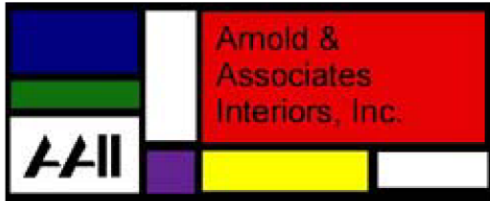


# Workplace Trends



## Office Design Trends: "Honey, I shrunk the workstation!"

More and more offices are doing away with traditional workplace concepts of walled-in offices and rows upon rows of high-paneled cubicles. The trend is toward more open floor plans and multi-functional workstations with low panels. Most companies are committing more of space to communal

activities increasing employee interaction.

The prevalence of Smartphones and virtual conferencing has been the greatest influence on the changing office dynamic. Employees are no longer tied to a desk for "WORK". Staying connected is easier than ever. Employees can work from home, from their car and from the road. So employers are reevaluating the space needs of workers.



File Storage, Marker Board and Bookcase for every Worker

The office is shrinking. Research from IFMA (International Facility Management Association) says the private office has decreased in size since 2002. Senior management offices shrank approximately 13 percent, while professional offices are up to 15 percent smaller. The average cubicle size has been reduced from 8 ft by 8 ft to 6 ft by 6 ft. The challenge is to make the most out of every available square inch of space.

Sustainability is also a big trend in today's workplace. Interior openness with lowered panel heights allow for more natural light through the space.

Smaller workstations with shorter panels, combined with more communal spaces, are also allowing more open communication in the office. For this reason, it's extremely important, and challenging, for interior designers to understand worker needs, and design spaces to effectively meet the requests of the workers who will occupy the space. [http://www.knoll.com/products/product.jsp?prod\\_id=862&flag=cat&cat\\_id=248](http://www.knoll.com/products/product.jsp?prod_id=862&flag=cat&cat_id=248)

For the first time in history we have four generations together at work:

The Silent Generation (born before 1945)  
– Still at work (or returning)  
Baby Boomers (1946-64)– Have amassed significant business knowledge  
Gen X (1965-1978) - Boundless expectations of the dot-com era  
Gen Y (1979-1997) - Fresh Perspective on technology and work

This has also impacted workstation design. Designers have been called upon to do more with less, create greater efficiencies in the use of real estate and reduce cost. These are CHALLENGING TIMES!



Whiteboard is back of shelf/two file unit

Integration of 57H Storage with 42H Screens

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