

Work 4.0 Era in Post-Pandemic World

The outbreak of COVID-19 has brought a significant impact on the way of working. Most people, except for essential workers, were forced to work from home since the UK lockdown in March 2020, and the current trend suggests that working from home will continue for many people even after the pandemic crisis is over. Many media outlets have already published a lot of contents that debate on what are the positive and negative consequences of working from home for the majority of people who have been forced to work from home for months. The biggest win for the majority of people is the absence of commute that saves both time and money (Profitt, 2020). Also, some people have welcomed their 'own space' that allows them to focus on their work and contributes to their mental well-being.

However, despite all these positive signs of working from home, more than 50% of people have expressed that they miss their office friends (Newlands, 2020). They miss office serendipities, such as an unplanned coffee break with colleagues and an office hallway conversation. If working from home has many benefits to offer to both organisations and employees, how DESIGN can help organisations connect their distributed employees, so they could still feel the same level of sense of community and hone their relationships with one another?

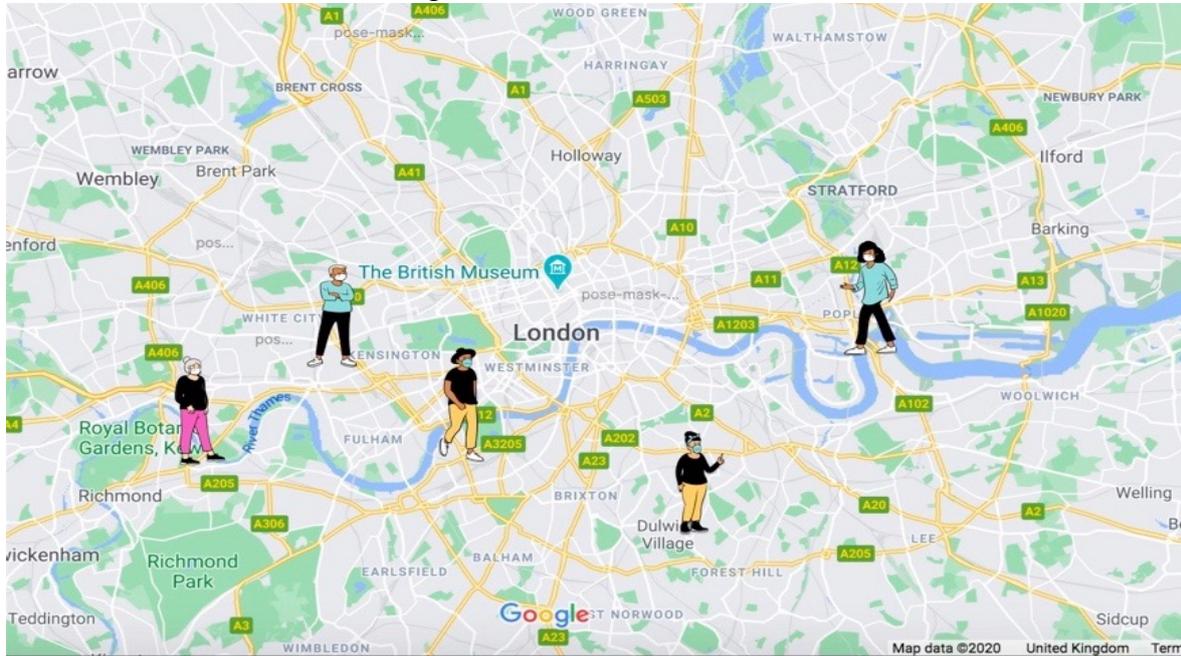
If the lack of social connection among employee is the known drawback of working from home, the empty office spaces across London are another tough challenge caused by the COVID-19. The recent data presented by the HRNews illustrate that SMEs in London will be able to save approximately £75,000 annually if they can keep a half of their workforce working remotely in a post-pandemic world. Many organisations are already on the move towards reducing their office sites across all locations where they have business presence. How can we then make good use of these empty spaces and mitigate the potential long-term damage to the local economy that serves the needs of the office populations?

DESIGN CHALLENGES:

- How might we help organisations strengthen connections among distributed employees and maintain a strong sense of community?
- How might we make good use of empty office spaces across London?

Solution in Work-in-Progress: ABC Company Work 4.0 Era

Colleagues Distribution Across London



Take a close look at Wimbledon area



Work 4.0 Era Prototype



The concept of **Work 4.0 Mobile Office** is that abandoned office sites can be re-purposed as a mobile office for a number of organisations to serve the social needs of distributed workforce across London. By having mobile offices across London, organisations can reduce its overhead costs while it helps its employees stay connected with colleagues living in the neighbourhood, strengthen relationships, and maintain the sense of belongingness to ONE community.

References:

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