



SPACE MANAGEMENT MORE ART THAN SCIENCE

Text: Devika Banerjee

Photographs: Designers Guild

People spend more of their lives at work than at play. Why then, can't the workplace be more fun?

Those who agree and those who don't form the divide in office interiors. Around the world, the "yes" vote is increasing - rapidly. In India also, but very grudgingly. And it shows!

Our Managers know all about CRM, SAP and BPO.

Throughout the day, they are trying to improve quality, cut costs and sell more. But when it comes to setting up a new office it's usually "The budget is x/sq.ft. A nice office for three senior officers, twenty staff, two sub-staff and a conference room. And by the way, I don't like blue" The apathy is mind boggling.

Corporates spend months to decide about the viability of a new office and take weeks to select a location. Yet, when it comes to the interior work, they are, almost

without exception, in a break-neck hurry. A mid size office these days can cost upwards of 40/50 lakhs - with only four weeks to spend it in.

Creative and cajoling work environment

Fun may not be the operative word but what about ambience? An environment that is transparent, comfortable, convenient, cheerful - a work-place one looks forward

to every morning. It's a win-win formula that doesn't have to cost more. For larger offices, we cajole the clients to allocate some space for employees' recreational facilities. If table-tennis is too much, how about some board games or a dart board? Nothing like a gym - even a basic one - to freshen up after hours of staring at computer monitors, surrounded by cold laminated furniture.

Space Management, in my book, is more of an art than a science.