Highfive

5 PRODUCTIVITY-BOOSTING MEETING ROOM DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2019

LEARN HOW TO TRANSFORM YOUR MEETING ROOMS INTO MODERN, INSPIRATIONAL SPACES WITH THESE COOL, CALM, AND COLLECTED IDEAS

Current research shows that "[executives spend an average of nearly 23 hours a week](#)" in meetings, while everyone else spends [about 14 hours in meetings](#) each week.

That's a lot of time to sit in a drab, dreary, uninspiring space. Especially when the purpose of that space is to inspire, spark innovation, and catalyze new ideas. So it's odd that the typical design effort put into a meeting room stops at a creative name, some stock art, and a potted plant.

The places people meet to exchange ideas and get work done should be designed for that purpose. Plus, if people 35-50% of their time in such a space, it seems obvious that it should be functional and inspirational.

To help transform any conference, huddle, meeting room into a nirvana of productivity, here are the top five meeting room design trends for 2019.

EXECUTIVES SPEND AN AVERAGE OF NEARLY...

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TREND #1: BRING NATURE INSIDE

Nothing inspires the mind quite like being engulfed in nature. That's not always easy to do at work, but it is easy to bring natural elements from the outdoors inside. It's called biophilic design and it's a trend that continues to grow in popularity. In fact, research has shown that incorporating natural elements into employee environments has a positive impact on their performance and well-being.

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Whether a meeting room is outfitted with a reclaimed wood table, a living wall of plants, or a fireplace or water-wall, adding natural elements to a space is a great way to encourage relaxation and calm. In turn, stress is reduced and workers can be more creative. In addition, walls covered in plants, water, or natural materials provide great sound absorption to further calm the room.

Get back to nature! Workers in offices with natural greenery are...

15% more creative

6% more productive than those without

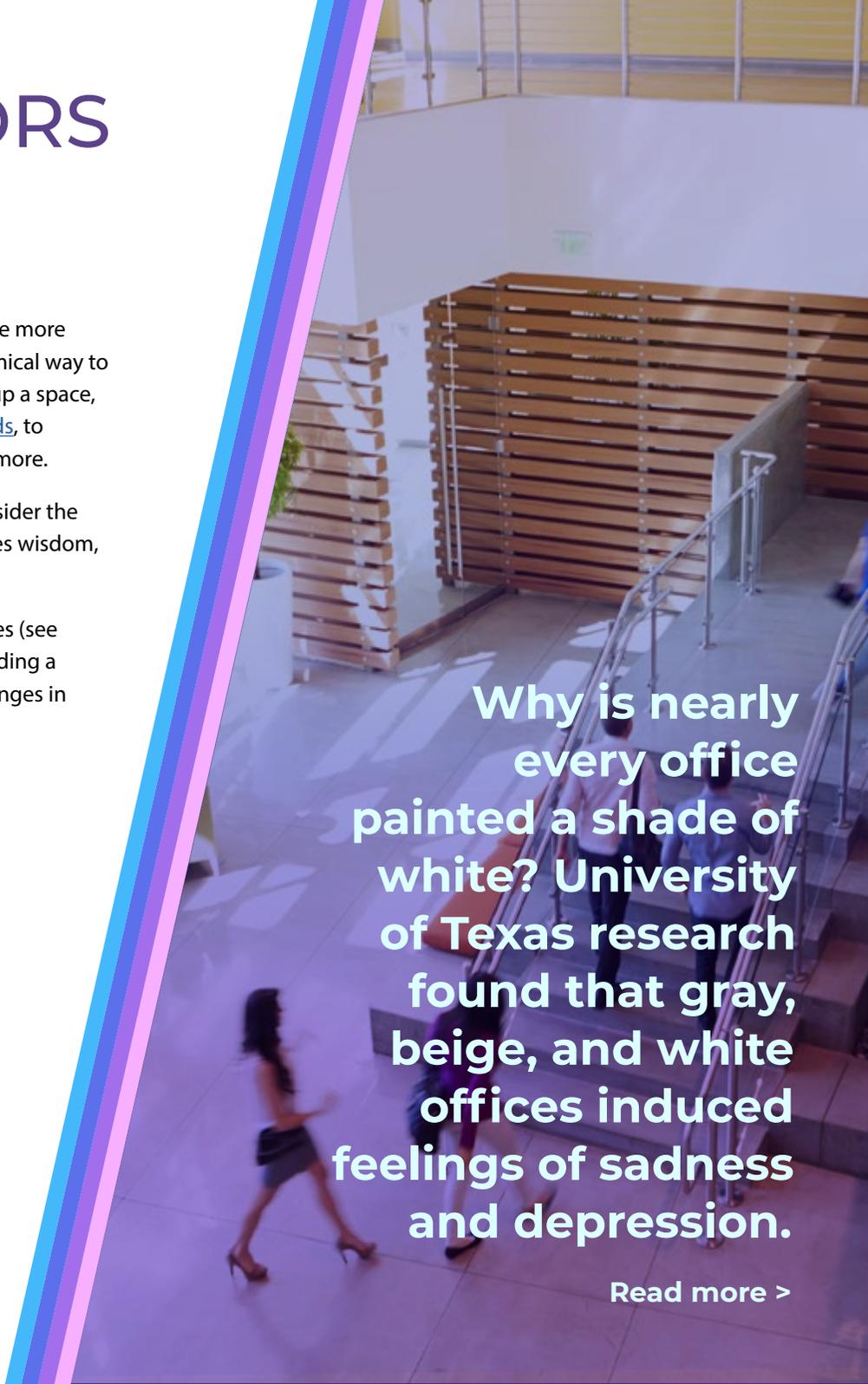Read more >

TREND #2: ADD COLORS AND TEXTURES

When color is added to a work environment, the people in that environment experience more organized and colorful thought patterns. Painting an accent wall is an easy and economical way to bring color into a meeting room. But you can also choose colorful accessories to liven up a space, from fun chairs and glass whiteboards, to acoustic panels, modern tables, and more.

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Before choosing colors, be sure to consider the mood they will inspire. According to Color Wheel Pro's Psychology of Colors, blue evokes wisdom, yellow evokes happiness, and green evokes harmony. So choose wisely.

Textures are also spicing up more workspaces. While adding plants and outdoor features (see trend #1) has definite value, they also break up the monotony of the four walls surrounding a room. Combining textures, such as metal, wood, fabric, and stone, also adds subtle changes in hues and can be used to add depth and visual interest to a meeting room.

Why is nearly every office painted a shade of white? University of Texas research found that gray, beige, and white offices induced feelings of sadness and depression.

Read more >
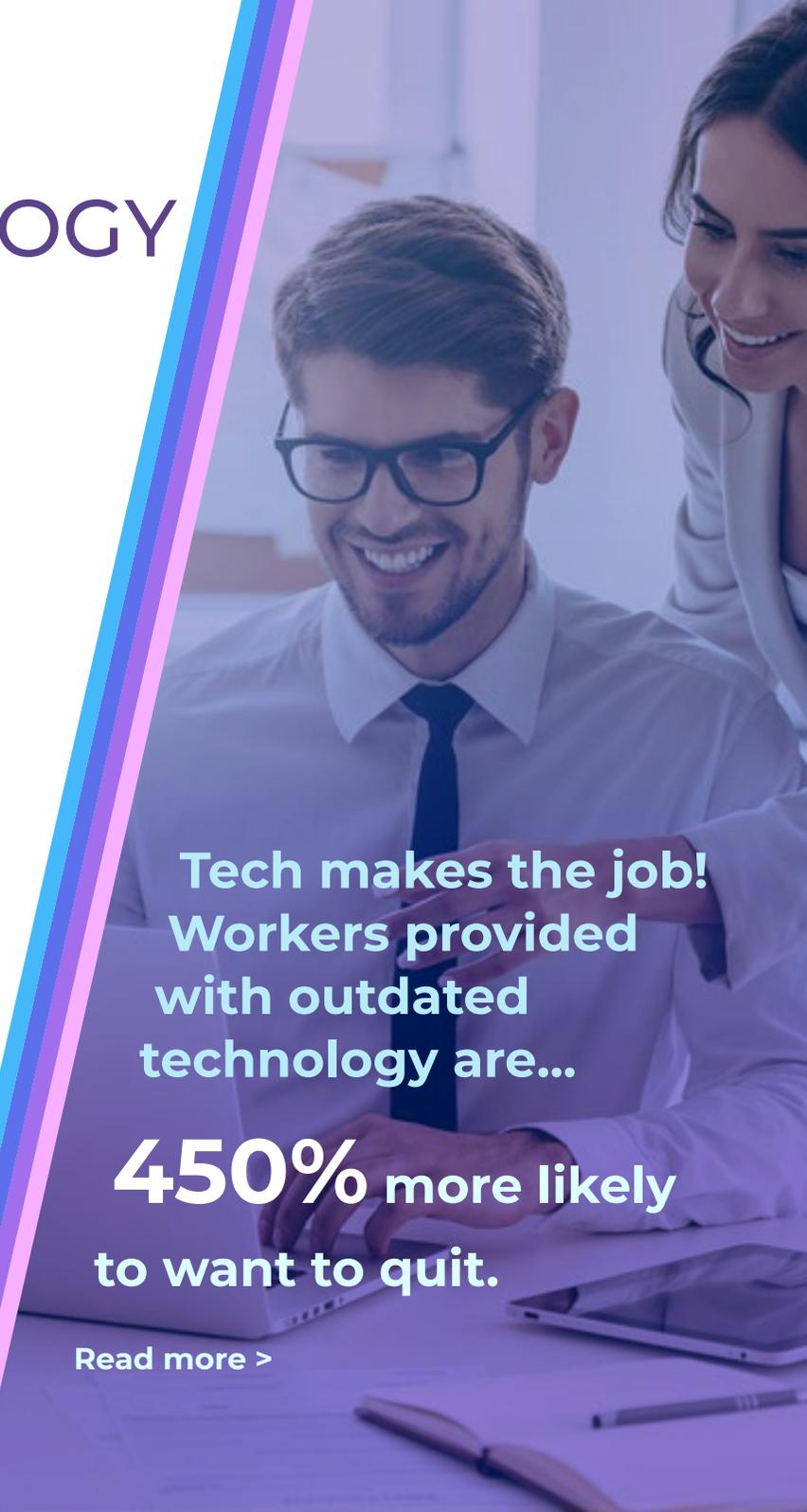
TREND #3: LET DESIGN INCORPORATE TECHNOLOGY

Meeting rooms should project an aura of sophistication and polish, so a messy tangle of wires or a pile of remote controls and dongles can distract from even the most striking room design. But technology is ubiquitous and useful, and most modern meeting room furniture comes with built-in power adapters, cable-hiding channels and pockets, and even wireless charging stations. Integrating technology into the design of a meeting room adds convenience and functionality while simultaneously removing the clutter, chaos, and safety hazards created by a jumble of wires, cables, and cords.

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When considering ways to integrate technology and remove wires from view, it's a good time to upgrade the technology itself. Video conferencing systems, monitors, projectors, and even whiteboards have all come a long way in the past few years. Advances in technology have also enabled smaller all-in-one devices so even meeting rooms can have sleek, lightweight hardware that takes up minimal space.

New technologies can also help streamline meeting room designs, such as wireless screen sharing, automatic device connections, and cross-device and -operating system usability. These capabilities all work together to eliminate bulky projectors, confusing dongles, and a pile of remote controls from a meeting room.

Tech makes the job! Workers provided with outdated technology are...

450% more likely

to want to quit.

Read more >

TREND #4: USE FURNITURE THAT WORKS

Meeting rooms are becoming more modern, not only in the technology but in facilitating the way people want to work. Collaboration and teamwork is more pervasive, so casual, flexible meeting spaces are becoming more popular. Huddle rooms, studios, ideation hubs, and other creative spaces are making their way into more offices.

But remember that work still needs to get done. If a meeting space is in an open or semi-open area, such as a pod or huddle room, acoustic furniture is a must to keep noise levels down and privacy levels up. Smart and functional acoustic furnishings come in all shapes and sizes including chairs, modular panels, and freestanding pods or cocoons. They can be used creatively (and colorfully) to provide semi-private spaces that also allow people to see one another and feel connected.

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Meeting rooms also need to give workers the flexibility to work how they want to work. Desks and tables should be easy to move and reconfigure. Walls can double as whiteboards. Bar-height tables allow standing or sitting. Plenty of connectivity options keep workers online. And newer video conferencing solutions enable better in-room collaboration and higher-quality audio and video for remote participants.

WORKERS WANT TO MEET IN MEETING ROOMS!

Open-plan offices actually decrease face-to-face conversations by **70%** and increase email use by up to **50%**. **Read more >**

TREND #5: KEEP REMOTE WORKERS IN THE LOOP

A recent study found that 63% of companies now have remote workers and experts predict strong annual growth in business travel for the next few years. Workers also want the flexibility to work in unconventional ways and from comfortable spaces, to flex their time, and to have a better work-life balance.
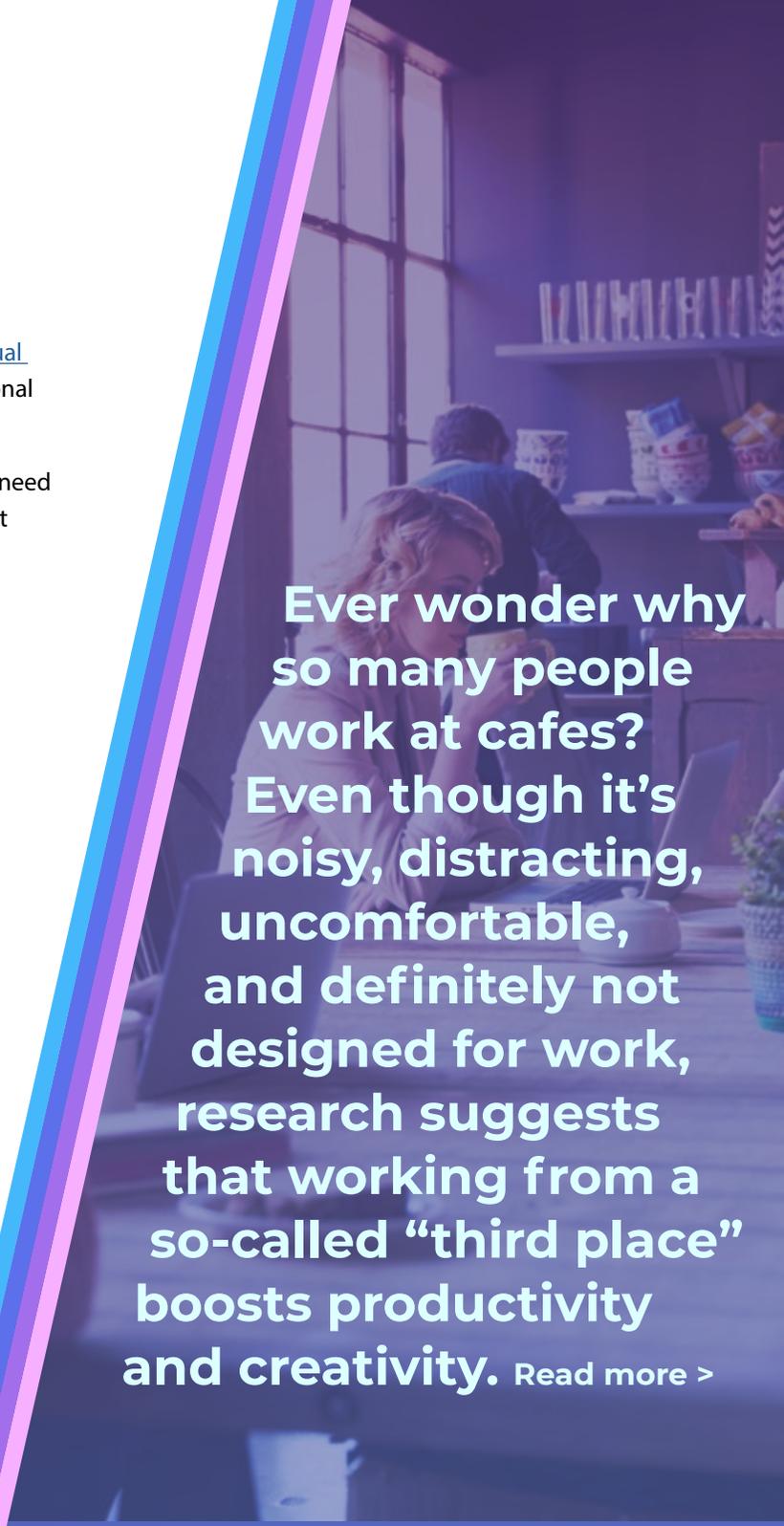
Add it all up and the reality is that more workers are working outside of a traditional office, yet they still need to work and collaborate with colleagues. As the nature work changes, so should the spaces in which that work happens.

Rooms should also easily accommodate remote workers with high quality video and audio conferencing.

What's considered a good workspace has changed much over the years, especially in the last decade. Depending on the type and style of meetings taking place (stand-ups, sit-downs, formal, impromptu, etc.), the room and furnishings should allow teams to get comfortable and collaborate in whatever way works best.

Rooms should also easily accommodate remote workers with high quality video and audio conferencing. Video should always be HD, every voice should be captured and easily heard, background noise should be eliminated, and sharing screens or projecting on an in-room monitor should be simple. Since many workers move between offices, video conferencing should also be standardized so it's easy for travelers to hop on a video call no matter which office they're in.

Ever wonder why so many people work at cafes? Even though it's noisy, distracting, uncomfortable, and definitely not designed for work, research suggests that working from a so-called "third place" boosts productivity and creativity. **Read more >**

HIGHFIVE MAKES EVERY MEETING ROOM TRENDY

While trends come and go, productivity and simplicity are always in style. Highfive offers a sleek, all-in-one, video collaboration solution that seamlessly blends into the background of any meeting room. It takes just a few minutes to install, a tap to start or join meetings, and has nothing to download or install. And, with a low monthly price per room, any organization can add crystal clear HD video, crisp audio, and easy to use collaboration to every meeting room.

To learn more visit Highfive.com.