Spicing up office spaces

TRENDS Globalisation has changed the office space over the years and it has definitely changed the Indian office space in a big way. Art work, modular furniture, eco-friendly supplies are all in, observes Bindu Gopal Rao

The 'Going Green' movement is catching up in most offices. Manufacturers of environment friendly office supplies provide the highest quality of recycled content including processed chlorine-free paper and envelopes, recycled office products like fax, printer, toner cartridges and office paper, business cards and envelopes all made of recycled paper.

A range of system furniture for office spaces, FM is India's first leg and beam based system. Its main characteristics include maximised interaction with optimised space usage and easy plug and play wire management system.

Likewise, Starline is an international and designer range of modular system designed to suit interactive, collaborative, autonomous and focused environments.

A premium cabin furniture range, Idol is a range of Wipro Furniture designed to adorn cabins of business leaders including CEOs, Presidents, Vice Presidents and Directors.

The exquisite designs and use of material like veneer, glass and aluminum gives Idol its signature class and elegance. Icon is a new range of chairs developed exclusively for Wipro Furniture by leading designer Eric Chan.

Designed specially for the Indian market, Icon has a lot of features which allow uniform distribution of body weight to eliminate pressure spots, free flow of air through the perforated seat to reduce heat build-up, a four-way arm rest mechanism to provide full elbow support while working and full arm support while one is relaxed and a back height adjustment for better lumbar support.

Accessories

In fact, office accessories play a big role in defining the space as well. HP recently launched its new GJ series printers that can be customised according to the printing need of customers with the option of mono to colour printing. As consumers adopt a high-definition lifestyle, printing has evolved to become a smart buy and a must-have accessory for offices especially SOHOs (SMBs (small office home office / small and medium businesses).

Another hot accessory happens to be desk systems with modular parts that can be added and removed from the framework as needed. Modern furniture ranges allow for innovative cable reticulation, either under the desktop or floating above the desk.

The latest in office accessories are personalised desk accessories such as memo holders, letter openers, clips, memo pads, organisers, and more.

Eloy has introduced an entirely new range of office accessories and has named it "The Corporate Look". These include the Corporate Pen Box and Watch Box, Leather Diary and Corporate Laptop Bag. Vandana Khosla, Creative Director, ELYY says, "We have many exciting products including electric staplers, CD shredders for personal security and personal desktop laminators to protect all important documents and electric sharpeners."

In fact art has also found a new address, a shift from living room spaces to the office! Artwork, wall murals and tall vases are also in. Says Anju Kumar, Annok, "Our range of artefacts, murals and vases can be used to accessorise any corporate office. Straight lined planters and richly crafted knick knacks lend to the eclectic collection we offer."

Scent in the air

A new dimension added to the aesthetic aspect at offices is fragrance.

"Fragrances can improve work place productivity as they refresh minds. From refreshing to calming, fragrances are increasingly being considered an integral part of office décor. At Ripple Fragrances, we try to create smells that will help destress and relax while also boosting that post-lunch concentration. The end result is productivity," says Kiran Ranga, MD, Ripple Fragrances.

Trends

Globalisation has changed the office space over the years and it has definitely changed the Indian office space in a big way. Says Parag Kulkarni, Vice President & Business Head, Commercial Lighting & Furniture Business, Wipro Consumer Care and Lighting, "there is an increasing demand for 'one system, multiple roles'.

Also the look and feel of an office space has been changing regularly with the newer trends, for example, the domination of non hierarchical furniture systems aimed to promote and facilitate team building ambience in the office."

The focus is on ergonomics and comfortable seating. "Use of contemporary furniture like colourful sofas at the reception or coffee tables at conference halls, flexible modules and work stations and designs that feature a quarter of a round table for each of four persons, which can be pushed together to make a round conference table," are some other trends according to Armaan Siddiqui, Joint Director, Westwood. Today office furniture has become a lot more user-friendly. Modern and contemporary office furniture is the latest mantra. Many corporate are applying it by replacing traditional chairs with sofas and easy chairs and conference tables with coffee tables. In fact, many items are on wheels in order to make their mobility easier and can be rearranged on a regular basis with minimum effort.

Anjum Jung, Managing Director, Morph Design Company, Prestige Group opines, "People are focusing more on buying multi-purpose furniture in order to save space and fulfill different needs.

Furniture trends have become global, with influence from around the world resulting in better mobility and simplicity in providing a contemporary design. Leather has often been and still is among the preferred selection for upholstery, and nowadays, leather is particularly fashionable when utilised in collusion with fabric.

Today, leather is commonly employed in smaller amounts as an accent on wooden and fabric pieces." Having a clean, professional design and environment-friendly furniture is a big draw. "One of the biggest trends is consolidation bringing people together in less space. 3-D office space, aluminum office partition, library, cabinets with features like swing door and open shelf with lot of storage space for files, is drawing the attention of consumers.

Apart from anodised aluminum posts and beams with acoustic and glazed walls, ceilings and lighting to create private offices, conference rooms and open environments are appreciated," says P S Rana, National Sales Manager, Usha Shriram Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.

Well go ahead and add character to your office space—there is nothing official about it.

(For tips, go to page 4)

Now the battle
will not be for the Princess
but for Princetown.
Turn to page back page

MODULAR Starline furniture (Pic courtesy: Wipro) and below: Westwood furniture