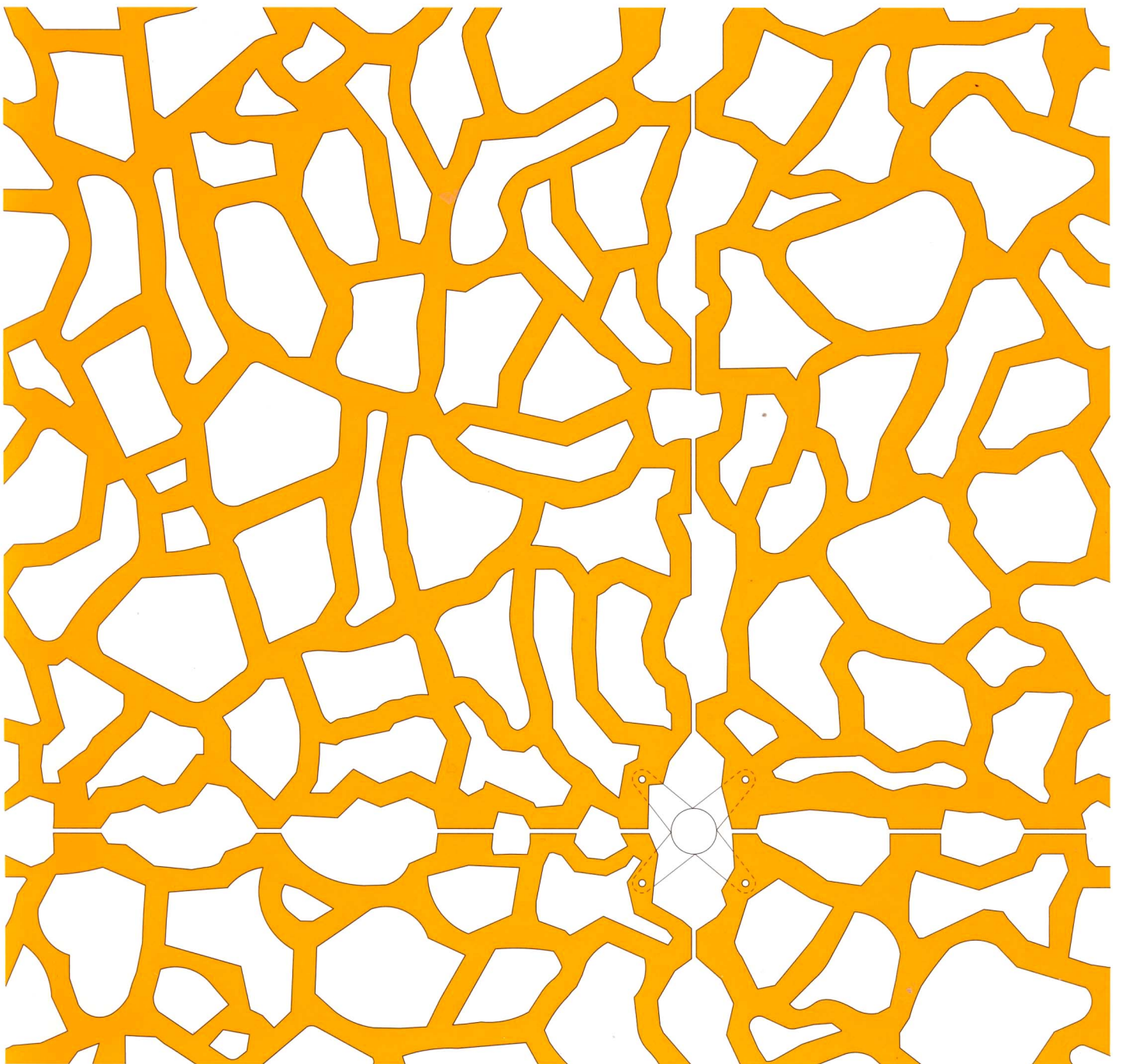


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Helping to shape the work environment

Creating a vibrant space to cater for a varied mix of working methodologies amongst awkward building angles was the main brief for a two-storey fit-out of Geneity's Hammer-smith offices. This specialist software provider of e-gaming products wanted a space that was modern and featured distinct working and breakout areas. The main challenge was the building's difficult angles. For architect Julie Heron of Barr Gazetas it presented an opportunity to make the most of the existing unusual design.

The result was private office spaces with uniquely shaped walls, and specialist partitioning manufacturer Komfort was chosen to produce sections of shaped glass that would slot in next to wooden panels in each of the offices, as above. This created, in the architect's words, 'monolithic elements' that work well within the whole environment.

Polar range single glazing was used with black aluminium channels. To complement this, full-height glass channels, also from the Polar range, were installed in each office. Whilst this glass and wood effect runs throughout the working office space, Geneity wanted a different ambience for the breakout areas, introducing more colour and funkier furniture. Said Komfort's Franz

Lorenschitz: "The complexities of this installation presented us with an opportunity to showcase our ability to come up with solutions that meet the very specific demands of our customers and end users."

Komfort's partitioning has also been used to create a unique office environment for IT service supplier SoftCat's new HQ in Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Spread over three floors the 26,600 sq.ft of space required several bespoke elements involving glass partitioning and manifestation.

The largest element to the project was the creation of a meeting room with a faceted curved wall, seen below left. This was constructed using Komfire solid elements to create a 600 mm-thick wall with a large opening and curved ends. Within the opening a faceted, single-glazed partition was installed with curved abutments. Komfire 75 and 100 glass partitions were supplied for several private meeting spaces, and other products included Polar single glazing with glass doors, walnut-veneered and white laminate-faced doors and a sliding glass door that marked the entrance to an informal meeting area.

Komfort has revamped its own London showroom to provide architects, designers and developers with an 'inspirational space' showcasing its wide portfolio of products in office set-ups, to show how different configurations and materials contribute to space design. Integrated and complementary products for office, commercial and education environments are on display including glazed, solid, acoustic, demountable and fire-rated partitions, glass and veneered doors, storgewall, a structural glass staircase and movable walls.

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Adaptable style

Keir Townsend has designed a bespoke staircase with a balustrade that utilises strands of chiffon between laminated glass sheets, which acts as a divider but also lets light flood through. The metal fixtures that join the polished concrete stairs allow for the glass panels to be changed quickly and easily to alter the look if occasion or seasonal atmosphere should demand it. The fabric can be altered, too, making the possibilities for custom-designed panels almost limitless, says the company – whether ephemeral and floaty, as with the chiffon in various shades, or glimmering with metal foils to add character to any scheme.

Recycled glass surfaces are available from Keir Townsend in a choice of colours (below is aquamarine), which can be used to effect in a variety of situations, including kitchen worktops, vanity units, shelving and splashbacks. Because of the material's translucency it can be lit from underneath to create a display feature. The glass surfaces are 20 mm thick and can be cut into custom sizes of up to 3,060 x 1,440 mm.

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