WHAT LIES BEYOND

Transparency is a key feature of many new office interiors. But design solutions that provide a sense of connectivity are not just about glass partitions, as these projects illustrate.
DESIGN WITH A TWIST

To separate—and animate—the public and private workspaces in the Swissnex Shanghai office, the designer introduced twisted resin strips in corporate red and white.

“Shanghai is a city of light and dark and so the design had to capture that duality,” says designer Zhang Xi. “I wanted to create a space that was open and inviting yet sophisticated and private.”

The twisted resin strips not only add an element of surprise and interest, but also help to define the boundaries between public and private areas. They also serve as a visual connection between different parts of the office, creating a sense of flow and movement.

While the designer wanted to create a space that was both modern and timeless, he also wanted to ensure that the design was flexible and adaptable to the needs of the occupants. This is reflected in the use of moveable elements such as partitions and furniture, which can be easily reconfigured as required.

The result is a space that is both functional and visually striking, with a unique twist that sets it apart from other office environments. The use of color, lighting, and material combinations all contribute to a sense of harmony and balance, creating a space that is both welcoming and stimulating.
Below: The ceiling was raised to provide a more spacious interior. Where possible, windows were planned in bulkheads at the sides of the office. The ceiling features white walls and furniture, which were chosen to create a calm working environment.

"The partition animates the space," says Zhang. "It also provides a visual connection between the two areas. We wanted people to be able to feel or imagine what was happening beyond the wall, but we didn't want to make it too obvious. Filling and offsetting a simple wall helped achieve this."

"Interior spaces, both public and private, are also defined by the wall, says Zhang. "The curved wall looks and shapes a well-lit space and a discussion corner, and wonders to produce a meeting room at the rear of the interior."

The designer says the wall features a pattern of five straight strips of different lengths followed by a curved strip. This helps create the sense of rhythmic harmony. The space is further enhanced by the lighting, which was designed to resemble a starry sky, and by the highly polished stone floor. With its mirrored finish, the floor reflects the floating strips and geometric white stripes in the reception area.

Zhang says the ceiling, in a 30-year-old factory, has a low ceiling, so the design also helped to make the interior look as spacious as possible. Where possible, the ceiling was relieved and built to be concealed in bulkheads at the sides.

Locate: Shanghai
Interior designer: Zhang, EMI Design, Shanghai
Consume: Furniture and mechanical and electrical engineering: Jieba Corporation Ltd
Office furniture: EMI Design
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