



PHOTOGRAPHY: JEREMY TOHM

OFFICE SPACE

Sharon Stephenson has roamed the globe to find work environments where architects and designers have created interiors that up the colour, and creative, ante. Prepare to be jealous.

HANDS UP IF you've spent large chunks of your working life held hostage by drab, uninspiring offices with beige walls, bad carpet and an over-exuberant use of cheap-but-functional furnishings. You are not alone.

But office managers are beginning to understand that the space in which staff

work can have a direct impact on their mood and efficiency, which, in turn, affects their creativity and productivity: that the workspace should be designed for maximum inspiration.

Whether it's for a small start-up involving three people or the large-scale operation of an international corporation, the design, layout and, perhaps most importantly, the use of colour, are essential considerations in creating a stimulating environment. Read on for five of our favourite office spaces.



DDB Group Auckland, New Zealand

COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER 2012, this five-storeyed, 3,500m² floor space was completely reworked by Campbell Johnson, DDB's senior environments designer. The company has been based in the Greys Avenue building for 15 years, and the challenge was to breathe life into the large space and create an environment that not only was inspirational but also met the operational needs of the 200 staff and visiting clients. Each of the five levels was designed to reflect the unique nature of the respective DDB Group entities; these include advertising, digital, social media, data, PR, events, brand strategy and design. Furniture

and fittings came from New Zealanders Simon James and Douglas + Bec.

But what really puts the sparkle in the space's tiara is the top floor, which houses a generous lounge, kitchen and bar space that works for house group meetings and functions for 200 people or more, and small get-togethers.

"In a creative industry like ours, the importance of our working environment cannot be underestimated, and the revamp of the DDB building has been a fantastic success. It really is like working in a completely new and fresh office," says Justin Mowday, managing director of DDB.

ddb.co.nz



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These and previous pages. The DDB office makeover spans five floors of a central Auckland office building – and showcases furniture by local designers.

