

# Present Situation and Development of Contemporary Home Office Architecture of SOHO Mode

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**Abstract:** With the rapid development of the economy and the enhancement of traffic convenience, cities are gradually expanding outward, resulting in an increase in commuting distance. Therefore, an increasing number of freelancers choose to work from home gradually, and SOHO architecture is one of the best choices for home office. By analyzing the characteristics of SOHO mode and different types of SOHO, this work concluded the spatial distribution of future home office architecture and the requirements of surrounding supporting facilities. Taking SOHO architecture and space as an example, the prospect was put forward to SOHO or other types of home office architecture in the future.

## 1. Introduction

In the context of rapid technological development, the novel coronavirus in 2020 has caused many people to work at home. Traditional residential space in the arrangement is mostly inclined to live and activity functions, while SOHO is a mode that starts from the perspective of home office and small office. Therefore, this work looks at the current situation and future development of home office from the perspective of SOHO mode.

## 2. Research Background

### 2.1 Home office development background

#### 2.1.1 Information background

In modern society, computers, copy printers, scanners and other office equipment gradually enter the home, so that people can use advanced equipment to complete their work at home with the rapid development of science and technology. At the same time, the rapid development of information technology also makes the consultation spread rapidly, and some software suitable for telecommuting has been further developed, which makes the labor decentralized and miniaturized. The office mode has gradually shifted from the fixed office location to the anytime anywhere office mode. These advanced equipment and technology offer material conditions for home office.

#### 2.1.2 Urbanization background

China's urbanization is developing rapidly, and yet many people are living in increasingly distant spaces from their offices. Especially in some cities with serious traffic problems, many commuters spend a lot of time on the way to and from work, resulting in the increase of time cost and affecting the development efficiency of the city. Home office can shorten the distance to work and thus reduce the cost of wasting time. To some extent, it can reduce the burden of the city and traffic. It is a healthy and low-carbon office life style.

#### 2.1.3 A change in the concept of work

Currently, freelance has gradually entered people's vision. The increasingly open office atmosphere also makes people have more efficient and comfortable requirements for the office

environment, and they don't like to be constrained at the same time. This change of work concept makes the personalized home office get further development.

#### **2.1.4 The impact of major public events**

At the beginning of 2020, people were forced to segregate at home during this period with the influence of pneumonia caused by novel coronavirus. Many companies need to isolate themselves for two weeks before starting work, which has a certain impact on the resumption of many enterprises. Therefore, home office can also create value in today's advanced technology.

#### **2.2 SOHO concept**

SOHO is the abbreviation of Small Office and Home Office, which refers to the mode of small office and home office. SOHO is a new way of work under the background of informatization and urbanization, and now it emphasizes the concept of free office. The concept of home office in China was initially introduced by SOHO. In foreign countries, SOHO mode is mainly in the form of residence, which refers to the division of independent space for office use in self-occupied families. However, the domestic SOHO mode is mainly based on the small office mode, and the target group is some self-employed people, who have a unique lifestyle and life concept. For example, the concept of casual, freedom, more independent personal space and living time makes their living space and working space both closely connected and relatively independent. SOHO architecture is characterized with small office scale, flexible time, and free working mode, which can exactly meet the needs of this group of people. Therefore, SOHO mode of office is also favored by the majority of freelancers.

### **3. The Characteristics of SOHO Mode Architecture**

#### **3.1 The space is fuzzy**

SOHO includes two functions of office and residence in a whole space, and thus the two functions cannot be completely separated, which determines that its space has a certain fuzzy characteristic. In this point, the space of SOHO architecture is like the traditional residence in Japan. All the rooms are neutral in nature. The same space can be used for different purposes, either as a living room, a study, or a bedroom. By changing the furniture, it can become another functional space. In the architectural space of SOHO mode, various functions are determined by the behaviors or actions of the people living here. This is because people's activities will change a lot in a day, and different spaces are needed to deal with different things at different times. Therefore, the division of internal functions of SOHO space is uncertain and has certain uncertainty.

#### **3.2 The space is miniaturized**

Most of the early SOHO architectures were converted from small apartments, and now it is mostly young people and new entrepreneurs who choose to work as freelancers. There is a certain demand for increasing revenue and reducing expenditure. Moreover, most of the SOHO architectures are in higher-cost locations close to business districts. Therefore, the architectural space of SOHO mode is mostly characterized by miniaturization under the influence of various factors such as personal needs, economic conditions, etc.

#### **3.3 The space is personalized**

Most of the people who use SOHO are young people, which makes the pursuit of personalized space become the characteristics of SOHO. Therefore, the importance of SOHO space personalization in the space design of SOHO architecture is increasingly prominent, and the personalization of SOHO is to highlight the different things, rather than the pursuit of high-end luxury. It can represent the user's personality to a certain extent, thus meeting the user's psychological needs. On the other hand, the personalized SOHO space can also stimulate the creativity of workers in the space, thereby affecting the efficiency and progress of workers.

#### **4. The Development Status of SOHO Mode Architecture**

In China, the term SOHO is mainly brought into people's vision by SOHO Chinese products. However, the mid and late SOHO and SOHO3Q have gradually separated from the essence of SOHO apart from the early SOHO modern city architecture. Therefore, this part takes SOHO apartment type, SOHO3Q and single-family SOHO as examples to see the differences between domestic and foreign SOHO, and the possible development direction of domestic SOHO in the future.

##### **4.1 SOHO modern city**

SOHO modern city, located in Beijing, is an early concept of home office in China. Its design concept is that the standard fixed mode will be abandoned, and the future will be diversified. From the internal unit space of SOHO modern city, the rest of the space is as a fuzzy space for users to plan in addition to the bathroom and kitchen fixed. Consequently, users participate in the design of SOHO space, which also reflects the flexibility and freedom of SOHO space. This larger open space can offer more combinations, greatly increase the flexibility and freedom of space separation, and the area and space form of residential and office functions can be easily changed. Apart from this feature, SOHO modern city is based on the design of duplex apartment. It uses different heights to divide the vertical space. Also, it can use the two-story space as the reception area to make the area spacious and bright. The living space and office space can form a certain height difference in height, which gives people the psychological experience of privacy and security.

SOHO modern city is one of the earliest SOHO model buildings in China. It is a traditional SOHO model of integrated residence. However, different residents in SOHO use the buildings in different ways. Some residents use the buildings for residential purposes only, some for office purposes only, and some for office and residential use. There are some hidden dangers due to different uses have different rules of work, rest, and life, resulting in the mixed flow of people in the building and inconvenient management.

##### **4.2 Pentagonal field SOHO3Q**

SOHO3Q is a relatively new product of SOHO in China, focusing on personalized free office. Pentagonal field SOHO3Q is located near pentagonal field business district, with six floors of 14,000 square meters, and each floor above the second floor is divided into various functional areas. Each floor of this SOHO3Q is equipped with a front desk and several conference rooms of different sizes, which can accommodate from two to 24 people. In order to emphasize privacy, each floor also set up an independent discussion space in addition to the conference room, suitable for small-scale discussions and meetings. The space of SOHO feels open and transparent, and the ground is made of cement and terrazzo. Upstairs, the office space is tightly organized, creating ideal conditions for focusing on work. About personality, each floor of SOHO has its own color and theme. Different celebrities' artistic portraits are used to decorate the walls, which endows each floor with different personality. At the same time, each floor adopts different geometric patterns and color design, which also increases the contrast between floors, and provides different inspirational and diversified working environment for people in different industries and fields.

SOHO3Q embodies the characteristics of individuation and advocates the optional portability. Moreover, it is in a central business district with perfect supporting facilities. However, SOHO3Q has ignored the concept of "home office" in "SOHO" in general and only considered the portable office and miniaturization office, which has separated from the traditional SOHO mode.

##### **4.3 "Green Studio" SOHO**

"Green Studio" is a small single-family SOHO in London, UK. This building is based on the creative home work space. It is a special-shaped SOHO space, and the whole space design is also in the pursuit of SOHO uniqueness and personalization. In fact, the whole space is made up of irregular geometric shapes. From the outside, although it is not the same style as the surrounding buildings, the designer has camouflaged it to make it not affect the surrounding buildings and environment as much as possible. Like a modern sculpture attached to the surrounding builders, it does not appear

abrupt. The internal space of the building is also separated by irregular geometric shapes, and the blocks of various shapes are staggered, which makes the visual sense of flow in one go, extends the space, and makes the space look larger. The design of the whole SOHO is very close to the surrounding environment. This design is also in line with the characteristics of individualized and miniaturized SOHO space, which is a common architectural form of SOHO mode.

## **5. The Future of the Home Office**

With the accelerated development of information technology, home office will be more into people's vision. As a product of the information age, SOHO will mix home and office functions. Office space may become a new focus in the future, and the space function of buildings will be more diversified and complex. Based on the characteristics of SOHO and the existing SOHO cases, the following points are put forward for the future development of home office space based on the architecture of SOHO mode.

First, SOHO space is characterized with flexibility, and relies on the intelligence of science and technology at the same time. Therefore, the future residence can be like SOHO space, making more use of intelligent home design and flexible partition application to create a diversified and complete space environment integrating life, office, and social interaction for users.

Second, SOHO has the characteristics of miniaturization. While it has many functions such as office and residence, many supporting facilities are more dependent on the external environment, especially the SOHO apartment of collective residence. In the case of making full use of the internal space, it is necessary to try the best to meet the living and psychological needs of the residents in the surrounding areas. Therefore, the location of integrated residential SOHO should be close to the commercial district and the surrounding areas with complete supporting facilities to offer sufficient services for the residents.

Third, China's land use situation in many big cities is difficult to provide a large number of single-family SOHO. Many SOHO property rights are commercial or commercial residential land, and the flow of people is chaotic. In the future, more people may choose to work at home, which means that the proportion of office space in ordinary residence may also increase. Reasonable arrangement interior space can make users feel the space changes of different uses. Ordinary residence can also become "SOHO" residence.

## **6. Conclusions**

"SOHO" is just a way to use space. It is a small office or a new office mode that combines home and office. The use of residential and office space has its own time period, and SOHO mode combines the two into one, reducing space and time resources. Therefore, a complete "SOHO" should consider not only the design of office space, but also the design of living and leisure space. However, the age level, work style and living habits of the objects that SOHO serves now still have certain particularity, and the groups that SOHO will face in the future will be more common. Therefore, the design of SOHO itself and the surrounding supporting facilities around it are the focus of the future development. With the further development of science and technology and the acceleration of the Internet, an increasing number of people will choose to save unnecessary waste of time and space to work at home. Consequently, the traditional residential space may also change to meet the future demand.

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