

## Wk 2 & 3 – Workplace Trends Assignment

**1 - Office Spaces:** My associates moved to a new office in 2019. The interior was specially designed to encourage greater sharing of ideas and creativity and increase face-to-face conversations between staff and customers. There is a lot of glass, a beautiful Design Centre, an open work area that makes access to all levels of the team instant.



Figure 1 - Design Centre



Figure 2 - Open Work Area

The desks are organized to take advantage of natural lighting and the view of a lovely mature forest area in Toronto. They have a full service style kitchen and a large open outdoor patio with the comforts of home, as well as many casual and cosy meeting spaces.



Figure 3 - Full Service Kitchen

Lots of glass throughout the space. They created an impressive corporate boardroom with a view, as well as few medium sized meeting rooms equipped with the latest technological features. All rooms are defined by glass walls, with the corporate room ensuring the most privacy. They also created a few break-away nooks with white boards for quick on-the-spot team huddles.



Figure 4 - Medium Meeting Room



Figure 5 - Break-Away Meeting Nook, Isolation rooms

A surprise feature at their new office is the placement of a very unique meeting room, one designed to give the impression that you were sitting with friends in a cabin by a fire. The spot exudes a lived-in feeling, a woodsy comfortableness and calls visitors to come in and curl up on one of the 3 big couches by the fire.



*Figure 6 - Cabin Meeting Room*



*Figure 7 – Green Wall*

Lastly, another impressive feature I noticed was a unique green wall, a Vertical Garden that added a touch of nature to the work environment, with its green mass trickling downward like a waterfall.

Upon consideration, it looks like their new non-traditional office follows many of the unique 2019 Office Design Trends mentioned in this post from [Ambius](#) as well as those noted in our reading assignments. Their new office explodes with an employee “Experience Driven” feeling, and it epitomizes the notions of wellness, happiness and community building as noted by Ambius. They have included activity-based workspace design, added comfortable seating areas, and included aspects of nature. Perhaps these design ideas were chosen to improve the ‘employee experience’ and to bolster positive notions of “work-life integration” through design impacts related to old-world craftsmanship and modern design accents and feelings of hominess. In the end, the office design applied here seems to be geared toward millennial appeal, however I believe anyone could enjoy working in this highly flexible and creative workspace.

When I reflect upon my associates dispositions since moving to their new empowered office filled with sunlight and outdoor views, I have to say I think they seem to be more energized and cohesive. This is purely subjective of course, but maybe the new office environment is making them happier and leading to better health, attendance levels and higher business productivity.