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How do you
redefine the
traditional
office space?
**JULIEN
VERSPIEREN,
FOUNDER OF
WORK & CO,**



02

and **INTERIOR
DESIGNER
ANDREA
GRAFF** put
their heads
together –
and a flexible
collaborative
working space
was born.



03

URBAN COLLAB

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We love!

"I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF PEOPLE GETTING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE MORE."

PREVIOUS SPREAD

01 In the reception area of Work & Co in Cape Town's Touchstone House, the first thing you notice is a striking artwork by Jody Paulsen, *Emotional Ninja*. The Udo armchairs are from Ergoform, the Invisible

pendant light from Province Lighting and the Weathered rug in copper from Hertex. Andrea designed the sofa.

02-03 Julien Verspieren, founder of Work & Co, and interior designer Andrea Graff.

THIS SPREAD

01 A colourful graffiti mural by Mak1one and an oversized sofa by Andrea catch the eye in the common area. The stools are from LIM and La Grange Interiors, the desk lamps from La Grange Interiors and the wooden crate from Weylands.

AN IMAGE OF DRAB GREY-WALLED CUBICLES COMES TO MIND WHEN WE THINK OF THE TYPICAL NINE-TO-FIVE OFFICE.

French-born Julien Verspieren saw an opportunity to break this mould when he founded Work & Co with the aim of providing an innovative space for people to connect in a fluid office environment. Based in the recently refurbished Touchstone House on Cape Town's trendy Bree Street, Work & Co is not only centrally located but also has 360-degree views of the Foreshore and Table Mountain.

"I believe in the power of people getting together to achieve more, so we wanted to build a business-orientated space where people could share tools," says Julien. "People are often divided by their line of work, and bringing them together opens a world of possibilities."

From designers and web developers to actuaries, the people currently using the space span a broad spectrum of professions.

Julien worked closely with architect Natalie Gaertner, and brought in close friend and interior designer Andrea Graff to add her signature touch to the space.

That touch is evident when you step into the reception area, where a striking artwork by local artist Jody Paulsen, *Emotional Ninja*, is juxtaposed with a print of an 1800s oil painting of a ship in Table Bay, blown up and used as wallpaper. The space features vintage oak vinyl flooring,

Monn Planc carpet tiles from Rowley & Hughes laid in a herringbone pattern, custom-made sofas, mid-century bookcases, vivid wallpaper motifs and African art. Says Andrea, "We wanted to contrast contemporary with vintage. Afro-chic with European. Old with new. My mantra: Nothing ever matches but in the end, with careful consideration, it always works beautifully."

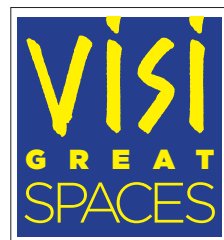
There is a shared office, private offices that can accommodate up to 15 people, meeting rooms, a hot-desk area and a large common area, all equipped with high-speed fibre-optics and the latest technology. And there's coffee on tap!

The stars of the common area are a colourful graffiti mural by local artist Mak1one and a 3m x 1,2m-deep olive-green sofa that Andrea made from scratch (which had to be hoisted up four storeys with a crane). "I had the pleasure of sitting on a similar sofa at Soho House in Berlin," she says. "In most of my work I want to produce a feeling of home, a place where people can be comfortable and inspired."

The hot-desk room, where day visitors can rent a space to work, is a flurry of yellow, black and grey. Lockers line the walls and two private telephone booths offer privacy for phone calls and video chats.

Julien created a Lego wall to which each new member of the community can add a piece to symbolise how every individual is part of the bigger picture at Work & Co. **V**

- workandco.co.za
- andragraff.com



If you'd like to go on a tour of Work & Co with VISI, visit VISI.co.za for details or e-mail events@VISI.co.za.



"WE WANTED TO CONTRAST



CONTEMPORARY WITH VINTAGE. OLD WITH NEW."





01

PREVIOUS SPREAD

- 01 The bench is upholstered in Tibet fabric in the colour Puma from Home Fabrics, and the grey lockers are by MotherCityHardware.
- 02 The common area on floor 11 of Touchstone House.
- 03 The wallpaper, called Miami, is from the Cole & Son Geometric II collection, available at St Leger & Viney.
- 04 The red sculpture is by James B Hannah and the replica Cherner chairs are from Chair Crazy.
- 05 Deon van Schalkwyk stands on the balcony, where there's a concrete Sempre table from Weylandts and replica Tatami armchairs from Chair Crazy.
- 06 Imitation books by Michael Chandler on a Cécile & Boyd bookcase in one of the small boardrooms.

THIS SPREAD

- 01 Receptionist Merle Youngman behind the Chinese lacquered reception desk with brass detailing that is Andrea's pride and joy.
- 02 The wallpaper was printed by ArtLab.



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"IN MOST OF MY WORK
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A FEELING OF HOME."

01 Na-Yhm Lewis and Daniela Pistilli use the private phone booths to make calls. Andrea commissioned Michael Chandler of design studio Chandler House to draw the artworks that hang in the booths and throughout the Work & Co offices. The wallpaper, called Delano, is from the Cole & Son Geometric II collection, available at St Leger & Viney.

02 The custom-upholstered Caroline armchairs and sofa in the casual seating area are from Pezula Interiors and the hexagonal gold tables from LIM.



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