

Variable Wonderful Space——Underline Cafe

Choosing a suitable office is the first challenge that many entrepreneurial firms may come up with. Usually a micro entrepreneurial firm needs flexible space to accommodate uncertain staff. On one hand, renting a large office space in one step will tremendously add the newly established firms' financial burden; On the other hand, if the company rents a relatively small office space, it may turn out to be too crowded when the company grows. What's worse, there may be no space for meeting room, reception room and some other programs. What exactly should the entrepreneurs do to find their office ?



Underline is a multi-functional cafe which is designed and invested by LYCS Architecture. The project is located in the Eastern Software Park where lies in the center of Hangzhou. Although surrounded by highly-rent office buildings, there is no public space for communication or meeting in this area. To meet the companies' needs of working, meeting and communicating, Underline could be changed immediately from a single-function cafe into a cafe + meeting room or cafe + office room through free combinations of its interior spaces .

Instead of over-decorated design, the designers created a peaceful atmosphere for the cafe in a modern and concise way. The facade of the cafe is made of all-glass windows with chessboard-like black frames. The concrete walls above the facade are set with the LED logo of 'underline'. The design is quite simple but ingeniously fits into the surrounding environment.



In order to bring out a vivid effect, the designers decorated the large-scale black wall with relaxing and humorous painting.



Space I

The inner space is clean and tidy. Rows of Bookcases on the wall are made of wooden boards and metal sheets. Wooden tables with gray sofas are both comfortable and user-friendly.



Space II

Elegant and different-height chairs in the middle of the dining area bring lively elements into this friendly place. All the books on the shelves are put away backward. This setting brings orderliness to inner space, provides the customers surprises when they pick up one book as well.



Within the entirely bright-colored space, the black bar counter appears very outstanding in stark contrast with the dining space.



Space III

Exposed ceiling makes the cafe look higher, and also provides more possibility of the multi-functional configuration.



Space IV

Freely moving clapboards provide more possibilities for the space. With different

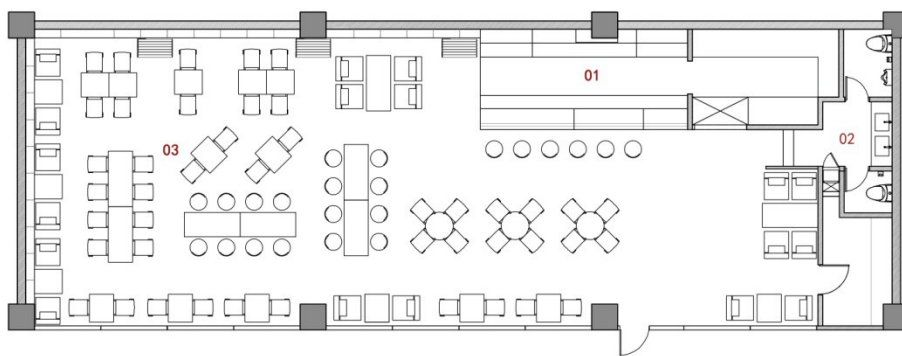
combinations of clapboards, the whole big space is easily divided into four small spaces. At the same time, free combination of four small spaces also meet different functional requirements.



Users can change the cafe into a classroom, an office room or a meeting room [in](#) one minute. Besides of space division, the clapboards can also turn into tools for creativity. People can write and draw on the clapboards, or use them as blackboards for lessons or brainstorming.

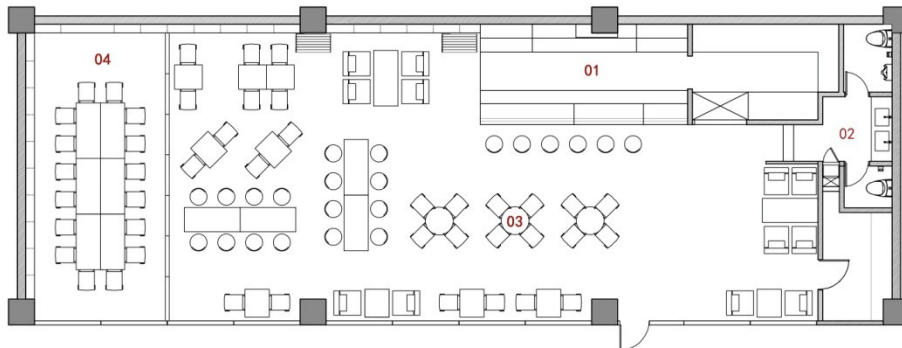


In spite of common usage for office, Underline can house various activities with its freely changeable inner space. These activities include road shows, movie screening, banquet commercial party, etc. Besides, more ways of its space usage are going to be found out by the users. Thus, in Underline, users can customized design their exclusive space in a relative lower cost.



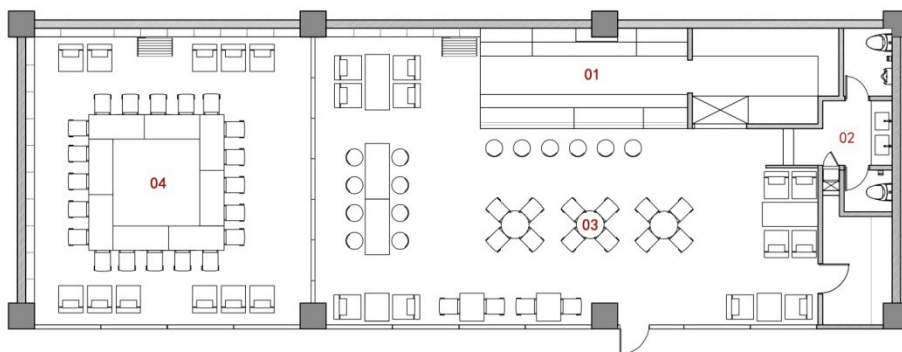
平面图 1 | PLAN 1

- 01 吧台 | BAR COUNTER
- 02 卫生间 | REST ROOM
- 03 就餐区 | DINING AREA



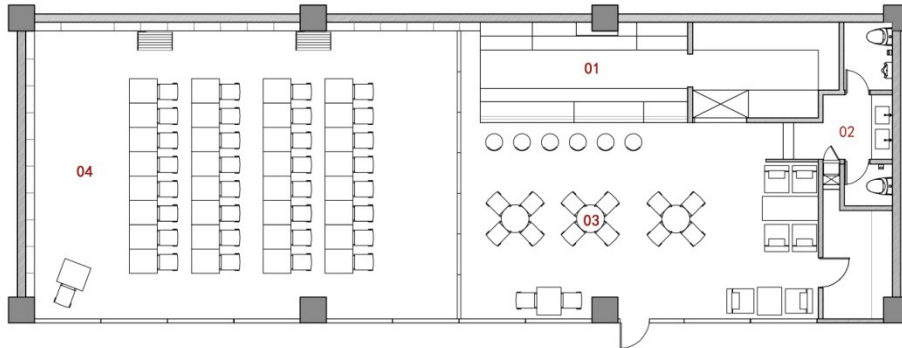
平面图 2 | PLAN 2

- 01 吧台 | BAR CUNTER
- 02 卫生间 | REST ROOM
- 03 就餐区 | DINING AREA
- 04 会议室 | MEETING ROOM



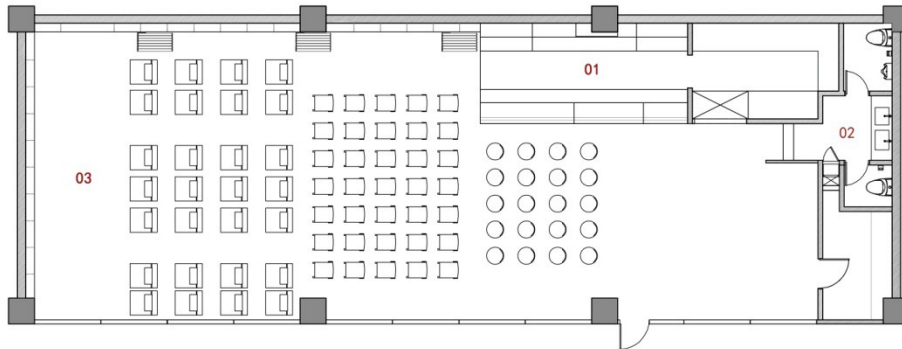
平面图 3 | PLAN 3

- 01 吧台 | BAR CUNTER
- 02 卫生间 | REST ROOM
- 03 就餐区 | DINING AREA
- 04 会议室 | MEETING ROOM



平面图 4 | PLAN 4

- 01 吧台 | BAR CUNTER
- 02 卫生间 | REST ROOM
- 03 就餐区 | DINING AREA
- 04 教室 | CLASS ROOM



平面图 5 | PLAN 5

- 01 吧台 | BAR CUNTER
- 02 卫生间 | REST ROOM
- 03 演讲厅 | LECTURE ROOM

Project Name: Underline
Interior Design: LYCS Architecture

Location: Hangzhou, China

Design Team: RUAN Hao, HE Yulou, JIN Cheng, FU Li

Project Date: 2014 (Design) 2015 (Construction+Completion)

Size: 240sqm

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About LYCS Architecture

LYCS Architecture, is an international practice based in Hangzhou and Hong Kong. As one of the most well-know new architecture and interior design office in China, the firm engages in cutting-edge architectural design as a pioneer of cultural and creative industries in China and internationally. The firm is committed to both the ever-evolving demands of architectural and urban design theory and practice as a function of our society. We are invested in the critical issues of building design, urban development, and construction in China, and the design demands that an innovative design synthesis requires for international quality.

LYCS Architecture's design works has been acknowledged by media and press worldwide, including New York Times, TIME, Forbes, China CCTV, China Daily etc. LYCS's has received numerous design awards internationally, including "2015 A+Awards 'Jury Winner' and 'Popular Choice Winner'", "2015 INNOVATORS 50", "Forbes China 30-Under-30", "50 under 50, 21st Century Innovators", "Architectural Society of China – Young Designers Prize", "2014 A+Award 'Jury Winner'", "2013 Chinese Architectural Art 'Young Designers Prize', the Azure Magazine's 2011 AZ "People's Choice" Award, 2010 French CA'ASI "New Chinese Architectural Design Award", to name a few. LYCS's work was exhibited in world-class exhibitions such as 2015 & 2014 Milan Design Week, 2014 Beijing Design Week, 2013 Design Shanghai Exhibition, and the 11th,12th,14th la Biennale di Venezia in Venice, Italy.

This 40-people firm is currently developing designs that range from offices to residential, retail to cultural, and civic to masterplanning. These projects are located throughout China and America, including Beijing, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Sanya, and others. The team has breadth and depth working with such architectural firms as SHoP, Preston Scott Cohen, and Reiser+Umemoto in the United States, Bjarke Ingels Group in Denmark and Kengo Kuma & Associates in Japan, where they accumulated a wealth of practical experience.

About RUAN Hao, Principal

Principal of LYCS Architecture, leading young Chinese Designer, Associate professor of China Academy of Art School. Ruan Hao received his Master of Architecture Degree from Princeton University School of Architecture. He also holds M.Arch and B.Arch degree of architecture from Tsinghua University in Beijing and was the youngest Visiting Fellow at Harvard University Graduate School of Design, where he later taught design studio as a Teaching Fellow with Wang Shu. Currently Ruan Hao teaches at China Academy of Art School of Architecture.

Ruan Hao founded LYCS Architecture in 2010, and he is a representative of the 1980s' generation young Chinese architects. He is "2015 INNOVATORS 50" by CBNweekly, the first architect elected "Forbes China 30-Under-30", the youngest to be awarded "2014 China Architecture Association – Young Chinese Architect Award", "50 Under 50: Innovators of the 21st Century" and he was honored as "2013 China Top 10 Interior Designers", the youngest "Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leaders" and "Goldman Sachs Global Leaders".

His representative works includes Tiantai Primary School which raised strong attention among global media such New York Times and China Central Television, Taiyuan Museum of Art, and the TIME reported worldwide popular furniture design CATable 1.0、CATable 2.0. His works

has received numerous design awards worldwide including “2015 A+Awards ‘Jury Winner’ and ‘Popular Choice Winner’”, “2014 A+Awards the ‘Jury Winner’”, PETA- Innovator for Animals, 2011 AZ Award Design Interior Award and 2010 Chinese New Architecture Award. His works has been exhibited internationally including Venice Biennale, Milan Design Week and Beijing Design Week.

Prior to founding LYCS Architecture in 2010, Ruan Hao had worked in Preston Scott Cohen Inc, SHoP Architects and Wang Shu’s Amateur Architecture. He was one of the authors of the book “Design for China” and was one of the curators of 2013 Design Shanghai Exhibition.

For more information and images

Please contact ZHOU Yu, Assistant of Communication via:

Tel: +86 571 8661 5392

Fax: +86 571 8661 5790

E-mail: zhouyu@lycs-arc.com

Website: lycs-arc.com

Twitter: https://twitter.com/LYCS_ARC

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/LYCS-Architecture/870984289606077?ref=bookmarks>

Hong Kong Address: Room D, 10/F, Tower A, Billion Centre, 1 Wang Kwong Road, Kowloon Bay, Hong Kong

Hangzhou Address: Jing Mao Tower, No.466 Yan An Road, Hangzhou, China | 310006