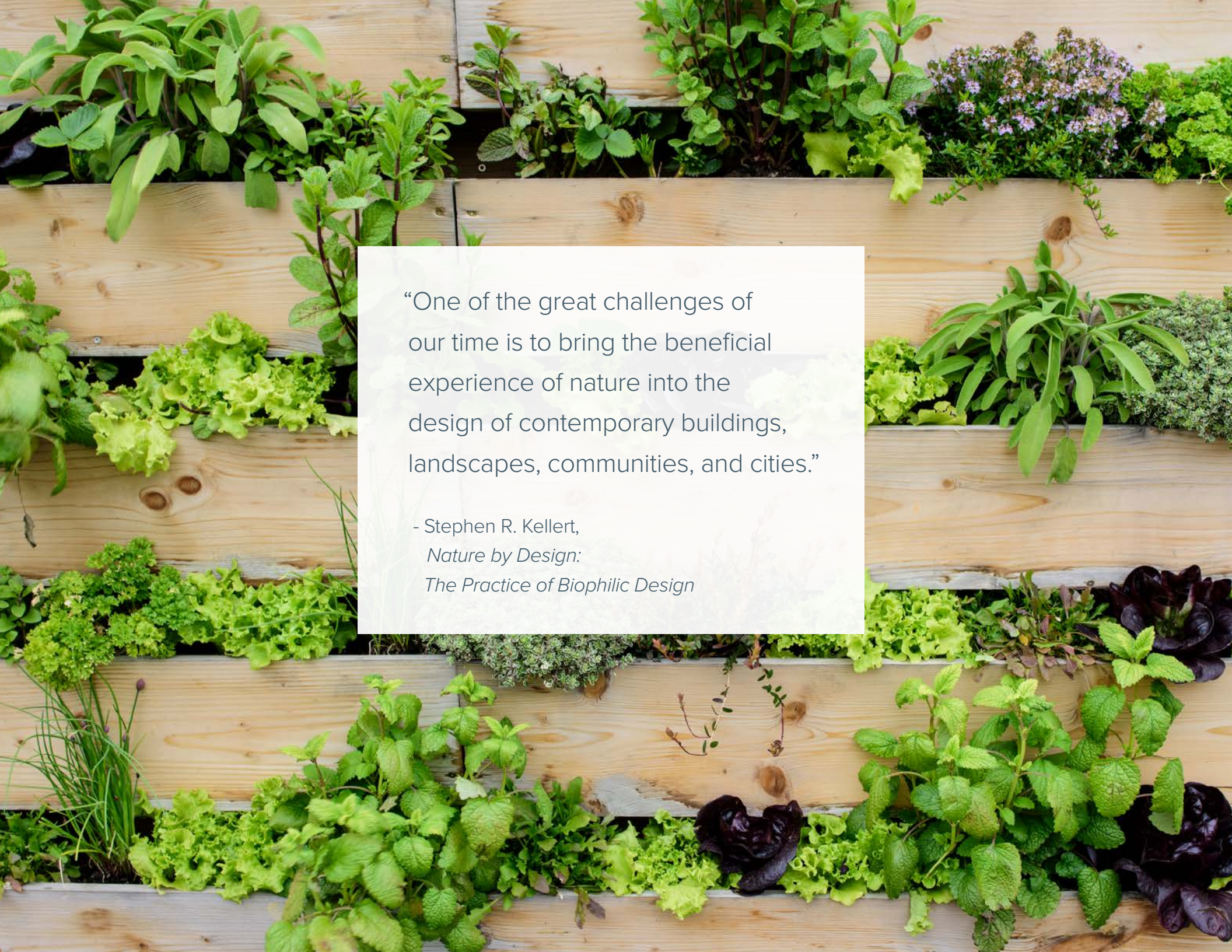




Biophilic Design Trends

Revolutionizing the built environment with smarter, healthier spaces

A vertical garden constructed from horizontal wooden slats. Various green herbs and plants are growing in the pockets between the slats. The plants include leafy greens, herbs with small flowers, and some with purple leaves. The garden is densely packed with vegetation, creating a lush, green wall.

“One of the great challenges of our time is to bring the beneficial experience of nature into the design of contemporary buildings, landscapes, communities, and cities.”

- Stephen R. Kellert,
*Nature by Design:
The Practice of Biophilic Design*

Architecture, interior design, and design philosophy are ever-changing. With the adoption of biophilia and biophilic design, the way we perform, move, live, and operate within our spaces is changing – for the better.



Ambius is proud to be a Cornerstone Member of the International WELL Building Institute, an organization leading the global movement to transform health and well-being.



Biophilic Impact & Expression

Biophilically-designed properties provide benefits for all. From the boardroom to the reception desk, biophilia makes an immediate impact on spaces inhabitants. Biophilic spaces inspire and motivate, creating enriching and empowered environments that unequivocally improve business outcomes.

Offices, hotels, hospitals, education, multifamily, logistics, and retail environments are all seeing the benefits. Initial research makes a strong case for biophilic design improving several crucial engagement metrics:

- Improved stress response
- Overall wellness improvements
- Job-specific enhancements
- Elevated mood
- Increased attention and focus
- Reduced staff turnover
- Mental restoration and reduced mental fatigue
- Improved cognitive performance on tasks
- Reduced pain perceptions in healthcare settings

Eight Elements of Biophilic Design

At its core, biophilic design is an architectural framework inspired by the natural world that weaves the organic patterns and forms of nature into the built environment, strengthening the human-nature connection that we all yearn for.

These eight features attempt to address areas of need within the the built environment by strengthening the human-nature connection. Look for these icons to identify which features are focused on in the trends we are seeing.



Scattered,
clustered,
varied
vegetation



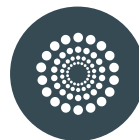
Overlooking
landscapes



Blurring the
boundaries
between the
indoors and
outdoors



Dynamic and
diffuse light



Natural scents



Proximity to
water



Use of natural
and local
materials



Shelter and
privacy

Trend 1:

Sustainably-Sourced & Reclaimed Woods



Wood may be the most popular of the biophilically-designed construction elements. From simple aesthetic flourishes to large-scale wooden architectural installments, wood is a central part of the biophilic revolution.

Key Features

- Light timber - maple / pine / beech / ash
- Reclaimed woods
- Sustainably sourced woods:
 - Bamboo
 - Teak
 - Oak

Inspirations

- Hygge
- Raw and authentic
- Natural and organic
- Environmentally conscious
- Branding and image

Biophilic Features





Trend 2:

Eye to the Sky

Ceilings are having their moment in the design spotlight. From hanging plants to skylights and statement ceiling designs to circadian lighting installations, the ceiling is the next frontier for interior designers and architects.



Key Features

- Bright, inspiring colors
- Shapes and patterns
- Nature views
- Skylights

Inspiration

- Bold colors and patterns
- Connection to the outdoors
- Texture and layering
- People-centric customization

Biophilic Features



Trend 3:

Green Integration



Green Integration builds upon existing biophilic and green design trends by expanding the scope of plant-based design features within the built environment. Trends data suggest that architects and designers are increasingly integrating plants, green walls, large green installations, and more into designs during pre-construction and renovations, rather than adding them post-completion as secondary aesthetic choices.

Key Features

- Plants / trees / shrubs
- Living green walls
- Green dividers
- Green roofs
- Natural element accents
- Natural landscapes

Inspirations

- Nature and the natural world
- WELL Building Standard
- LEED Certification - US Green Building Council
- Human connection to nature
- Sustainability
- Green branding

Biophilic Features





Trend 4:

Lighting 2.0 / Introducing Biodynamic Lighting

Biodynamic lighting is the next evolution of commercial lighting. This trend introduces lighting systems that mirror natural sunlight conditions within the built environment which help to regulate your circadian rhythm. These lead to improved sleep and mood regulation regardless of your proximity to a window. Researchers are looking to pinpoint intermittent impact levels and timing. This is a major shift in the role of lighting.



Key Features

- Benefits sleep patterns and mood regulation
- High-quality lighting
- Reduces facility energy costs
- Reconnects people to ancestral environment
- Implemented during refurbishment or initial development

Inspirations

- Dynamic and diffuse lighting
- Health and wellness
- Stress management
- Healthier and happier workforce
- People-centric design

Biophilic Features



Trend 5:

Divide & Prosper



The wellness design trend puts people and function squarely at the center of design. This new focus created new challenges within the popular open plan office landscape. Enter the green wall divider, a revolutionary new space-enhancing element that provides resolution to many of the challenges facing open office environments everywhere. Green dividers are agile and adaptable for dynamic work spaces while also incorporating a natural biophilic component at minimal cost and invasiveness.

Key Features

- Agile and flexible features
- Noise reduction benefits
- Creates private spaces
- Increases productivity and well-being
- Works with dynamic spaces and unconventional work environments
- Inspires creativity

Inspirations

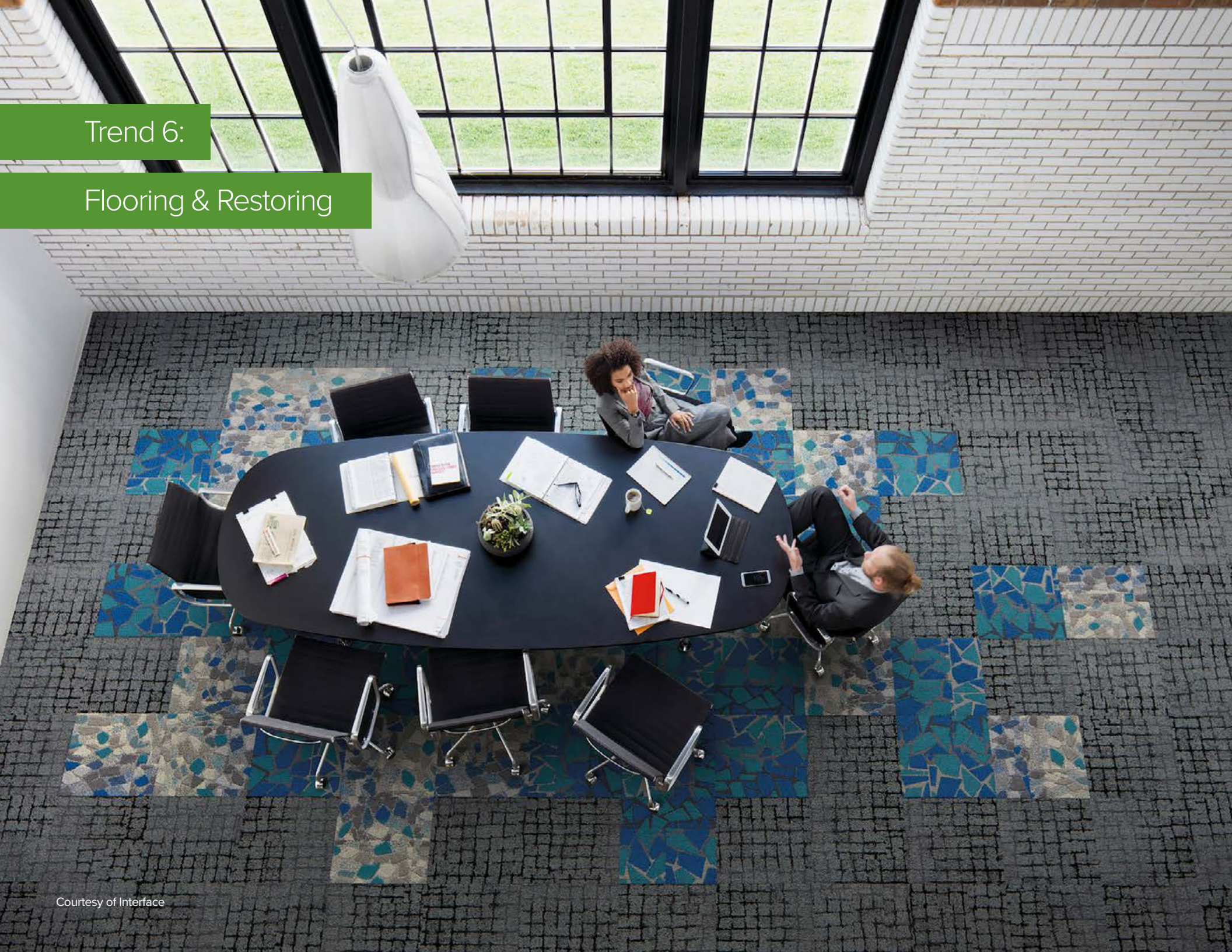
- Bold color and texture
- Mobility for active spaces
- Increases productivity
- Increases well-being
- Biophilia and desire for nature

Biophilic Features



Trend 6:

Flooring & Restoring



Carpet and flooring designs are taking biophilia seriously and are incorporating uniquely biophilic design characteristics such as natural stone, wood, forest floors, and more into their concepts. The goal is to create natural textures for floors that has the same distinct qualities as natural environments such as the forest floor, a meadow, or a riverbed.



Courtesy of Interface

Key Features

- Textured flooring
- Inspired by natural environments (forest floor, meadows, etc..)
- Integrates color into built environment

Inspirations

- Nature and the natural world
- Bright, inspiring colors
- Patterns and textures
- Inspires creativity

Biophilic Features





“What businesses need to understand is that biophilic design has a foundation in science as much as it does in design. I see a lot of office spaces where people are zoning out at their desks, where there’s a lack of engagement with the environment. Biophilic design is helping to change that by making people more present, more motivated, and companies are even seeing a decrease in sick days. All of this is quantifiable and the benefits will become more evident as more studies are completed.”

- Chris Karl, Ambius Design Expert



A New Era: Smarter, Healthier Spaces

There's a growing body of research supporting biophilic investments that can impact all business types. After the pandemic of 2020, the demand for enriched workplaces and smarter, healthier spaces has seen unprecedented growth as businesses try to create spaces that inspire safety, well-being, and a connection to nature.

This new era encourages designs that improve the human capacity; enhance our well-being; establish a sense of health, safety, and security; and maximize biophilic features. As the demand grows, designers and architects are evolving their methods and practices to meet the needs of tomorrow.

Biophilic design is now at the helm, driving brands forward by creating spaces that inspire and business cultures that captivate, all with a renewed focus on health and safety.

Here are some of the new smarter, healthier space trends that you'll see in a post-pandemic world.

Healthier Spaces Trend 1:

Integrating Social Distance Design



As we emerge from the pandemic, social distancing will remain an essential design feature to establish safe and healthy spaces. Creating social distance doesn't have to be basic and purely functional. Instead, it can be seamlessly layered into design to create visually stunning areas that also improve well-being.

Key Features

- Encourages separation
- Controls traffic flow
- Establishes wayfinding
- Manages occupancy
- Increases privacy

Inspirations

- Improved safety ratings
- Hygiene awareness
- Improved experiences
- Brand loyalty & trust
- Mobility & flexibility

Biophilic Features



Healthier Spaces Trend 2:

A Layered Approach to Healthy Spaces



Having a healthy space today means something different than it did just a few years ago. Healthy spaces still integrate plants, natural lighting, and biophilic elements, but the definition has now expanded to include hygiene-focused features as well. Today, a healthy space also includes air hygiene, hand hygiene, surface hygiene, and the integration of cleaning protocols. This layered approach creates spaces that inspire confidence, trust, and well-being in employees, guests, and customers alike.



Key Features

- Plants for well-being
- Lighting & views
- Air quality
- Ventilation
- Water quality
- Safety & security
- Thermal health
- Proper cleaning protocols
- Noise control

Inspirations

- Health & well-being
- Enhanced safety
- Productivity & engagement
- Connection to nature

Biophilic Features



Healthier Spaces Trend 3:

Nature-Inspired Fragrances



Many businesses are creating environments that encourage people to reconnect with nature by using holistic design strategies. Introducing nature-inspired fragrances is another way for organizations to fully integrate biophilic concepts into their space. In fact, using fragrances has been shown to reduce stress and anxiety while improving comfort, enhancing concentration and productivity, and creating fresh, clean, and energetic atmospheres anywhere that people reside. It's a simple yet highly effective way to enhance your space through olfactory means.

Key Features

- Marine Fresh
- Refreshing Lavender
- Wood Blonde
- Woodlands
- Bamboo Wood
- Cucumber Mint
- Blue Wood
- Ginger Lily

Inspirations

- Health & well-being
- Stress & anxiety reduction
- Productivity & focus
- Supporting biophilic environments

Biophilic Features





Truly great brand experiences inspire creativity and confidence with every interaction. By using a layered approach to integrate health, wellness, and safety seamlessly into your brand experience, Ambius helps you create smarter, healthier spaces that motivate people and earn trust.

For more information
please visit ambius.com
call 800.581.9946



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