

GOOGLE'S FLEXIBLE WORKSPACE

(Mamie RHEINGOLD, Program Manager, Google)

- My name is Mamie RHEINGOLD, I'm a program manager at Google and... we're in the garage!

Google garage is our hacker-maker design space for Googlers. So, what is this, this commons where Googlers can come together across the company to learn, and create, and make?

So, sense is really important to us at the garage as multi-user ends and multi-use, hum, we really needed to build flexibility into the space.

(Nadya DIREKOVA, Design Evangelist, Google)

- The garage is kind of like my playground. When you come in, you can see that you can write on the tables, you can write on the walls and you can reconfigure the tables to be in any, any position that you want. Everything is on wheels and that allows people to be flexible and to be more playfull, in a way that the typical space and the typical conference room just wouldn't.

(Mamie RHEINGOLD, Program Manager, Google)

- Googlers were always confined to where there was an ethernet port or power outlet on the walls, and we wanted to make sure the risk you're never confined to a particular space in the room, so we built the power and networking on a grid that drops from the ceiling, so you can go anywhere and it's always in reach.

(Alex CUTHBERT, Senior User Experience Designer, Google)

- Well, I'd say that the main thing we teach here is how to have fun. I've always described Google as kind of a mix between kindergarden and a classy law firm, and in terms of productivity I think that what really makes people work together better is having a sense of fun, non-competitiveness, non-hierarchy.

(Nadya DIREKOVA, Design Evangelist, Google)

- The space doesn't need to be fancy in order to be very functional, but what it really needs to be is flexible.