

What modern workspaces look like – Facebook London

1. Read the quotes below and discuss in pairs what you think about them.

"I've got a theory: if you love your workspace, you'll love your work a little more."

~ Cynthia Rowley, American fashion designer

"I prefer a cluttered workspace."

~ Julianna Baggott, American novelist

"I like to come into my workspace and feel it's a living environment and not frozen, which is why I often change or add to the pictures on the wall."

~ Sadie Jones, English writer

"The natural world is full of curves, color and complexity. And bringing all this into the workplace can have a big impact on our behavior and our mood"

~ Rohan Silva, a co-working space company founder



2. Talk in groups which amenities from the list below you have in your workplaces and which you would like to have, then rank them (1-10) in accordance with their usefulness.

- Treadmill desks/standing desks
- Ergonomic chairs
- Kitchen
- Coffee machine
- Fruit and vegetables
- Exercise balls and other gym equipment
- Kindergarten
- Games room
- Silent rooms
- Cafeteria

3. Watch the [video \(http://bit.ly/FBinLondon\)](http://bit.ly/FBinLondon) and answer the following questions:

- a) How many people work in the Facebook London office?
1000 tech employees
- b) What are two facilities located in the reception area?
Oculus VR space and Analog Outpost, an art workshop
- c) Why is the ceiling in the Facebook office unfinished?
It reminds people that their journey is only one percent finished and there's still so much in front of them
- d) What are the rooms on the second floor named after?
Game of Thrones characters
- e) How do Facebook employees determine who can use the sleep pods?
It's on first-come first-serve basis
- f) What types of food facilities are there in the Facebook London office?
Doughnut bar, free cafeteria, microkitchens

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4. Fill in the gaps with the words from the box below. If these are verbs, you'll need to change their forms so that the sentences are grammatically correct:

suit hang recharge distinctive
feature locate standout house

- a) The building is **located** in Fitzrovia just off the famous Oxford Street.
- b) It **houses** more than 1,000 tech employees across 30 teams.
- c) The central staircase represents that connectivity and synergy between Facebook employees and that's a pretty **distinctive** feature of the office.
- d) The reception area **features** an Oculus VR space which is open throughout the day.
- e) A games room is a place where people can **hang** out with their colleagues and relax.
- f) Sleep pods are a place where you can **recharge** and then return to your desk relaxed.
- g) The canteen serves food that **suits** all dietary requirements.
- h) One **standout** thing that we noticed while touring the office was the ceiling.

5. Write 3-5 sentences describing your office. Use at least 6 words from the exercise above.

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➤ Now exchange your handout with another student and ask some question about their office space.

6. Discuss the questions below:

- How important are such extra facilities as a gym, a games room or standing desks for productivity at work?
- How often do you think people use those amenities? Is there ever time to enjoy such things at work?
- Do you care about extra office amenities when you look for a new job? Which ones are very important to you?
- Would you agree that nice and modern office space (such as Facebook's London office) creates a positive company culture?
- Some people say that all those office amenities are there just to make employees stay at the office longer and work more. Do you agree with that? Is that bad?

