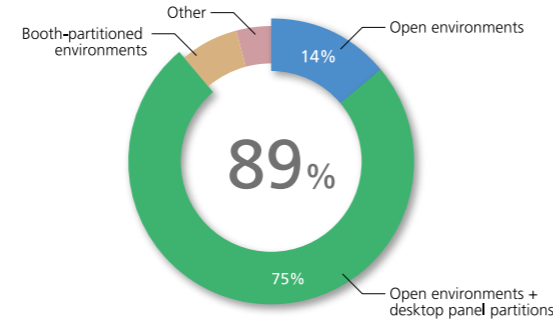


muffle was created to meet customer demand for an environment that has a greater focus on their work.

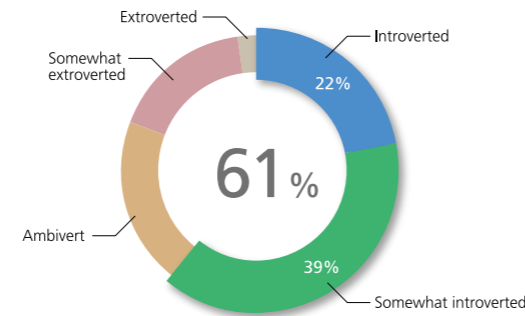
The majority of workers have permanent desks in an open plan without partitions or walls.

The large majority of workers in an office in Japan are in so-called open plan, according to the survey conducted by Okamura.



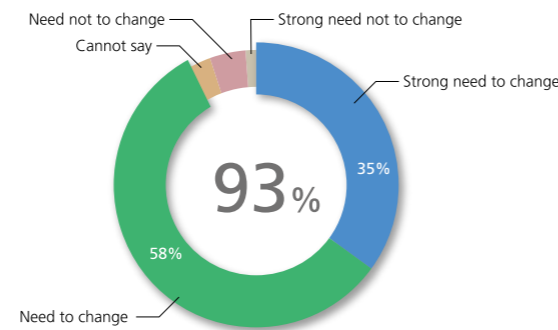
Over half of respondents consider themselves introverted.

When asked if introverted or extroverted in Okamura's survey, 61% responded that they considered themselves either introverted or somewhat introverted, showing the fact that introversion outweighs in our workplace. Introverted workers are sensitive to outer stimulations such as the gaze and noise around them. Okamura saw the need that the performance had to be drawn out of both extroverted and introverted workers for higher performance as a whole.



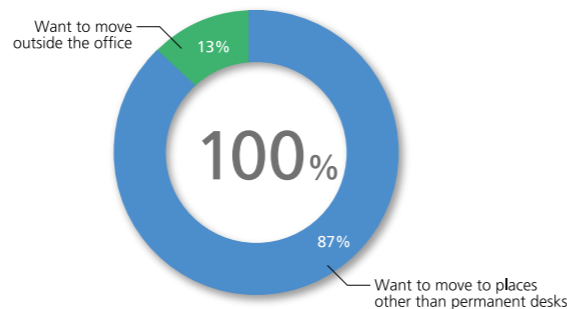
Many workers want to have choices of where to work based on what their task is at any given time.

In Okamura's survey, 93% of workers are feeling the need to change where to work when they want to really concentrate on their own. Many workers today are responsible for and in charge of multiple and diverse tasks. Their workplaces should have flexible choices for workers to make so their performance will be optimal.



Out of all the workers, sales people in particular, want to have a place for quick concentration.

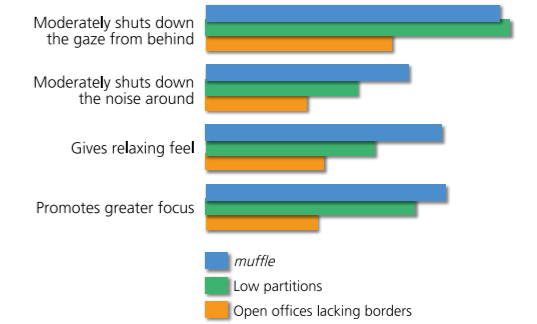
Due to the nature of their work styles, out of many different types of workers, sales people in particular strongly need the place for quick focus during their busy schedule. In Okamura's survey, 87% prefer a space other than their permanent desks and 100% want to go outside their office when they want to work by themselves for deep thought.



Note: Values from "Questionnaire Survey Concerning Individual Work and Communication" targeting office workers [Source: Okamura Corporation].

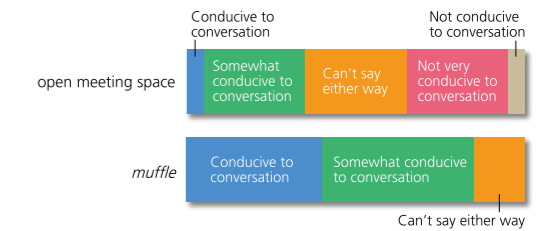
muffle is for focused concentration

One layout with *muffle* for individual worker moderately shuts down the gaze from behind. Also, when compared with conventional low partitions, it more gives relaxing feel and concentration.



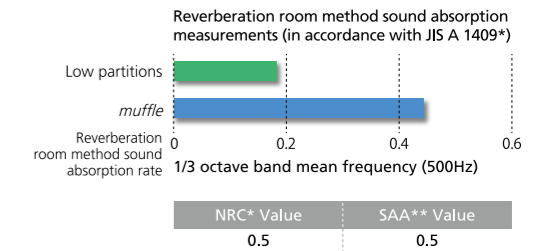
muffle box meeting promotes collaboration

muffle box meeting space is more conversation-promoting than conventional open meeting space for meeting participants. Being moderately divided from the outer space, the *muffle* panels in soft fabric create more intimate and comfortable space.



muffle is more sound absorbent than conventional low partitions

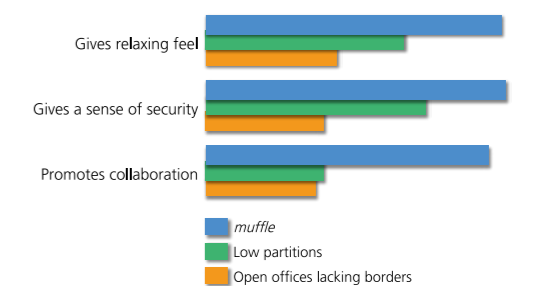
Okamura consigned comparisons between *muffle* and conventional low partitions (Okamura's own product) to an acoustic performance evaluation organization, which conducted reverberation room method sound absorption measurements (in accordance with JIS A 1409*). Based on the findings, *muffle* was recognized as being superior to conventional low partitions in terms of its sound absorption at frequency bands containing high degrees of spoken voices (focal frequency of 500Hz).



* "JIS" refers to Japanese Industrial Standards. "A" is the sector code for "Civil Engineering and Construction," "1409" refers to the standard concerning the reverberation room method sound absorption measuring method.

muffle provides comfort through the soft seating and sound absorption

Compared to conventional low partitions, individual *muffle* layout brings workers greater relaxation, a sense of security, and collaboration. These also work positively in accordance with generating higher concentration and softening nervousness.



Of the three different types of individual work desks (in which the approaches to worker enclosure differ), with regard to: 1. Open types without partitions, 2. Conventional low-partition enclosed types (Okamura products) and 3. Types enclosed with *muffle*, a survey was conducted to probe the perceived comfort of office workers when performing work while seated. (Source: Okamura Corporation)