

Abstract for: First Light – Reorganising for Efficiency

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Abstract

Offices today are “bases” to work from and have new components and environmental considerations. Many offices were designed in the 1970’s and are inflexible and difficult to change.

Often when the overall area is “reviewed” more people can be accommodated within the same area. There is a trend to open plan arrangements with multi functional spaces providing work areas and gathering places for entire teams. Functions are clustered (i.e. printing areas, stationery, special rooms and the like) and become meeting places.

Frequently the organisation needs to operate while changes are made. Frequently the wellbeing of employees and the need to operate effectively while the physical environment is reshaped guide and influence the final layouts.

An “environmental” approach covering the whole spectrum from design criteria, materials and equipment through to future use of the spaces is required. Clear energy conservation measures can be adopted as well as materials that, overall, create a healthier work environment.

Flexibility must be built in so that future rearrangements of people, groups and teams (a frequent event) can be accommodated in an easy and non disruptive way.

Several case studies will be presented to inform and demonstrate the benefits of flexible environmentally friendly work environments.

Bio

Russell Hawken is a Registered Architect and also holds a Diploma in Corporate Management. He worked for Ministry of Works and Development and took part in its evolution through to Works Consultancy Services before establishing his own firm Architects New Zealand Limited in 1994.

Russell currently leads GHD’s NZ/Pacific Buildings Team, manages the Orewa office and is the company’s New Zealand/Pacific Innovation Champion.