

DESIGN



ALLBRIGHT, UK

"There's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other," declared former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. That sentiment informs this trailblazing collective, the extension of an eponymous female-led funding initiative consisting of three women-only clubs perched on both sides of the Atlantic (a West Hollywood outpost opened last year). AllBright's second London edition, spread across a tony five-storey Mayfair town house, takes cues from the tailors of nearby Savile Row (expect to see swatches of houndstooth checks and fine wool), courtesy of legendary tastemaker and much-sought-after stylist Suzy Hoodless. Standout perks include an entire wellness floor offering facial acupuncture as well as hair and nail treatments and a charming glasshouse-inspired events space.

Ladies first

More inspiration hubs than offices, these stylish female-centric co-working spaces around the world are nurturing a new generation of girl bosses, finds **Aarti Virani**

ALL-WOMEN CO-WORKING OUTLETS ARE NOT ONLY ELEGANT REFUGES THAT DOUBLE UP AS SAFE SPACES, BUT ALSO COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY AREAS THAT FOSTER CREATIVITY AND FEMALE CAMARADERIE

THE WING, USA

Splashed with millennial pink, the many glamorous outposts of this swanky club—membership grants access to star-studded speakers like Hillary Clinton and Gloria Steinem—channel a *Mad Men* redux.

Architect Alda Ly, a Harvard graduate, whose clients include Bloomberg and Rent the Runway, led an all-female team to conceive six locations across

America for this co-working empire. Gem-toned furniture, doodle-inspired wall coverings, touches of terrazzo and colour-coordinated bookshelves make up its more recognisable features, while whimsical accents (a vintage photo booth in Brooklyn, a cabana-lined terrace in West Hollywood) serve as reminders of various metropolitan backdrops.



THE COVEN, USA

For every five paid memberships, this avant-garde Midwestern American workspace, steered by the belief that 'joy is an act of resistance' (its walls are adorned with fuchsia motifs and quotes in matte gold, attributed to female leaders) donates one to a woman, non-binary or trans person in need. Its debut Minneapolis location, a kaleidoscopic expanse intended to mimic coffee-shop style co-working, occupies two floors of a Victorian residential building. Its design incorporates historic accents such as 18-foot ceilings and art deco arches with modern minimalist furniture by local outfitter Blu Dot and thoughtful touches like a beauty bar and a dedicated prayer room. The company recently unveiled its dazzling second act in St Paul and is the first of its kind to offer on-site childcare in the neighbourhood.

CATALYSTS FOR GREATNESS, THESE CHIC SPACES FEATURE AMENITIES LIKE ON-SITE PODCAST STUDIOS, PILATES LOUNGES AND BABYSITTING ANNEXES



FEMALE HUB, THE NETHERLANDS

As a relatively new entrant to the co-working scene, this two-year-old hive in the Hague holds monthly masterclasses and the well-trafficked 'Bubbles and Babbles' happy hour in its tranquil pastel-coloured digs—a departure from sterile corporate interiors. A locally sourced shell-pink couch and handcrafted willow tree tables imported from Belgium fuel plenty of conversation. Accessorised with lush potted plants, the inviting space is truly a home away from home. Clients are even provided their own key to enter. Suzanne Mau-Asam, a professional development coach, launched it after growing tired of café-hopping as an entrepreneur. In addition to renting desk space, members can also access a variety of coaching packages, curated by the knowledgeable Mau-Asam.

MAKE LEMONADE, CANADA

After a new job was snatched away at the eleventh hour, Rachel Kelly, a young Ryerson University graduate, wielded her entrepreneurial instincts to make over the top floor of an office in downtown Toronto, designing a space plucked from the depths of her own innovative imagination—with a little help from local firm MMNT Studio. The overhauled closed-concept office is now a sunny yellow women's clubhouse, though male guests are allowed for the occasional pop-in (a not-so-subtle homage to its zesty origin story), lined with shared desks, private phone booths, and palm print wallpaper. Unconventional partitions like an embossed silver wall help create three distinct work areas including a patio, where a citrus tree on the AstroTurf is tailor-made for low-key networking. ■

