We used to think of work and joy as two separate concepts at odds with each other. But, what if they merge to create a new philosophy? One where performance is boosted by a sense of belonging and offices, floors and common areas come to life as an expression of the corporate soul. This is called workplace design, a specific service aimed at innovating and improving the company environment through redesigning spaces, connections, communication, and ultimately advancing business. Because an efficient, healthy and effective workplace encourages employee engagement, increasing satisfaction that shines through remarkable achievements.
In pursuing our mission as Nikken Sekkei’s Workplace Design lab, we like to think of ourselves as catalysts, a link between the client’s vision and our Architectural expertise. We listen, observe, analyze, plan, brief and review projects assuring a smooth process among all parties involved. From CEO’s insights to board members’ expectations, employees’ habits and departments’ needs, we listen and investigate carefully; we analyze and anticipate growth and trends, delivering a clear and comprehensive brief that fully responds to your business demands. Because every company is different, we truly believe each solution should be tailor-made.

**Client Benefits**

- Smooth Transition from Briefing to Design
  → Less risk of rework or trial and error
  → Time saving
  → Cost saving

- Future Proof Design
  → Projected company’s growth and development

- Opportunity for Client to Review Industry Trends and Work-style
Coming from a country where space comes at a premium, we put our Japanese expertise in complex yet functional design into helping our clients make the most out of their space potential. We create a sustainable work environment that is both practical and dynamic.

The first step we take is to understand our client’s corporate territory which we are proceeding into. This is not just limited to field observation; it also involves an understanding of the company’s organizational structure as a whole. Through hearings and interviews we acquire the vision for long-term goals with the executive management. We recognize operational procedures and specific requirements with department leads. We see work-style, desires, and the impediments of employees. Once the foundation is clear, we proceed to the following steps.

Field observation is not a static process. It is a detailed registration of work flow, habits, procedures, timing, meetings, filing, seating, and the like. From an uninvolved third-party’s perspective, using field research to derive observations through pictures, diaries, logbooks, etc., we study the site in depth, understanding points of weakness and strength points as well as clarifying areas and scopes of improvement.
We analyze the social environment and industry trends, as well as behavioral psychology and the physical aspects of the workplace and work-style in question. We deep-dive into analyzing key users’ activities and propose an overall workplace/work-style design that meet aesthetic and functional requirements.

Environment Trend Analysis

Who, what, which, where and when?

Quantitative Analysis
What is the right size and number for meeting rooms? How many seats does the cafeteria need and where should it be located? Are there any other desired amenities or particular functions missing? These are some of the questions that may arise at the preliminary stage of a project. Through user-behavior and attitude surveys, we determine usage patterns in order to collect reliable data for decision-making in regard to the associated space. This exposes quantifying data and hidden trends to evaluate proposals for improvement.

Quantitative Analysis

Relationship Analysis

Who, what, which, where and when? During the analysis of a company’s organizational structure, these are the necessary foundations to cover in order to ease communication, connection and relationships among departments. We study and anticipate all possible changes to deliver a new company structure that understands needs and foresees all possible future demands and changes.

Relationship Analysis

Scenario Planning

How do you see your company? Where do you see your company going? These are two of the starting questions we ask in order to determine the cardinal parameters of a company and set up a tailor-made scenario for the future. As each individual company is impacted differently by external factors, we submit several possible development paths to guide your company’s adaptation to changes.

Scenario Planning
Working as catalysts, we are able to convey every company’s need and requirements into an accurate and precise brief for our Architects. We believe that lowering the risks of errors and misunderstandings among parties will turn our collaboration into a smooth, time saving and ultimately cost-efficient project.

We gather various stakeholders including users, management teams and third party experts to discuss specific challenges and potential solutions. The acquired data becomes a fundamental base for our process.

Planning means strategic thinking: organizing the required activities to achieve a desired goal. In Architectural design this also implies the process of organizing the elements of a project to achieve the desired appearance and functionality. Our customized solutions are designed to match the needs and work-style of our client.

Interior Design
Designing a workplace is not limited to creating an appealing and work-efficient environment. We present concepts for a wide range of designs, including those that express the firm’s identity to employees and visitors, and promote its brand to the world.

Furniture Design
We do not stop at just selecting ready-made furniture. We also offer custom-design solutions to suit the interior, and design-original furniture that supports different work styles.
Nikken Workplace Design lab. Connecting people, ideas and spaces. As part of Nikken Sekkei, we design work-styles and workplaces to bring together diverse clients, partners, and external specialists to which knowledge sharing and connectivity serve to increase productivity, user comfort and engagement. We truly believe that work-styles and workplaces are concepts built around human activity, and are developed to foster workers’ creativity and imagination.
The Nikken Group

As a whole, the Nikken Group employs 2,764* professionals and has been entrusted with 25,000 projects throughout not only Japan, but also some 50 other countries. Nikken Sekkei’s offices are in Tokyo, Osaka, Nagoya, Fukuoka, Sendai Shanghai, Beijing, Dalian, Chengdu, Seoul, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh, Singapore, Dubai, Riyadh, Moscow, Barcelona, and Bangkok.

*As of April 1, 2019
Photo Captions

P.02-03
Nikken Sekkei, Tokyo Takebashi Office, Coffee Area and Library

P.05
Nikken Sekkei, Tokyo Takebashi Office, Lounge

P.07
Nikken Space Design, Osaka Office, Work Stations

P.10-11
Sumitomo Corporation, Tokyo, Coffee Zone and Common Area

P.15
Nikken Sekkei, Tokyo Takebashi Office, Knowledge Garden 809

P.15
Mitsubishi Motors Corporation Headquarters, Tokyo, Workplace Nursery

P.16
Nikken Sekkei, Tokyo Takebashi Office, Main Entrance