee culture as a change of pace from working at home or working in a traditional office.”

COFFEE TO CAFE CULTURE

Coffee shops, and coffee shop-inspired workspaces, encourage a more relaxed approach that gets work done with a different mind set. Think in terms of:

- **Refitting an outdated breakroom** with integrative collaborative zones
- **Upscaling an unused conference room** into a coffee bar setting
- **Creating innovation zones** with glass walls or partitions
- **Integrating “third spaces”** as *terrace work areas*

Flex-workers find that working from a coffee shop can have a huge impact on their creativity and output. The change in scenery, the peripheral bustle, and collaborative banter around them can often help with difficult or creative tasks.

Taking that to work could inspire creative zones in any size office. The benefit is increased focus on employee wellbeing. Think about how your team collaborates.

THE LOUNGE EFFECT

The relaxed feeling of highly functional casual workspaces can become more like a lounge within an office environment. Setting a relaxed residential vibe that encourages no barriers could incorporate:

- **Upholstered** banquette seating
- **Corner couch seating** paired with video conferencing
- **Coffee bar** with bar stools
- **Huddle spaces** with upholstered chairs + coffee table



Even formal workplaces can pull this off! We are seeing this trending in law offices, consulting firms and Health-care firms. Where embracing the lounge effect takes the edge off conversations that can sometimes be difficult.

ADAPTING AN EXISTING OFFICE

Workplace interiors are trading in symmetrical desks, swivel chairs, and partitions in exchange for curated bookcases, plush upholstery, and green walls. The relaxed layout of a cafe service area can multitask for staff lunches, presentations, meetings, or an informal working area.

Typical office furniture such as meeting tables and workstations can extend into the cafe area creating an image of work-relax integration. Bridging styles between a lounge and a cafe workspace can create a unique atmosphere in any business genre.

If you want to shift over to this trend gradually, and you have a small growing team in a small space, adapting your office can be a fun opportunity for everyone to be involved in the decisions. In a larger corporate office, fostering a more conversational meeting style is proven

to boost the productivity levels of all employees. Take-aways include:

- **Integrate breakout areas** into nearby workspaces
- **Seek innovative lounge seating** options with built in charging stations
- **Blend flex workspaces** into the cafe area and work zones.

INSIGHTS

If you added up all the Starbucks expenditures from your meetings, you'd probably be shocked at the way the cafe culture has already been a part of your team's workstyle.

We know that many businesses have opted to keep flexible work, in a large corporation this could mean downsizing. Which could inspire some innovative design thinking on what to do with the additional space.

You may have to *liquidate* to start this process. There are also *lease options* to test the waters. Talk to us, our team is well versed in helping businesses flourish at any stage. We've got solutions!

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