



Flexible working in Swedish – Modern office locations with LED light from ERCO

Scandinavia is seen as a pioneer for good work culture – flat hierarchies, a strong team philosophy and family life considerations are taken for granted, and statistics repeatedly ascribe workers from the Nordic countries higher productivity with less stress. With "work away from work", Fabege, one of Sweden's largest property companies, has developed an office concept that goes far beyond the desktop edge of current office and work models. Work is spatially detached from the company office, a new idea that reveals benefits for the individual and for social coexistence. Three office locations, spread across Stockholm, were created – and equipped with ERCO Jilly downlights for track.

Project data

Film: <https://youtu.be/4TqMHRJrqaA>

Project: Fabege,
Stockholm / Sweden

Client: Fabege AB,
Stockholm / Sweden

Lighting design: ABREU Design Studio AB

Interior design: ABREU Design Studio AB,
EgnellAllard Inrednings-
arkitektur AB,
Söder Design AB

Electrical engineering:
Stockholms Eltjänst Lundén AB,
Elbolaget LMJ AB,
Lundek Elkonsult,
Elarkitektur AB

Photography: Gavriil Papadiotis,
London / Great Britain

The principle of "work away from work"
Anyone who has ever driven through Stockholm in the rush hour knows that its centre, as in almost any of the world's big cities, resembles the eye of a needle. Travelling to the office or to a business appointment becomes pure stop-and-go stress. Fabege counters this phenomenon with its concept of "work away from work", or WAW for short. The office comes to the employee. At three locations in Stockholm, Fabege offers its own employees and all tenants of its properties a free co-working office infrastructure.

All sites have good public transport connections and are a maximum of five kilometres from the city centre. As a

consequence the car is often replaced by train or cycle – a relief for the individual, the traffic and the environment. "We aimed to develop a concept that does justice to people as employees and in their roles as mums and dads," explained Klaus Hansen Vikström, Executive Vice President of Fabege. Each user can select the location that is closer to his or her home or kindergarten. With the Fabege app they can also easily book into their WAW location and reserve meeting rooms. The interior architecture and design are reminiscent of cosy cafés, combined with modern work areas. The interior, colours and flexibly adjustable light with high visual comfort create pleasant and inspiring surroundings.

Modern office lighting instead of a carpet of light

"A good place to work should entice and inspire the creative side of people," attested Joaquim de Abreu, lighting designer at the WAW locations. Being a native Swede he has always had a special relationship to light. "I grew up with the northern light and I've seen in what unique ways light can emphasise details. Daylight forms the basis of every lighting concept. Then I add artificial light where needed," he explained.

The lighting concept in the WAW locations moves away from traditional design approaches in offices. "I wanted to avoid carpets of light at all costs," said Joaquim de Abreu, meaning areas with identical quantities of light. "We've created a dramatic lighting setting with strong accentuation. We subdivide the room area into different zones and use light only as strongly as needed. The light adapts to the intended environment," he continued. This called for a flexible track infrastructure and luminaires with high visual comfort and intuitive control. In addition to ERCO spotlights and pendant luminaires, he also specified Jilly as the downlight for track. All luminaires can be controlled wirelessly via Casambi Bluetooth and a smartphone or tablet app. "It's the simplest way to programme light scenes. The application is intuitive, and that makes the installation much more flexible than a normal control system," said the lighting designer.

One corporate lighting concept for three locations

Each WAW site has its own character. WAW Arenastaden in the north of Stockholm is a loft-like office on two levels. It offers space for concentrated work and cosy discussions around a fireplace. The Inner City location is in the city centre and approximately 450 metres away from the main railway station. The lounge ambience is the ideal backdrop for a get-together, business meetings or creative brainstorming with colleagues. WAW Hammarby Sjöstad, located in the south of Stockholm, is housed in a historic building with light in its DNA: the Luma factory manufactured incandescent lamps from the 1930s to the 1970s. People now work there below ERCO light with state of the art LED technology. This largest location offers space for single or group work as well as open lounge areas.

The 'downlights for track' concept won over both the lighting designer and the client.

Thanks to Jilly from ERCO, flexible, standard-compliant and efficient office workplace lighting was created. Viewed over the entire area, modern office lighting was created compliant to standards. Installed above long conference tables and individual workstations, the downlight scores points with high visual comfort. "I was on the lookout for a good, attractive task light that offers ideal glare protection. Jilly brings together all the qualities that I think are important. The design is magical and the performance outstanding," said de Abreu. The complete room concept remains flexible. If the layout of the furniture changes, the luminaires can be repositioned to another position in the track without tools.

From functional workplace illumination to accent lighting – the quality of light remains at the same high level. At the WAW Inner City location, innovative Parscan zoom spotlights crisply highlight small seating areas from their surroundings. The light distribution can be adjusted smoothly from spot (15°) to wide flood (65°) in an instant. "I waited a long time for a product like this. I can create exactly the atmosphere I want," explained Joaquim de Abreu. With Jilly pendant luminaires from ERCO and a window in the ceiling, he celebrates the highly effective combination of daylight and artificial light in the transparently glazed conference room.

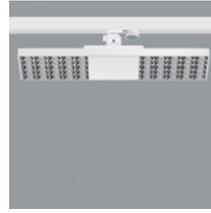
Quintessence Pinhole spotlights set eye-catching accents in small telephone booths at the WAW Inner City site. "They've got a great design and generate a narrow light beam. From the outside you can hardly see the small light aperture. There's something magical about that," said de Abreu. The striking columns in the locations are vertically illuminated with Gimbal spotlights; the grazing light effectively accentuates the wood grain on the concrete surface. The ERCO LED lighting tools, all in black, are not only light sources but also design elements that blend seamlessly into the architecture.

Among other factors, the innate quality of the luminaires and the light was decisive for the cooperation with ERCO. "In my opinion, ERCO currently has the best products on the market," said Joaquim de Abreu. It was also the quality that impressed the client, Klaus Hansen Vikström. "Joaquim showed me the room situation in direct comparison: with luminaires from ERCO and from other manufacturers. The differences were striking – the atmosphere was completely different. It convinced me immediately."

Luminaires used in the project



Gimbal



Jilly for track



Jilly pendant



Quintessence Pinhole



Parscan zoom
spotlights

About ERCO

The ERCO Light Factory in the German town of Lüdenscheid is a leading international specialist in architectural lighting using LED technology. The family business, founded in 1934, now operates as a global player with independent sales organisations and partners in 55 countries worldwide. Since 2015 ERCO's portfolio has been 100% LED. With this in mind, ERCO in Lüdenscheid develops, designs and produces digital luminaires with focus on photometrics, electronics and design. Working

closely with architects, lighting designers and engineers, ERCO develops lighting tools used primarily for applications in the following fields: Work, Shop, Culture, Community, Hospitality, Living, Public and Contemplation. ERCO understands digital light as the fourth dimension of architecture – providing highly precise and efficient lighting solutions to support creative designers in turning their visions into reality.

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For further information or image material
please contact:

mai public relations GmbH
Arno Heitland
Leuschnerdamm 13
10999 Berlin
Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 30 66 40 40 553
erco@maipr.com
www.maipr.com

