

Creative Workplace Design

THE OTHER OFFICE 2



FRAME

SOLO WEST

An abandoned tower-block in Frankfurt is revitalised by **Ippolito Fleitz Group**, all the way from the lobby up to the top floor.



Sculptural objects in the entrance area reflect the geometric shape of the ceiling element, including the reception desk and an upholstered seating element.



The Beatles theme comes from the founding days of the Phoenix company when, as a joke, the four managing directors worked out which of the four band members they each most resembled.



Utilising high-quality materials and an elegant accentuation in the design results in a contemporary air for meeting rooms and workspaces alike.

LOCATION **FRANKFURT, GERMANY** FLOOR AREA **5000 M²**
 TYPE **VARIOUS TENANTS (REAL-ESTATE CONSULTANCY;
 HR SPECIALISTS)** ACCOMMODATES **30+ EMPLOYEES**
 COMPLETION **2014** CLIENT **PHOENIX REAL ESTATE**
 PHOTOS **ZOOEY BRAUN, DIRK MATULL**
 DESIGNER **IPPOLITO FLEITZ GROUP (P.479)**

The team at Ippolito Fleitz Group wasn't just asked to design one workspace within an abandoned, former office building in Frankfurt, but two – and the entrance lobby. Though the ten-storey tower boasted a prime location, it had dilapidated facilities. Project developer Phoenix Real Estate asked Ippolito Fleitz Group to revitalise the interior, making the building tower proudly over the rest of the city with a renewed vigour.

First impressions count, which is why the architects went all-out in the lobby. The stunning wall design that runs a full two storeys comprises white lamellae, staggered to create a textured, futuristic bamboo forest as they climb towards the two separate office spaces above. The first belongs to the client, and came with a brief was to infuse the space with the charm and warmth of the company, as well as stress the firm's business credentials. Three display cases are filled with lush, tropical (artificial) flowers and emblazoned with lyrics of The Beatles that refer to the room's function – 'We can work it out' in the conference rooms for example – and company in-jokes. The business side is reflected in the wooden panelling and glass that creates a clean, clear workspace.

The second series of offices has been taken up by the firm Egon Zehnder, where the atmosphere is more overtly professional. At this head-hunting company, discretion is paramount. Therefore, paths to waiting areas and meeting rooms have been separated to protect the identity of interviewees.

**Display cases are
 emblazoned with
 lyrics of The Beatles –
 'We can work it out'**



In front of the floor-to-ceiling glass walls an acoustic layer is created by positioning cupboards lined with micro-perforated artificial leather.



The white backdrop for the office architecture offers a tantalising contrast to the warm wooden panelling of the corridors.