



CHATGPT AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE: ITS POTENTIAL ROLE IN OFFICE MOVES, REFURBISHMENTS AND REDESIGN

Despite previous concerns, generative artificial intelligence and large language models (LLM) like ChatGPT are here to stay.

With easy accessibility to the public through web apps, smartphone applications, and Internet of Things (IoT) devices, the science fiction possibilities we imagined are fast becoming reality.

With the likes of ChatGPT, Bard and other advancing AI technologies in the headlines

every day, organizations and clients are beginning to ask how these technologies can be applied in their own industries and sectors.

It is more straightforward to identify how a generative AI can support research and content generation but how can emerging AI systems, like ChatGPT make office relocations more efficient, or workspaces more productive?

HOW CAN GPT AND GENERATIVE AI HELP WITH OFFICE DESIGN AND MOVING?

We are already beginning to see the capabilities of AI in everyday life – technology, like our smART/tech models, is being used to regulate thermostats and lighting in office spaces, bringing down energy consumption rates.

AI and LLMs can clearly play a role in relocating, renovating or modernizing workspaces, with the potential to grow with further developments into this technology occurring at pace. However, some key impacts that AI has already had on office refurbishments include:

1. Utilizing Office space: By analyzing floor plans, furniture dimensions and other significant data, AI can enhance the layout of office areas whilst also considering factors such as employee preferences, workflow efficiency, and collaboration requirements. AI can use this information to suggest successful planning, common areas, meeting spaces, and storage locations.

This also proves beneficial when considering health and safety laws, as AI systems can assist with mapping out the safest floor layouts, sourcing suitable, less flammable materials and indicate potential risks with proposed resolutions, minimizing the chances of accidents and incidents in the workplace.

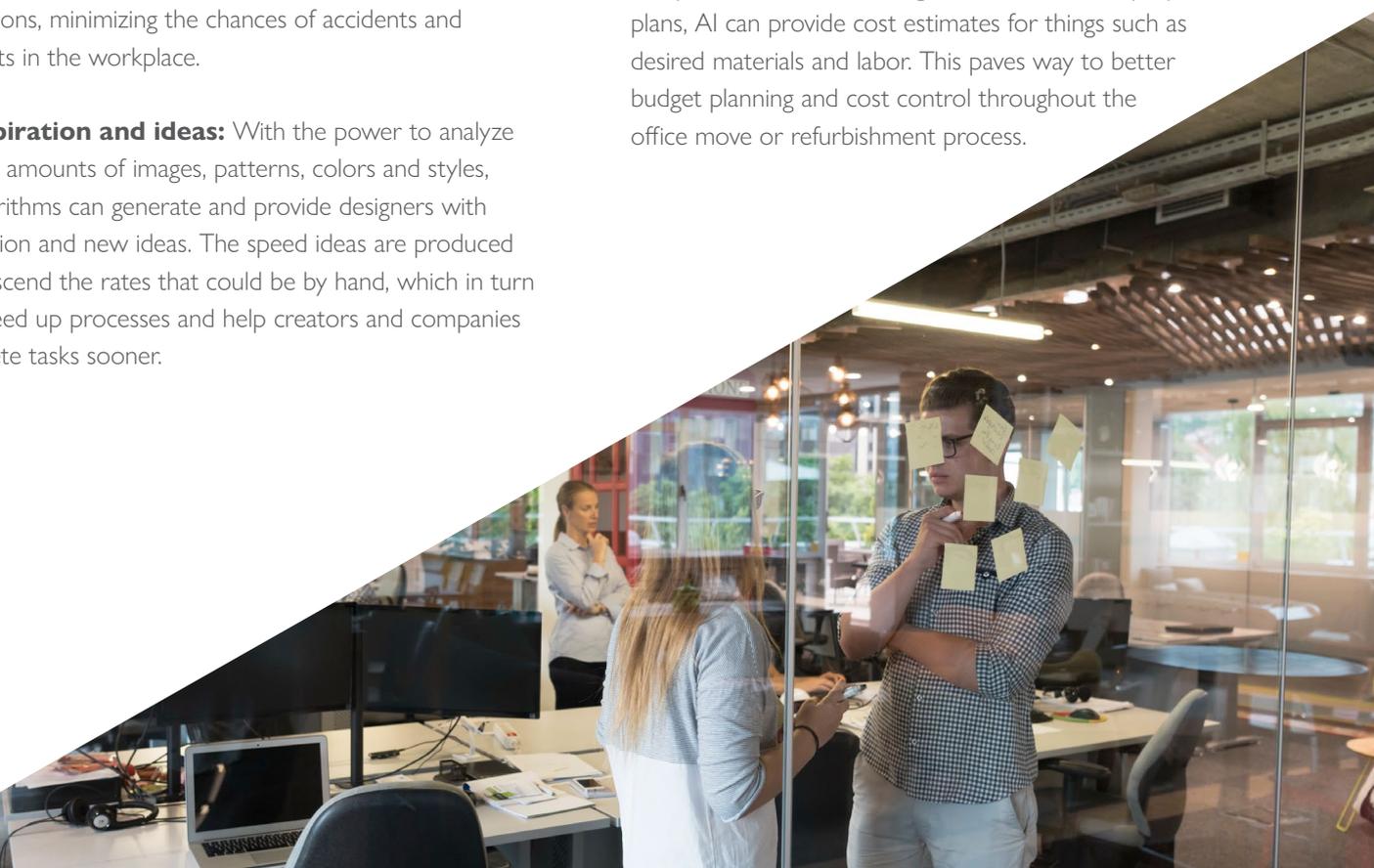
2. Inspiration and ideas: With the power to analyze endless amounts of images, patterns, colors and styles, AI algorithms can generate and provide designers with inspiration and new ideas. The speed ideas are produced at transcend the rates that could be by hand, which in turn can speed up processes and help creators and companies complete tasks sooner.

Nutella used the technology to generate seven million different designs for packaging, incorporating the brand's graphic identity, and placing it on jars across Italy. The seven million jars sold out in a month due to the individuality of each acting somewhat as a collector's item. This just shows the potential that AI could have when it comes to creating optimal workplace configurations.

3. Sustainability: We know that sustainability is becoming an increasingly important consideration when it comes to relocating or redesigning workplaces. We have already been providing sustainable workplace services for over a decade via our Giving Back Project and IT/Office furniture resale. AI has the potential to make workplaces even more sustainable.

As noted previously, AI can aid sustainability in the workplace through analyzing energy consumption patterns in the office, as well as environmental factors. With this data, AI can adjust lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems to help reduce energy waste, bring down energy expenditure and create workspaces that won't cost the environment.

4. Cost and budget optimization: Given the current economic climate, with the ongoing war in Ukraine continuing to drive up costs, companies are having to be more mindful of their budgets and spending. Using current and previous data, observing market trends and project plans, AI can provide cost estimates for things such as desired materials and labor. This paves way to better budget planning and cost control throughout the office move or refurbishment process.





THE LIMITATIONS OF USING AI FOR OFFICE REDESIGN

AI is powerful, but with everything comes limitations. We have identified some key areas for you to consider:

1. Lack of human judgement: As no team of people are the same, no relocation or office renewal consideration will be either. There may be unique considerations or specific features - for example, specific fixtures or furniture for accessibility - that need human decision. Therefore, relying completely on AI systems, which operate on algorithms and data analysis, may mean that these factors go overlooked.

2. Lack of background knowledge: The needs of an organization, cultural factors and even individual preferences of a team all play a part in an office renovation or move. In a similar way to the point above, an AI model might not consider the contexts and focus purely on the data they are trained on. Circumstances like these might cause problems further down the line if unnoticed or ignored, which in turn could mean companies face further costs rectifying any incorrections.

3. Reliability: AI learns through the information and data it is trained on, which requires human input. Training data that is incomplete, biased, unreliable or does not represent all members of a team can lead to biased or unpreferable results that do not align with the goals of an organization, or lead to unreasonable results.

4. Concerns over security: Most likely the main concern comes from the safety of data within AI systems, as the reliance on data means that sensitive/confidential information can be involved. Organizations must take serious and vigorous measures to protect employees and clients against the likes of data breaches, unlawful access, or wrongful use of data.



WHAT'S NEXT?

So, where do we go from here? The answer is simple, really: AI is an incredibly powerful device organizations can use to aid with relocating or renovating their office spaces. It can lead to faster turnaround times, and even ensure minimum health and safety risks in the workplace.

However, it is important to remember that AI does come with cons, and these should not be ignored, particularly when looking at the diversity of individual teams, their specific needs and any unique considerations that may go under the radar when teaching these AI systems via data input from humans.

Therefore, it is key that, rather than using one over the other, organizations learn to work collaboratively with this technology to deliver office moves and create workspaces that are informed by data while also having that all-important human flare.

Want to talk more about a potential office move? Get in touch with us today!

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