TDD530
Office Design

Caroline Pile

History of Office Design

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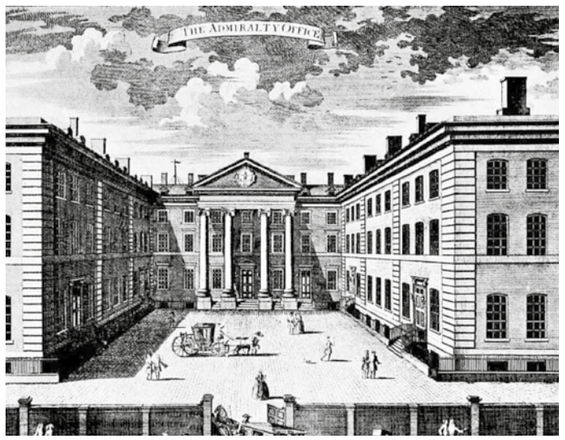
The first modern office

Up until the 18th century when the Roman bureaucratic government was built there were no large scale mutli-functional organisations, that were on the same scale of complexity or size.



The Old Admirality

The old Admirality was the first purpose built office building , built in 1726. It influenced other smaller purpose built building during the later half of the 18th Century.

Open plan offices

With all the new technilogical advances in the last century, like air conditioning and fluorescent lighting resulted in style of office. This meant the office has no contact with the outside. Also the open floor plan allowed workers to be placed virtually anywhere.

Cubical Farms

The cubical farm came from the idea that the middle management didn't think they should be on the same level as the other workers, but weren't high enough to have their own office. Cubicles allowed them to keeps the costs low and still have a bit of flexibility.

Hot Desking

The employees are encouraged to spend less time in the office, by working from home or with the client. Also, they were encouraged to use a different desk everyday. However, this meant the employees weren't as grounded.

Agile working

The internet company's embraced a smaller, more colourful office that blurred the lines between work and play. Keeping elements of the open plan, but with quirky themes.

Google

Their workspace has been revolutionary in office design in the 21st century. Their "thinking out of the box" office designs have influenced my different companies to experiment more with their interior.

The Casual office

Has been in trend since the 80's, but has taken of more recently as many company are going for a more relaxed vibe. They are using coffee shops as inspiration,

Lighting

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Florescent Lighting

Originally offices used florescent lighting as a replacement for natural light.

Natural Lifting

Natural light is know to boast health, as improves sleep, physical activity and quality of life.

Ambient Lighting

This is the general lighting of the office. Ambient lighting is a soft glow that covers the work space, giving out just enough light to allow the employees to function without there being a harsh glare.

Task Lighting

Task lighting is more concentrated. It is otherwise know as office lighting. It is used when doing projects that require a finer light like: reading and writing.

Accent Lighting

Accent lighting is a very concentrated light designed to draw your focus to a specific thing. It is a away of adding a bit of style to the office space. It is generally used to illuminate items like: photos, artwork, bookcases, etc.

Lastest trends

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Coffee Shop

Offices are aiming for a more relaxed atmosphere. Adding more communal spaces that cane be used for work and chilling whilst employees on their breaks.

Quirky offices

Many office designs these days have taken inspiration from the googles office. They have been trying to make the offices more exciting, by adding slides, ping pong. Also, gaming helps to improve productivity.

Nature

Office are adding more nature to the offices, this is because there are many health benefits. Additionally, plants help to make people more productive.

Space saving

Offices are always trying to save money, therefore have small office spaces. As a result office are using multi-functional furniture.

Creativity

Creativity is the act of turning new and imaginative ideas into reality.

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Play

People find themselves being creative when their having fun because they are unwinding from their job, have some freedom and their not being serious and having fun. People tend to do this when their playing which could be at a soft play , jungle gym, swings, park, ball pit etc. People find the bright colours and soft furnishing make a happy area. Ways to make the office more fun would be to include lots of bright things, using light and colour. Plus, adding play things into the office like a climbing wall and large playground.

Nature

Many people find themselves being creative when their surrounded by natural things or nature. For example: in the park, out for a walk, the beach etc. people tend to feel more free, also people to free their minds, people tend to fell relaxed. Nature affects all of our senses as there are a range of smell, you can hear the wind, with a range of textures and there is usually a lovely view. Additionally, there are many health benefits and work benefits. For example: increases productivity, cleaner air breathe, increases creativity, reduces stress, lastly, makes people more comfortable.

Travelling

Travelling though a variety of different location helps with peoples creativity. People have found that when they are alone travelling on a bus or train for a long distance helps to make them more creative. Due to the fact that they pass many different location. Also, the contrast between the outside and the plan drab interior. There are a few ways of bringing the effects of traveling into the office, by replicating the interior. Or placing an office into a train cart or bus.

Coffee Shops

Many people are relaxed and comfy when they go to a coffee shop, as a result helps to get them in a creativity mode. This is because people are very relaxed, warm environment, comfy furniture and its the opposite atmosphere to a working office. Comfy sofa and chairs help to add to the atmospheric and using certain lighting to make it seem a bit darker and cosier. Most people find comfy in the background noise in the office. As it is never 100% quiet. There is a new trend that is making office more like coffee shops.
They manage to do this by changing the atmosphere in the office by making it less bland, zoning the office, adding a range of comfy furniture that doesn't fully match.

Ergonomics 2 person meeting place

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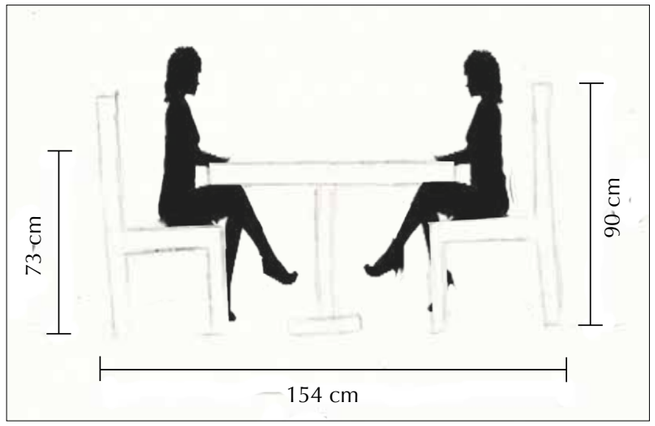
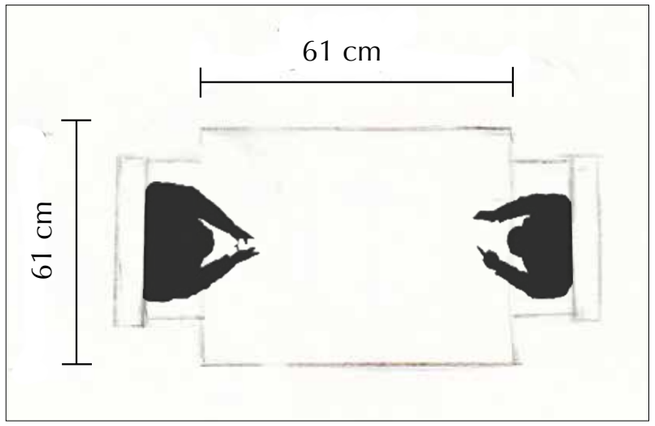
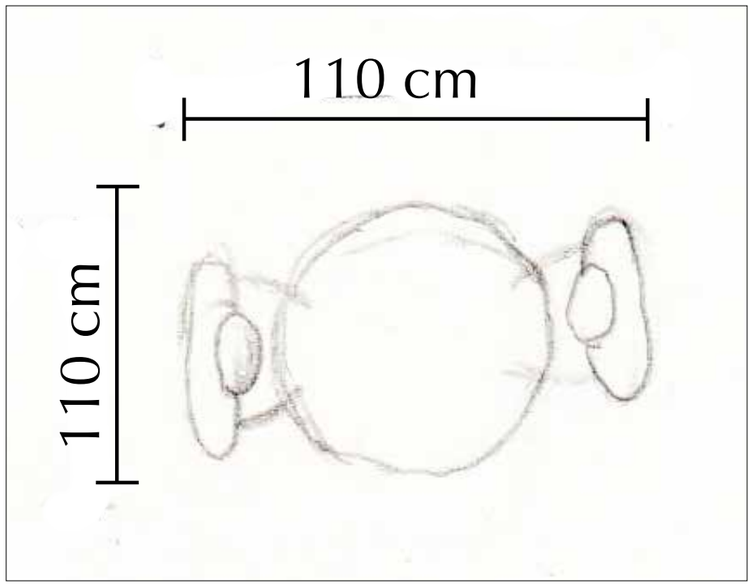




A 2 person sitting meeting. We looked at 2 location one in a coffee shop and another in the library. Even though they were in 2 different location using different furniture, the space/ dimensions was almost exactly the same. It suggested that in total you need 154 cm x 61 cm to fit the meeting in, this allows a bit of extra space for different chairs and allows a bit of space for people to sit a bit further a way from the table. However the dimensions might change if you have tall tables and stools.



A 2 person standing meeting takes up a lot less space than a sitting meeting, therefore it would be more efficient to have multiple standing meeting space. Plus, there are multiple health benefits to standing up. The space would be roughly 110cm x 110cm.

Ergonoics 4 person meeting place

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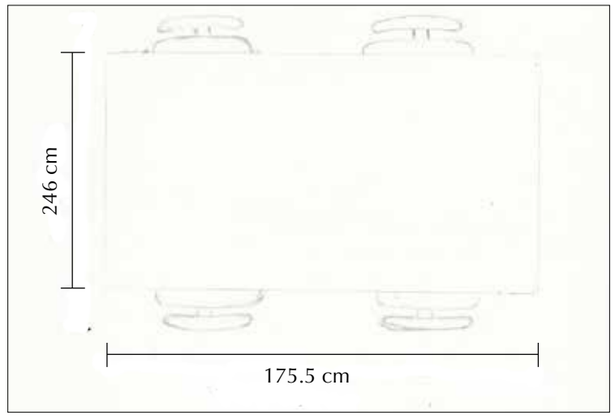
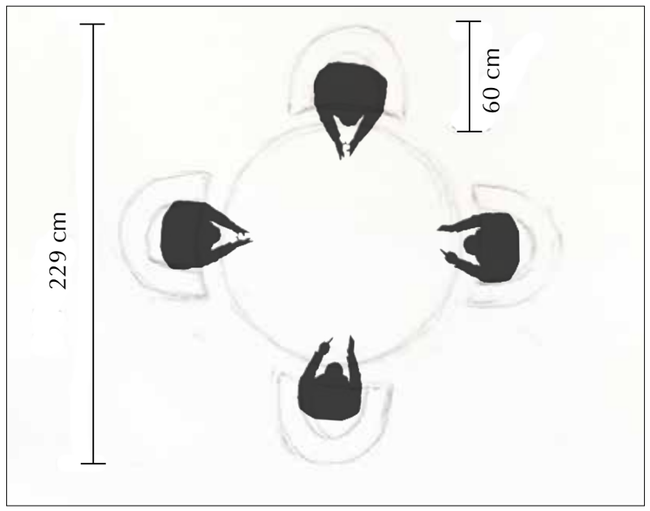
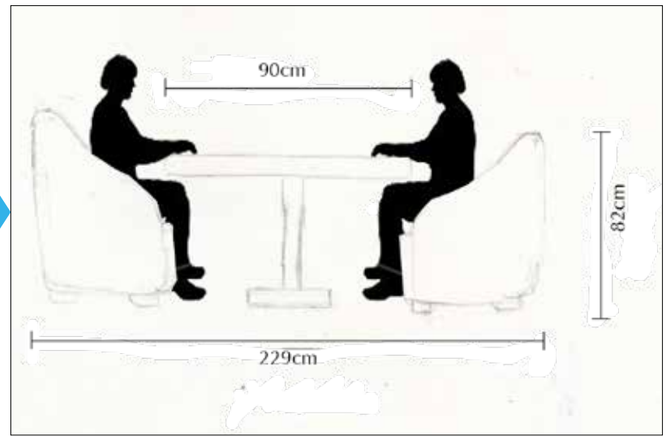


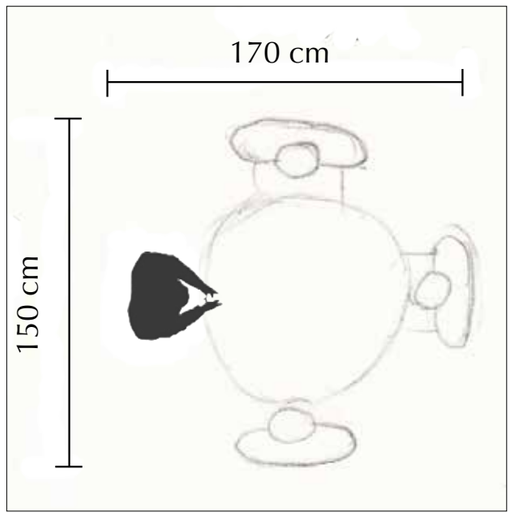


There are many different ways of arranging a 4 person meeting sat round a table. For example, using a round table, square table, rectangular table etc. As a group we mainly looked at a more relaxed way around a round table, in the library. We used a table that had a diameter of 90cm, and the height of the table was 76 cm. As a result the space in total had to be 229cm x 229cm. However, using a round table isn't the best as the table might not be big enough if yo have to lots of paper work or a few laptops on the table.

There are alternative ways to have a 4 person meeting sitting down. For example using a square table. We found out that ideally the size of the table would at least be 246cm x 176 cm. However, more space will be need for the chair. Additionally, a chairs dimensions is 50cm x 60 cm x 90 cm. This gives a rough idea of how much space you will have to leave.



Again the standing space required for a meeting is much small than if you were sitting. As the space needed for a standing 4 person meeting is 150 cm x170 cm. This means that if is more beneficial to have a standing meeting space over a sitting meeting space.



Ergonomics Simple work space

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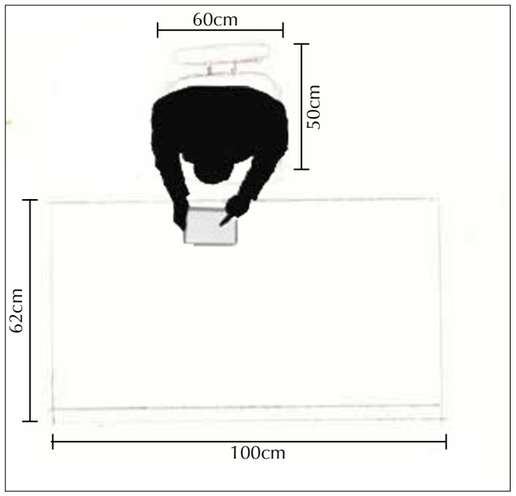
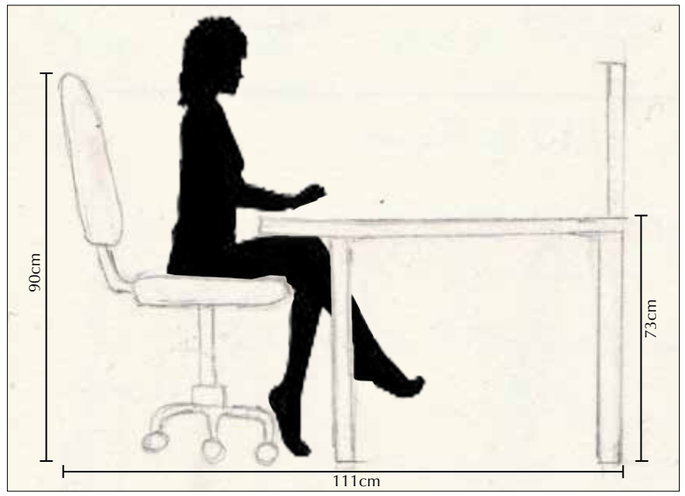
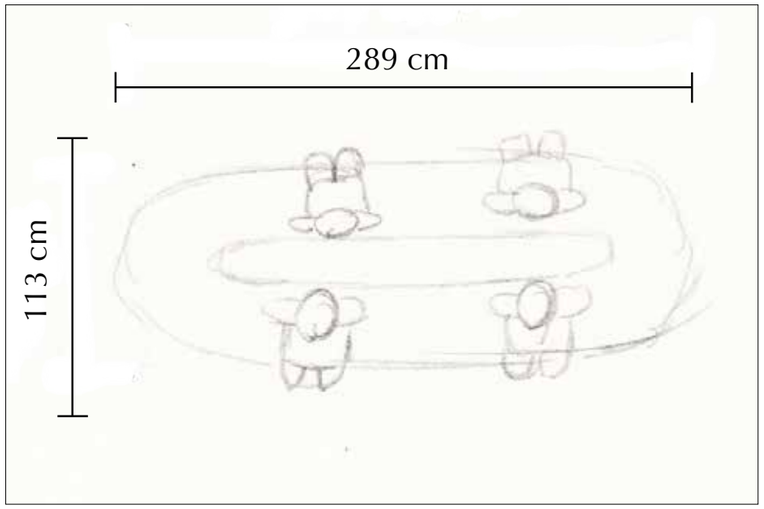




Here is what's known as a simple workspace. The findings illustrated that you need quite a lots of space for one individual. However, the space id meant for a creative person like a designer. As a result there was a lot of table space allowed, the space we allowed was 62cm x 100cm. This obviously affects the overall size, as a result the space had to be at least 112cm. However, the height of the table and chair could change quite a bit because many creative people use drawing boards.



The last space that was measured and assessed was a break out area type space for 4 people that involved at least a sofa. To do this a few spaces were space were looked at and photographed as possible layouts for the space. Finding inspiration in the SU, which seems to be a very popular place for people to hang out. The findings conveyed that to fit 4 people along side each other the sofa needs to be around 289cm long. However, to fit 2 people on s sofa to face each other the sofa will need to be at least 145 cm long.

Gym

A place, typically a private club, providing a range of facilities designed to improve and maintain physical fitness and health.

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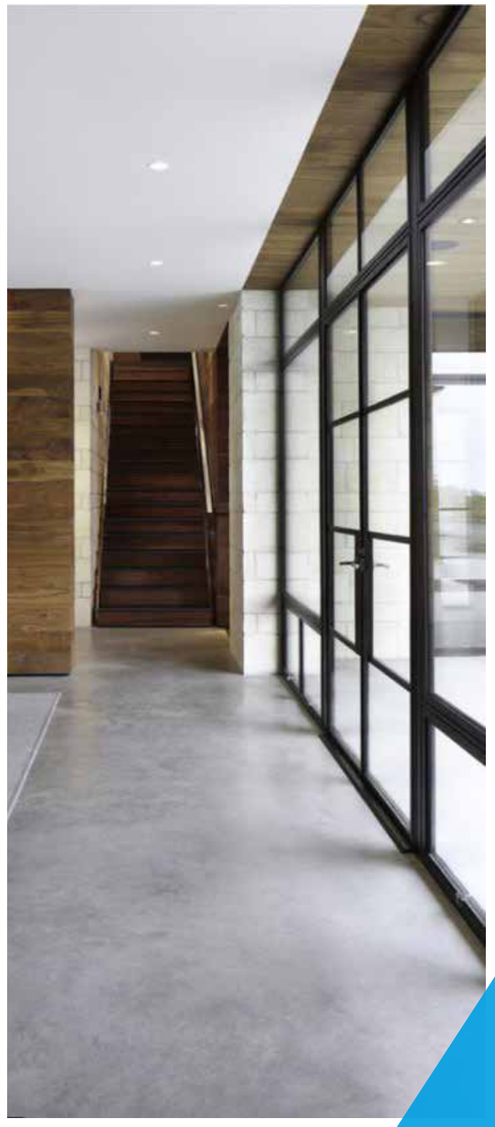

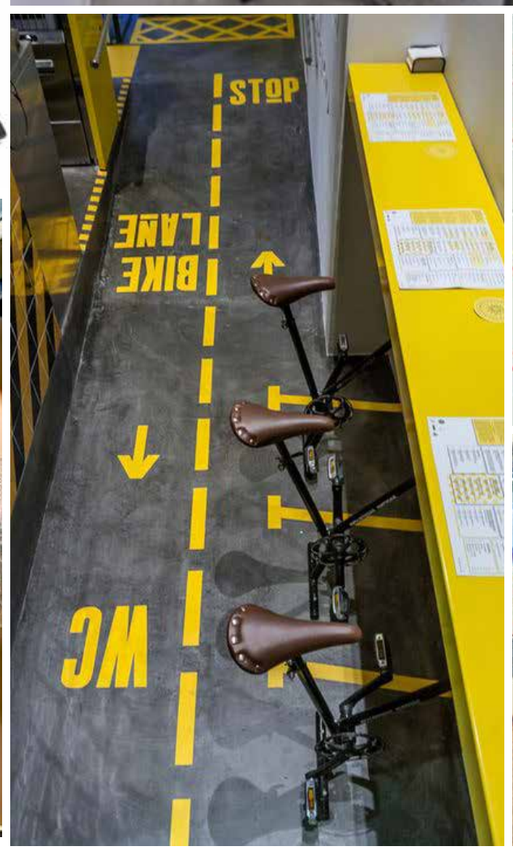

Nature

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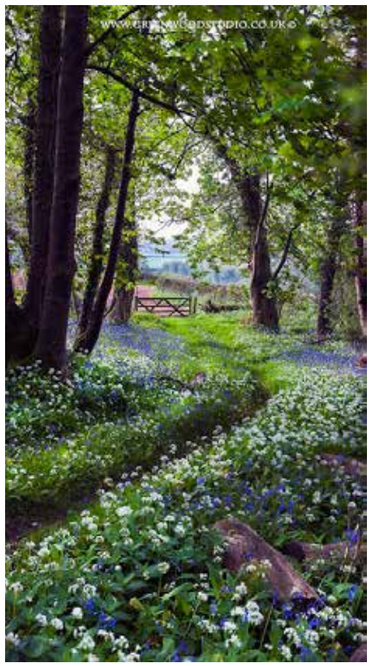

Concept Design - Play

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Jungle gym office

Using a jungle gym as inspiration for the office so that the employees have to climb, crawl, slide in to different rooms. Also, all the rooms would have a different feature like a sea-saw meeting room.

Ball pit presentation room

Having a presentation room set in a ball pit, make its a lot more exciting and fun for the employees.

Concept Design - Nature

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Animals in the workplace

Making a completely immersive office so that the employees feel like there in a rainforest. Using sound, smell and taste as well as sight and smell to make the office rally come alive.

Animals in the workplace

Having lots of animals in the work place to make the work happier and less stressed. However, animals would be highly distracting. There would have to be a system in place where the animal are only there one a week or an hour a day, for example.

Inspiration

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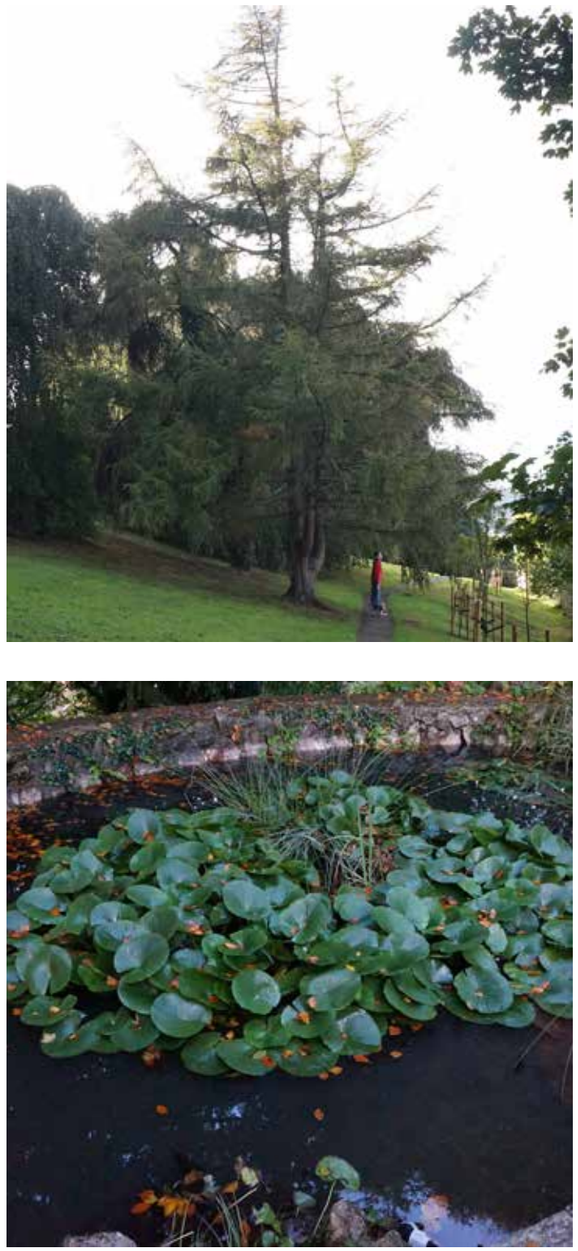
I found that visiting a botanical garden was extremely useful during this project because I was able to look at a range of plants, and the different ways the light affect the plant. Additionally, being surround by plants and wildlife help to me to get a sense of what the office should feel like.



Meeting Room

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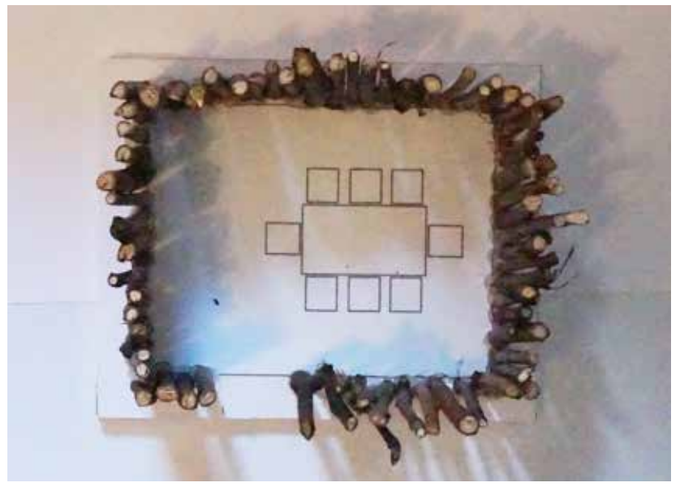

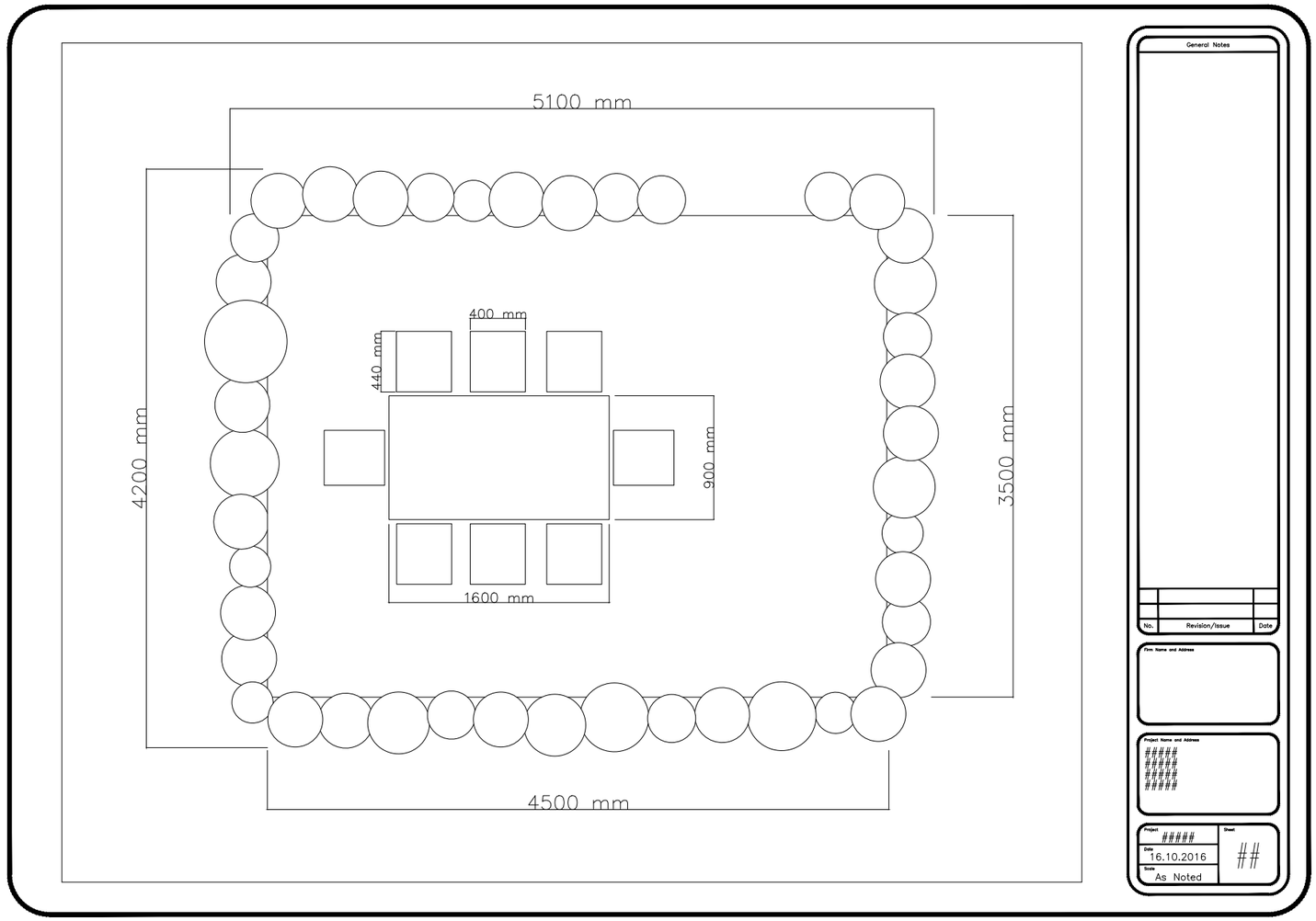

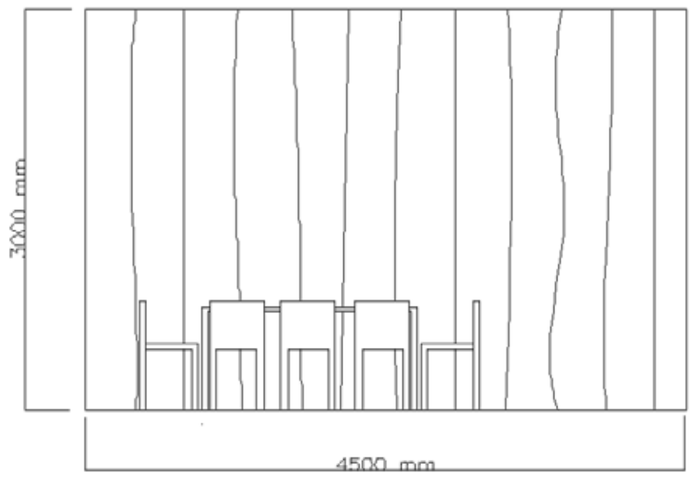

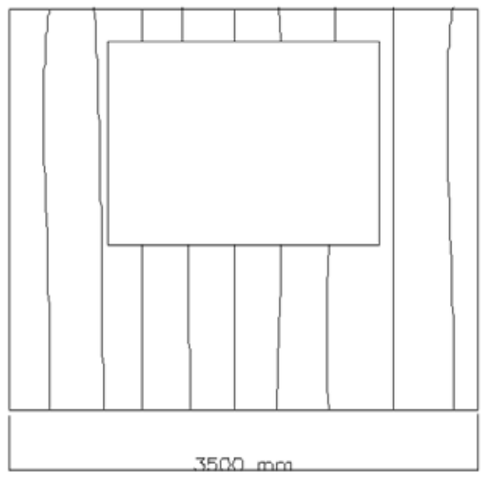

Meeting Room

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Kitchen/Social Space

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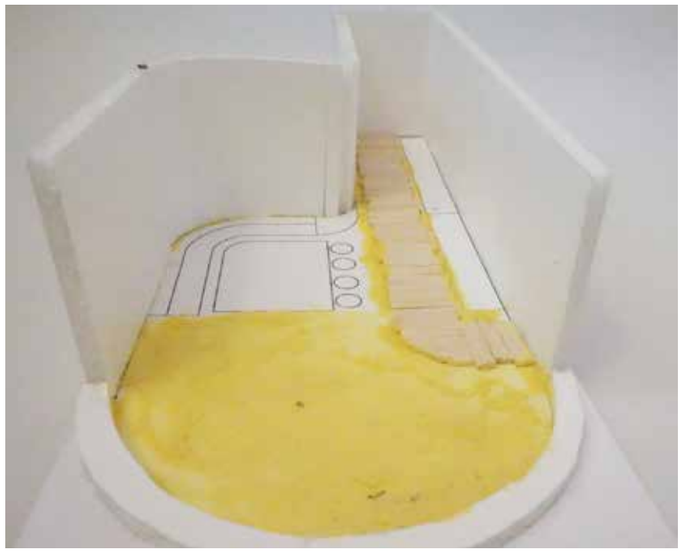

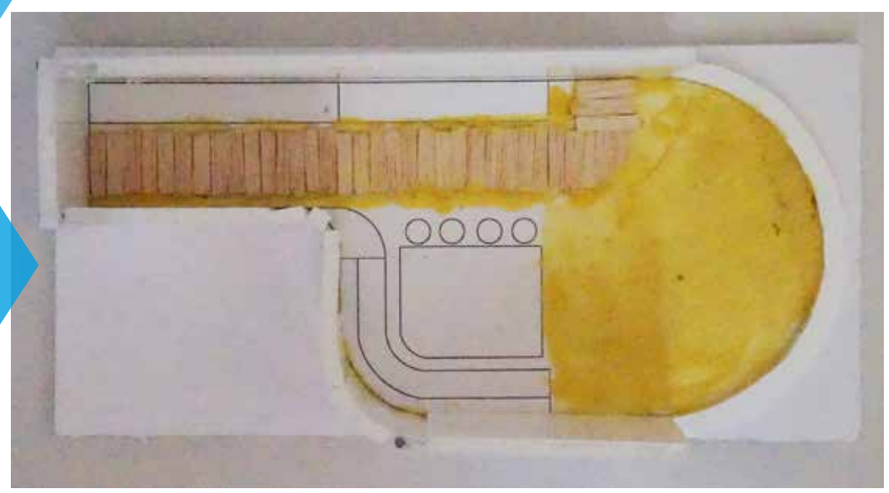

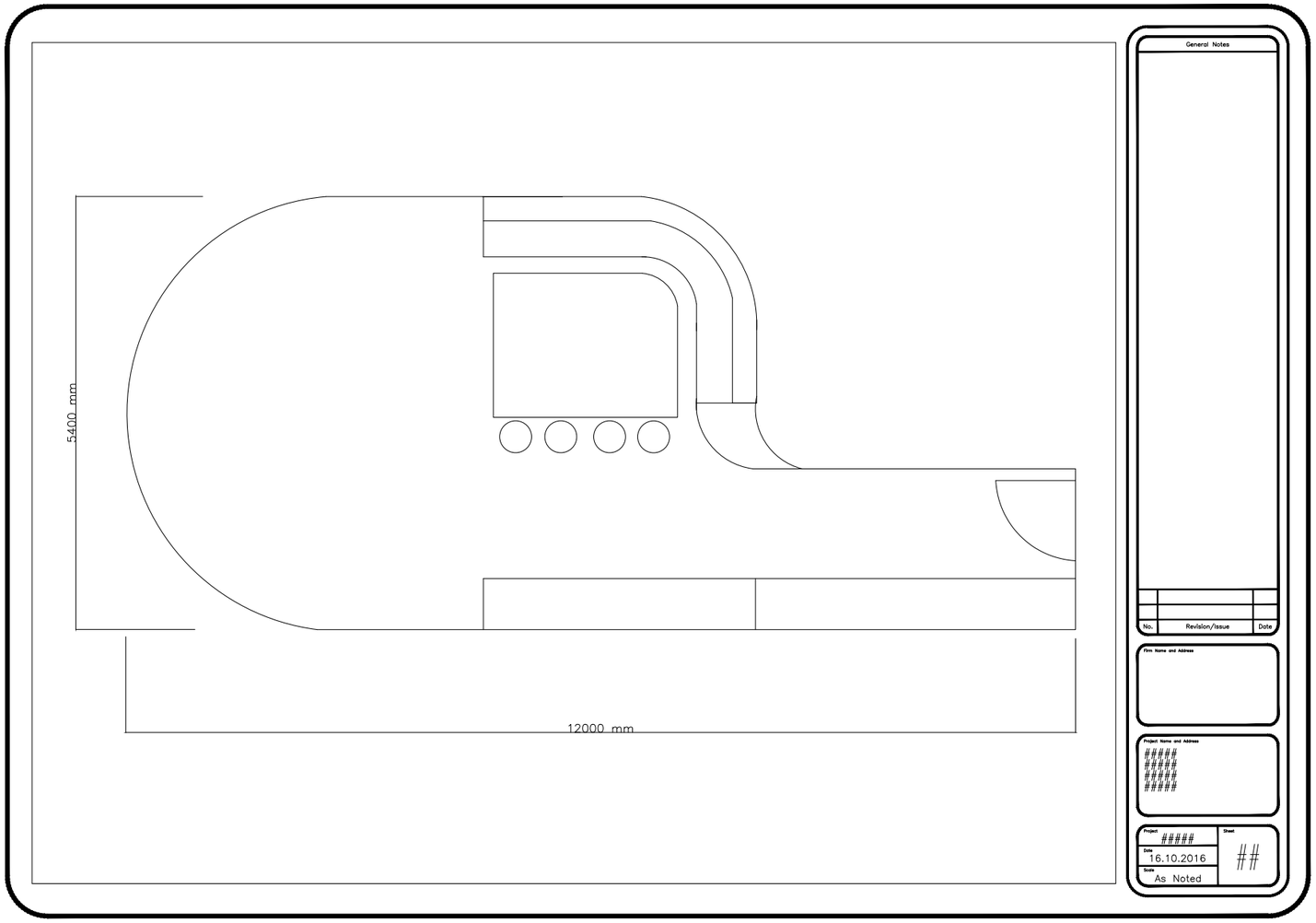

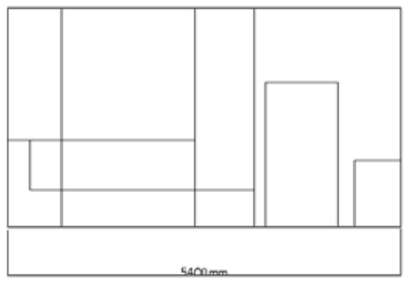

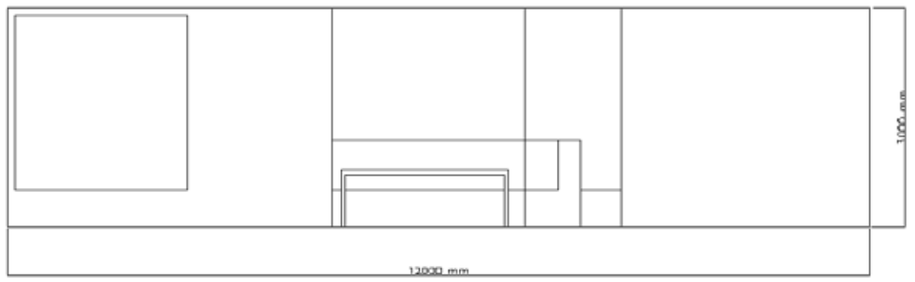

Kitchen/ Social Space

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Main office area

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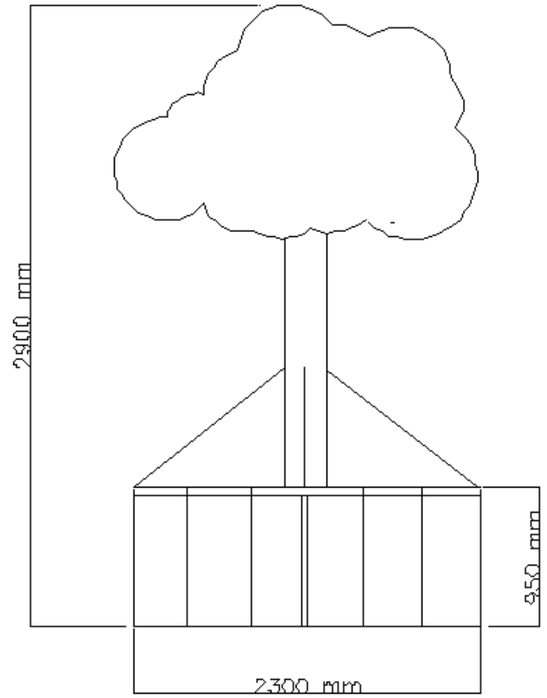

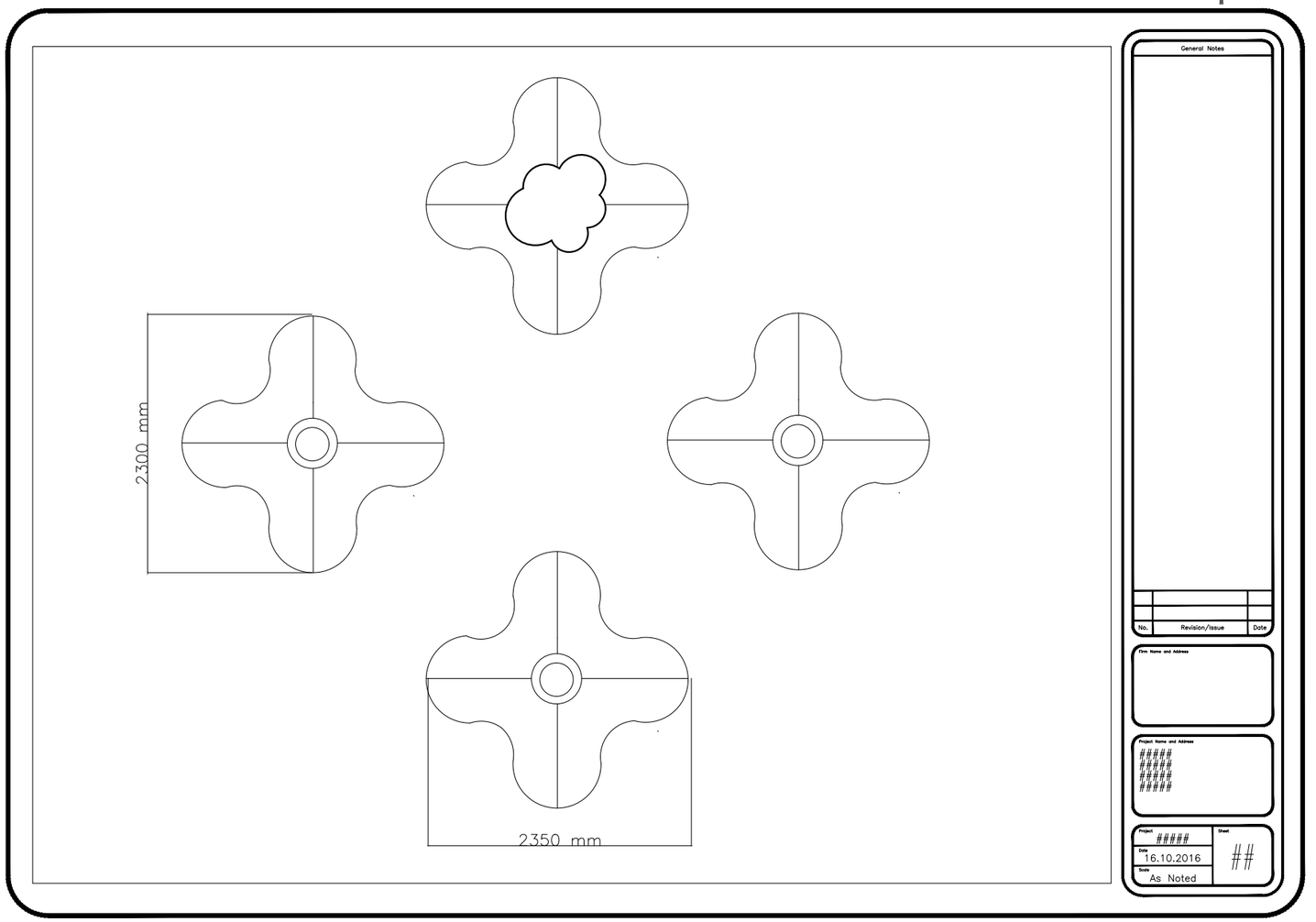

Main Office

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floor plans

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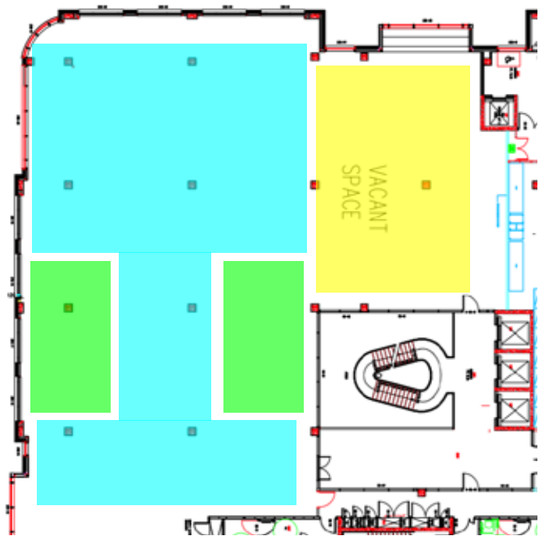
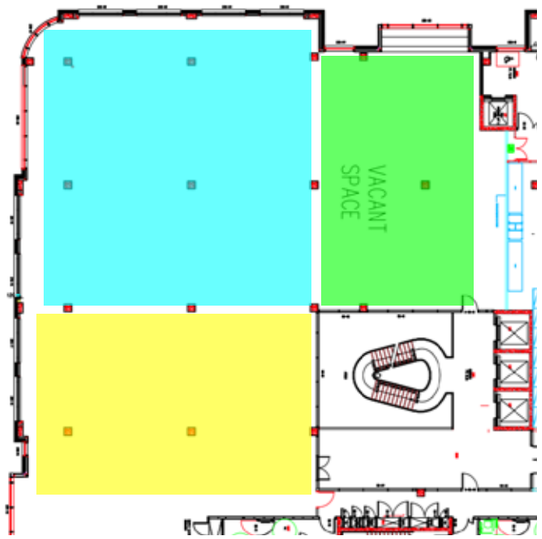
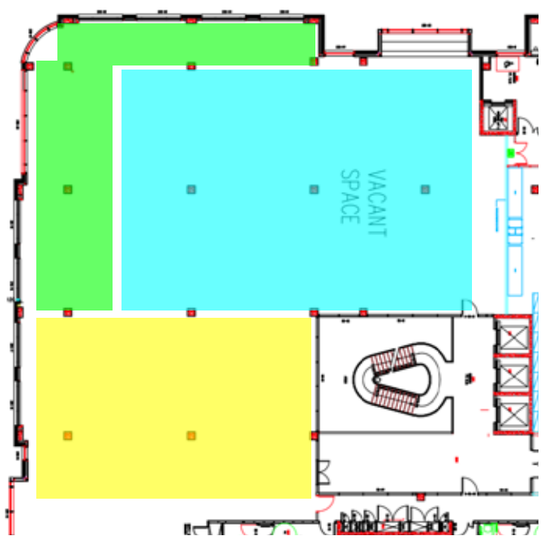
Main Office area

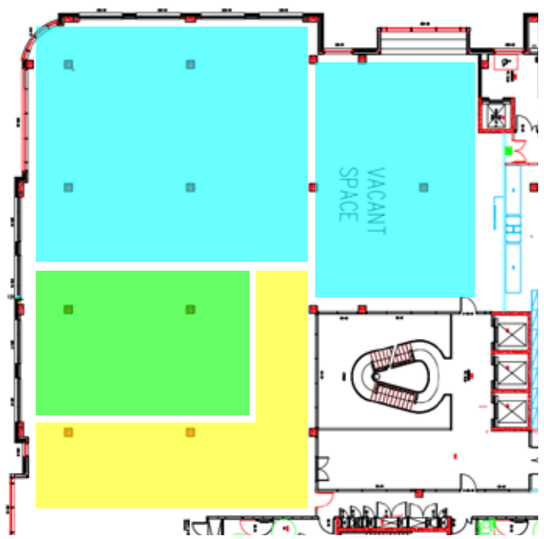
Meeting Room

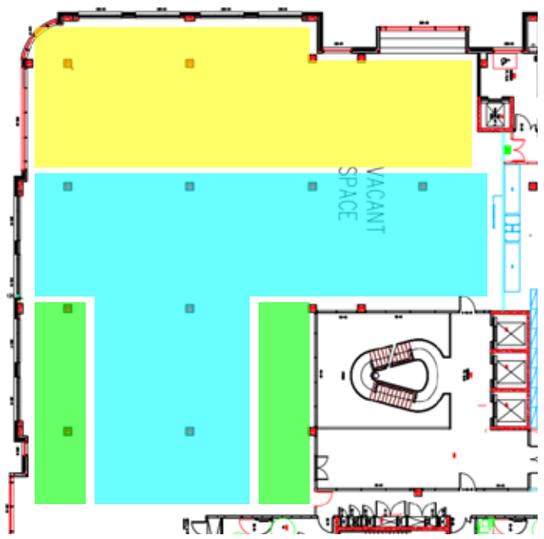
Kitchen/social Space

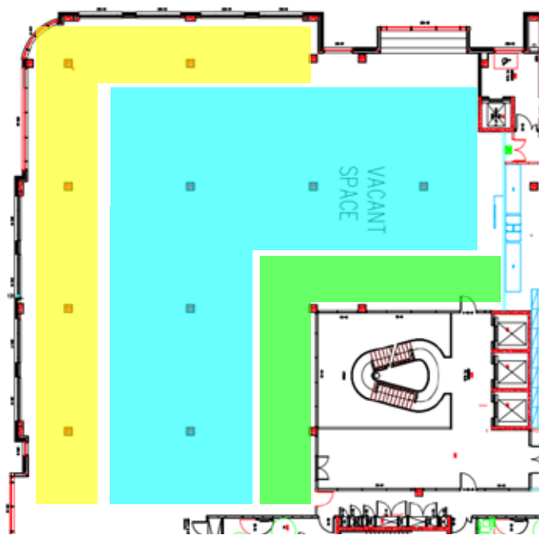


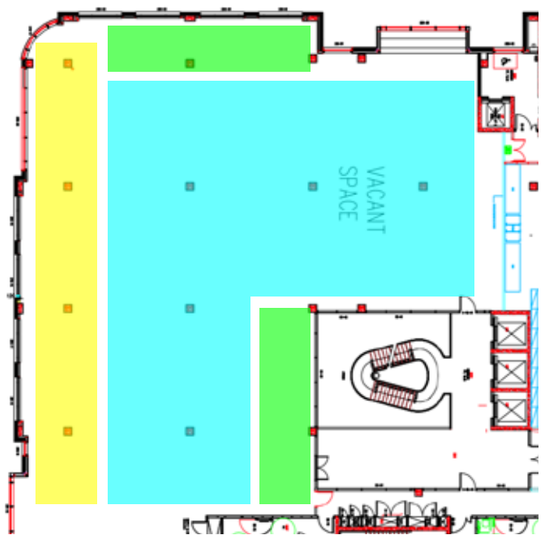


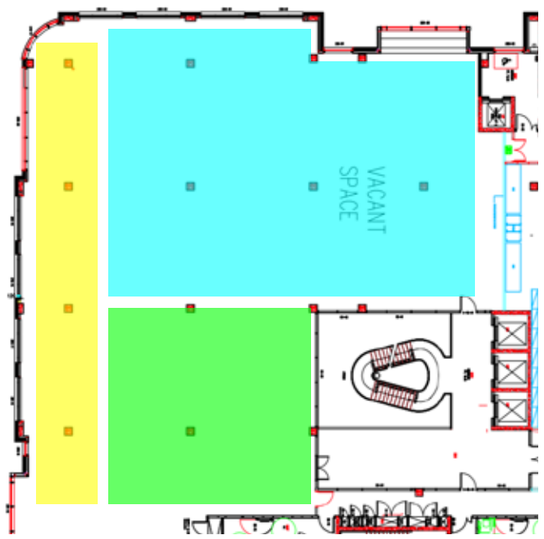












Having designed a few different rooms means that there doesn't have to be a specific size. Additionally, means that the are a range of combinations that the rooms could be put in.

Sound - Smell - Touch

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Sound

Rain as a background noise helps people with productivity. Additionally, the sound of rain will help create a more nature themed atmosphere. As it's affecting more senses. There are many different websites and radio stations that play a range of background noises (white noise), Some noise would be more appropriate than rain. Also, they could change the noise so that they don't have the same constant one everyday.

Smell

Using real plants to fill the office will create a natural aroma. Making the employees feel more like there outside rather than inside. Additionally, plants help to improve the air quality and therefore helps their well being. Many studies have shown that the smell of lavender can help in insomnia. As a result well rested employees will work better.

Touch

To create a more immersive experiences having real plants that the employees can touch and feel, will make the experience feel more realistic. Having plants around the office reduces workplace negativity, as a result make people calmer and happier. Additionally, helps to improve peoples concentration.