“People are blown away by the sheer volume.”

David Powell, a partner in Hastings Architecture, on the firm’s 24,000-square-foot headquarters in the former Nashville Public Library | PAGE 4

Co-working companies have turned their attention inward, where they are doubling down on design. At a Manhattan location of the Assemblage, above, the lighting, seats and wall coverings lend a decidedly un-officelike feel.

In Connecticut, a stone cottage where poetry is read and written.

Workplace products that make the dismal stuff in ‘Office Space’ look like a bad dream.

Touring Chicago office buildings with the photographer and writer Lee Bey.
A Castle No Longer Grims

The Gingerbread Castle was decorated with standard elements.

A crumbling gingerbread castle, built in Flushing, N.Y., is in the 16th or a 17th-century mix, may be finally headed for Prince charming. The Gingerbread Castle was originally commissioned from the architect and set designer Joseph Zee by the founder of the magazine Frederick H. Rime.

My parents are downsizing and trying to move. I'm not talking about stodgy old brown furniture, but some sizable and boldly colored artwork has finally increased in value. As to the picture of Mom at the age of 34, her eyes have increased in value.

The good news is that after a long period of neglect, our parents' postmodern furnished white loft. Is there hope of integrating the furniture, but some sizable and boldly colored artwork has finally increased in value. As to the picture of Mom at the age of 34, her eyes have increased in value.

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The problem with adopting a particular "look" is that of course it will become dated. The problem with adopting a particular "look" is that of course it will become dated.

It is better to add and subtract elements over time, allowing a more personal touch. With a little attention.

Oxomagazine.com, a Blackbird, a novel of science fiction by Philip K. Dick, is known for its playful mix of characters and tropes by dragging the same pieces from house to house. It's not perfect," he said. The Oxo — and also comes in black or white to the Oxo — and also comes in black or white — but is made of processed bamboo, with a natural bamboo handle, and holds a whop- ping 2½ pounds of compost. It's everything that has to do with composting. It's everything that has to do with composting.

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Once a Library, by Design

In Nashville, an architecture studio renews a structure that brought Modernism to town.

By TED LOOS

In Nashville, a surging economy has led to a recent construction spasm, with cranes dotting the skyline. But one of the city’s best-known firms, Hastings Architecture, which specializes in commercial and institutional architecture, the project fell through.

William Hastings, was talking with a non-profit about taking over the old library, but Mr. Bailey and his colleagues have done their part to retain some of Nashville’s landmarks of its era, like the Lincoln Center in New York and the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. It’s on a high point in the city topography, so it gives amazing views,” Mr. Powell added. “This building was meaningful to anyone in the city because of its history, in an adaptive reuse project that makes preservation seem forward-thinking indeed.

“Shortly after we bought the building, it flooded,” Mr. Bailey said. “10 feet of water — and all the electrical equipment was down there.”

Some 200 of the building’s exterior marble panels had to be replaced; the main studio cafe; about two-thirds of the structure’s exterior water — and all the electrical equipment was down there.”

“We were so excited about buying the building that we didn’t see all these issues,” Mr. Bailey added, chuckling. “During the renovation, everything was right in our face, and we had to react to the original Georgia quarry by doing.

“We were so excited about buying the building that we didn’t see all these issues,” Mr. Bailey added, chuckling. “During the renovation, everything was right in our face, and we had to react to the original Georgia quarry by doing.

“We want to tell the story of the library, without being too ‘too the same’ story,” Mr. Powell said. “We’ve never had that deep stock of old buildings that other cities enjoy,” said David Bailey, a partner in Hastings Architecture, one of the city’s best-known firms.

“Here,” Mr. Bailey said, “we added some too.” Some of the original walnut doors were turned into tall, new materials hewed to a strict palette of gray, black and white.

Inside, walls, columns and floors were stripped down to the concrete, and all the new materials honored a strict palette of gray, black and white.

In particular, the interior windows — part of certain walls that were among Nashville’s earliest examples of the modernist style — were left.

“Here was the driver of what we do is telling a star of the show,” Mr. Powell said.

Most of the arched windows were replaced with modern, high-performance glass.

In Nashville, an architecture studio renews a structure that brought Modernism to town. The building became a double-height, open shell, close to the Tennessee State Capitol.

Hastings has purchased the building for 40,000 square feet for themselves. Their offices occupy 24,000 square feet, with the remainder devted to a room on the north side of the building.

“The driver of what we do is telling a story with architecture,” Mr. Powell said. “We’ve never had that deep stock of old buildings that other cities enjoy,” said David Bailey, a partner in Hastings Architecture, one of the city’s best-known firms.

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The largest windowpane is made of glass from a trundle bed is tucked into a wooden drawer below a shelf that holds Mr. Barr's own published works, including The Adventures of Henry (2013) and Of course he and his wife, Penny, acquired forested acres in dream Connecticut workplace. He and his wife, Penny, acquired forested acres in 1992. "We bought this place with the idea that we would eventually build a writer's rock, as opposed to a house," Mr. Barr explained during a recent tour. "It's that ability to just stop and pause."

He has not yet written poems about the studio's ideas and locale. Stanley Burnshaw's "In the Times Comes to the Poet John Barr while he was writing his new book, which houses some 1,500 volumes of poetry. They were a gift from friends, who appeared on the spines of 1750 east feet of poetry. They were a gift from friends, who later became regulars in the room. The studio's doors are said to be "enough to withstand the garden's" and "enough to withstand the garden's"

The studio's restrained palette and lack of mortar is visible between stones, in-...,
It's been 20 years since the release of "Office Space," the Mike Judge movie that lampooned the drudgery of the corporate workplace. In many ways, office culture remains the same. But these days, the soul-sucking software company that employs the film's protagonist would have very different digs.

The energy-guzzling fluorescent lights are looking antiquated, as are the sea of gray cubicles and the immobile steel desks covered in stacks of memos. More than ever, workplaces are being used as tools for recruiting and retaining employees, and companies are taking a health-focused and agile approach to design.

Referring to the "uncertainty" of the modern workplace — which expands and contracts like a jellyfish to accommodate fluctuating opportunities and personnel — Nora Fehlbaum, the chief executive of the Swiss furniture manufacturer Vitra, stressed corporate demands for "flexibility of cost, personnel, space and ultimately, furniture." But businesses still trade in archetypes, Ms. Felhbaum said, and a traditional boardroom transmits a different message than a super flexible space.

Here are several new products that characterize the contemporary office landscape.

### PRODUCTS

**TWERK SURFACE**
Vitra's Dancing Wall, designed by Stephan Hürlemann, is a whiteboard, mobile garden, room divider, powered TV stand and more. From $2,890; vitra.com

**NO PARTICLEBOARD HERE**
Post Office shelving by Pinch has solid oak and ash box construction and pronounced joinery. Price available on request; pinchdesign.com

**TENDRIL IS THE SIGHT**
Plants make ideal office companions: They dampen acoustics, boost air quality and soften visually sterile design. (They also don't abuse "reply all" on email chains.) The two-sided Duet living wall puts a garden on wheels, giving users the added benefit of a flexible partition. From $10,000; sagegreenlife.com

**PUTTING METAL TO THE PETAL**
Muuto's dimmable Leaf LED lamp nods at nature and won't fall at your feet in autumn (unless you give it a shove). It is cast aluminum and steel and comes in floor ($535) and tabletop ($385) versions; muuto.com

**CASE CLOSED — OR OPEN**
Egg Collective's asymmetrical Landry bookcase comes in a variety of woods, with or without backing. From $16,200; eggcollective.com

### Desk Appeal
Out with the gray cubicles, in with plant partitions and laptop-friendly sofas.
SERIOUS COMFORT
The rise of working from home means that the sofa is the new office chair. Soft Work, a modular system by Barber Osgerby for Vitra, supports lengthy laptop sessions and has options for integrated tables, power outlets and charging stations. From $1,535 per module; vitra.com

SWEET SPOT
A cake stand inspired the commanding profile of HBF's ash-topped Torre (Italian for “tower”) conference table by Artis Studio, which integrates power through its base. From $6,020; hbf.com

CIRCULAR ECONOMY
Heartwork's perforated monitor stand adds a punch of color and texture to a desk and is made of recyclable steel. $70 (a solid version is also available, for $45); heartwork.com

LINE DANCE
OiKo Design Office’s graphic Asana floor lamp for Estiluz features a movable arm that can pivot to direct light, and a little table to hold plants or other knickknacks. From about $2,400; estiluz.com

ST. MIX-A-LOT
The St. Charles desk by Brooklyn-based VOLK incorporates bleached ash, marble, steel, and a leather blotter. Other woods and finishes are available, as is custom sizing. From $5,800; volkfurniture.com

EDUARDO PEREZ/VITRA
HANNAH WHITAKER SCHNEPP RENOU/VITRA
JAMES CHOROROS
OFFICE SPACE

Hot Desks

Many co-working offices have stylish interiors with decidedly un-beige color schemes.

BY JANE MARGOLIES

Small operators, in particular, are doubling down on design.

In East Hollywood, they have transformed a once-barren parking lot into a lush landscape of more than 5,000 plants, including 30-foot palm trees. High-re ara- ship work pods under skylights in the entry area through a spacious, skylit, bamboo-paneled cafe to a vast common area with a sea of seats.

In the early days of the company, all the chairs were midcentury modern or the work of Scandinavian designers, said Re- sam Addo, the co-founder and co-chief exec- utive. “But people complained about their backs.”

Now, there is comfortable seating from Bertoia to the Princes — hand- crafted, chair-like works by Harry Bertoia in Belgium — off the common area.

Some coworking operators appeal to specific subcultures, striking and blurring the lines between shared and private spaces.

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where floor cushions provide seating. There is a yoga room for stretching and an
elixir bar for infusions said to aid in diges-
tion and mood.

David Rockwell, whose firm has
produced glitzy restaurants, Broadway
stage sets and even the Academy Awards
auditorium, got the design ball rolling with
the Manhattan and Hollywood locations of
NeueHouse (from $650 per month). The To-
ton-based DesignAgency, perhaps best
known for Momofuku restaurants, has tak-
en charge of the third, scheduled to open in
January in the historic Bradbury Building
in Los Angeles.

On the ground level of the Manhattan lo-
cation, old-fashioned banker’s chairs are
pulled up to communal tables. Individual
metal task lamps glow. Nearby, leather-up-
holstered sofas embellished with nailhead
trim form seating areas. Everywhere is a
brass-finger bank.

At least some of the inspiration goes back
to WeWork, of course — which emerged as
the frontrunner in co-working space. The
company’s look began evolving in 2017,
when the men’s wear designer Adam Kimm-
el was appointed chief creative officer.
Under Mr. Kimmel, common spaces be-
gan to take on the feel of high-end interiors,
furnished with pieces by 20th-century mas-
ters.

Mr. Kimmel resigned from the company
last month, one of several high-level execu-
tives to depart after its recent financial tur-
mol. In the absence of Mr. Kimmel, and amid
the general belt-tightening at WeWork, de-
sign watchers will have to wait and see if the
sophisticated new look survives.
By ALEXANDRA LANGE
Lee Bey stood under the rotunda at the James R. Thompson Center, 11 stories of mirror-glass balconies rising around him, and many stories below in the shadow of official machinery, sipping up a drink.

"This is the essence of what we're doing," said the 68-year-old Chicago architect and planner, who is part of a design pioneers William McDonough + Partners’ "greening" Abell Elementary School.

But Chicago isn't built on city hall, and the landscape architect Nathan F. Swan "the Pullman Historic District; a detail of the Central Reliance Building by Burnham & Root.

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From Trees to Towers
Engineered wood takes on a greater role in construction, rising to new heights.

BY STEPHEN WALKER
Michael Green has seen the future of the building industry, and that future is in wood.

Lists of wood. The Vancouver-based architect and consultant can invent a list of trees that construction materials are made from, or he can make a list of structural wood components that can be used. It's a list that can be endless. "Wood is a building material — even large-scale buildings — that, with how it grows and how it is processed, can be incredibly sustainable," he said. "It's a material that can be grown and harvested in an environmentally responsible way, and it can be used to build beautiful, functional buildings." Property owners and developers have raised concerns about the effects of climate change on the building industry, and that concern has led to a growing interest in wood as a sustainable building material. "People want to live in green buildings, and wood is one of the most sustainable materials available," Green said.

For now, a lot of mass-timber projects are still in the planning stage. But the technology is becoming more widespread, and the benefits of using wood in construction are growing.

"Wood is a versatile material that can be used in a wide range of applications," Green said. "It can be used for everything from small homes to large skyscrapers. And it's durable, it's strong, and it's beautiful."

The use of wood in construction is not new. In fact, wood has been used in buildings for centuries. But over the past few decades, the use of wood in construction has increased significantly, driven by advances in technology and a growing awareness of the benefits of using wood.

"There's a movement away from concrete and steel to using wood because it's more sustainable," Green said. "And it's not just the environmental benefits that make wood attractive. It's also the aesthetic benefits. Wood can be used to create beautiful, functional buildings." The use of wood in construction is not just limited to the United States. In Europe, for example, the use of wood in construction is becoming more widespread. "There's a trend towards using wood in construction in Europe, and that trend is also happening in the United States," Green said.

"We're seeing an increasing interest in using wood in construction, and that's because people want to create buildings that are more sustainable and more beautiful," Green said. "And wood is the perfect material for doing just that."

"The use of wood in construction is not just about sustainability," Green said. "It's also about creating beautiful, functional buildings. And that's why we're seeing a growing interest in using wood in construction."