



Small Changes, Big Impact: Making the Office Come to Life

SPACES THAT ARE LIT APPROPRIATELY RELATIVE TO THE TYPE OF WORK TAKING PLACE CAN ALSO IMPROVE THEIR OCCUPANTS' MOOD AND ENERGY LEVELS, THEREBY ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY AND GENERAL JOB SATISFACTION.

by Chris Dawson

While high interest rates may have stalled many remodel projects in our industry for now, there's still an opportunity to make meaningful changes to enhance the office vibe. True to Pareto's 80/20 Rule, the minor details often have the potential to make the most significant impact. Ancillary products, such as lighting, visual power units, and office accessories,

may seem optional and are often the first to get cut from the bid. Yet, they can transform a workspace into an environment that fosters productivity, comfort, and well-being. These often-overlooked items are the quickest way to enhance the office's efficiency, output, and user experience. Like turning a house into a home- they are responsible for bringing good energy and flow to the workspace.



“The post-pandemic workforce has new expectations in their return to the office. Specifically, they desire the same opportunity for choice and control of their work environment that they had while working from home; opportunities to connect and collaborate with their colleagues, and amenities that support wellness and balance throughout their workday,” says Melissa Wikman, LightCorp VP of Business Development. “Lighting, power, and accessories capably satisfy these

needs and can go a long way to make the office the preferred choice in a hybrid work environment.”

Providing amenities that allow employees to customize their environment to suit their individual needs leads to a more enjoyable and efficient work experience. In a 2019 Future Workplace Wellness study, the majority of the over 1,600 respondents surveyed expressed that they desired the option to adjust their personal workspace conditions over having a pet-





friendly office or even a limitless vacation policy.

Of the three, lighting is the element that has the most potential to affect the perception and performance of a space. Beyond the obvious wellness benefits of mitigating eye strain and headaches, lighting plays a pivotal role in orchestrating the mood for an environment. Considering the varying modes of work we engage in throughout the day in our workspaces—everything from

focused, detailed work to relaxing moments of respite—lighting can adjust to create an ambiance that complements the type of work we engage in. Spaces that are lit appropriately relative to the type of work taking place can also improve their occupants' mood and energy levels, thereby enhancing productivity and general job satisfaction.

Also consider the power of layering light sources to set a mood. Comparable to home interior





design's advice to not just use 'the big light' to light a room, the same rules can apply at the office. By supplementing overhead lighting with nearby desk and accent lighting, the whole vibe of the room softens to mimic the same warm, comforting, illumination we experience in our homes.

The next element, power access, means much more than just a convenient place to plug in. When you stop to consider how much of our everyday lives depend upon our electronic and mobile devices,

the priority to keep them powered and charged becomes clear. These devices keep us reachable by our family or colleagues throughout the day; they provide access to instant information that informs and supports our work, as well as streaming playlists that provide a soundtrack to our day.

Further, power access gives mobility and freedom of choice of where to work around the office. Need to escape a chatty distraction or quickly convene with a small team for an update? Power



integrated into soft furnishings or freestanding units that offer AC power and USB charging capabilities allow teams to quickly gather in casual touchdown areas while freeing up conference rooms. Since we can now work anywhere, access to power must be everywhere.

Finally, don't discount the potential office accessories have to significantly enhance a workspace's aesthetic, comfort, and functionality. Much like home décor, office accessories are the most budget-friendly way to infuse a space with style and color for little long-term commitment. It's a great way to wake up a sleepy interior with a bit of personality in the sea of greiges that traditional work interiors tend to favor. Colorful accessories can also serve as a clever vehicle to promote the company brand and culture by accenting with a hue straight out of the company's brand palette. Thoughtful additions such as desk organizers, caddies, wall storage solutions, and mobile carts keep spaces organized and tidy and help project a professional aesthetic. They can also support flexible work environments that



need to reconfigure often or quickly, keeping tools corralled and ready to move at a moment's notice.

While large-scale office remodel projects may be on hold indefinitely, there's no need to put workplace improvements that can make a real difference on the backburner. Companies can revitalize their office interiors by incorporating hardworking ancillary products like task lighting, power products, and functional accessories while enhancing their employees' efficiency, comfort, and experience without breaking the bank. **BoF**

About LightCorp

Founded in 1986, LightCorp manufactures custom lighting, power, and functional accessories that help people thrive in the places they show up to work. Their accessory brand, Most Modest, specializes in craft-inspired technology goods that pull from a deep interest in behavior and a passion for making things that bring us closer to each other and our physical environments. LightCorp's 100,000 sq ft Grand Haven, Michigan, manufacturing facility utilizes an agile process to fabricate highly customized and scalable products with short lead times. For more information, visit [LightCorp.com](https://www.lightcorp.com).