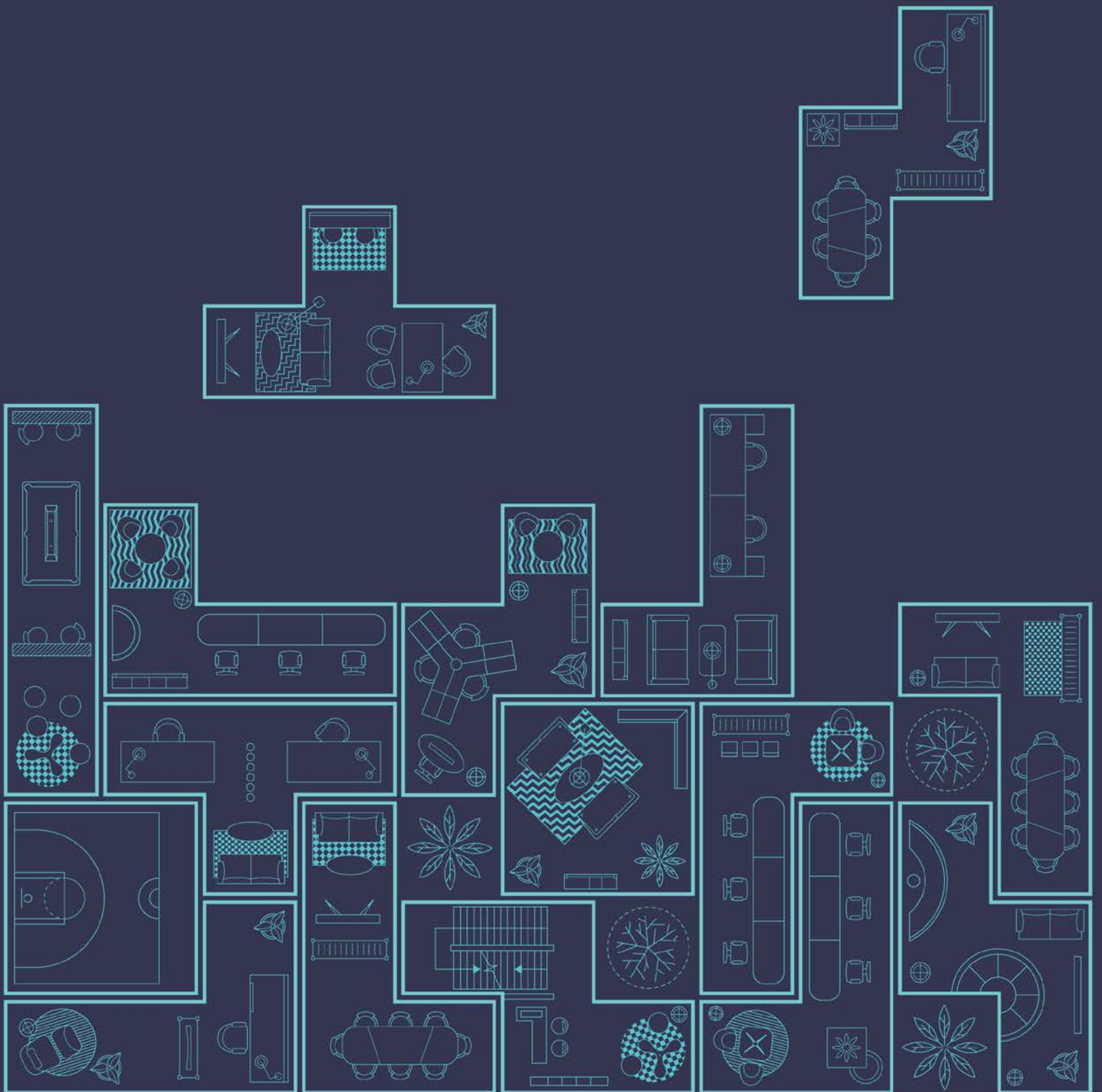


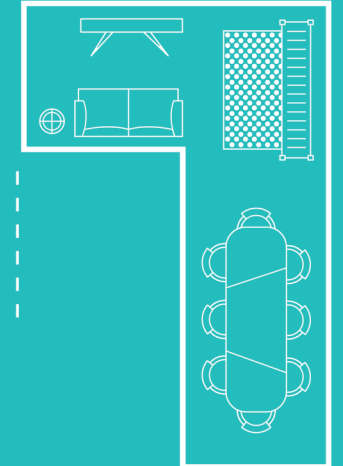
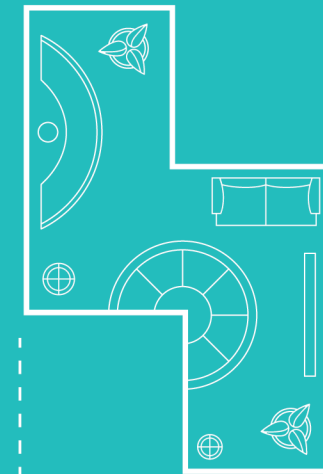
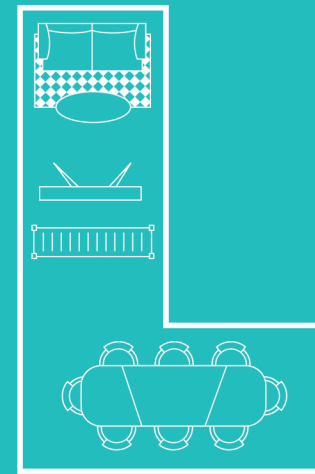
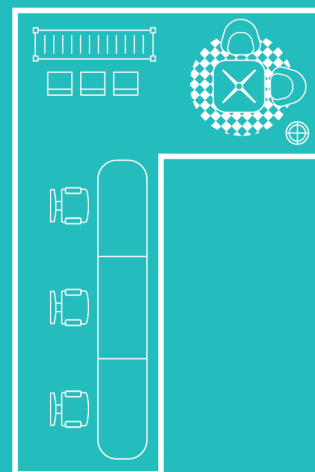
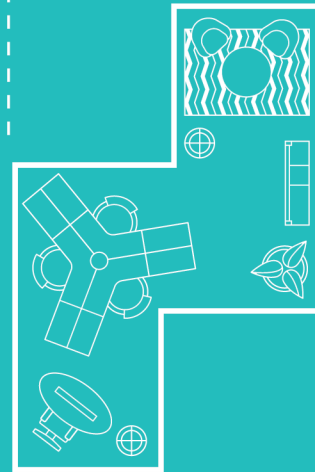
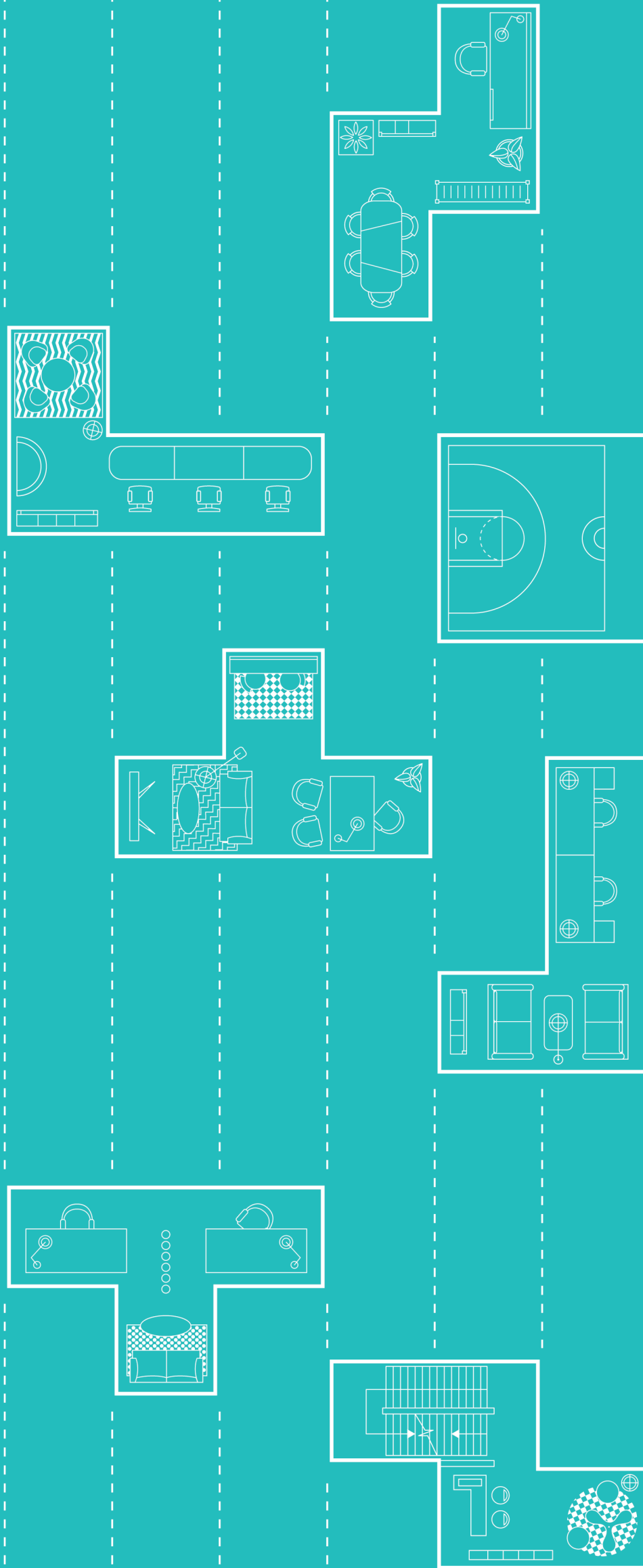
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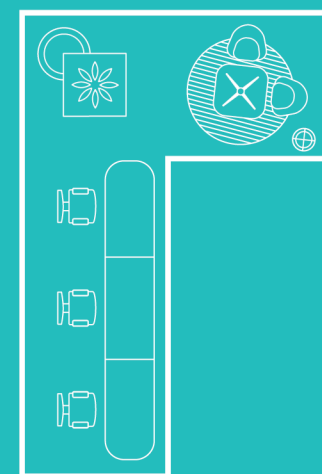
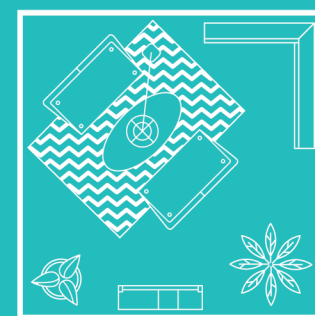




WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENTS

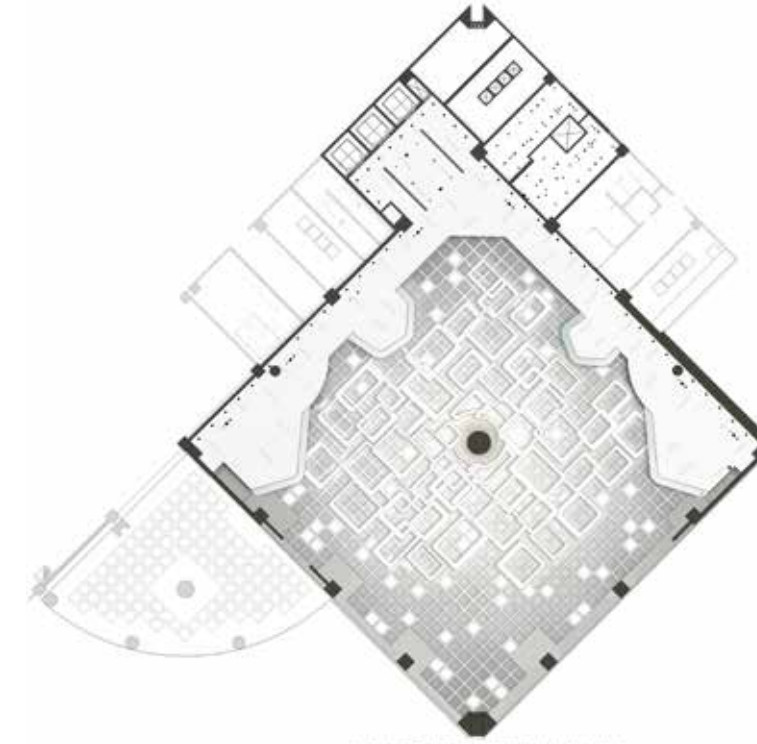
We devote endless hours to being hunched over paperwork, computer screens or our chosen medium of livelihood. The average adult is said to spend at least a third of his/her 24-hour-day working or in work-related activities. Many put in much more time than that too. The workplace thus becomes our second home, spending more awake-hours there than anywhere else. A growing acknowledgment of the workplace playing a critical role in our lives has led to a distinguished design approach in this realm. Today, design of the office space is trending towards a changing dynamic of the workforce and its mindset. These environments address the physiological as well as the psychological sensitivities of their inhabitants, encouraging not only efficiency but also a motivated proficiency of work.

While some organisations address an unyielding structure of hierarchy that is representative of maturity and stability, others cater to an open culture of interaction and collaboration. While some prefer the seriousness of a monotone palette, others break into motley of colours. The design language is evolving to create a balance between ergonomics, visual comfort, as well as a sense of individual and community identity. And light is increasingly becoming the chosen tool to articulate this design and its altering subtleties. The following are projects which illustrate that it is not enough to offer a desk and chair, but presenting an environment that is stimulating, energizing and invigorating can transform the mundane task to an exhilarating experience.





Pic: Lalita Tharani + Manish Gala
Facing Page Reflected Ceiling Plan
Drawing: Collaborative Architecture



UNDER THE CANOPY

Collaborative Architecture has transformed the lobby space of *Bearys Global Research Triangle* with a custom made and intelligently designed waffle slab lighting system.

The brief was to design a multi-functional public space that could include a variety of areas and a place where intimate and private meetings could take place. Collaborative Architecture approached this, by setting a benchmark for public space design through its innovation and sustainability agenda. The lobby is dominated by a central column, which supports the waffle slab system that spans 32m x 32m, with a height of 9m. The front facing sides have structural glazing, while the sides on the back are stacked with services and toilets.

The lobby functions nearly eighteen hours a day and is equipped with a BMS using Dali ballasts for daylight harvesting. The expansive glazing on two sides allows daylight during any season, meaning the system uses minimal energy during the day. The central column acts as the axis for spatial orientation. From this, the lighting design plays the lead role in the overall architectural identity, and the project succeeds in effortlessly merging the lighting design and architectural space into a unified whole. The project is unique in that sense, making the architectural

lighting the raison d'être and the identity, not just in stylistic terms, but in terms of tectonic manipulation of the neutral space. The seating cluster, specially designed for the project, triggers social interactions and creates an undulating topography of contoured volume at eye level, complementing the pattern on the ceiling. The strip light highlights the bottom of the sofa clusters and creates a dynamic pattern that is an integral part of the overall design.

The waffle slab system, one of the earliest design decisions and most dominant part, is left exposed to highlight the structural clarity of the space. The pattern of the waffle system acted as a springboard for the design of the customised lighting, which resulted in a highly dynamic space reflecting the geometry of the structural system. The architectural lighting has been conceived as foliage which stems from the central column that anchors the spatial disposition in the vast lobby. The column has been clad with Corian panels, with special details to provide access for maintenance and service.

The cantilevered meeting rooms are

added to the existing mezzanine slab to accommodate private meeting rooms. The lobby has five such private meeting rooms, with four located at the mezzanine level as added cantilevered units, projecting into the atrium space.

LED light sources have been used for the project. The customised fabric lights have 1200mm long LED tubes, the passage spaces have 600mm and 1200mm LED panel lights and 5W LED spots, and the waffle has 600mm x 600mm LED panel lights to supplement the customised lighting and create a pattern in the waffle, which complements the configuration of the fabric lights.

The project succeeds in its sustainability agenda with a Platinum LEED Certification. www.collaborativearchitecture.com

PROJECT DETAILS

Reflected Topography, BGRT, Bengaluru
Client: Bearys Group
Architect: Lalita Tharani, Mujib Ahmed
Interior Design: Muneeb A P, India
Lighting Suppliers: GE, Trilux