

Information for journalists and media representatives “Office environments”

How will people live and work in the future? Asking this and similar questions, researchers at Fraunhofer IAO apply their findings in practice to achieve concrete results. Our experts shape the interaction between humans, technology and organization with a view to the whole, keeping each customer’s specific needs in mind.

In the Workspace Innovation Lab, Fraunhofer IAO studies the effects of different working environments and practices on the performance, motivation and well-being of office and knowledge workers. The Workspace Innovation Lab is designed to be a lived-in laboratory where the latest questions, concepts and products relating to office and knowledge work are investigated, evaluated and developed in concrete usage contexts. This experimental platform allows researchers to model and study virtually all aspects of a workplace with flexible working times and spaces.

Working together with more than 20 partner companies as part of the Office21® joint research initiative, researchers at Fraunhofer IAO employ ergonomic techniques to devise practically relevant scenarios, concepts and methodologies relating to organizational practices. Research focuses on improving communication, concentration, well-being, productivity, motivation, creativity and innovation. Based on this, researchers can identify specific steps for improving the way work is organized within their own companies or the way individuals shape their career. They can also identify ways for developing products and services relating to office work.

Further information:

www.iao.fraunhofer.de | www.office21.de | www.swl.iao.fraunhofer.de

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Photo material

The following photos may be used free of charge as part of reports on Fraunhofer IAO's "Work and Office Design" initiative. Requests for high-resolution images should be sent to presse@iao.fraunhofer.de. All photos used must be accompanied by the appropriate source reference, and we kindly request a copy of the published material. The photos are to be used exclusively for editorial reporting and under no circumstances in advertising or sales materials. Further circulation, copying, editing or use on websites that is not for the purposes of editorial reporting is not permitted.

Office environments (1) Office environments in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Open-concept office areas enable collaborative working and facilitate the exchange of information between employees. Tables and chairs are height-adjustable at the push of a button, and they can be adapted for every employee as well as for the work situation and its associated requirements.



Photo: Ludmilla Parsyak © Fraunhofer IAO

Office environments (2) Office environments in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

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Photo: Ludmilla Parsyak © Fraunhofer IAO

Office environments (3)

Office environments in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Open areas with seating provide space for Fraunhofer IAO employees to exchange information and expertise. The tables and chairs are height-adjustable and can be adapted for any person as well as for the work situation and its associated requirements.



Photo: Jörg Bakschas Headroom Consult
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Office environments (4)

Office environments in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Special armchairs in the open areas of the office serve as places where employees can retreat to make phone calls or concentrate on their own work. A wall with plants ensures a pleasant room atmosphere.



Photo: Ludmilla Parsyak © Fraunhofer IAO

Office environments (5)

Office environments in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

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Office environments (6)

Flexible workplaces in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Meeting islands such as the "American Diner" are integrated into the layout of the open office. They can be used for set meetings or informal get-togethers.



Photo: Jörg Bakschas Headroom Consult
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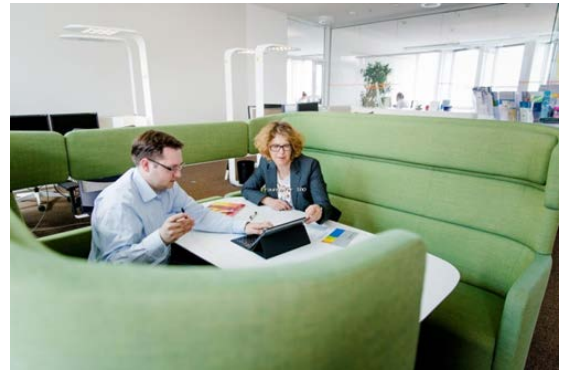


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Office environments (8)

Offices for employees to concentrate on their own work:

The way spaces are laid out facilitates a range of work situations. Alongside open areas that encourage the exchange of information and expertise, employees also have access to office units where they can concentrate on their own work.



Photo: Jörg Bakschas Headroom Consult © Fraunhofer IAO

Office environments (9)

Auditorium equipped with "Virtual Sky" technology in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Virtual Sky technology floods the auditorium at the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE with natural light. This promotes a pleasant and productive working environment.



Photo: Jörg Bakschas Headroom Consult © Fraunhofer IAO

Office environments (10)

Auditorium equipped with "Virtual Sky" technology in the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE in Stuttgart:

Virtual Sky technology floods the auditorium at the Center for Virtual Engineering ZVE with natural light. This promotes a pleasant and productive working environment.



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