DESIGN | 05.09.18 | BY KATIE TREGGIDEN AND EMMA TUCKER

The 12 best London coworking spaces

Places to call home for the day

Photography: Nicholas Worley

It's almost 40 years since Dolly Parton derided the idea of working '9 to 5' and it seems that Londoners have finally got the message. With the self-employed set to overtake the public sector for the first time, and even those in regular employment working more flexibly than ever, traditional offices are in decline. There's only so long anyone can coffee-shop-hop, so a new breed of work spaces is stepping up to meet the demand. Combining the benefits of café culture, members clubs and serviced offices, these 12 London coworking spaces offer something for everyone.

Soho Works Shoreditch

Courtesy of Soho Works

Soho Works is the coworking arm of members club Soho House, created for 'people that want dedicated workspace and also appreciate Soho House's design, functionality, friendly service and attention to detail,' says creative director Tanya Wood. Expect vintage and contemporary furniture, including Victorian dining tables, mid-century sideboards and chandeliers. Its 16,000 sq ft space inside the Tea Building is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and offers a café and concierge desk. Soho Works also pops up at 180 The Strand during London Fashion Week, offering the fashion pack a dedicated place to work (free of charge) between the shows. Next up is a Soho Works LA, coming soon.

Best for: Those upgrading from laptop-working in a members club
TEA Building, 56 Shoreditch High St, London E1 6JJ

The Ministry, Southwark

Photography: James Jones

Media and music industry workers can find themselves a south London home at this refurbished Victorian printworks, opened by the Ministry of Sound. As well as the usual meeting rooms and desk spaces, the London coworking space offers a few extra touches – including an on-site recording studio and a tequila bar in the ladies toilet. Refurbished by local studio Squire & Partners, The Ministry is all exposed brick and metal beams, harking back to the building's industrial past.

Best for: Music industry members looking for collaborators

79-81 Borough Road, London, SE1 1DN

Mortimer House, Fitzrovia

Photography: Ed Reeve

Until its recent renovation, the marble mosaics, plaster mouldings and terracotta ceilings of this seven-storey block had been hidden beneath unassuming office interiors. New York architecture studio AvroKO has lovingly restored Mortimer House's Art Deco details, turning it into a London coworking space with a focus on hospitality and wellness. Members can order 'room service' to their desks, relax in a Mad Men style fifth floor lounge, and enjoy access to yoga and fitness classes. There's even a meditation room for those extra stressful days.

Best for: Wellness fanatics

Swan Court, Mortimer Street, Fitzrovia, London, W1T 3JH

The AllBright, Fitzrovia

Courtesy of The AllBright

This all-female coworking club inhabits a converted Georgian townhouse, and offers desk space as well as a place for women to meet up and collaborate. The interiors are about as far away from the classic corporate office as you can get, and are replete with velvet sofas, wooden floors and wall hangings. As well as a programme of on-site events, The AllBright has its own fitness studio, as well as a beauty and treatment room.

Best for: Women entrepreneurs who want to network
11 Rathbone Place, London, W1T 1HR

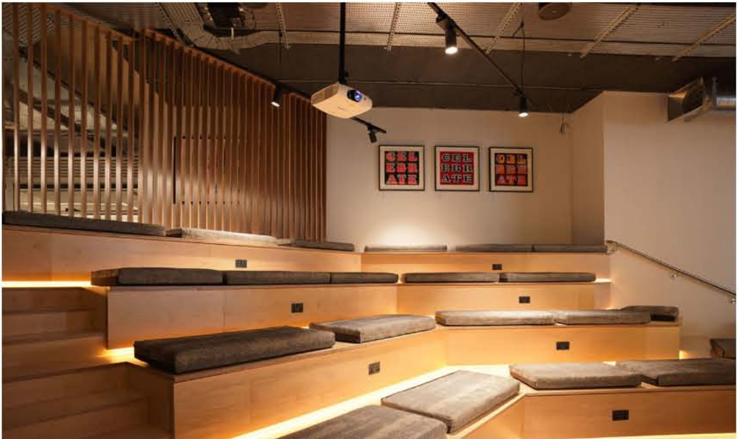
De Beauvoir Block, Hackney

Photography: Nicholas Worley

Dominated by pastel pink and filled with plants, this coworking space is sure to appeal to anyone looking for an office upgrade. It's a more relaxed option than many other shared London coworking workspaces, with cane chairs and velvet sofas dotted about for casual meetings. There's a downstairs boardroom for those all-important conference calls, as well as a cafe for lunchtime – stocked, of course, with rose-tinted teapots and tableware. With casual memberships starting at £100 a month, it's also a slightly cheaper option than some of central London's coworking clubs. Take a closer look at De Beauvoir Block.

Best for: Anyone that still loves millennial pink
92-96 De Beauvoir Road, London, N1 4EN

Fora Central Street



Courtesy of Fora

Fora (plural of 'forum') takes inspiration from the hospitality industry. Its Clerkenwell location, a collaboration between Fora and Studio RHE, was the first of an ambitious programme of 20 London launches over three to five years. Says so-founder Enrico Sanna: 'Our professional spaces and concierge service increase productivity and encourage collaboration.'

Best for: Jetsetters looking for an upgrade from hotel lobbies
71 Central Street, London EC1V 8AB

Campus London

Courtesy of Campus London

Always fancied working at Google? Well now you can. Google Campus might not have a slide but it offers co-working spaces designed by Jump Studios, equipped with a Lego-clad reception desk and an 'inspiration wall'. Expert speakers, networking events and mentoring from Google staff help fledgling business grow.

Best for: Tech startups with a thing for Lego

4-5 Bonhill Street, London EC2A 4BX

Central Working

Courtesy of Central Working

'Their offices are cool, but it's also a place where you get stuff done,' says one resident of Central Working, which now has seven London bases including a space on Clerkenwell Road. Collaboration is a big part of productivity, and networking is such an important element of this space that they'll give you your money back if you don't make a 'meaningful connection' in the first 30 days.

Best for: Start-ups hoping to meet likeminded people

86-88 Clerkenwell Road, London EC1M 5RJ

The Office Group at the Shard

Courtesy of Modus/The Office Group

Claiming to have pioneered the concept of the shared workspace in Britain when they launched in 2003, The Office Group now has 33 London coworking spaces. The most dramatic location has to be the 24th and 25th floors of The Shard – if only for those views. Members can use any of its sites, which will soon include hubs in Waterloo Station and Hammersmith's Lyric Square – both opening in Spring 2019

Best for: People who need the flexibility to work across London
The Shard, 24/25, 32 London Bridge St, London SE1 9SG

WeWork Southbank

Courtesy of WeWork

Coworking giant WeWork has 39 locations in the capital that are either open now or coming soon, but its London ventures started at Sea Containers house on the Southbank. A communal penthouse with views across the Thames, bicycle storage, showers and a pet-friendly policy all conspire to create a relaxed vibe that's almost like working from home.

Best for: Pet-loving people who keep a dog under their desk
22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PD

Forge & Co

DIVERGENT
IN CINEMAS APRIL 4

Courtesy of Forge & Co

'Eating out at lunchtime is often where you have your best ideas as a team,' says Forge & Co director Steve Beale. 'In today's "always on" culture, it's important to get a change of atmosphere during the working day.' Dining is at the heart of Forge & Co's coworking spaces, which encourage people to reclaim the lunch hour by offering nourishing salads, pasta and grilled meat and fish.

Best for: Those of us who get so busy we forget to eat
154-158 Shoreditch High St, London E1 6HU

Makerversity

Courtesy of Makerversity

Makerversity at Somerset House is a London coworking space for designers, markers and start-ups. It includes access to all of the tools and machines (think 3D printers, CNC-cutters etc) you need to bring your ideas to life. Nearby Somerset House Studios also offers residencies to a curated selection of artists and makers.

Best for: Makers who need access to machinery
Somerset House, Victoria Embankment, West Goods Entrance, London WC2R 1LA

Read next: The 7 best coworking spaces in New York

TAGS: CO-WORKING COWORKING COWORKING SPACES JUMP STUDIOS