

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Honors theses

Coworking. Sociality and work by sharing

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Coworking is a new working model, based on sharing spaces, ideas, time, costs, resources and lifestyles, created to fulfill freelancer's need to avoid home isolation. Its main features, the social and community aspects, generated inside through the interaction between people.

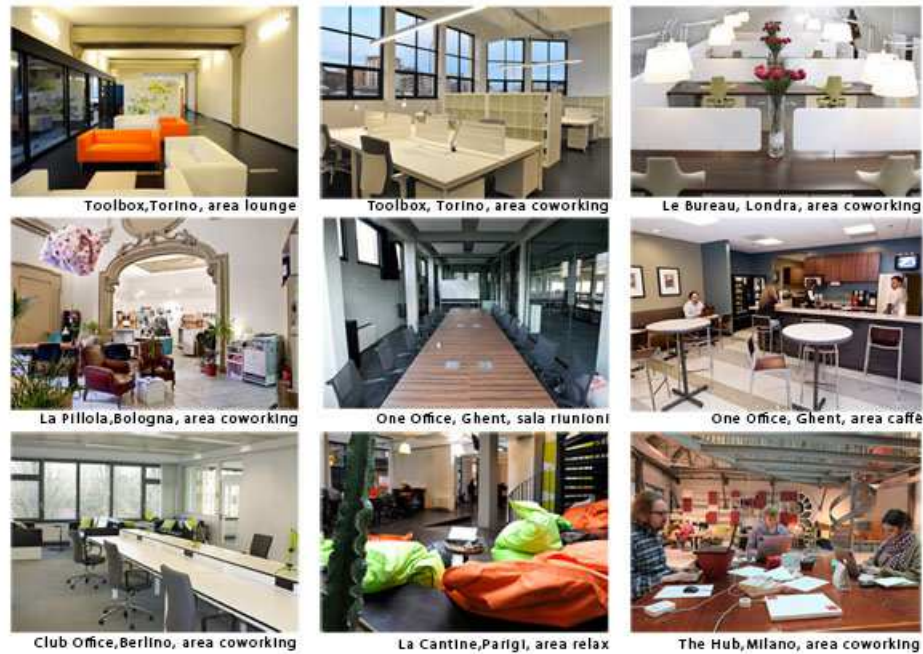
Coworking is a compromise between working at home and working in an office, it provides the traditional business's workspace in a singular way, that gives bigger flexibility and freedom to the worker, so that job is not seen as a duty. All this happens within a shared office environment that makes real community in which work synergies, partnerships and relationships between people are generated. Nowadays business world is uncertain and a model like coworking could be the answer of this changing period's needs, because meeting and exchanging experiences are seen in a positive way. You can reinvent yourself in a new job when you become part of it and provides the opportunity to preserve relationship, that can be productive for an individual or a company.

Its features are **flexibility** (due to the structure of the space, that looks like an office but as the informality of a house), the **total absence of hierarchy** (which generates autonomy and freedom of workers), the **new business model** based on sharing (which increases productivity and synergies work), and its **community aspect**, because is also a social place for community.

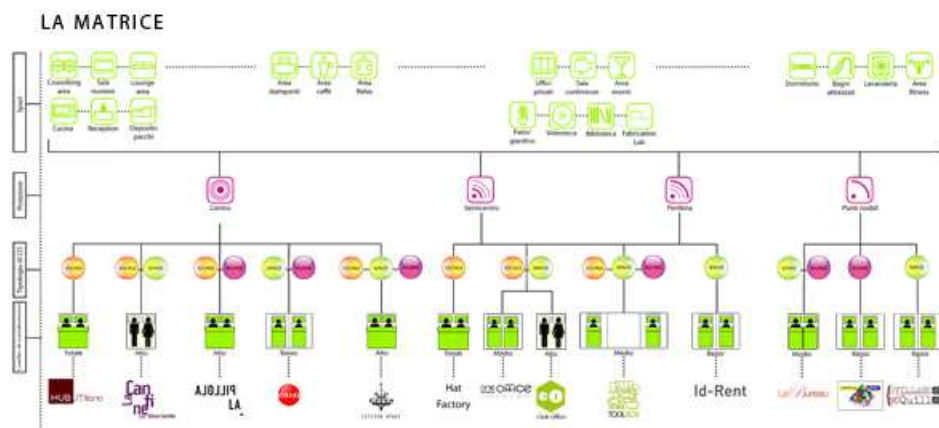
People that usually join a coworking (freelancer generally such as web programmers and developers, graphic and web designers, P.R., marketing, journalists, writers, architects and many others), are called coworkers, because they become part of a community, that shares some values and works together.

Its success is being seen in many countries because of its modern unique and innovative features.

North America, the birthplace of coworking, has the record for number of such spaces, but Europe (especially in Germany, England, Spain and France), is holding the record for development of this concept. In Italy there are still few spaces and most of them are in the north of the country.



The following picture shows how a methodological approach has been created and resumed in a matrix focusing on: functions and services (offered by some coworking chosen case studies); sharing aspects; sharing needs; sharing levels; and physical context.



The different combinations of the matrix have been developed in a meta-project exercise, Barriera di Milano's district (studying the area in two period, present and future, because there are some urban transformation projects coming up), to demonstrate how coworking spaces design can be flexible and how the methodological approach can be used.



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