The Ministry – A Social Workspace for Creative Industries

Design, Featured, Thursday 09 Aug, 2018

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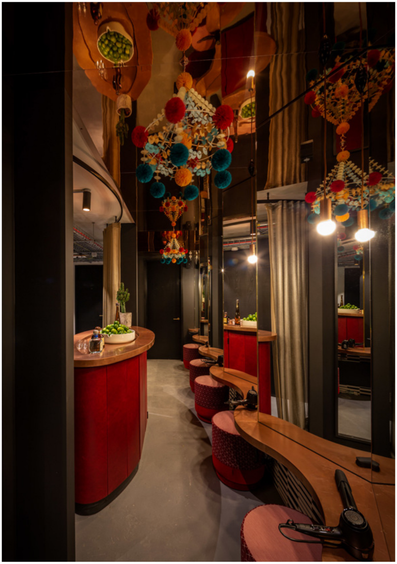
Squire & Partners transform the former Victorian printworks in Southwark, London.

The stereotype of a night in one of the world's most famous superclubs is, for most people, as far removed from the working world as is imaginable. But no venue lasts 27 years unless it means serious business.



The Ministry – Squire & Partners

Ministry of Sound will need few introductions to anyone that has had their eyes and ears open to youth and music culture over the last two decades. One of London's crowning nocturnal jewels, no expenses have been spared on any aspect of the brand, from record label to in-house soundsystem. Needless to say, then, when the company announced plans to launch a private members club-cum-social workspace, expectations were very high indeed.

Not least given Squire & Partners have taken a lead on the design. Driven by a brief to create the anti-thesis to a nightclub environment without forgetting the company's history or core clientele— the creative industries, in particular design, film and music — a former Victorian printworks, close to the Ministry of Sound venue, has been transformed into an innovative social workspace and private members club.

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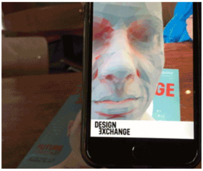

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The address, known as The Ministry, combines raw industrial elements—referencing both the early days of house music in the UK and the building's original use— with high end fixtures, fittings and furniture. Exposed timber flooring and untreated textured walls contrast exquisite details, dedicated working areas give way to inviting informal spaces.

In many ways the concept conveys the story of Ministry of Sound itself, and writes a very new chapter. A journey from fledgling dance spot established by enthusiasts to one of the biggest and most professional names in global electronic music, along the way the original purpose— a place to meet, express identity exchange ideas and, most importantly, have fun— has survived. Complete with unique visual stimulus, house scents and individual soundscapes created by acclaimed producer and musician Tom Middleton, anyone unsure as to how a workspace could be considered truly immersive should take this as an example.

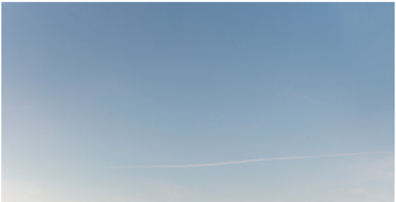
Designs were sought for the antithesis to a nightclub environment – desirable and practical working floors alongside a generous social space, which was as suited to morning coffee and lunch meetings, as it was to networking and social events taking place in the evening.

The rugs designed for the project were a collaborating collection put together by Squire and Partners, Eley Kishimoto and Laguna Rugs.

Creative director Saskia Angileri from Laguna Rugs worked closely with Squire & Partners to develop the various patterns and mixed variety of rugs chosen.

Saskia says *"Pure wool was used throughout the rug production. Flatwoven rugs were also created as part of the collection using simple block colours and woven texture to balance the busier pattered designs in some of the other rugs.*

We loved working on this project with Squire and Partners and the Ministry of Sound despite the tight turn around it was still a fun project to work on."



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