

MONOCLE

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- Camouflage goes urban
- The electric plane delay
- Bangkok's *klong* contest
- Highways to hell, fixed

2 Global views

- Can design save the office?
- Saddle up for career ranch
- Three new media HQs
- Dries Van Noten interview

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- Sardinia's sunny capital
- Dijon's zingy food scene
- A smart inn in Abidjan
- Prague's latest hotel arrival

Rising outposts, fresh starts and big thinkers

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New Frontiers

We criss-cross *Ukraine* to meet the *thinkers* and fighters plotting a national renaissance, join Indonesia's president *Joko Widodo* in search of the next Bali, discover why *France* is betting on a health-tech breakthrough and visit Italy's *new coffee region*.

Join us.

Hot desks

As the world picks up where it left off, businesses bringing workers back to the office might have more luck if it's an inviting, clean and well-lit space. Here are three of MONOCLE's favourite new offices from around the world. — M

1

Foster + Partners, Los Angeles:

At the far end of Foster + Partners' new Los Angeles outpost is a huge door onto a terrace above Venice Beach. "The space we're brainstorming in can be just as important as the idea," says senior partner Marc Guberman.

The office is already lined with maquettes for projects in the works, including the transformation of the area around the historic Beverly Hilton hotel. "Ninety-five per cent of our work is in California while the other 5 per cent is not on Earth," says Guberman, pointing to a table of Mars habitat models. Their neighbours are mostly small businesses, including a fashion company and a team of graphic designers. "The office doesn't have to be flashy but it does have to be uplifting," says Guberman. — CL

2

Six N Five, Barcelona:

A workspace created by architect Isern Serra is a calling card for any design-conscious young company. Serra has been hired by beauty brand Rowse and advertising agency Fuego Camino Conmigo to transform former industrial spaces into slick monochromatic offices. His latest project saw him create an HQ for design studio Six N Five.

"I love to host people, so I wanted it to feel welcoming as well as functional," says founder Ezequiel Pini. A key part of this is the open kitchen next to the central workspace, with a table for informal meetings, staff lunches, hosting parties and client dinners. There's also a small café at the entrance to the office, run by artisan roasters Three Marks Coffee, which encourages locals to drop by, giving the office the convivial feel of a neighbourhood hub. — HU

3

Unitex, Tokyo:

Machida-based Unitex offers software, hardware and data storage. When Emi Kosugi took over the family company in April 2021, she embarked on a makeover of its headquarters. "I wanted our office to be open, warm and bright," says Kosugi. Unitex's engineers once worked upstairs behind closed doors but now they can also be found on the wood-lined, light-flooded ground floor.

T2P designed the desks and stools with Unitex's "X" logo, while Kosugi selected furniture from Karimoku, Conde House and Ligne Roset. There is a bar to entertain guests and two basement floors were combined into a hall with staircase seating. "The open space stimulates conversations," says Kosugi. "In life, the amount of time we spend at work isn't short. I wanted to create a workspace that my staff are proud of." — JT



1. Unitex's Tokyo office
2. Open kitchen at Six N Five
3. Model workers at Foster + Partners' LA office
4. Overlooking Venice Beach