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## Post COVID - A New Era of Work Culture

BY - JACOB HUGHES

It was about this time three years ago when the whole world came to a sudden halt . . . Not sure if you have heard, but news about a mysterious new illness called COVID-19 started popping up here and there in early 2020. And the next thing we know, countries sealed borders, concerts canceled, schools closed and employees went home. Many of us thought that was the end of the world!!

Fast forward three years later, we are still here going about our daily lives. Although, one thing seems to have changed indefinitely. That is the way we work. Arguably, COVID-19 is the reason for rapid advancements in remote work. Because we have been challenged to change our perspectives of working out of brick-and-mortar offices, and find ways to work around a world-wide shutdown, we seem to have discovered ways of not having to work from one location.

This spring, I felt that I was able to benefit from working remotely. As a Japanese immigrant myself, I like to go back to my home country every so often to visit family and walk around the city streets as I nostalgically trace back my memories. If I were to take such a vacation pre-pandemic, I would have to use up all of my vacation hours and still owe some time to my employer. However, thanks to my bosses here at SLA Land Architects being open to me working remotely, I was able to take off for two weeks.



Mid-March to April is a mild season in Japan when cherry blossom trees bloom and fills the city streets with beautiful pink flowers. Each day, I would go out to the city with my laptop, find a nice place to sit with some coffee, work for couple of hours and go walk around the city some more. Such a change in scenery was so refreshing and it gave me a new perspective in which different ways we could work.

Not that I am trying to suggest a complete change in which we work traditionally, but I can see a lot of benefits in having a healthy balance between working in the office and working remotely. If there are any lessons we learned from experiencing the pandemic, it's that we can use the technologies to our advantage and work from the other side of the world! I believe that it is up to us as a society to embrace such lessons and improve our life quality.

### FAVORITE FLORA



**BAILEYA MULTIRADIATA**  
DESERT MARIGOLD

Desert Marigold is a sun-loving wildflower native to Southern Nevada. This native perennial forms an impressive mound of brilliant yellow flowers from early spring to late fall. The flowers develop on the end of nearly leafless flower stalks above foliage of silvery green, woolly, deeply lobed leaves. The flowers bloom sporadically from early spring to late fall. One plant can have 20 to 50 flowers most of the year attracting bees and butterflies. Desert Marigold is somewhat short lived but readily re-seeds itself in the right conditions. It prefers full sun and thrives in poor dry, well drained soils and extreme heat. Once established, plants grow well with very little and infrequent summer water. It grows up to 18 inches tall and 24-30 inches wide. It works great along walkways in flower beds or as borders, in rock gardens, containers, or naturalized areas. Desert Marigold is a welcome addition to your dry sunny garden.

