

FRAME

HOW THIS BERLIN OFFICE TARGETS DIFFERENT SENSORIAL NEEDS



Location **Wilhelm-von-Siemens-Straße 12-14, 12277 Berlin, Germany**

Design **Ester Bruzkus Architekten**

Client **Relaxound**

Floor Area **490 sqm**

FRAME

With sound company Relaxound's Berlin office, Ester Bruzkus Architekten developed a sensorially balanced environment to support the social and productive functions of the workplace.

Key features

Ester Bruzkus Architekten designed the Berlin office for Relaxound, a company that offers products that create relaxing natural sounds in physical environments. Central to the project was developing a balanced environment that encourages productive, dynamic work while also providing employees with a social professional outlet.

The main workspace is a double-height studio with three large shared desks that span the length of the room. A seating area is set on a bright yellow carpet and acts as a buffer between the formal workplaces. Two perpendicular mezzanines host meeting rooms and social spaces. The exposed green steel structures create shorter ceiling heights on the lower level of the space and form smaller rooms with sliding doors for private or small group work. Large glass walls connect the spaces visually. The mezzanine meeting rooms are covered in planes of blue-dyed MDF and exposed wood beams and columns. Colour and light generate areas with different feelings and qualities: small spaces are darker and cozier while the main workspace is more mellow. Social spaces, meanwhile, are marked in bright colours. Shelves throughout display the company's sound products.

FRAME's take

The return to the office has resulted in workplaces centred around social interaction and collaboration. But this doesn't mean that offices thrive from only having social and productive spaces. To meet a variety of sensorial needs, the newly social office also needs to provide space for the opposite. 'This workplace is based on social contact – collaborating in real time and space – but also a refuge from social contact – for concentrating or withdrawing to do focus work,' Ester Bruzkus Architekten partner Peter Greenberg explains. This sensorially balanced approach especially makes sense for Relaxound, which is in the business of supporting the curation of relaxing environments through sound. The designer understands the importance of engaging the senses – and not – in creating a simultaneously socially dynamic and relaxing office space. Whether it's through strong acoustics, tactile materials and colour psychology, creating a social workplace requires a balanced, restrained approach that accommodates a variety of neurological needs.

WORDS KAYLA DOWLING **PHOTOS** NOSHE