

# INTERIOR DESIGN®

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ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



33,000 SF  
\$2.5 MILLION BUDGET  
12-MONTH BUILD

QBE INSURANCE GROUP  
BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

## Figamma Arquitectura y Diseño Interior

Design matters. It can improve a workplace more significantly and holistically than any update to a corporate manual. Not renovated for over a decade, the three-level office of QBE insurance consultants, in Bogotá, Colombia, had become outdated—ergonomically and culturally. The best way to improve processes, the new CEO decided, was to initiate a total revamp, and he called on Figamma Arquitectura y Diseño Interior to do so. As the renovation had to be done with

employees working on-site, Figamma divided the project into two stages per floor, moving temporary desks around as needed.

Pragmatically, the starting point was to replace the old layout with one that's open-plan. Now, bench desking for associates and freestanding cubicles for managers help foster communication and collaboration among them. Figamma also drew on the Citizen Office concept conceived for Vitra in 1991 by Ettore Sottsass, Andrea Branzi, and Michele de



**Clockwise from left:** In reception, a crisp white-lacquered desk and carpet colored in a maritime theme introduce the revamped corporate image; a self-service snack bar is visible in the background. Bottle-shape glass pendant fixtures appoint the customer-service area. An oversize schematic map in perforated vinyl depicts the countries in which QBE operates. ➔

Lucchi, in which the workspace is approached as a place for both working and living. As a result, QBE now encompasses plenty such zones, from TV lounges to a gym.

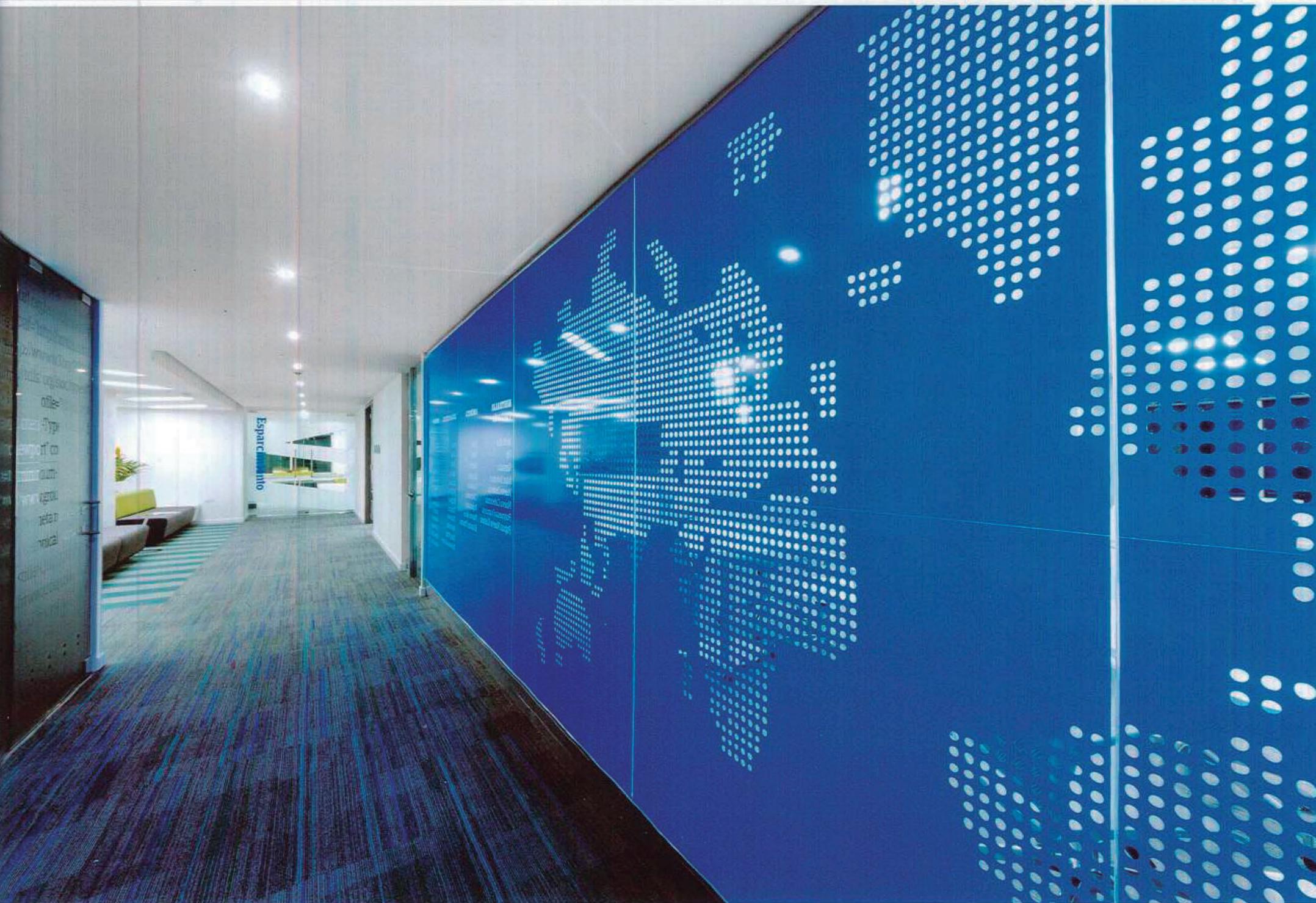
Aesthetically, "We dug deep into the roots of the brand, and found that in 1886, when the company was founded, it was the first to insure ships across continents," says Figamma design principal Lina María González. Thus her team mined an oceanic theme through a color palette dominated by blues.

**DESIGN PRINCIPALS** LINA MARÍA GONZÁLEZ; FERNANDO GONZÁLEZ

**PROJECT TEAM** LUZ PIEDAD SANTA; NATALIA REYES; LAURA ARIAS; MAURICIO WILLS; NATALIA GONZÁLEZ; NELSON FALLA

**PHOTOGRAPHY** RAUL TOBÓN

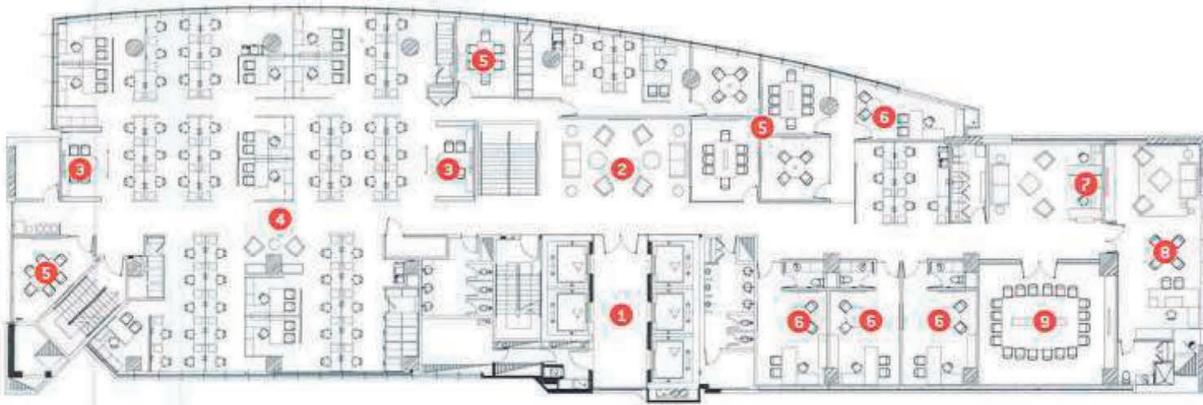
[www.figamma.com](http://www.figamma.com)





***Clockwise from top left:** A waiting area is outfitted with bright Jeffrey Bernett armchairs. The same chairs in the CEO's office, alongside an off-kilter Pagnon & Pélhaître coffee table. The clock wall keeps track of the local time at QBE offices worldwide. Built-in seating lines the route to the cafeteria. Café tables and triangular ottomans furnish a lounge, which also boasts a Ping-Pong table.*





- 1 ELEVATOR BANK
- 2 WAITING AREA
- 3 COLLABORATION NOOK
- 4 WORKSTATIONS
- 5 MEETING ROOM
- 6 VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
- 7 EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS' AREA
- 8 CEO'S OFFICE
- 9 CONFERENCE ROOM

