

SMART HOMES

REDEFINING SPACE POST-COVID



How we approach the use of space within our homes was once something of an afterthought. But now that our homes have become central to our daily lives, our domestic environments need to encompass work, shopping and healthcare more than ever, spawning a slew of innovations that we detailed in our “[Future of The Home](#)” report.

Since the onset of the pandemic, according to a

recent survey by Xiaomi, 70 per cent of consumers have altered their homes to accommodate for these changes. Additionally, 3 in 5 respondents said that their leisure and work environments have merged into one, leading to 79 per cent of them reconfiguring at least one room within the home.

Other research suggests working from home will remain a common practice, with 72 per cent of business

leaders set to embrace an “emerging hybrid model” moving forward, according to a study by Steelcase Global.

How will our living environments continue evolving to adjust to the new home ecosystem? Emerging innovations in design point to some exciting possibilities, including new solutions that aim to expand the traditional boundaries of what can be considered living and working space.



For the past 25 years, Aritco has developed lifts for an infinite number of environments. With a keen interest in how people live and work, we have combined smart technology, stylish Swedish design and cutting-edge security to create elegant lifts for the twenty-first century.

Follow our discussions, insights and more on [aritco.com](https://www.aritco.com)



friends go™

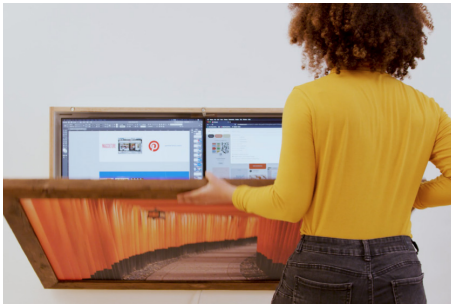
belinda@friendsandco.co.uk

SPRING WISE™



One such approach groups a balcony together with flexible space off a living area that can be partitioned for work or other uses.

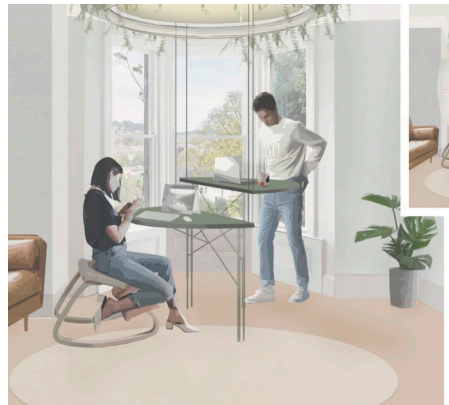
This is the idea behind Outsideln, which creates additional living space that can be easily adapted to changing needs. The design includes, “sliding external doors, internal partitions and curtains that conceal into pockets allow effortless reconfiguration, while a dedicated standing desk with shelving is integrated as an attractive piece of furniture.”



Beyond literally expanding space is the idea of making more of it within predetermined dimensions. The UK sustainable furniture company **Pith & Stem** recently introduced its **DropTop workstation**, which doubles as framed piece of art when folded up and not in use. When in use, the strong, sustainably constructed system includes built-in storage spaces and three options for HD screen configurations. Made from skateboard strength FSC certified birch plywood and supported by extremely strong hinges, the desk is durable and easy to install.

“Working from home comes with many environmental, social and

economic benefits. Nonetheless, many people have come to dislike it over the past year, even though it was once their dream. Factors behind this include it being uncomfortable, the lack of correct tools or workspace, and the inability to find that work-life balance,” **says Stefan Husanu**, Pith & Stem’s CEO and designer of the DropTop. “That’s why we created a home-working solution that fits every space and makes productivity fun, comfortable and stylish.”



Similarly, those behind the **Omni retractable workspace concept** are finding ways to redefine what constitutes workspace. Designed by the British consultancy Ekkist, Omni workstations descend from the ceiling of a living room to seamlessly transition living spaces. Adjustable desk space and acoustic absorption panelling drop down at the beginning of the workday and retract in the evening, hiding workstations and displays. There’s even an option for a warm, sunset-like mood lighting to induce a wind-down period.

Other designs are saving space by serving several different purposes. **The Cloud Bed, Table Edition** from the flexible design experts Ori combines a King- or Queen-sized bed with an integrated workspace. At the touch of a button, the bed glides up to the ceiling, revealing a sleek table large enough for five people to use. The design makes it easy to transition from home to work, even when in the same room. **Ori also makes a Sofa Edition**

with a bed that stays tucked away and hidden above a couch until it’s needed in the evening.

“Solutions now exist for turning even the smallest of apartments into a flexible and versatile space that adapts on demand to the needs of its residents,” **says Hasier Larrea**, the founder and CEO of Ori.



Another bed design, **Opus’s SoundBed**, aims to restore users after a long and productive day working from home while also saving space. More than a daybed or a nap pod, the SoundBed provides a wellness experience that combines spatial sound and vibrations to reduce stress and release hormones associated with happiness. When not in use, it folds up to the size of a stylish hexagonal pouf. It has been designed in neutral tones so fit into any décor and is covered in a 3D-knitted textile.

