

FROM THE NYT...**HOW WORK IS CHANGING**

Why Are Remote Corporate Workers Having More Fun? Co-Working Spaces.

For many, shared offices have become an escape from often chaotic homes — and a chance to join a community. Are they the future of co-working?

By Roy Furchgott

May 31, 2023

To read the rest of the story go to: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/31/business/co-working-spaces-corporate-workers.html>

Comments from CT.org...The *New York Times* has published the following two stories on how employees will find a middle ground between working from home and returning to the office...**the suburban co-working space**. Small cities and towns can take advantage of this trend by offering or facilitating such spaces on or near their main streets. Having workers in town has individual and civic benefits; plus it keeps cars and CO2 off the roads.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Andrew Slaughter started his workday battling morning traffic — generally between 15 to 40 minutes — on the way to the LabCorp office in the Research Triangle Park of Durham, N.C., where, as a proposal manager, he puzzled out lab service costs associated with clinical trials.

During the pandemic, Mr. Slaughter worked from home, but he was eager to return to the office, and with good reason: His wife runs a small preschool in their house, averaging 10 children a day cavorting in the sandbox, chattering through snack time and joining in singalongs. “It can be a little distracting,” said Mr. Slaughter, who sequestered himself at a small desk in his bedroom. “It’s not as though I could go anywhere in the house.”

When LabCorp told its employees they would be returning to the office, Mr. Slaughter found out he had no office to return to — his job had been made “fully remote.” Like many companies, LabCorp reduced office space, having found employees were just as effective — and often happier — working from home.

Eager to escape the daytime chaos of his home, Mr. Slaughter found a solution in a co-working space. The concept wasn’t new: The spaces were already popular as inexpensive ways to rent offices by splitting the costs for snacks, office machines and industrial-grade internet connections. But as the pandemic yielded more remote workers, co-working spaces have found a small but growing market among displaced workers like Mr. Slaughter who yearn for a bustling office removed from the distractions of the refrigerator, the couch, the TV and preschoolers warbling “The Wheels on the Bus.”

An earlier story from the NYT... Why Co-Working Spaces Are Betting on the Suburbs

Start-ups are betting that the pandemic has spawned a new kind of worker who wants an office space closer to home, without the long commute.

By [Nicole Hong](#) and [Matthew Haag](#)

Oct. 28, 2021

To read the rest of the story go to: <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/28/nyregion/co-working-space-suburbs.html>

Previously offered by CT.org in our Jan'22 edition.

Paul Doran, a health care salesman, dreads the thought of commuting back to his office in Manhattan after 19 months of working from home in Jersey City, N.J.

But Mr. Doran, 33, also wants a break from overhearing his fiancée's calls and a better place to meet with clients than the local Starbucks. So he signed up for Daybase, a new company that is opening several co-working spaces, including in Hoboken, close to his apartment.

"It would take a couple more zeros on the paycheck," he said, "to get me back to commuting into Manhattan four or five days a week."

More than a year and a half ago, the coronavirus pandemic triggered an unprecedented disruption to the daily routines of office work, keeping millions of employees in their homes.

From CT.org...Whether entrepreneurs, public entities or corporations provide suburban co-work spaces for remote workers, the opportunities for small cities and towns are the same. Workers stay closer to home and their families, workers can us previously spent commute time on personal or civic activities and the environmental impact of vast numbers of people commuting far distances is reduced. A win-win-win. Small cities and towns can pro-actively find and provide space for co-work activities or offer surplus sites to entrepreneurs to develop such spaces.

Pro-active is the operative attitude.