

ZUMTOBEL Group

LIGHT TALKS: LISTEN IN TO THE ZUMTOBEL GROUP PODCAST THE WORKPLACE OF THE FUTURE

Press Release
Dornbirn, 25 July 2023

Dornbirn, Austria – In Episode 8 of Light Talks, the podcast of the Zumtobel Group, guests Lena Marie Glaser, founder and managing director of the “Basically innovative” Future Lab for New Work, and Raphael Gielgen, Future of Work trend scout at the Swiss design furniture manufacturer Vitra, give an insight into the working world of the future as well as their own personal one. Together they outline what workplaces could look like in the future, not just physically, but also in terms of well-being. Which trends are here to stay and what needs to change in corporate cultures?



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THE WORKPLACE OF THE FUTURE

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At home or on the company campus – where will we work in the future?

One of the topics of discussion is whether working from home will be the office of the future. The guests talk about the choices that employees should have going forward in order to feel comfortable at workplace. Generally speaking, not only physical aspects, such as the design and furnishing, but also aspects of well-being, such as the need for community and emotional connection, should be considered. On the one hand, the idea of saying goodbye to so-called “campus thinking” is up for debate when it comes to the workplace of the future; on the other hand, employees’ need for a place of community, for personal exchange and, along with it, emotional connection have been observed – aspects which working from home or remote work cannot or only partially provide.

Raphael Gielgen explains: *“When it comes to working from home versus a real office – the maturity levels vary greatly in different cultural areas. In Asia, there is hardly any debate about this topic. Even in countries like Korea or Japan, people are happy if they can work from home for one day. Otherwise they go to the office every day. The cities are full of people; underground lines, metros and the streets are crowded. The killer is not the office – the killer is the way to work. People don’t hate the office, but they go crazy when no public infrastructure exists. And that’s what is currently happening in the USA. It should be an incentive for us in Europe to think about just how important public transport or infrastructure as such is.”*

Cultural transformation as a participatory process

It also becomes clear that in addition to physical changes, the future of work primarily requires a cultural transformation. Lena Marie Glaser, author of “Arbeit auf Augenhöhe – die New Work Revolution”, a book about work on an equal footing and the new work revolution, emphasises the increasing importance of participation and the right of employees to have a say in creating a meaningful work environment. She considers empathy and caring key elements of a sustainable working culture. Certain fears are caused by the massively advancing technological developments.

“We are right in the middle of a cultural transformation. I find that exciting because we now have space to shape things, to try things. I analyse the issues of the future of the working world from the perspective of employees. My main focus is on creating workplaces where people don’t burn out, where they see meaning in their work and are part of a community. It’s all about what the organisation of the future looks like and how we organise ourselves.”

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That's where I recommend involving employees with their ideas, and include the knowledge of many, as I like to call it. It is something that happens much too rarely and it is incredibly exciting what lies dormant inside people. For me, this participation, this active contribution, is the future of work as I would like to see it," says **Lena Marie Glaser**.

Light Talks – the Zumtobel Group podcast

Light is life; light inspires; light creates emotion; light changes the world. Light Talks, the podcast of the Zumtobel Group, illuminates the impact of light and how light can bring people, nature and innovations together. We will talk about a wide range of topics in connection with light with international guests from various disciplines as well as experts from the Zumtobel Group, but there will also be an exchange on current and future issues that move us as a company and are of broad interest to society.

A new podcast every month: listen in!

Light Talks is released every last Tuesday of the month – with a summer break in August – and is available on [z.lighting](#) and all major [streaming services](#). We look forward to welcoming you as a listener of Light Talks – the podcast of the Zumtobel Group.

Topics of the upcoming episodes

We look forward to welcoming our international guests and talking about light art or how artificial intelligence will influence our future.

PHOTO

Photographer: Nina Bröll



Lena Marie Glaser (left) and Raphael Gielgen joined the conversation online and were greeted by host Diana Panzirsch at the Zumtobel Group's Light Forum in Dornbirn.

Episode summaries

Episode 8: The workplace of the future

What will the workplace of the future look like? How does it feel? Lena Marie Glaser, founder and managing director of the "Basically innovative" Future Lab for New Work, and Raphael Gielgen, Future of Work trend scout at the Swiss design furniture manufacturer Vitra, talk about this topic and give an insight into their own offices as well their personal ideas of the working world of the future.

Episode 7: Digital and cultural change

This episode of Light Talks is focuses on digital transformation and the role it plays in different areas of life. Host Diana Panzirsch and her expert guests Barbara Klinka-Ghezzeo, Michael Ghezzeo and Marcus Frantz discuss future developments in the digital field and how they will continue to influence society and the economy. Their conclusion: Not only will technologies have to evolve continuously through digitalisation, it also takes cultural change.

Episode 6: Night sky and nature

The two guests, Patrick Lüth, architect and Managing Director of the Innsbruck studio of the renowned Norwegian architectural and design firm Snøhetta, and Saurabh Pandhi, Vice President of Thorn Lighting, talk about the protection of the night sky and nature. Coming from the big picture of the sustainability activities of Snøhetta and Thorn, the conversation is about the impact of artificial light on nature and the possibilities of using outdoor lighting responsibly.

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Episode 5: The effects of light on our bodies and minds

This episode looks at the effects of light on our bodies and minds, at how important lighting is and how we can support our brain and our efficiency with light. The guests speaking on this topic are Piera Scuri and Douglas Skene, founders of Spazio. Their company offers highly specialised architectural and consulting services for the energy sector, in particular for the design of digital control and monitoring centres. The panel of experts is completed by Oliver Stefani, who conducts research in the field of chronobiology and is the founder of Chronolight, an independent consultancy for optimum lighting conditions.

Episode 4: Circularity and the future – the potential of the construction sector

Professor Werner Sobek, architect, structural engineer, founder of the globally operating company Werner Sobek for sustainable building, and initiator of the German Sustainable Building Council, and Annabelle von Reutern, architect and Head of Business Development at the Berlin start-up Concular for circular construction, which is the German market leader in preparing digital building material passes and promotes the reintegration of built-up resources into new projects, share their scientific findings as well as the impetus to establish a circular economy in the construction sector, to which the lighting industry also makes a contribution.

Episode 3: Sustainable business and innovation pull together

Finreon CEO Ralf Seiz and Hugo Rohner, CEO of the Zumtobel Group's technology subsidiary Tridonic, talk about possible ways of contributing to sustainable business. The focus is on innovations, their marketability and their potential to find new solutions. The two experts also give personal insight into their everyday approach to a sustainable way of life.

Episode 2: Collective housing | Zürich meets Barcelona

Zürich architect Roger Boltshauser, founder of Boltshauser Architekten and professor at ETH Zurich, and Carles Baiges, architect and member of the young architectural cooperative Lacol from Barcelona, discuss the access to housing, in particular affordable housing, in the two cities and how architecture can address this problem and provide possible solutions.

Episode 1: Transformation

Ben van Berkel, founder and principal architect of UNStudio, a Dutch architectural firm, and Zumtobel Group CEO Alfred Felder talk about transformation from different perspectives. What transformation have architecture, the built environment but also the lighting industry undergone over the past decades? What can we expect regarding architecture and lighting in the future?

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SHORT PORTRAIT

ABOUT

Zumtobel Group AG

The Zumtobel Group aims to create wellbeing and improve people's quality of life through light – as a group, and through all its individual brands, Thorn, Tridonic and Zumtobel. As a leading supplier of innovative lighting solutions, the Group offers its customers around the world a comprehensive portfolio, where the focus is invariably on people and their needs. The company's know-how about the effects of light on people, acquired over decades, forms the basis for sustainable and future-oriented lighting solutions that are increasingly energy- and resource-efficient while providing the best possible quality of light. The Group is listed on the Vienna Stock Exchange (ATX Prime) and currently holds a workforce of around 5,500 employees. In the 2022/23 financial year, the company posted revenues of EUR 1,209.2 million. The Zumtobel Group is based in Dornbirn in the Vorarlberg region of Austria. For further information, please visit [z.lighting/group](https://www.zumtobel.com/lighting/group).

ADDITIONAL FACTS

LINKS

[Light Talks Podcast](#)
[Basically innovative](#)
[Vitra](#)

INFORMATION

Light Talks is available on all major [streaming services](#).

This press release and the accompanying high-resolution images are available on:
<https://z.lighting/en/group/news-insights/>

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