

LifePlace®

The forest makes the trees.



For millennia, humankind created and received meaning around the campfire, telling stories of the hunt, the war, the cycles of time, religion, culture...



All of life was a lifeplace.



From hunter-gathers we became agrarian and the family worked together (a very few still do).

Where we worked and lived was still a lifeplace.



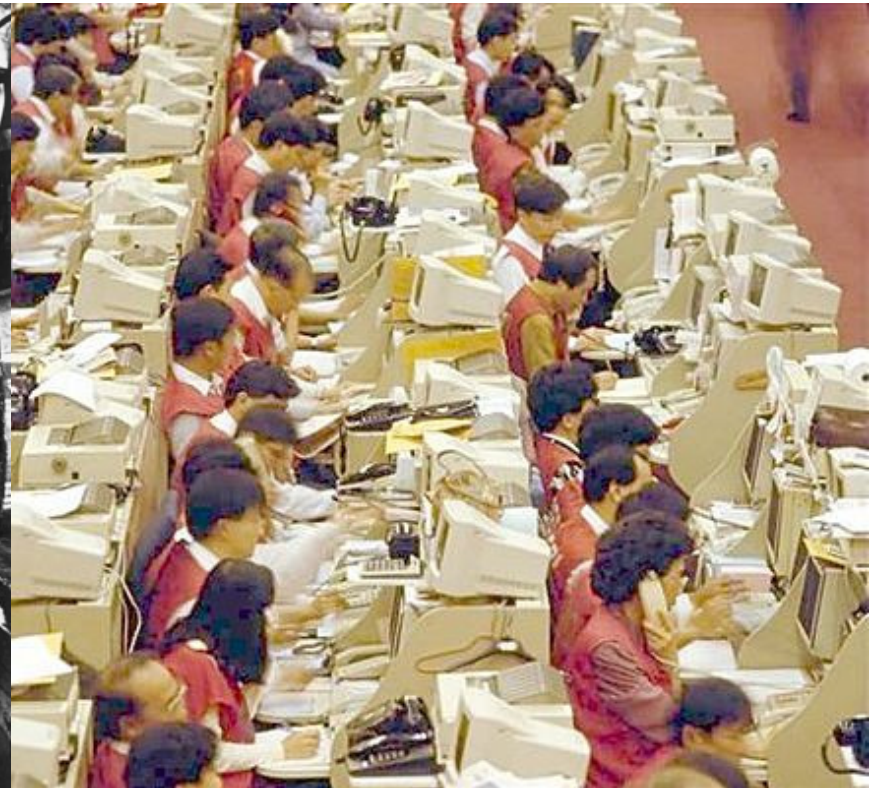
Some began to make a living in specialized occupations, but still the family was a part of that environment. Slowly, however, additional institutions were needed to provide for some of the meaning that was lost from the single lifeplace. Guilds, clubs, more formalized religion, etc. became lifeplaces. Still,

Where we worked and lived were still lifeplaces.





And then
came the
Industrial
Revolution.
Lifepace
imploded.





“Deprived of meaningful work, men and women lose their reason for existence; they go stark, raving mad.”

Fyodor Dostoevsky



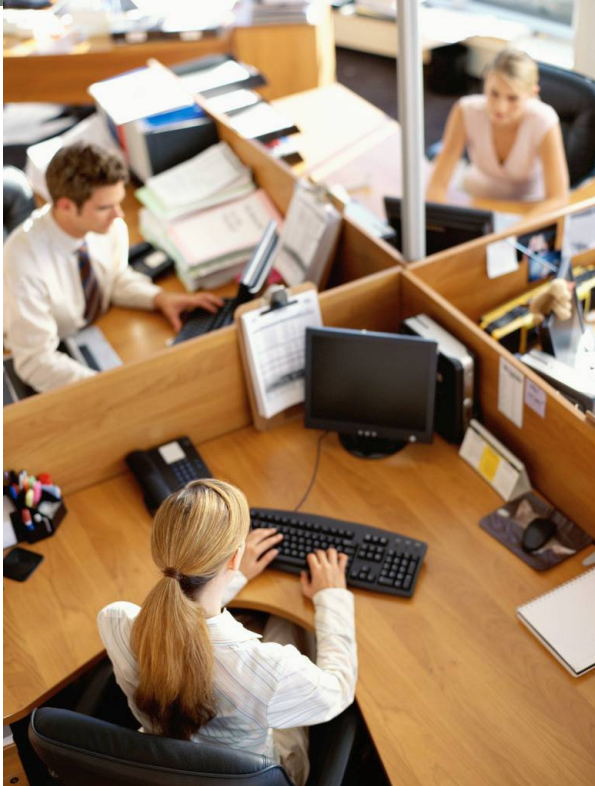


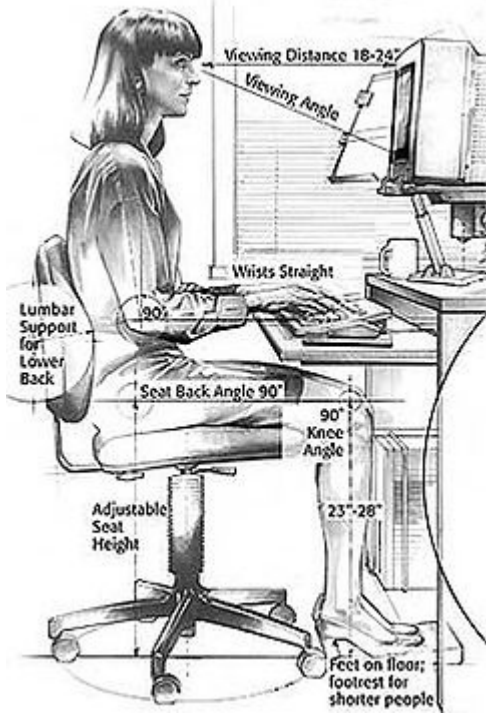
Humankind reacted with unions, professional associations, personalized space. But lifelace was not to be found.





Service industries multiplied, high tech tools became the norm, data and environment seemed to haringer the new era of the knowledge worker. But where was LifePlace?





Safety, ergonomics and perks improved. But Workplace remained illusive.

WORKPLACE EQUIPMENT



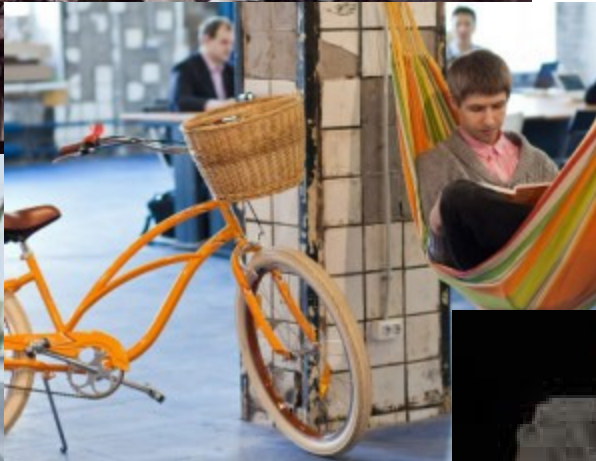


Commuters with the family, mobile work, work from home, innovative studies, and along the way, “place” became a forgotten concept, leaving life and work empty.





Far from finding freedom from the suffocating brick and mortar workplace, the virtual tether became a more brutal taskmaster. So we worked harder trying to fix the symptoms while leaving the sickness to continue to wreak havoc on our lives.



Meanwhile, where we worked continued to be less connected to place. It felt like we had broken the shackles of the Industrial revolution, so why are we still looking for meaning and not finding it?

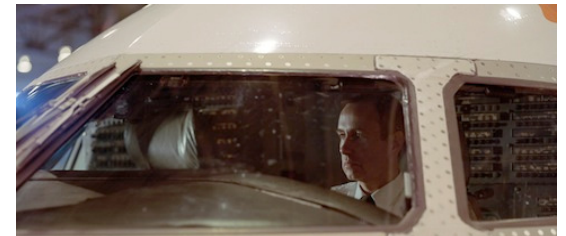
Because the Forest Makes the Trees,



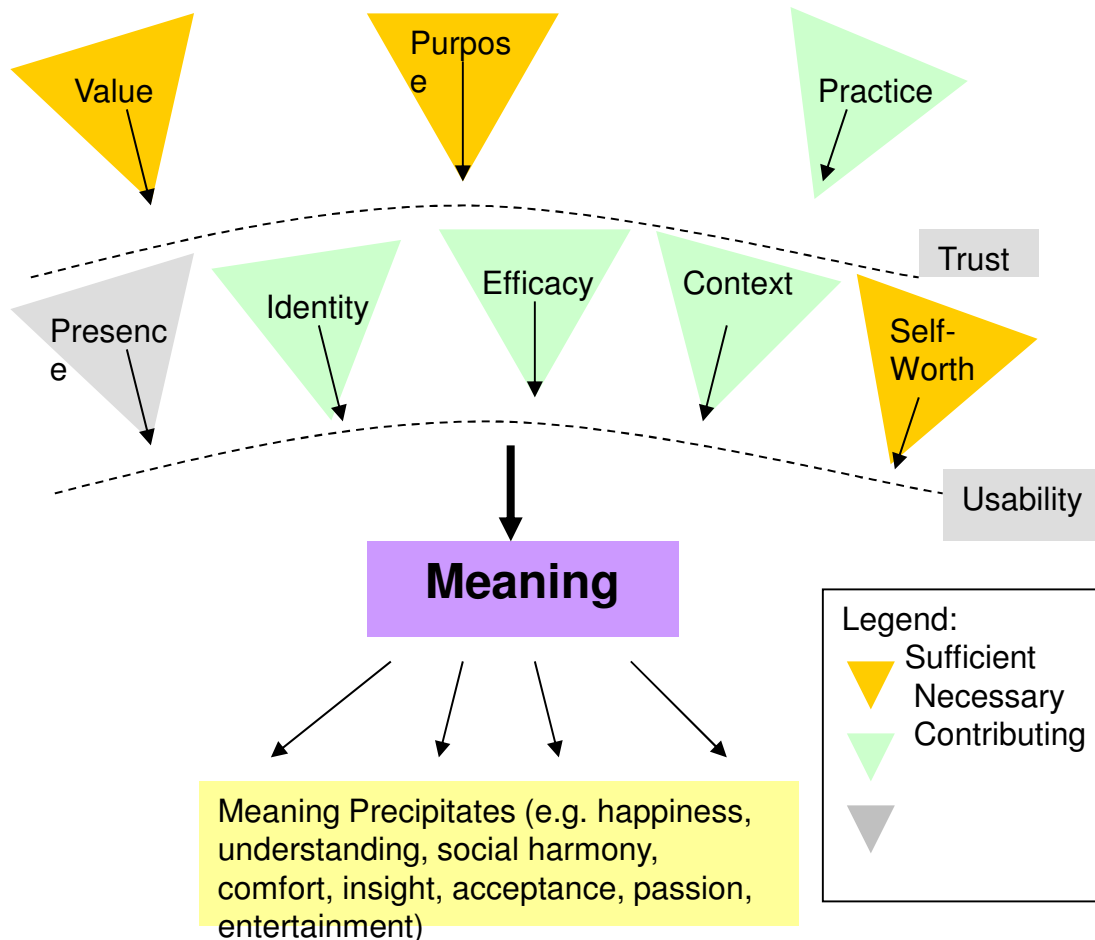
We at Su-Bon have dedicated our professional focus to defining LifePlace and making it central to our market solutions.

Defining LifePlace

Lifespaces are where people go, or must go, to make meaning. That includes what we now call the workplace. In workplaces our 100 percent presence does not need to show up and in some cases is not even allowed through the door. Yet this is a continuum of our life and throughout time leadership at the workplace has allowed more and more of that 100 percent presence through the door. **The Lifespace paradigm states that we don't go through environments (places--presence), but that the environment goes through us.** By changing from a workplace paradigm to a lifespace paradigm we free ourselves from trying to manufacture what could be nearly automatic and more custom-made to the individual. Meaning dispenses precipitates that exactly meet the individual employee's needs and desires. It is not a one size fits all of the "happy" workplace. Sometimes we need understanding, or space for rich internal contemplation. LifePlace provides that automatically.



Meaning



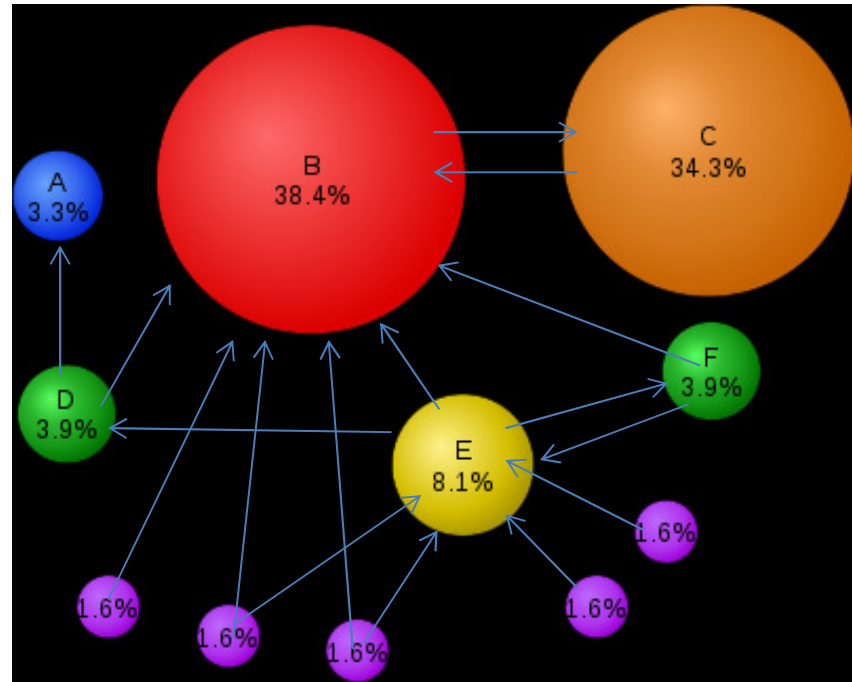
Merriam-Webster (2013) defines meaning as “Significant quality; *especially*: implication of a hidden or special significance” **From the perspective of LifePlace, meaning is built on eight necessary or sufficient components: purpose, value, self-worth, efficacy, identity, presence, context, and practice** (Mitchell, 2010, pp. 155-162). The precipitates of meaning include happiness, understanding, patience, perseverance, etc.

Meaning Marketplace

We offer a new concept of a marketplace that exists to exchange meaning. The Meaning Marketplace operates heretofore unseen. Only some of its precipitates rise to our view (but not always our understanding). New York's Wall Street, London's Square Mile and Canary Wharf, Tokyo's Nihombashi, and Shanghai's Pudong, with all their high tech tools and brilliant minds at best provide lagging indicators of reality. Today's media upheaval, for example, began in the meaning marketplace years ago. **The Meaning Marketplace 1) facilitates the exchange of meaning making goods, services, and information; 2) enables distribution of meaning making goods, services, and information; 3) allocates meaning making resources; and 4) evaluates and sets prices for meaning making goods, services, and information.**

How the Meaning Marketplace Works

Imagine everyone has a bag of jelly beans
We will call each bean *Spark* which is made up of choice and accountability (the currency of this marketplace). Every ten minutes, we hand out all our jelly beans to the rest of us, distributed as best we can. Meanwhile, our bag refills with jelly beans from everyone else. (It's OK if you eat one or two jelly beans, just not so many that this choice robs our accountability). We'll end up with lots of jelly beans if we provide meaning: lots of people hand you jelly beans; if they have high meaning, they'll have a lot of jelly beans to hand off; and if everyone uses discretion to keep these exchanges authentic and meaningful, you'll get a good portion of the jelly beans they pass out.



So the marketplace might look something like the diagram above. This is a mathematical model, however, and Spark has a way of multiplying in ways that defy traditional math. $1+1$ can equal 11 in some cases.

Applying LifePlace

Innovation drives economic growth. From the first tool built to furrow soil to plant crops to the creation of the silicon microchip, innovation breaks natural boundaries, stimulating new growth. **Perhaps the key innovation has come in the progressive understanding of the workplace by enlightened leadership. This enlightenment has more often than not come in the bust phase of boom and bust cycles and is most pronounced in the trough where the financial opportunity is at its highest.** These innovations may impact enterprise capabilities that result in increases of meaning making. At other times, the increased need for meaning making or increased activity in the meaning marketplace may be the stimulus for new innovation in the workplace environment. Innovation also creates change. Change creates social displacement. As social displacement exceeds the capacity of innovation to increase wealth, friction overcomes growth momentum, increasing the need for meaning making, stimulating new activity in the Meaning Marketplace.

We design and deliver furnishings with **purpose, value, self-worth, efficacy, identity, presence, context, and practice** in mind. We are mindful of “place” and its facilitating role in exchanging *Spark*. We provide options of interaction and solitude and strive to stimulate unique meaning and health to each unique place.

Progression to LifePlace

Some companies lauded as progressive for pursuing happiness are actually chasing an end by the wrong means. Happiness is only one of numerous potential outcomes of nurturing meaning. It is through meaning, not its precipitates that highest productivity in the workplace can be achieved. **Only through mindfulness** (a state of active, open attention on the present. When you're mindful, you observe your thoughts and feelings from a distance, without judging them good or bad. Instead of letting your life pass you by, mindfulness means living in the moment and awakening to experience), **and an understanding of the meaning marketplace will companies achieve LifePlace and the highest levels of long-term productivity and success.**

Future

We foresee a way to achieve measurable levels of LifePlace, with stamps of approval, multiple solutions and alignment to achieve certification levels. We will do this through design, place content, media, and processes and events that becomes a self-sustaining community of interest.

Our specific job is to ensure people seek out our client's destination because it is a lifeplace and leave better people for having been there.