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## 4 Coworking Space Designs That Celebrate Different Ways to Work

by Mark Teo

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According to a study released by a global coworking conference, there are currently 18,000 coworking spaces globally – a number to top 30,000 by 2022. Here are four new and unique spaces changing how we work.

In the June issue of *Azure*, we explored the trends that define the modern office: after years of open-space supremacy, many workplaces are making a return to privacy. The office, and the products within it, continue to draw inspiration from the home. And as Atelier VanBerlo's stunning boiler house transformation suggests, many offices have become multi-tenant hubs for individuals and small companies alike – no doubt the result of the freelance economy.

Indeed, the gig economy has redrawn how we work and, more critically, the places we work. According to a study released by the GCUC, a global coworking conference, there are currently 18,000 coworking spaces globally, and by 2022, it's estimated that number will top 30,000. By that time, it estimates that 5.1 million people will be members of coworking spaces. Accordingly, *WeWork* and its contemporaries are expected to house a growing segment of workers – from freelancers to startup companies, across every industry imaginable – that demand a different type of office. Here are four that deserve your attention.

### The Ministry



Photos: Squire & Partners

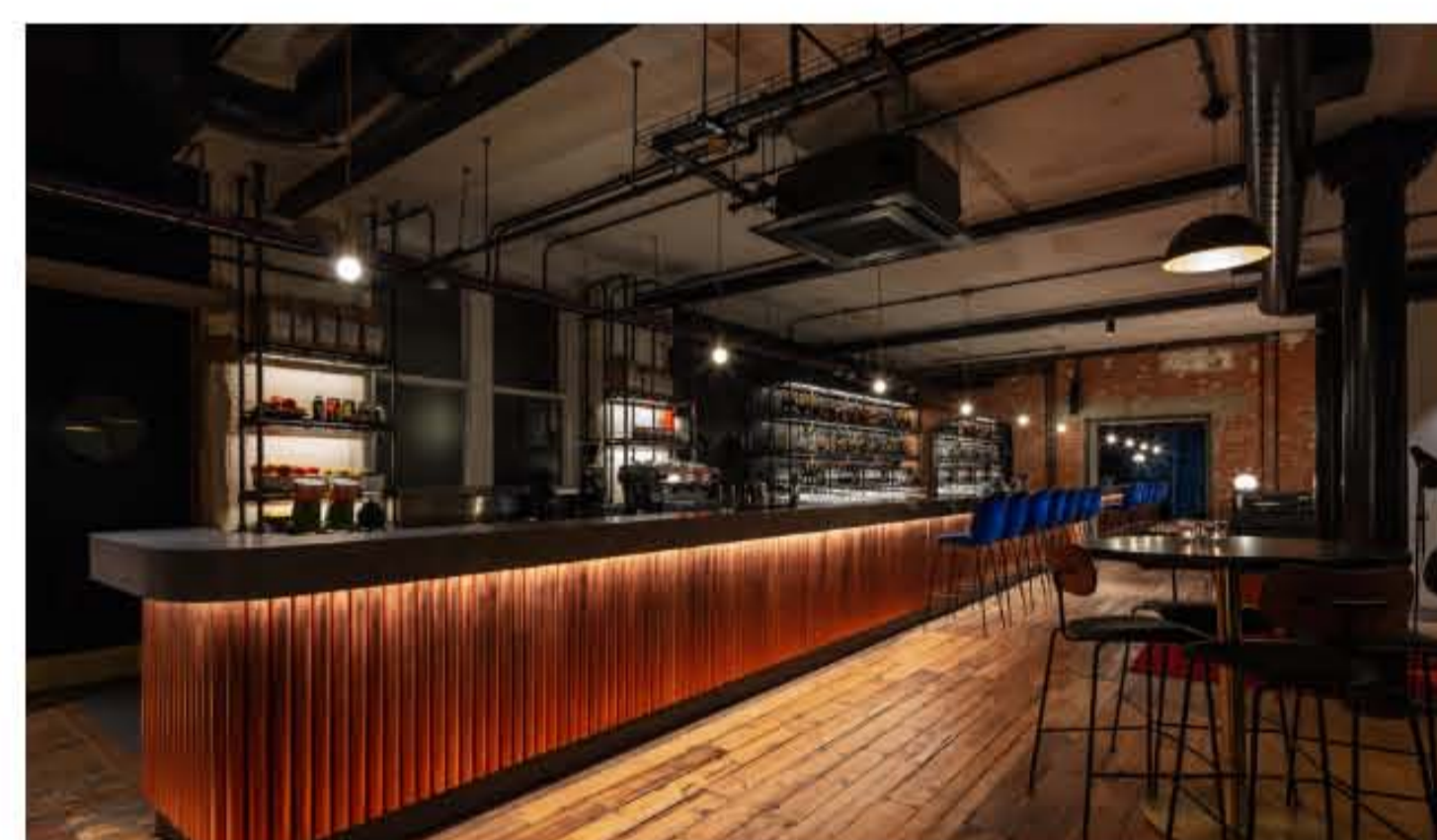
**Location:** London  
**Designed by:** [Squire & Partners](#)

In house-music circles, the Ministry of Sound is best known for its legendary London club. But since its foundation in 1991, the brand has expanded into an entertainment collective, launching a record label, a fitness club and now, a co-working space for entertainment-focused creatives. For the Ministry, [Squire & Partners](#) revamped a former printing factory into a space that considers productivity and, true to its entertainment-focused inhabitants, "a convivial way of life."



As with many industrial conversions, The Ministry exposes the building's structure, then elevates it with thoughtful material and furniture choices. Exposed timber floors, untreated walls and painted steelwork nod to the building's bones, and that casual grit is especially evident in its hospitality spaces. Its first floor features booths cordoned off with curtains, living room-like meeting spaces and a lounge with a custom-made 22-metre bar, made from concrete and copper pipes. Throughout, a selection of curated scents and sounds abound.

The lounge, which can serve as both a coffee shop and bar, guides visitors to an outdoor garden and fire pit. The ground floor is outfitted with Marshmallow stools by [Edward Van Vliet](#) and Patricia Urquiola-designed daybeds for [Moroso](#).



Three floors of workplaces rise above the main level, all connected by the building's original pale pink and green terrazzo stairs. [Squire & Partners](#) tapped [Eley Kushimoto](#) to help design the upper levels, which contain formal and informal meeting spaces, breakout areas and places to linger over a tea.

Beneath the ground level, entertainment-specific production spaces were installed, including a virtual reality studio and a series of screening facilities and soundproof production rooms. There's a kaleidoscopic mirrored shot bar down there, too.



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