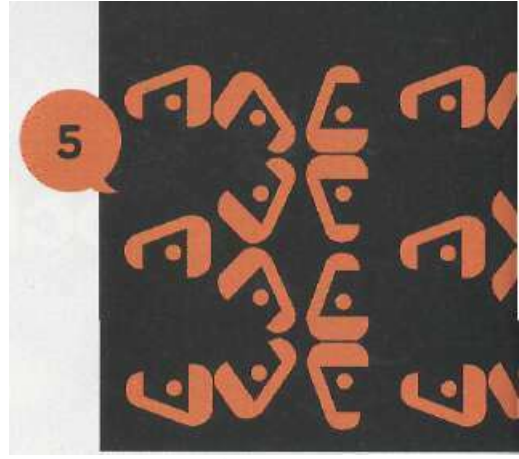


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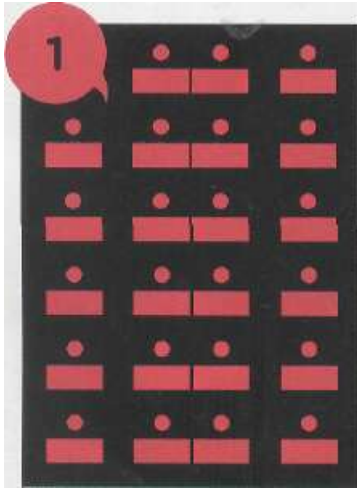


DESIGN Office Spaces

Since the dawn of the white-collar age, office designs have cycled through competing demands: openness versus privacy, interaction versus autonomy. Here's a brief history of how seating arrangements have reflected our changing attitudes toward work. —Cliff Kuang

1 Taylorism (ca. 1904)

American engineer Frederick Taylor was obsessed with efficiency and oversight and is credited as one of the first people to actually design an office space. Taylor crowded workers together in a completely open environment while bosses looked on from private offices, much like on a factory floor.

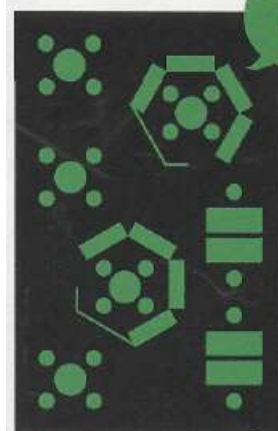
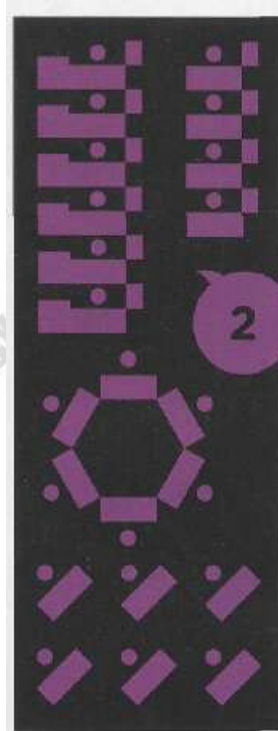


2 Bürolandschaft (ca. 1960)

The German "office landscape" brought the socialist values of 1950s Europe to the workplace: Management was no longer cosseted in executive suites. Local arrangements might vary by function—side-by-side workstations for clerks or pinwheel arrangements for designers, to make chatting easier—but the layout stayed undivided.

3 Action Office (1968)

Bürolandschaft inspired Herman Miller to create a product based on the new European workplace philosophy. Action was the first modular business furniture system, with low dividers and flexible work surfaces. It's still in production today and widely used. In fact, you probably know Action by its generic, more sinister name: cubicle.

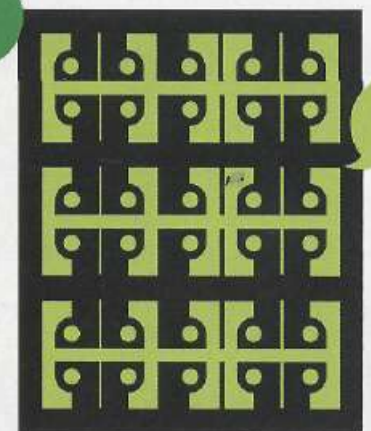


4 Cube Farm (ca. 1980)

It's the cubicle concept taken to the extreme. As the ranks of middle managers swelled, a new class of employee was created: too important for a mere desk but too junior for a window seat. Facilities managers accommodated them in the cheapest way possible, with modular walls. The sea of cubicles was born.

Virtual Office (ca. 1994)

Ad agency TBWA\Chiat\Day's LA headquarters was a Frank Gehry masterpiece. But the interior, dreamed up by the company's CEO, was a fiasco. The virtual office had no personal desks; you grabbed a laptop in the morning and scrambled to claim a seat. Productivity nose-dived, and the firm quickly became a laughingstock.





5 Networking (present)

During the past decade, furniture designers have tried to part the sea of cubicles and encourage sociability—without going nuts. Knoll, for example, created systems with movable, semi-enclosed pods and connected desks whose shape separates work areas in lieu of dividers. Most recently, Vitra unveiled furniture in which privacy is suggested if not realized. Its large tables have low dividers that cordon off personal space but won't guard personal calls.



MOTOR Hit the Road

Take your job and shove it in an Airstream.

Times are tough, so stop looking for a boring nine-to-five. Use the stalling job market as an excuse to get the hell out of dodge—and into an Airstream, Winnebago, or Fleetwood. With an RV and a few tech hacks, you can create a flexible, self-employed lifestyle on the road. Yesterday's freeloading hippie is today's wireless world traveler. We talked to some nomadic geeks to find out how to trade in your mortgage for flexible hours and an ever-changing, million-dollar view. —*Sonia Zjawinski*

GIG Your clients probably won't care whether you're in Albany or Argentina. Josh Strike, a Web developer who worked his way across Australia, says you may have to lower your rate in exchange for not always being available. But without house payments, you can afford the wage decrease.

RIDE You don't need the fanciest wheels to get your show on the road. Web designers Nathan Swartz and Olivia Meiring packed their work and 7-year-old son into a 115-square-foot 1996 Dutchmen they bought

for \$12,500. "The RV is less of a house and more of a room," Swartz says. "We have all of the outdoors as our workspace."

POWER Your RV's cigarette lighter isn't going to cut it. Photovoltaics on the roof will pull in enough electricity to juice laptops, routers, external hard drives, printers, and pretty much anything else you need. Strike rigged a 6- by 3-foot solar panel onto his mini camper and used it to power all his gear.

CONNECTIVITY It's hard to find a corner of the Lower 48 that doesn't boast a wireless sig-

nal. You just need a WAN card or mobile router and a wireless broadband provider. Rich Luhr, founder of *Airstream Life* primarily uses Verizon's EV-DO network. When he wants to grab some free Wi-Fi, he uses a Linksys range extender to goose data speeds through his home's shell.

FUEL With gas prices changing daily, a trip down the interstate on the wrong day may lead to bankruptcy. Consider converting your ride to burn vegetable oil. Sara Janssen, a freelance photographer who spent 18 months on the road in her 36-foot mobile home, did just that—then picked up free oil from restaurants and biofuel co-ops.

PHONE Even if cell service is spotty, clients will want to hear your sweet voice. Strike advises signing up for RingCentral. The service will forward calls to your mobile, Skype account, or a hotel (while the house is in the shop for a brake job).

