Abstract

Since the nineteenth century, societies, encouraged by the fear of uncertainties and the desire for efficiency, called strong central authorities to move the wheel of time ever faster. In the twenty-first century, a new generation slowly began to realize that the Leviathan is unable to exercise virtue with precision. Instead, he resembles a poor surgeon, who is cutting through organic emergent communities, artificially separating work, live, learn and play with respect to both space and time. However, the recent wave of disruptive technologies, including the Internet and blockchain, enable people to overcome the confinements of space and economic systems. These offer a more decentralized and flexible panorama, which has paved the way for a new generation of computer literate people - the so-called Cloudworker Generation - to come of age, embracing a new lifestyle far less dependent on location or time.

The primary aim of this thesis is to understand the architecture of the Cloudworker.

It examines the design features of three different models of coworking spaces, including "CRU Cowork" in Porto, "Co-Work & Play" in Frankfurt and "The Cube" in Athens. Indeed, by analyzing these models, this thesis makes an important contribution to current understandings of the value and nature of community in this ever-growing Cloudworker Generation. Also, it assesses the manifold shifts in areas of work, live, learn, and play that emerge when income and location are no longer attached. In this new generation, the blend of these activities is not only logistic but represents a lifestyle whereby the flexibility in both space and time introduces a stark contrast with previous architectures that follows industrial standards.

With the ability to blend and redesign work, live, learn, and play fluidly, this thesis maintains, the Cloudworker Generation is able to detach itself from particular locations and choose the community that best suits its needs. This freedom to work remotely therefore enables many of these Cloudworkers to assemble physically based on affinity for one another and for a chosen location, thereby optimizing their quality of life, without sacrificing income. Through various architectural elements - including their use of different materials, colors and sharing arrangements - contemporary coworking spaces assemble specific communities while attracting this new untethered generation through different identities. Cloudworkers are not only able to flourish in their work, but they are now able to thrive socially at the same time.

Keywords: *coworking space, office design, remote work, digital technology, Cloudworker*