

Cool office spaces



Studio RED chose to repurpose a 1960s single-story office building that had been sitting vacant in Midtown for more than six years as its Houston headquarters. Renovated using sustainable design practices and materials, the offices at 1320 McGowen are designed to use as much natural light as possible.

Studies show the next generation of workers prefers bright and open working environments. Below, dividers open up space while providing privacy.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STUDIO RED



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KIRKSEY

An outdoor patio at Kirksey offices provides seating and shade. With 'quality of life' issues important to Generation Y, modern designers are refocused on creating comfortable and healthy settings within work environments.

Next generation of workers making an impact on corporate work space

BY CASEY WOOTEN
HOUSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Generation Y appears to have a loud and clear message for the standard office cubicle: "If we get our way, your days are numbered."

As baby boomers start to move out of the workforce, younger generations are taking the helm — and making an impact on office space layout.

Demographic studies and industry insiders say the one thing most apparent about the newest crop of workers is that open, wireless environments are in, and cloth panels and plastic-over-particle board modular desks are out.

"They want something that is airy and upbeat," says David Morrison, managing director of Twentysomething Inc., a Philadelphia-based youth research firm. "What younger workers don't want is a 'no man's land' for their workspace. They've come to expect something that is fun and not 'cookie cutter.'"

The generation is young, but they still remember the dot-com days when companies were mak-



The disappearance of the cubicle is an evolving trend in modern offices. A high ceiling and plenty of storage creates a modern 'cool' answer to the cubicle at Kirksey's headquarters.

SEE OFFICE, PAGE 2B

THE LISTS

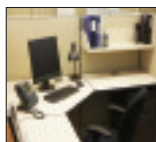


Largest Houston-Area Architecture Firms

Page 6B

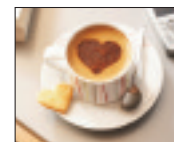
Largest Houston-Area Building Contractors

Page 8B



Grade your space
Does your work environment need an overhaul? See how your office scores.

Page 3B



Ways to add cool
Interior designer says things like good coffee, a functional space and pleasing art can add up.

Page 4B

Shopping around
Real estate experts say now is the time to look for new office space.

Page 9B

INSIDE