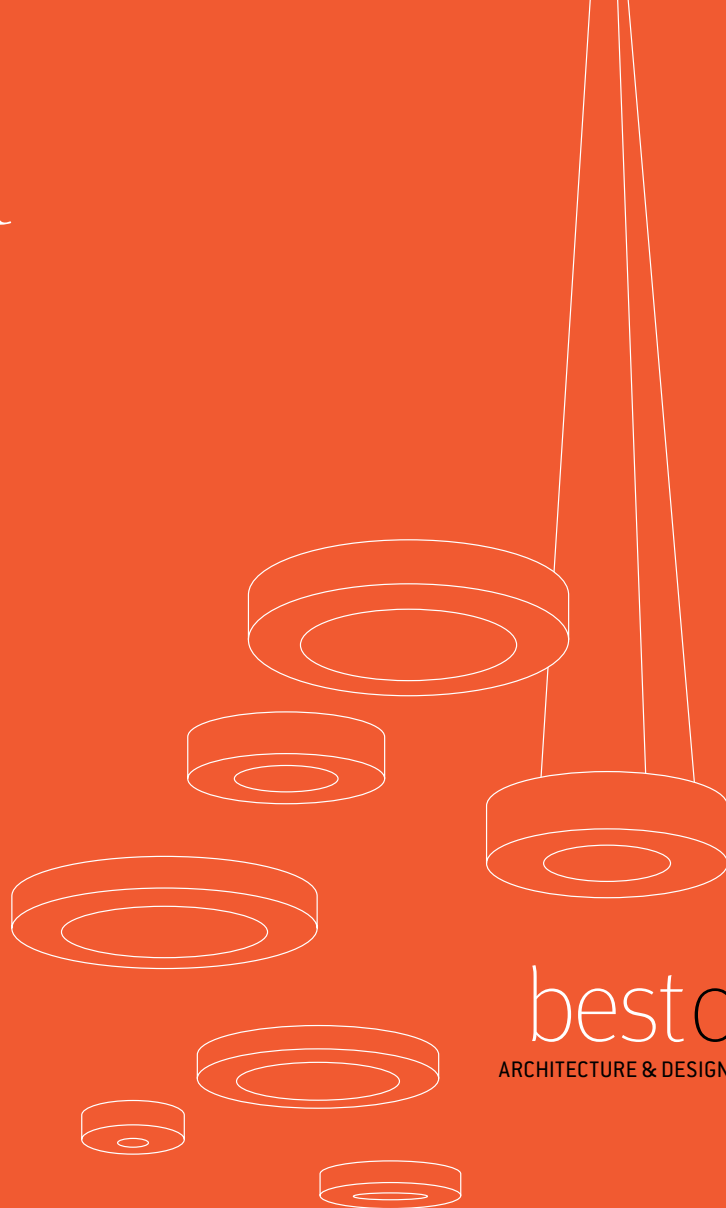


INTERIOR DESIGN[®]



best of office
ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

VOLUME I



foreword by Cindy Allen

How do you design the office of the future... today? Now that nine-to-five's passé, can we envision a new workplace that boosts productivity while promoting well-being for all? From my soapbox, I say, "Yes!" And we prove it by shining a spotlight on the shifting realities designers face, showing myriad savvy solutions and, most important, proving the value good design can bring to the wild world of the office.

I'm delighted to present *Interior Design Best of Office*, the third volume in our expanding series (*Best of Year* and *Best of Hospitality* started it off). In the following pages, you'll see what boundless imagination and enormous commitment can do. The result is a rich portfolio of—count 'em—64 projects spanning 10 countries and 31 cities, created by 40 of the world's brightest architects and designers: both emerging stars and industry heavyweights.

The big news in office design is, we're talking *big* business. Our annual Giants research found that in 2011, the top 200 design firms worked on a staggering 21,000 office projects worldwide! Fees climbed to nearly \$1 billion (\$989 million, for sticklers), and a whopping \$6 billion's worth of fixtures

and furnishings were specified. And the studios expect to handle roughly the same number again this year.

Benefits are massive on the client side, too. In recruiting, retaining, rebranding, and improving employee health and job satisfaction, design's value to business keeps growing exponentially. The solution for Ogilvy & Mather, by M Moser, as it consolidated its Jakarta office? To create a spa-like experience. On the flip side, Montroy Andersen DeMarco devised a 24/7 workplace for New York's Innovation Interactive. Cunningham Group Architecture helped Wisconsin's Epic Systems go green—grazing horses and bright red barn included—while IT staffers collaborated with Francis Cauffman on a new Maryland office for W.L. Gore & Associates, a fixture on *Fortune's* "100 Best Companies to Work For" list.

So, kick back and enjoy the view, but not for too long. You've got work to do!



Business as usual? Not so for traders, hedge funders, investment bankers, and the like.

On the surface, many of these offices exhibit traditional touchstones: polished-marble floors, formal boardrooms, furniture-design classics. But today's financial headquarters inevitably integrates state-of-the-art technology and modular, open-plan work areas conceived to abet information exchange (and reconfiguration). Amenities such as fitness centers and coffee bars offset the pressure-cooker environment, as do Zen-like accents. *A wise investment, indeed.*

4,200 sf
\$90 per sf



DavidTan Associates

ASSET MANAGEMENT FIRM, SINGAPORE

To lend a sense of home to a Swedish client's Singapore satellite office, DavidTan Associates design director Hoe Kiat Tan imported cool, Nordic style. Clean-lined furnishings were specified in pale woods, walls and floors are a sea of glossy white and warm gray, fuss is minimal. The Scandinavian aesthetic lends this asset management firm's digs a relaxed yet efficient feel.

Slabs of granite clad the entryway feature wall, adding texture to a scheme nearly free of ornamentation. Cement board animates meeting rooms and public zones. A cool palette of oak-veneer millwork and slate-hued carpet tiles give a nonchalant vibe to the two breakout areas.

The space originally had a very low ceiling, which the designer removed to reveal ample headroom—albeit crisscrossed with a maze of pipes. To maintain airiness while establishing a sense of order, Tan installed floating plaster ceiling elements that demarcate functional zones. In the entry, the plane is pierced with a strategically placed oval cutout; in the open-plan work area, the treatment is reversed, with oval canopies floating overhead like clouds. Boundaries are further drawn by glass walls that preserve brightness and spatial flow.

Workstations are super clean and spare, with quartets of high-tech Zefiro desks and Aeron chairs. Punctuating the minimalist environs are moments of visual pizzazz formed by wall panels wrapped in graphic textiles, including those of Midcentury Swedish design icon Josef Frank.



Clockwise from above: The waiting area is floored in agglomerated stone. In the larger conference room, business is conducted from mesh-back Eames Executive Office chairs. Near the entry, a pair of Gianluigi Landoni 1000 Fast armchairs lounge beneath a George Nelson Natural Ball clock. One of the smaller meeting rooms, furnished with Eames classics and a Bertjan Pot Random pendant. A breakout area, wrapped in oak veneer, is enlivened by Josef Frank's vibrant 1940s Aralia print. ➤





- 1 WAITING AREA
- 2 MEETING ROOM
- 3 BREAKOUT AREA
- 4 OPEN OFFICE
- 5 PANTRY AND UTILITY

The ceiling in the open-plan workspace is the inverse of that in the public areas. Below fluorescent lights, double rows of workstations are separated by glass panels.



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