

MONOCLE

OFFICES/GLOBAL

Business and pleasure

They shouldn't be mixed, right? Wrong. But what can we do to make offices more appealing without making them full of bean bags and silly slides? These HQs have the balance right.

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What makes an office a great place to work? Many would say technology but such things can go too far. Take the example set by one accountancy firm, which shall remain nameless. Its shiny building requires you to download an app that tracks you from the minute you arrive, taking note of everything from the car you drive to the coffee you drink. The app even allocates a new seat after every meeting, according to what conditions it thinks would be best for you to work in. We'd rather

select our own seat – ideally somewhere quiet with natural light and a little space.

This list highlights the company headquarters that have elements that – we think – actually improve working life. Firms that look after your family with an on-site creche, choose chairs you would want to sit on or understand the importance of lunch. These are the companies that genuinely bring quality of life into the office. Now, where do we sign? — (M)



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Art for all Pinsent Masons, *London*

If your workplace is looking a bit bare, how about adding something thought-provoking to get staff talking? Lawyers at Pinsent Masons have recently been able to enjoy pieces by Henry Moore and Eduardo Paolozzi in their offices. The global firm also sponsors resident artists: sculptor Nick Hornby worked his magic on the company's London site for a year. More offices could do with that sort of creative injection.