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# Corporate workspace design is changing due to Covid: Architects



The 'new normal' has generated a shift in the way employees are coping with improvised workspaces at their homes.

## Synopsis

According to multiple architect firm, who are redesigning office space for clients, organisations have started adopting new standards in designing. Firms said that the situation requires practical steps such as physical distancing, contactless applications and perhaps Work From Home to protect the employees at offices.

NEW DELHI: Coronavirus outbreak has challenged an established precedent of **corporate** and real-estate workspace design by shining a spotlight on the shortcomings of the large centralized office typology, leading architects said.

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“In present times, there is an imminent need to reinvent the workspace for enhanced productivity and organizational resiliency while ensuring flexibility to meet the demands of the future,” said Sachin Rastogi, Founding Director and Principal, ZED Lab.

Firms said that the situation requires practical steps such as physical distancing, contactless applications and perhaps Work From Home to protect the **employees** at offices.

“The aim is to upgrade the existing **workplace infrastructure** to maximize efficiency with minimum employee discomfort, both physical and psychological,” said Sabarno De, vertical

head, corporate Interiors, Edifice Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

The ‘new normal’ has generated a shift in the way employees are coping with improvised workspaces at their homes.

“It is crucial to register that globally corporate design will forever be transformed.

Interventions such as staggered layouts, sensor-controlled sanitization, foot pedal-controlled doorways, UV-enabled sanitizers and automatic thermal scanning at the entry and exit points etc. are provisions that offices should incorporate in their infrastructure,” said Ankura Patel - Co-Founder, Director, ANA Designs Pvt Ltd.

The contemporary era of social-distancing has seen a drastic decrease in the number of people who work in an office or corporate space, with most employees working remotely.

This phenomenon will lead to a sharp decline in the physical infrastructure required for workspaces and create a demand for a more distributed model across cities — replacing

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BY

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ET Bureau

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the centralized office.

“When you become conscious of something like this pandemic, there will be a change in the way you program a space. Reduced physical interaction in offices, touch-free doors, faucets and WCs will become the norm,”

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said Akshat Bhatt, Principal Architect, **Architecture Discipline**.

Bhatt said that gadgets and devices that were previously shared, such as keyboards, mice etc. may not be shared anymore.

“Having worked a full year in the comforts of home in this year of pandemic, people have begun to get habituated to a certain lifestyle. Their workspaces have been an extension of their own comfort zone, where everything from the desks to the lighting and the seating is set up by them. This will define a lot of changes in how the workspaces in the future will be,” said Rachna Agarwal, Founder and **Design Ideator**, Studio IAAD.

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