It's What's on the Inside that Counts: Why Office Interiors Matter from the Start

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The Contemporary Workplace

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A 90-second history of office design

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Early offices were open offices

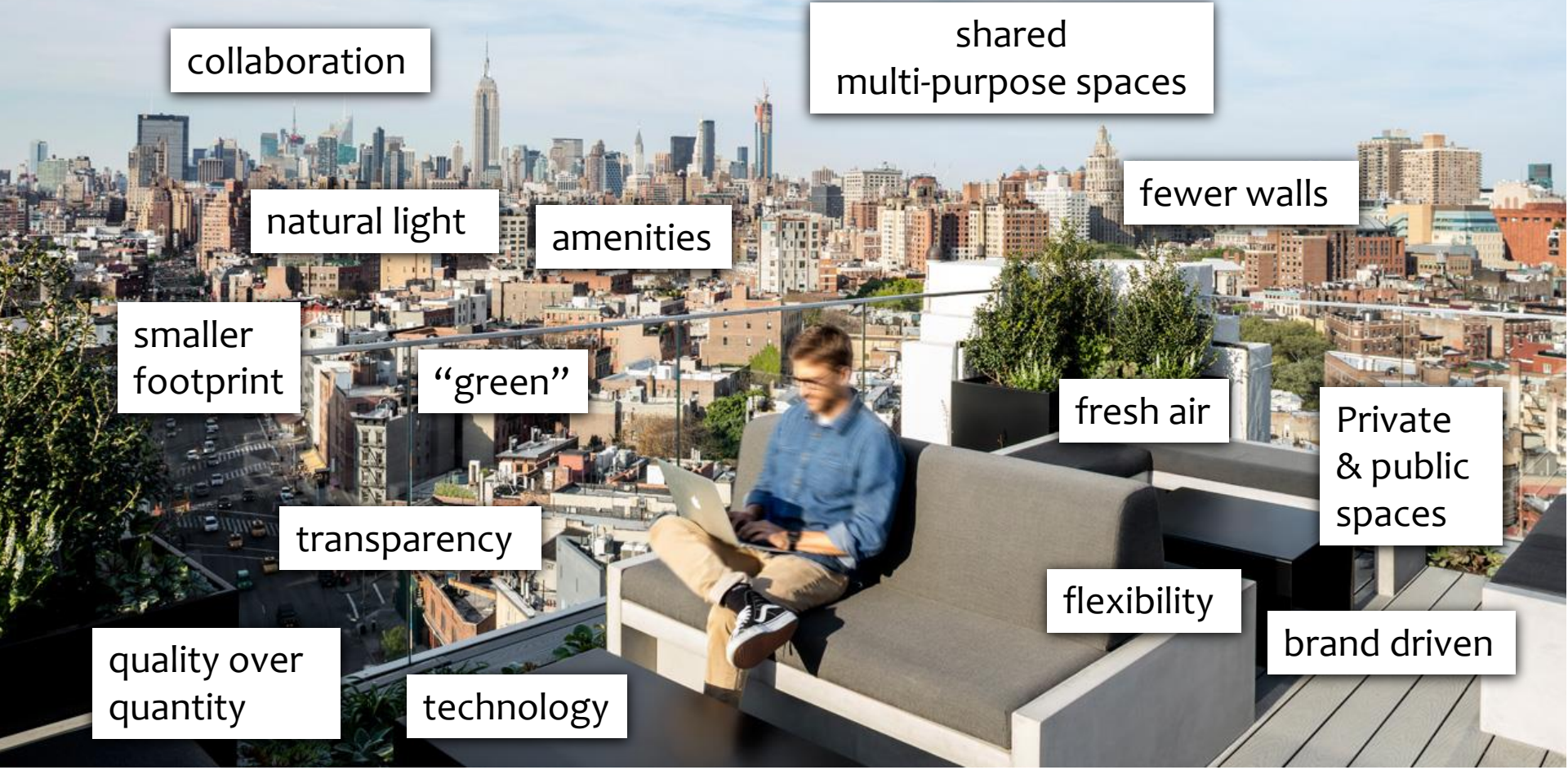
Private offices were only briefly in fashion: 1950s-80s

With a clear hierarchy and rules

Then came the cube farms…

… which became the butt of many jokes.

Which brings us to today.


collaboration
shared
multi-purpose spaces
natural light
amenities
fewer walls
smaller
footprint
“green”
fresh air
Private
& public
spaces
transparency
flexibility
brand driven
quality over
quantity
technology

Key Elements of Workplace Design

- Customization
- Flexibility
- Indoor Environmental Quality
- Amenities
- Built Environment

Customization - Branding

Organizational Culture Model:
The Competing Values Framework™

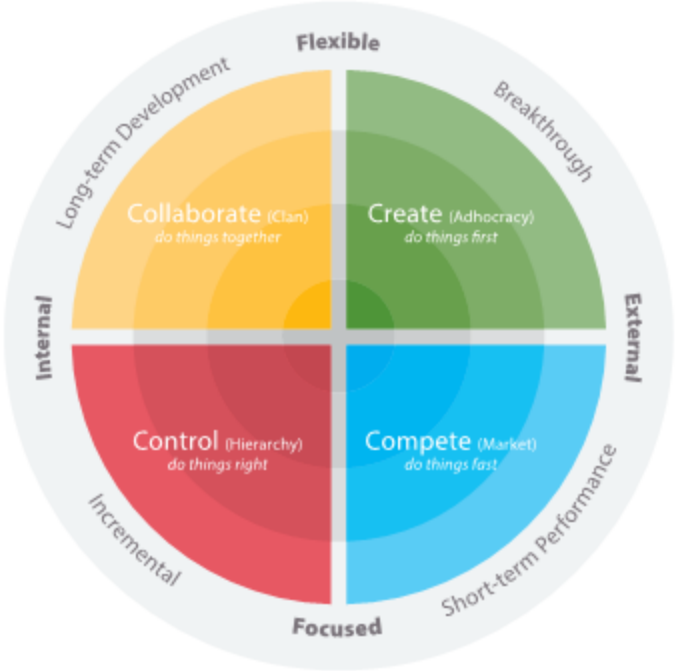
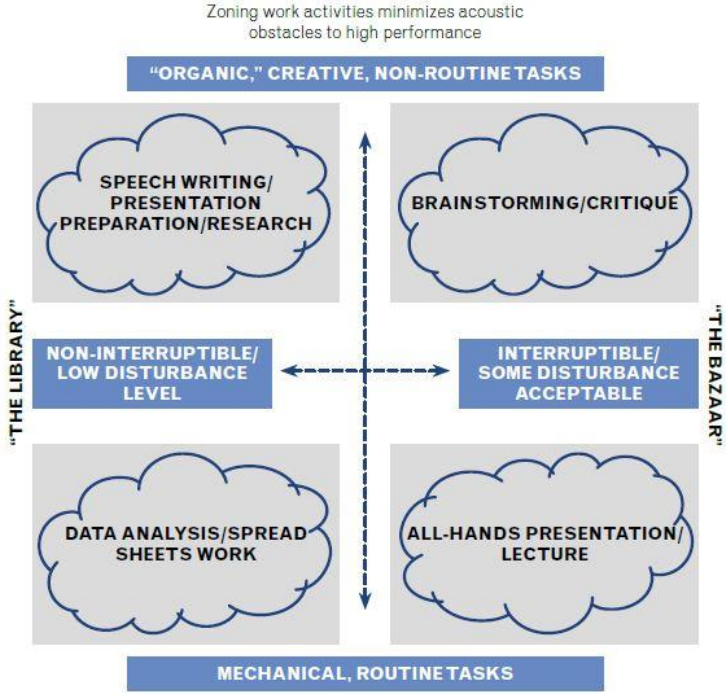


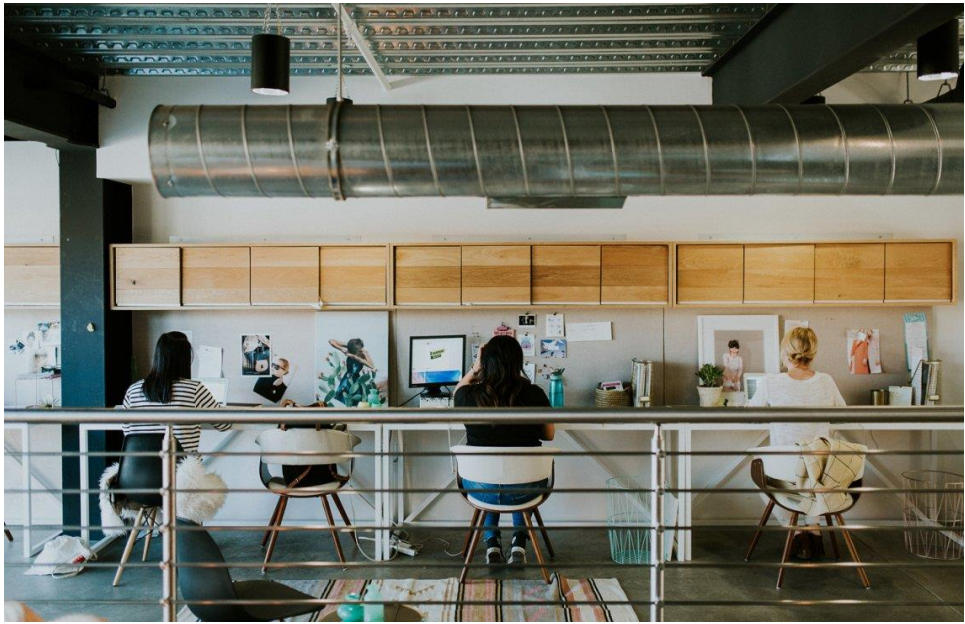
FIG 9. A FINE-GRAIN LOOK AT LOCATING ACTIVITIES IN THE CONTEMPORARY OFFICE



Customization – Office Culture

Customization: Budget

Flexibility – Work Tasks

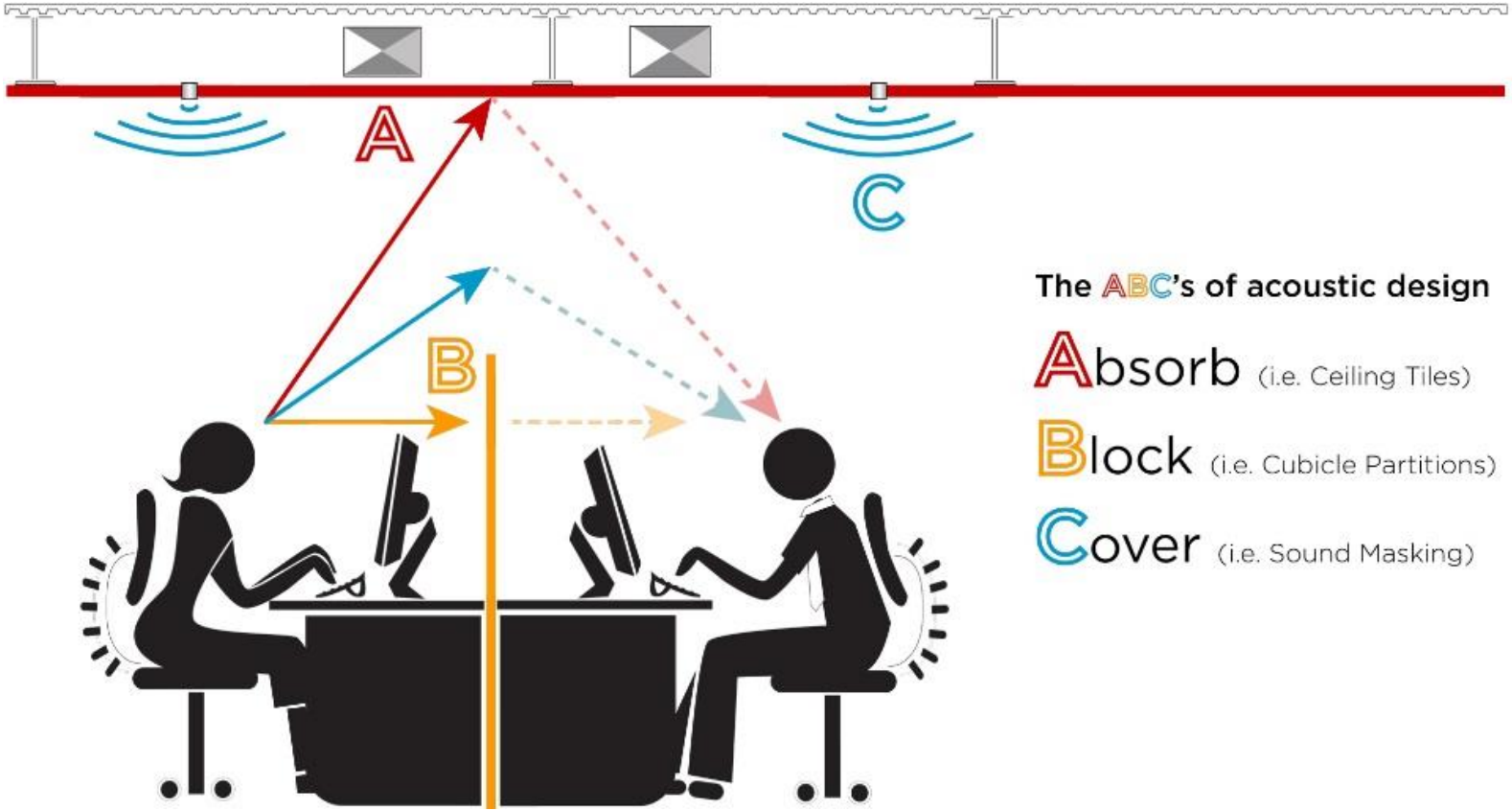


Flexibility – Work Styles

Flexibility - Technology

IEQ – Light & Air

IEQ - Ergonomics

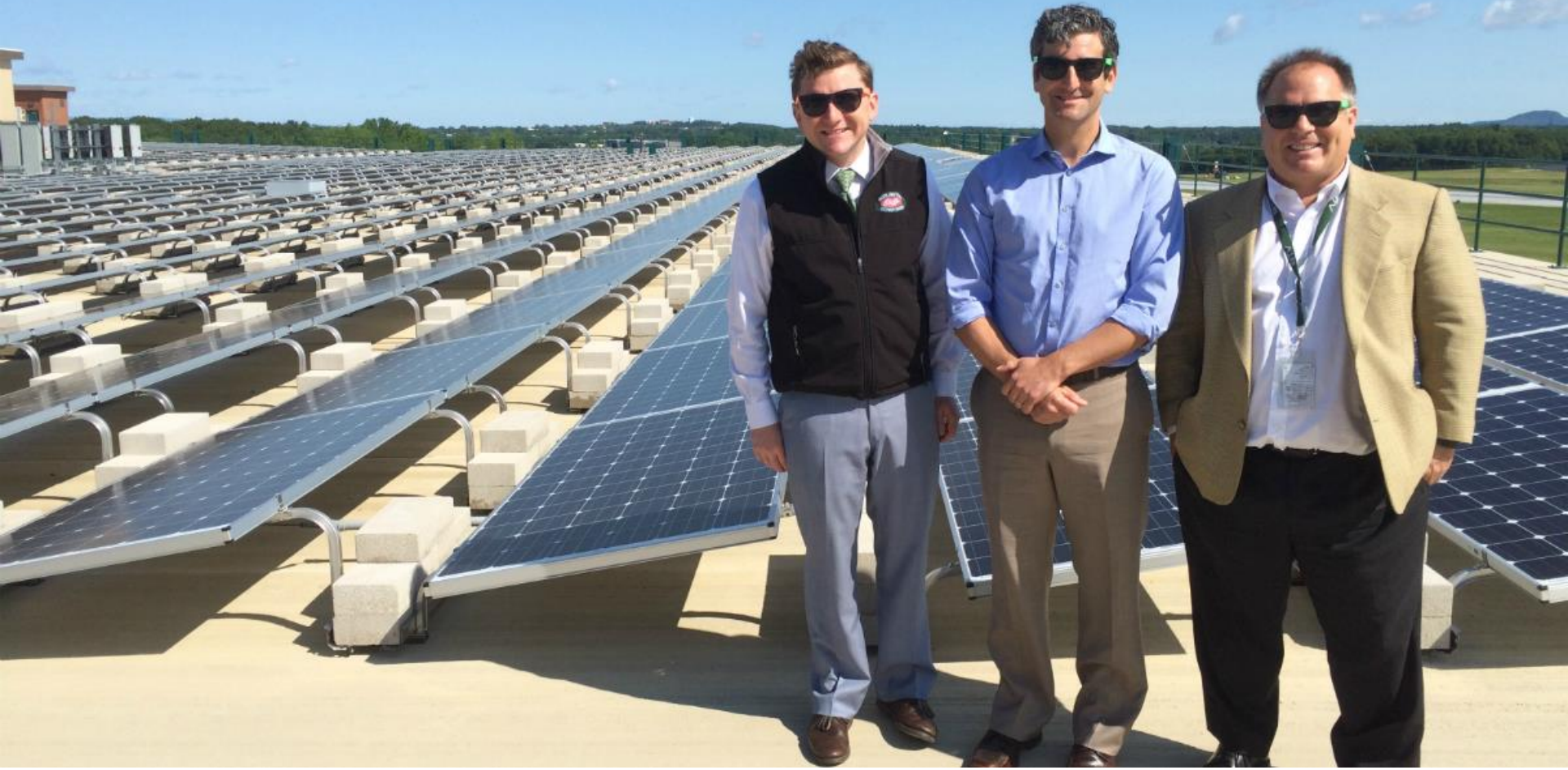

A
C
B
The ABC's of acoustic design
Absorb (i.e. Ceiling Tiles)
Block (i.e. Cubicle Partitions)
Cover (i.e. Sound Masking)

IEQ - Noise

Amenities – Shared Spaces

Amenities – Health & Wellness

Built Environment - Flexibility



Built Environment - Efficiency

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What About Cost?

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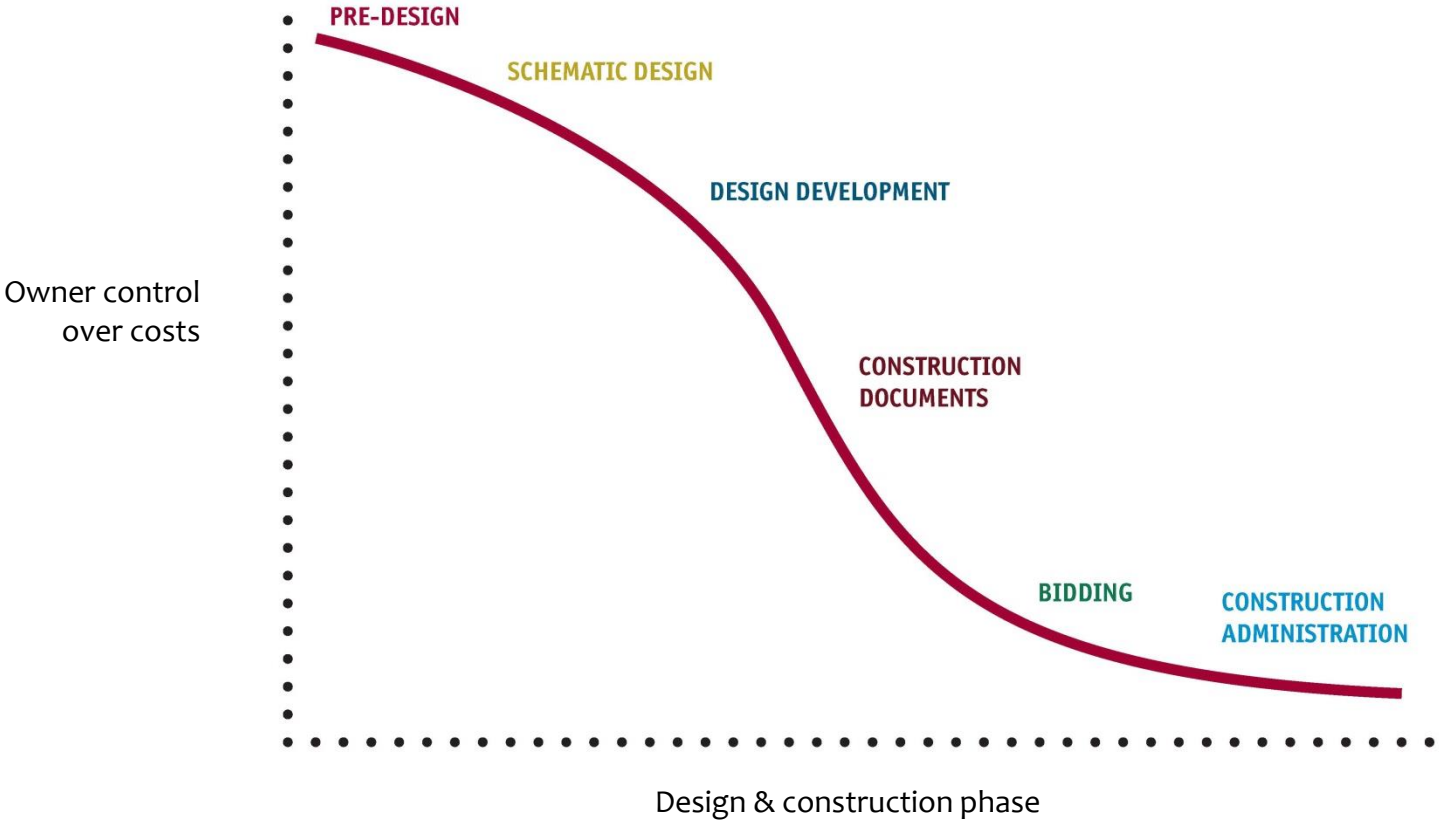
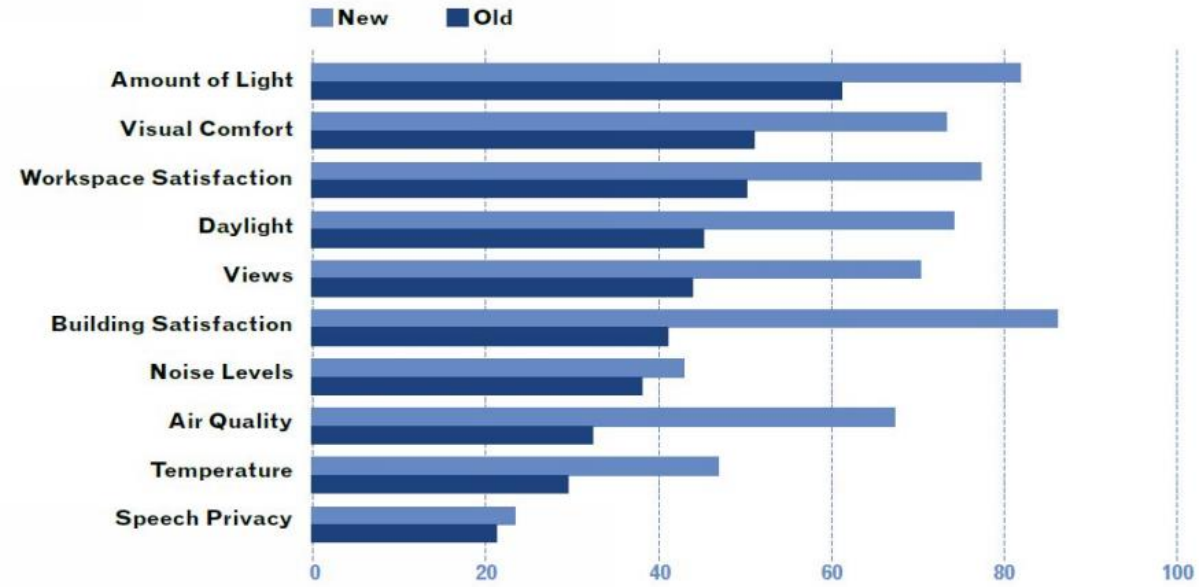
Questions?



Change Management

FIG 2. PERCENT SATISFIED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS



MYTH:
High cubicle partitions mean less noise, more privacy, and fewer distractions.

REALITY:
Not true. Research shows that higher cubicle partitions block standing line of sight but provide small amounts of additional acoustical shielding. But this increase in 'visual privacy' may encourage people to talk louder because they think they have more privacy. Unfortunately, there may be less privacy and more disruption.

GSA Study: Transition from private + high cube to open

Reasons for Installing your White Noise System