"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it’s going to be a butterfly."
R. Buckminster Fuller, architect and inventor of the geodesic dome

**SPACE FOR METAMORPHOSIS**

Transitions can be daunting times. You're feeling neither here nor there, with no roots or home to speak of. Employees who are in a migratory state may feel confused, unfocused, and left without an identity. David Agger, founder of Nexspace, wanted to create a workspace that was non-traditional, contemporary, and collegial to meet the emotional and physical needs of mobile staffers, emerging companies, temporary project teams, displaced sales units, consultants, and out-of-town companies waiting to find a permanent space in the Los Angeles area. Agger felt that it was unproductive for companies to be bogged down with relocation problems, and that employees should be free to focus on core business activities.

**AN EMERGING WORKFORCE**

Agger commissioned Beckson Design Associates to create an appealing atmosphere for this new type of workforce. To appeal to the widest range of potential clients, it was necessary to accommodate individual workers, as well as larger groups coming together as a team in the space. The populations of occupants would range from younger groups to more established professionals, all who share a desire for flexible and functional workspace where they could still feel and be creative and productive though in temporary quarters. The plan was to keep the 17,000-square-foot (1,591-square-meter) space simple and straightforward for new temporary tenants to immediately understand. The space has a central area where shared amenities are pooled (mail, copier, server room, concierge, on-site management, and main conference room). Blocks of development (or work) rooms are divided into small, medium, and large sizes modularly designed around mobile desks. The space fits thirty-nine companies, or 200 occupants, at a time.

**WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME**

The comfortable, casual, and contemporary space is meant to feel like a campus meeting place, to foster workplace envy among those in permanent offices, says Agger. The 1,150-square-foot (107-square-meter) Center Quad, or the living room/lounge area, is core to Nexspace's effort to help occupants combine work and leisure. Yet for more senior, established tenants, there are areas of more privacy. One of the offices, known as the "Delta Space," is triangular in shape and juts out dramatically from the building to give the occupant more than 60 feet (18 meters) of unobstructed views of downtown L.A., Catalina Island, and Malibu.

**A HIP HOME**

The idiosyncratic choices in furniture in the common areas play a large part in making tenants feel individual while at the same time feel like they are at home. There's no cookie-cutter approach to the design elements in the shared spaces. Each piece of furniture has its own personality, much like people do. To highlight the concept of distinct personalities coming together to share space, even the carpets were chosen for their own individual character rather than on how they might coordinate with accent walls or even with each other.

The space clearly celebrates independence, character, and how various—even colorful—personalities can express themselves and work together all under one roof.
SPACE FOR METAMORPHOSIS

93 THE SERENE WORKSPACE
“Creative minds always have been known to survive any kind of bad training.”
Anna Freud, child psychiatrist and daughter of Sigmund Freud

"When working on ethereal challenges sometimes it’s necessary to look at things in a different way — and your surroundings just might help." From the Nexspace Web site
"Creative minds always have been known to survive any kind of bad training."

Anna Freud, child psychiatrist and daughter of Sigmund Freud

The walls of the development rooms are built of translucent fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) to filter in natural light. The FRP also serves as floor-to-ceiling dry-marker board that is durable, easy to clean, and withstands any damage resulting in frequent use by short-term tenants. The doors are large, sliding, cell-structured FRP panels that are easy to open. Rooms are furnished with custom 30-inch by 48-inch (76-centimeters by 122-centimeters) mobile desks.