



INTERIOR DESIGN[®]

best of office

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

INTERIOR DESIGN BEST OF OFFICE

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Cindy Allen

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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SENIOR DESIGNER

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EDITOR

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Helene E. Oberman

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Danine Alati

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Damaris Colhoun

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DIGITAL IMAGING

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PRODUCTION

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MARKETING ART DIRECTOR

Denise Figueroa

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SANDOW MEDIA LLC
Corporate Headquarters
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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!



WilliamsCraig

CRAWLEY MEREDITH BRUSH, TORONTO

Clockwise from above: In a meeting room, an arched wrought-iron window surrounded by exposed brick offers an element of drama. Castor Design's Recycled fluorescent-tube light floats above the custom gray-oak library table; artwork and classic Aluminum Group chairs add a punch of color. For privacy, a series of sliding panels—in natural-finish rift-cut white oak—close off the library and café from reception; at rear, a communal island supports casual interaction. ➔

It isn't unusual to seek inspiration at an art institution. But when contemplating the design of its new law office, CMB found an unexpected muse in a nearby institution itself: the Art Gallery of Ontario, a daring swoop of titanium and glass masterminded by Frank Gehry. CMB's top-floor space had an unobstructed view of the avant-garde façade, which is reminiscent of a ship's exposed hull. To preserve sight lines, WilliamsCraig devised an industrial-luxe scheme with much glazing, adding transparency both literally and figuratively.

Slicing through the center of the floor plate, a long run of public spaces—encompassing reception, library, and café—is separated from the elevator lobby by a glass wall. A skylight floods these areas with sunshine, as does the full-height arched window that forms a striking backdrop to a client meeting area. Perimeter offices are enclosed in glass so that even legal assistants toiling in interior workstations can enjoy the sight of Gehry's showstopper.

A palette of wide-plank gray-oak floors and rift-cut white-oak millwork complements the rawer existing textures, such as brick walls and rustic beams stripped of glossy finishes. The latter two original features capture the design philosophy in a nutshell: honest, strong, and true.

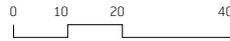




8,300 sf
Renovation



- 1 RECEPTION
- 2 LIBRARY
- 3 CAFÉ
- 4 PARTNER'S OFFICE
- 5 MEETING ROOM
- 6 BOARDROOM
- 7 WORKING ROOM



PROJECT TEAM KAREN WILLIAMS, JOELLE CRAIG, STEPHANIE WONG,
JENN DUGUAY, JAMIE GRUENWALD, OLGA MELNIKOVA

PHOTOGRAPHY TOM ARBAN

www.williamsraigdesign.com



Clockwise from left:
The low workstation partitions preserve openness; the storage volume separating the café and library from the work area features shelving on both sides. A series of Tom Dixon pressed-glass pendants shed light on the café island. A glass wall separates the elevator lobby from a continuous public zone including reception, the library, and the café. A dropped drywall ceiling over the main boardroom table minimizes sound transmission; an area rug composed of carpet tiles anchors the scene.



