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Just as the **majority of the global workforce** eased into a work-from-home setup in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, offices are now slowly reopening; a return to **physical workspaces** is just around the corner. However, determining what kind of workspace and workplace setup is the focal point of a much larger discussion.

Diverse industries and businesses mean solutions are far from formulaic. There is no one way to go about how companies must accommodate employees returning to the workplace.

With employees working remotely, in the office, or both, depending on their job description, the **hybrid work model** is expected to gain traction in the future. Most companies are now looking into this **model** as it addresses the varied challenges of an **evolving workforce and environment**.

Let's take a look at the future of work and how employees' and employers' ideas converge around a post-pandemic future with a lot more flexibility.

Are we returning to pre-COVID workstyle?

Pre-COVID, the workstyles have already begun shifting to a more **flexible setup** with the emergence of **co-working spaces**, in conjunction with the development of technology that enabled **efficient remote work** across time zones.

The pandemic has only hastened this transition for businesses and employees—revealing opportunities to **shape a new corporate culture** using strategies designed with a more **human-centric approach**.

It's clear that the physical office is here to stay, but leaders and workers both understand that it is possible to split their time between the office and working remotely in this post-pandemic workplace with the right strategies and tools.



So, what do employees want?

74%
flexible remote
work options*



67%
more time
to interface
with their teams*



*Work Trends Index

This shows us that businesses need to:

Rethink a **work environment**, physical, digital, or both;

Create the infrastructure to support a **hybrid workspace** that is **highly-flexible** and **adaptive**;

Cater to employees who want to take control of when, where, and how they work.

Purpose of an office according to employees

- 1 Collaborating
- 2 Accessing equipment/ documents securely
- 3 Meeting with clients or colleagues
- 4 Training and Career Development

By addressing these areas, employers and employees can strike the **right balance** between working in the office or at home. This boosts the **overall productivity** of individuals and teams, as well as, ensuring business bottomline.



What do leaders and employers think?

Asia was one of the first hit by the pandemic and was **first to adapt a hybrid work model**. Business leaders understand that in a continuously evolving work landscape, they must prioritise what's best for their **most valuable asset**—their **people**.

Cultivating strategies to increase productivity with a focus on both physical and mental **employee wellbeing** is key. Digital exhaustion from remote work is real so employers are creating space for employees to have meaningful downtime by **“unplugging”** and **recharging**, to keep employees' mental and emotional health in check.

To support a hybrid work environment that allows the workforce to be productive, leaders must:

Rethink and reshape the **office space** into an **inclusive, diverse environment**;

Invest **in tools** that would make work accessible to all members of the team, **anytime, anywhere**.



Purpose of an office according to employers

- 1 Increasing employee productivity
- 2 Providing a space to meet with client
- 3 Enabling our employees to collaborate effectively
- 4 Enabling our company culture

“The office is here to stay, but its role is set to change,” according to PWC*. **Hybrid workplaces** are likely to become the norm, and employers and business leaders need to be prepared in supporting their organisations with new technology, software and solutions that cater to a hybrid work environment.





Conclusion

Although the pandemic has dealt a heavy blow to economies, a **contemporary model** has proven that life, and work, goes on, beyond the four corners of the office.

We have seen the positive results on both business and employee wellbeing, despite the challenging global reality, with **new innovation** to support **workflows** in flux.

Anywhere can be your workspace. You can support your evolving workflow with integrated and secure solutions from FUJIFILM Business Innovation, as we help you adopt a successful hybrid workspace.

References

1. PWC, Us Remote Work Survey, 2021
2. Microsoft, Asia Leading the World to Shape the Future of Hybrid Work, 2021
3. Human Resources Online, Remote Working Yay-or-Nay Survey, 2021



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