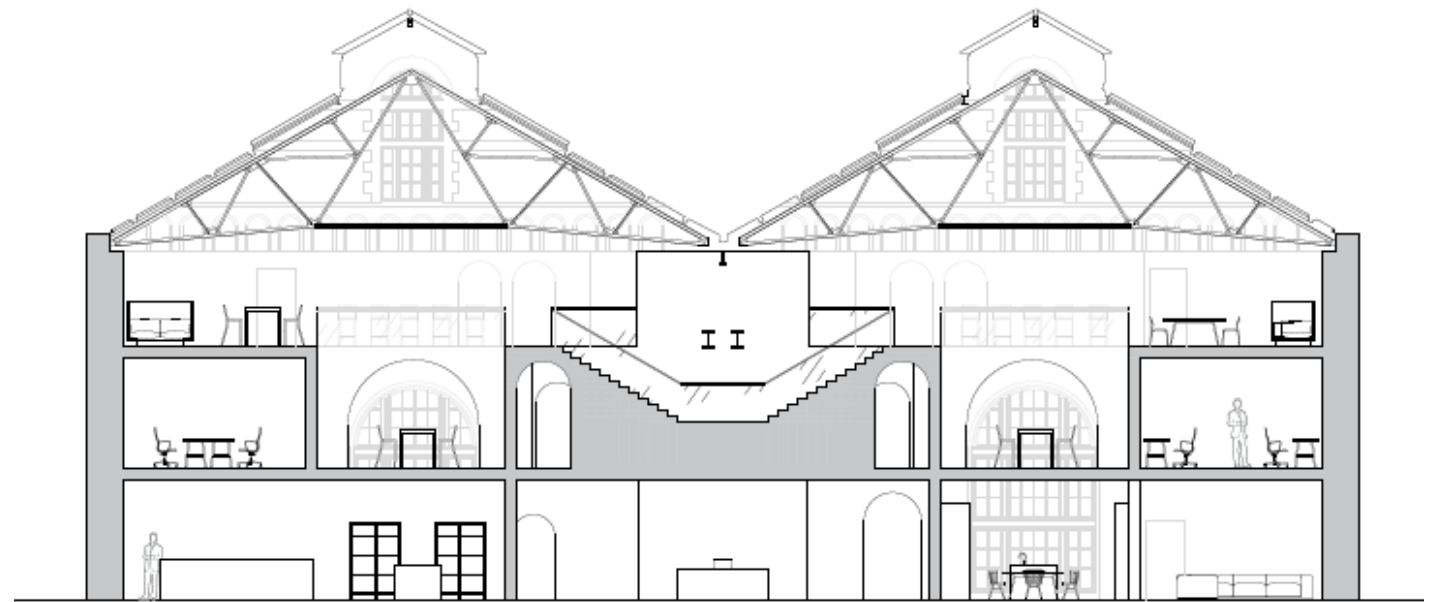


ShrubHub is a proposed new co-working space in the centre of Leith, the abandoned Shrubhill tram Depot, aiming to re-establish a sense of community after a year of isolation and homeworking caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The design is a revaluation of what the workplace could be and a response to the current debates surrounding the future of the workplace and the impact of homeworking.

There are two core objectives to the design of the ShrubHub; firstly, to design a space that reduces opportunities for transmission of Covid-19 in a way that is beneficial to wellbeing and maintains social relationships. Secondly, to build flexibility into the design, allowing the space to adapt if further safety restrictions are necessary. This would allow the Shrubhub to remain functioning and a community could be maintained while the world progresses through the unpredictable course of the pandemic.



Section C

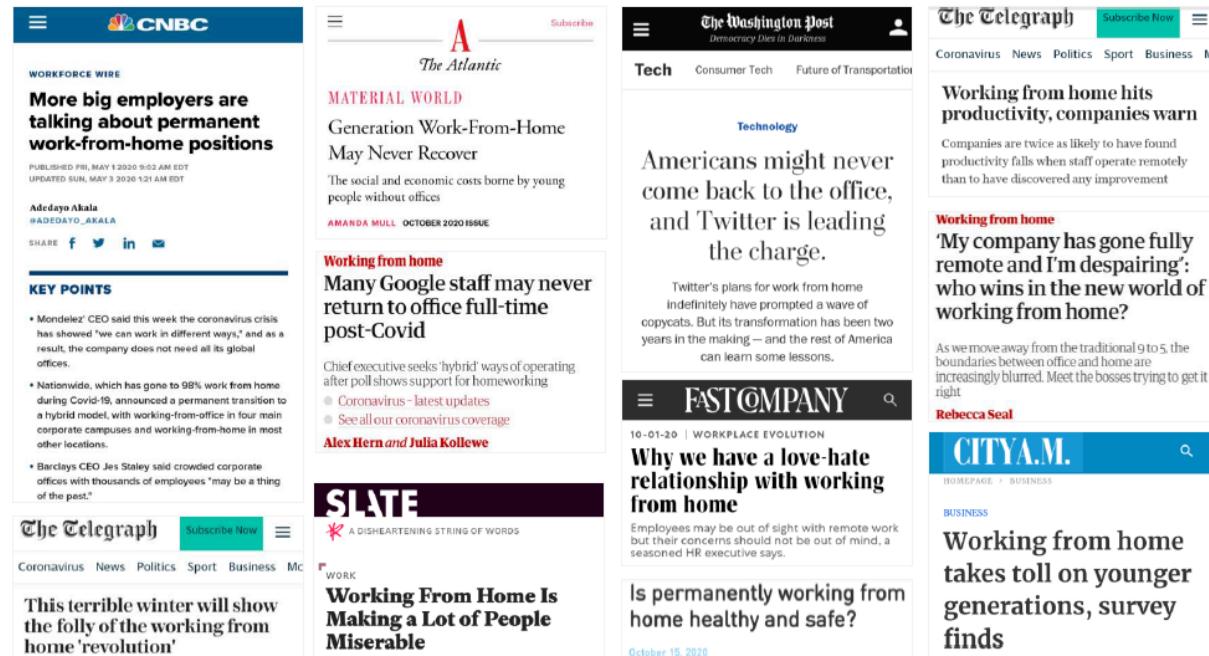
The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Workplace

In March 2020 the pandemic triggered a “mass homeworking experiment” (Hill and Jacobs, Financial Times, 2020) that is still ongoing. While, remote/agile/home working was not a new concept it had never been tested on this scale or with whole companies being out of office.

This resulted in an international debate about the future of the workplace and if it is even necessary as many believed that this “mass homeworking experiment” had shown that homeworking had been successful. Many companies insisted that productivity hadn’t been impacted and some even stated that business were doing even better as a result of homeworking. However there seems to be an similar amount of evidence suggesting the opposite.

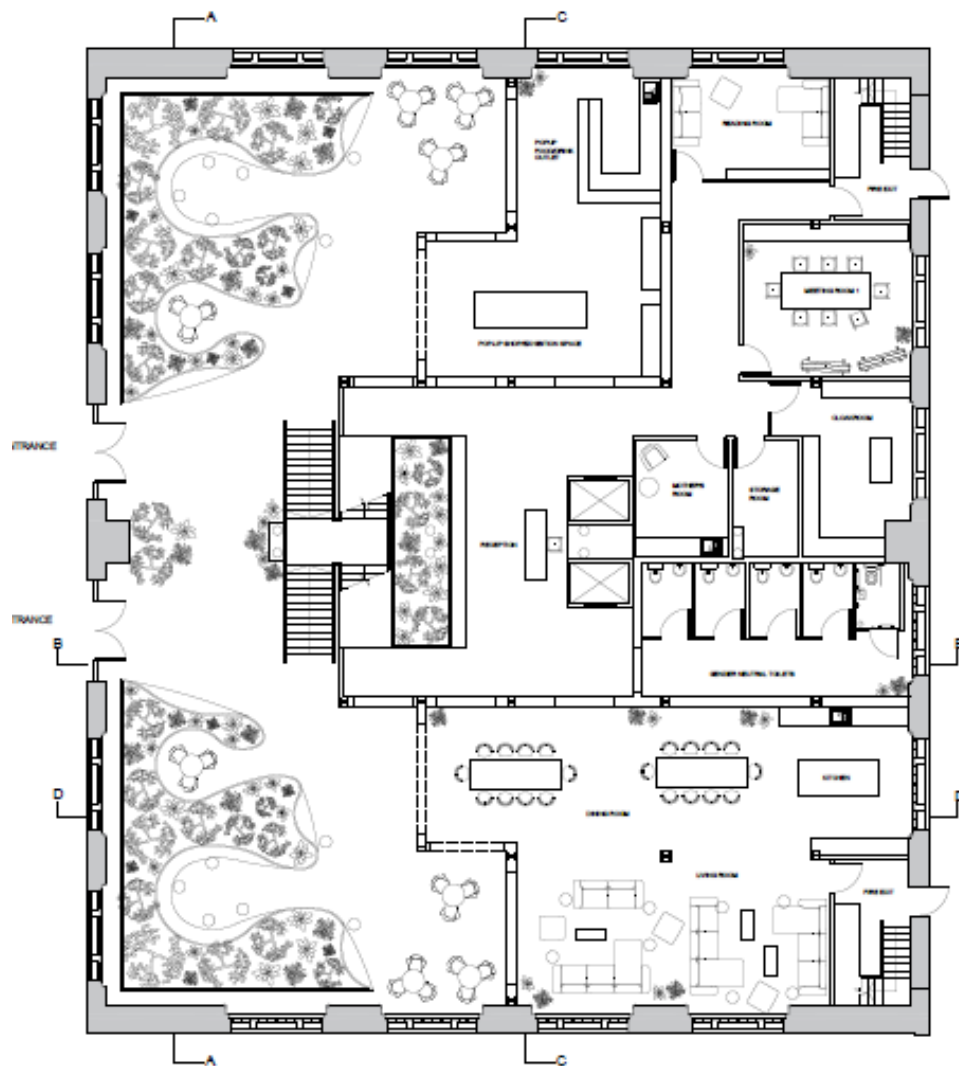
As the pandemic progressed what was initially a short experiment has now lasted for over a year. Multiple studies have been done to asses the impact home working has had on individuals and businesses.

Over the last year many companies have announced that they are planning on making homeworking permanent or giving employees the option to permanently work from home. Some are suggesting that the office is obsolete. It is important to consider the impact this might have on individuals.



The design uses an evidence based and human centred approach to the design process of the ShrubHub, to ensure the environment that is created has a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of those who will inhabit it.

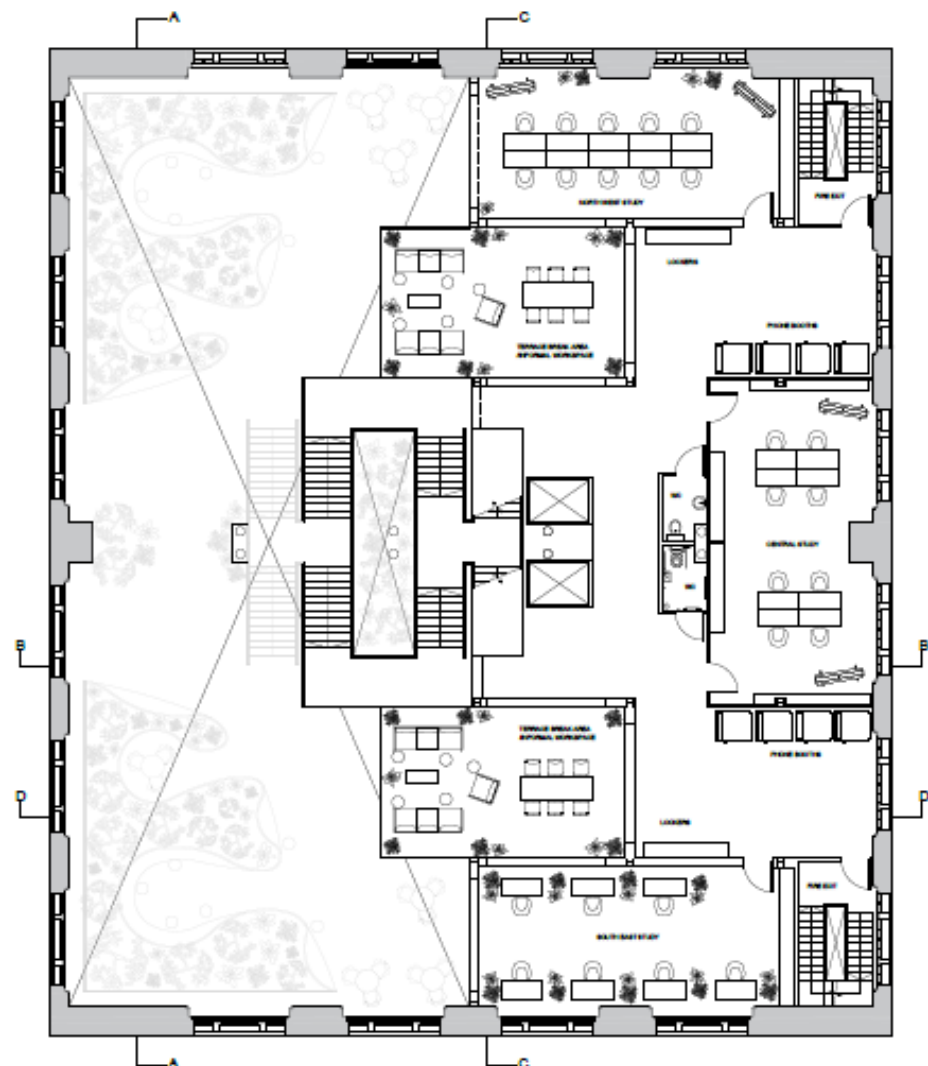
The intervention of the ShrubHub in the Big Shed of Shrubhill Tram Depot will be permanent but highly adaptable and sensitive to the existing structure to allow for future alterations and alternative uses.



Ground Floor



0 1 2 3 4 5 6



First Floor



0 1 2 3 4 5 6

Covid Design Solutions

Agile/hybrid working- not a new concept but has become a more popular due to the pandemic. Less people in the office at one time can help to reduce transmission. For example collaborative work and meetings will be in office and individual work will be done remotely.

Space- more space gives more opportunity for social distancing and can reduce transmission. This can mean wider doorways and hallways and more room in other areas of circulation.

Hygiene- hygiene/sanitation stations with hand sanitiser or even a sink. More wipe clean surfaces to allow for regular cleaning.

Air quality - natural and artificial ventilation of spaces can reduce transmission through particles in the air. Artificial ventilation must have filters to clean any air that is recycled back into buildings.

Automation – touchpoints such as doors, taps, lifts. Activated by motion sensors or controlled from smartphone apps.

Antimicrobial materials –

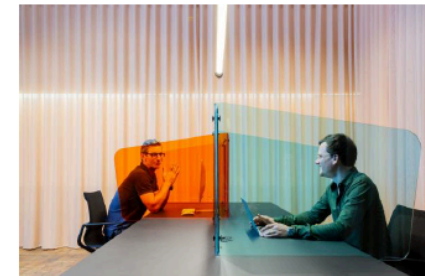
Materials with naturally occurring antimicrobial properties. Covid and other microbes can't survive on these surfaces for very long. Copper alloy metals (brass, bronze etc), silver, cork, wood are all naturally anti-microbial. Covid 19 can only survive on copper for 4 hours compared to 72 hours on steel and plastic surfaces.

Antimicrobial treated fabrics created by companies such as Microban. There are also spray on paints and lacquers that produce an antimicrobial surface. Quills group are a manufacturer of this. Using these materials on surfaces and regular touchpoints can help to reduce transmission significantly.

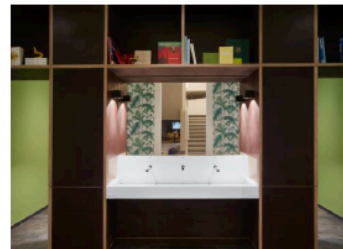
Physical Barriers - partitions, dividers, pods- create barriers between people reducing transmission.



Qworkntine Pods – Mohamed Radwan
Specifically designed to reduce transmission of Covid-19 by use of materials and ventilation and physical barriers. However, very similar to cubicles but more extreme. This doesn't seem like a healthy working environment.



DisCo by Kinzo Design Studio
Mobile physical barriers. Transparent so they don't inhibit social interaction and collaboration between colleagues. Avoided sterile design by using fun colours, but these might interact strangely with light and be a strain on the eyes.



'Grand Hotel Sanitary Station' Saguez & Partners
A take on sanitary stations seen everywhere as a response to the pandemic. Rather than just being a stand with hand sanitiser this grand sink is situated in the middle of the office's major circulation space. This means that whenever people walk past they can wash their hands without needing to enter a bathroom and touch surfaces on the way.



Copper alloys- Bronze and brass are all naturally antimicrobial materials.
Cork is also antimicrobial and has other benefits such as sound insulation so could be particularly beneficial in an office environment.

