

Open plan office spaces could make employees miserable and unproductive. A new study suggests that the layout of offices has a major role to play in job satisfaction.

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Although open plan work spaces were introduced to create an even and cooperative environment, research suggests it results in a distracted and irritated workforce. Office staff in open plan buildings often find it difficult to have conversations or meetings with colleagues uninterrupted due to shared space. The study, carried out by researchers at the CTF, Service Research Centre at Karlstad University in Sweden, also suggests that open plan offices can impact productivity levels.

Lead author of the study, Dr Tobias Otterbring, said: 'The results show a negative relationship between the number of co-workers sharing an office and employees' job satisfaction.'...

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