



From achromatic spaces to contrasting colourful signature pieces, GSpace by Egyptian interior and furniture designer Ramzi Makram Ebeid is a sophisticated and serene workspace for young professionals to get away from bustling city life.

Situated in the modern resort town of El Gouna, adjacent to the enchanting Red Sea, the co-working space is all about creating an ideal environment to work in. "No disrespect to Cairo, but the city can be so overwhelming sometimes," says Ramzi. "So to go to a place that has such awesome infrastructure mixed with a million facilities and a super laid-back vibe in itself is a catalyst to working efficiently." GSpace is a place to take advantage of this array of facilities while simultaneously constructing an all-inclusive place to work.

The relaxed and sleek space is charged with creative and eclectic design comprising working areas, speedy internet, meeting rooms, brainstorming rooms, presentation rooms, chill-out areas and exercise rooms. The idea, as Ramzi states, is that, "you can spend the whole day there and get a million things done with a smile on your face."

In regards to work ethics, Ramzi firmly believes that location is a major facet in the conception and progression of his projects. "One of the most important things I learned at UCLA was honoring the location of the space, and that can come in many forms," he says. Ramzi admires every aspect of a country, from the cities and the streets down to the actual architecture itself. He finds himself commemorating space through his use of colour, finishes and design styles.

"GSpace was actually an American University in Cairo satellite, and it was a beautiful building architecturally," he says. "However, its internal layout was not ideal for the production of GSpace. So I overhauled the floorplan while maintain the integrity of the building's stunning Islamic design and used materials that I found to be very Gouna-esque, such as poured mosaic flooring. I increased window sizes to introduce more of the abundant natural sunlight and also exposing the stunning landscaping around the building. Additionally, bright and happy colours were introduced and then I mixed that with my design aesthetic and current trends in design."

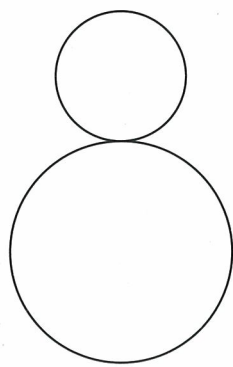
For Ramzi, a successful project is always determined by the client's happiness. Specifically with GSpace, the client, Orascom Hotels and Development, were so confident in Ramzi's work that

they let him do what he does best. "What's super great about GSpace is that I get to hear feedback from people renting spaces there all the time and it's a great learning experience." He believes that there's nothing better than getting feedback from people who are utilising the space he's designed.

With a country so rich in heritage and culture, it is no surprise that Ramzi gets most of his bright ideas from Cairo. "I literally find a million inspirations just from looking out of my window at home and I am always eager to see more and explore as much of Egypt as possible, whether it be though going on a walking tour in Cairo to a nature expedition in one of our many deserts," he says.

Outside of his country, Ramzi also explores the digital realm of media platforms such as Instagram. He suggests that, "I scroll down and see the world, and get exposed to new designers and latest projects constantly." He also makes it a point to travel to different countries and explore the lands through the lens of locals. "My last trip was to Lebanon – that country is an

inspiration. Lebanon and Egypt have a lot of similarities, but Lebanon takes design to the next level, it's part of their culture and I hope we gain that level of drive for it in Egypt." ■



when work MEETS PLAY

Ramzi Makram Ebeid sets standards for design with co-working area **GSpace** in Egypt, writes Farah Abu-Zaid



Above and this image: interior views of GSpace in Cairo designed by Ramzi Makram Ebeid