THE FUTURE WORKPLACE

Check out new trends and ideas for 2019 and beyond

1. **Agile working**
   Flexible hours and remote working are on the rise. Flexi-time has increased by 12.35% and remote workers have grown by a quarter of a million over the last decade. By 2020 it’s predicted that half of the UK workforce will work away from the office.¹

2. **Exercising during work hours**
   Swedish sports brand Bjorn Borg is holding weekly mandatory exercise sessions for its employees and research by Leeds Metropolitan University proves that exercise during work hours boosts our performance – whether it’s a gym class or table tennis.²

3. **AI chat bots in the workplace**
   HR organisations at IBM are rolling out intelligent assistants to handle the early stages of recruitment and personalise training sessions. University College London is also trialing an AI start-up that makes it easier for victims of workplace harassment to speak up.³

4. **Experience-driven spaces**
   Companies are prioritising employee experience and re-thinking the one-size-fits-all office design. Get ready for spaces that develop wellness, communities and cultivate happiness. Think meditation areas, VR gaming, yoga studios and rock-climbing walls.⁴

5. **Microchipping for security**
   A breakthrough in microchip tech is on the horizon with UK firm BioTeq fitting 150 employees with bio-tracking implants, negating the need for an entry pass. It follows a move by a Swedish rail company allowing passengers to travel via chip implants rather than tickets.⁵

6. **Bringing nature into the office**
   Transcending the desk plant trend, ‘biophilic design’ refers to our connection to nature and is fast-becoming part of office culture. Proven to help us feel more relaxed, living walls, integrated trees and ecosystems and natural materials will be popular.⁶

7. **The power of 3D printing**
   Multijet 3D-printing is set to change the way we work in a big way. Soon, items will be printed on demand – eliminating the need to transport or store items. A few kinks need ironing out, but this will change the way global companies work in the near future.⁷

Sources:
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5. theguardian.com/technology/2018/nov/11/alarm-over-talks-to-implant-uk-employees-with-microchips
7. wired.co.uk/article/hp-cto-shane-wall-trend-predictions

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