Office space design needs to balance social interaction with private meeting and focus areas.
PICTURE: TREND GROUP

Collaboration for best results

THERE are a few key interior architectural principles which underpin effective co-working space design, says Paragon Interface's Claire D'Adorante.

Collaborative spaces that stimulate creativity and enable social interaction are important, while there is also a need for private meeting spaces and focus zones to balance all the activity.

She says key factors are:

• Flexibility to maximise space use and identify potential growth areas in the building.

• Efficiency, which means creating multiple-use spaces.

• Adaptability to respond to changing requirements and technologies.

• Sustainability, which relates to green and healthy work environments which support the wellbeing of all staff.

An additional criteria is privacy, which means:

• Adding quiet rooms, focus spaces and concentrated work areas.

• Using acoustic materials to minimise noise transference.

• Dividing open spaces with planters, cabinets and screens for personal space.

• Using colour and texture and stimulating furniture and fittings to create dedicated team areas.

Themed environments suited to the particular needs of specific businesses is also a factor to consider in the design of co-working spaces, says Trend Group's Dorethe Swiegers.

"Create smaller pockets within your office space that foster a sense of belonging. For example, seating can be assigned for groups rather than individuals.

"The teams may be mobile, but still have fixed desk spaces.

"Co-working spaces relate to access to communal resources and amenities, as well as activity-based working."