

Chuck the office

As working patterns change, with only six per cent of us having nine-to-five jobs, new flats come with shared workspaces and gyms. By *David Spittles*

LONDON is back at work after a straggling summer spent sitting round the mat, so the amount of time spent commuting, testing up all those travel costs and wondering if it'll worth it.

Traditional working patterns are rapidly changing, providing more flexible choices. Many firms are a step of life in many companies, while start-up companies are being on trend on the back of the digital economy.

Only six per cent of employees now have nine-to-five jobs, according to new research by London. Last week's accountancy giant PricewaterhouseCoopers launched a scheme allowing some employees to work there when they want and/or work from home. Changing

working practices have created a fast-evolving sector of the property market, with developers competing to offer ever-better facilities and amenities to attract tenants. There are now more people working for themselves than ever before, nearly five million, up 45 per cent since the turn of the century, according to the Office for National Statistics.

Overall the UK's self-employed live in London, while the number of female home workers is rising three times faster than men, as women try to find flexible working arrangements to fit around child care.

All this is shaping property buying habits, with more people opting for the convenience of a one-office home as a development with integrated workspaces, whether conventional offices, hot desks, a shared desk or informal lounge area, all suitable for residents.

The packages available are mainly at higher housing levels and regeneration hotspots favoured by younger Londoners who freelance or are employed in tech, financial and creative industries.



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Photo: © J. Smith/Photography

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