

# Our Favorite Interior Designers...for Rescuing a Boring Office

Whether remodeling an existing space or starting someplace new, consider these Fellinis of furnishings, who've worked for clients like Uber, Airbnb and Google.

[Annie Goldsmith](#) Apr 27, 2024, 5:00am PDT

(Photo courtesy of IA Interior Architects)

## Agnes Pietraszek

[IA Interior Architects](#)

### ***For ambitious, eco-friendly projects***

One of Pietraszek's recent big projects was remodeling a 249,000-square-foot office on Google's Sunnyvale, Calif., campus that used to be "really dark and deep," she said. It's now a sun-filled green space illuminated by a massive skylight (pictured). The building is also 91% powered by renewable energy (via 5,000 on-site solar panels) and comes with on-site water recycling that captures and stores rainwater.

Pietraszek noted that sustainability is one of the biggest concerns for her clients, as well as adding outdoor space. Another add-on is "opening up spaces for gathering and community, making sure that when people come in, they're there for a reason, that meetings are being held and that the sense of gathering is being supported through space and the architectural layout."

*Clients include: Google and other confidential tech projects. IA Interior Architects has also worked for Salesforce, DraftKings, Sonos, Dropbox, Uber and Carta*

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(Photo courtesy of Noma Design & Co.)

Kendall Ermshar

[Noma Design & Co.](#)

***For making “kooky ideas” practical***

Martell saw ThredUp’s Oakland, Calif., office—a converted Victorian—and was immediately drawn to Ermshar. Once she and Ermshar began working together, they “just started vibing,” Martell said. “[Ermshar] was really amazing at taking our vision and turning it into something practical,” Martell continued, noting that he figured out how to rig a swing in the entryway (pictured). She also complimented Ermshar’s execution of “kooky ideas,” like the table entwined with palms.

*Clients include: Headline, ThredUp, ThirdLove, Stella & Dot*

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(Photo courtesy of Fennie+Mehl)

## Jenna Ruth

[Fennie+Mehl](#)

### ***For a penthouse-y, residential vibe***

Ask around Silicon Valley about who has the best offices, and one answer comes up a lot: Forerunner Ventures. For the VC firm's space in the Presidio (pictured), Jennifer Mariska, an operations partner at Forerunner, worked with Jenna Ruth, along with Doug Mehl, at Fennie+Mehl to turn its offices, which once belonged to a communications cabling company, into a refined workspace with the

color palette of an ultraluxe Glossier store. "A penthouse-y, residential vibe," Mariska said.

Mariska appreciated that Fennie+Mehl handled both the architecture and interior design seamlessly: "There was never a big mess—everything aligned, and there's so many elements that feel residential and beautiful that aren't necessarily often carried through in offices." Ruth had the idea of replacing the Forerunner reception area with a large semicircular bar and seating area. "I was worried we wouldn't use the space enough, and we use it all the time," Mariska said. "Those sorts of decisions that felt risky to me were not at all, because she had the confidence in the use case and their experience with other offices."

*Clients include: 8VC, GitHub*

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(Photo courtesy of Gensler)

## Brian Stromquist

[Gensler](#)

### *For a futuristic megacampus*

Stromquist, an architect, started at Gensler a decade ago on a team that worked with scrappy startup clients, like Postmates, Patreon and Prezi when they were new companies. Now he's a leader of Gensler's technology practice, overseeing some of the firm's biggest tech projects, and he primarily focuses on workplace interiors. Some of the major clients he's currently working with include Google and Amazon.

He's particularly proud of the LinkedIn office (pictured above), where he emphasized spaces for deep concentration—namely, smaller focus rooms that have carefully considered acoustics and customizable light and temperature. "You feel cocooned architecturally," he said.

*Clients include: Airbnb, Amazon, LinkedIn and Google*

(Photo courtesy Ovadia Bros.)

## Shimon Ovadia

[Ovadia Bros.](#)

### *For a focus on the smallest details*

Shimon Ovadia is relatively new to designing tech and investing offices.

His first major commercial project was the Brooklyn offices of VC firm Left Lane Capital: two floors with floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking the East River and the Manhattan skyline, with custom-finished herringbone oak floors, a meditation room and furnishings from high-end Danish and Italian designers, like Cassina and Audo Copenhagen. I visited Left Lane's space (pictured) last year, and it was one of the most striking offices I've ever been in—it feels far more like a Byredo-scented penthouse than a VC headquarters.

The office is part of the up-and-coming designer's longtime relationship with Left Lane founder and managing partner Harley Miller: Ovadia has also designed Miller's homes in Brooklyn and the Hamptons, as well as Left Lane merch. "It's almost like we were creating a brand for them," he said. "We picked the pens and the scissors and the hangers—literally everything." His main focus with the Left Lane office was "trying to infuse this cozy, warm atmosphere that also felt professional at the same time," he said. It's all part of Ovadia's holistic design philosophy: "I don't like to say we're just designing interiors. Your environment sets your tone, it sets the mood, it sets your energy."

*Clients: Primarily residential and confidential*

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