

DESIGN • SPACE • LIFE

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TOM DIXON

*BALANCING BARN
BY MVRDV*

*AN ART COLLECTOR'S
LOFT BY UNSTUDIO*

*DESIGNERS AT
ARCHIFEST 2010*



*Spatial
Encounters*

The Architecture Issue



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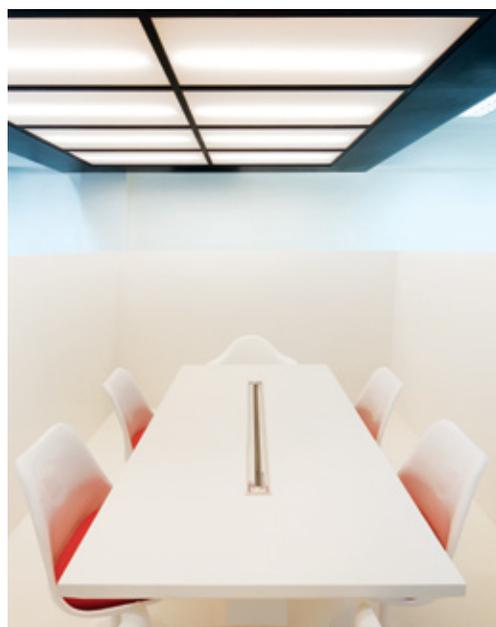
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The Lean MACHINE

Text by Rachel Lee-Leong Photography by Jeremy San

The Thin Office by Studio SKLIM points to the growing need for flexibility and efficiency in today's workspace.

KEEPING IT
SIMPLE:
Studio SKLIM
 pares things down
in the narrow
office space



ONE WOULDN'T NORMALLY DESCRIBE AN OFFICE SPACE

– or any space for that matter – as ‘thin’. But when *Kevin Lim*, principal of *Studio SKLIM*, came up with the name for this office project, he was thinking along the lines of a lean, basic but nonetheless efficient, office space – one that would suit the unpredictable, fast-paced and ever-changing working environments that are prevalent today.

The *Thin Office* is a shared working space between IT company *Kido Technologies* and a smaller multi-media set-up. Nestled within the post-war *RTW House* just outside of the Central Business District, the office takes the form of a long and narrow strip of space.

Being a shared workspace, using a particular company's branding profile as a design catalyst was out of the question. Instead, the design took a page from the more intangible values that both companies shared – flexibility, creativity and technological progress. Out of this birthed “a desire to remain anonymous and to provide a blank canvas for various work scenarios and possibilities”.

Coloured in the most impartial of colours – white – and dressed in a strict no-frills, almost severe, aesthetic, the office exudes a zen-like calm; a needful counterpoint to the flurry of modern work life perhaps.



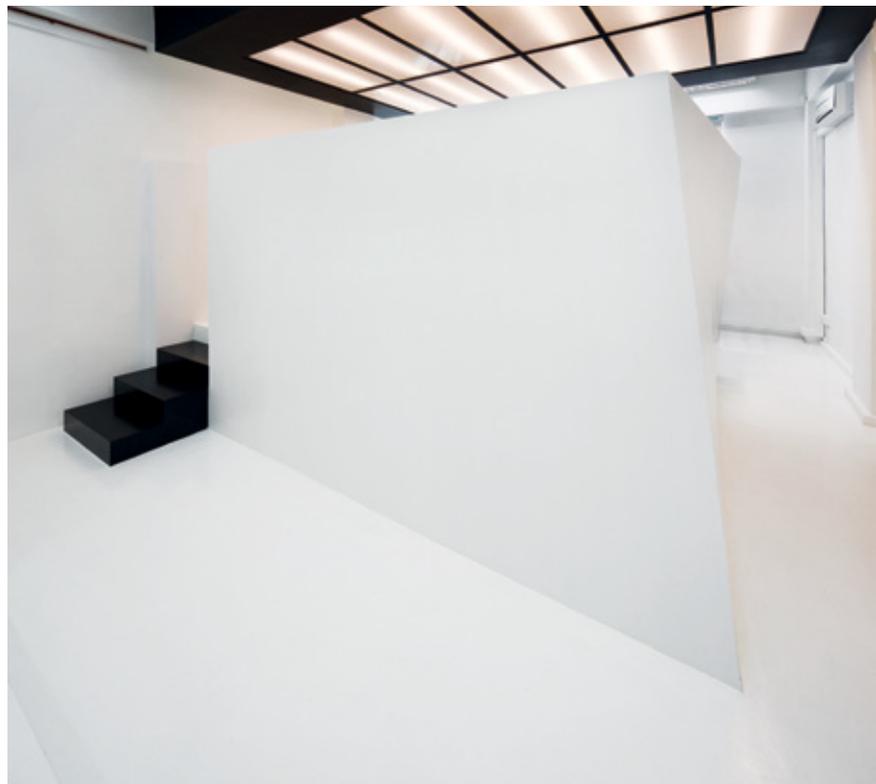
↑
SPATIAL DIFFERENTIATION:
Change in levels and half partitions help to segregate the space

→
DO THE TWIST:
The skewed geometry of the Twist Platform breaks any possible monotony

The office is loosely organised into eight clusters, including a cubicle corner aptly named the *Boss Boxes*, a meeting pod called the *Twist Platform* and a long worktable that is shared among colleagues. In particular, the long worktable answers the specific call for flexible working spaces that can contract and expand according to the number of stations needed. Incorporating a long power strip of data, telecommunication and electrical points that is accessible at any point along the table, the table can go from accommodating six persons to ten persons in a matter of minutes.

All the furniture in the office has been distilled to the simplest of geometries. However, there is a slight departure from strict rectilinear forms in the *Twist Platform*. As its name suggests, the meeting pod is encased in a slightly skewed box that dynamically juxtaposes the rest of the office. Raised on a platform because of the original space's split-level, the *Twist Platform* also accommodates extra storage space underneath.

In his design statement about the Thin Office, Lim quotes *Paola Antonelli*, the curator for *MoMA's* exhibition *Work Spheres*: "Work is where you are, work has become a state of mind." And in many ways, the Thin Office points to this counter attitude towards workspaces. It is not so much about creating environments that motivate and inspire workers as it is about the deceptively simple creation of clever, uncomplicated spaces. ♦ sklim.com



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