Case Study: 
Look and Feel

Centro Colon

Location: San José, Costa Rica

Sphera, a sustainability consultancy, decided to practice what they preach when embarking on their recent office refurbishment. The office is located in one of Costa Rica’s first office buildings constructed during the 1970s. The building exterior and hallways can be perceived as dark, heavy and undesirable, but in strong contrast Sphera have created an interior space that feels open, fresh and dynamic.

Colours and textures are used to separate the formal conference space and the main office area. The conference space is carpeted and has a colour palette of grey, black and white, whereas the main office is predominantly white with parquet flooring, wooden office furniture and open book shelves. Green chairs are found throughout.

Ceiling panels were removed from the main office area, exposing textured concrete and increasing the room height to 3.5 metres. This gives occupants a feeling of space, a greater area for natural light to reflect on, and improved air circulation.

Artwork from local artists is used to decorate the office space, with the aim of promoting local culture and using art that draws on sustainable principles (with recycled and renewable materials).

With thanks to Sphera.