

Making Oxygen At Work Safer To Breathe

There's been too much beehive activities around cutting down on CO₂ emissions globally and too much bark calling for cleaner air in cities around the world with almost no bite by way of impactful resolutions. However, in Zurich, a startup, Oxygen at Work, is taking more concrete steps than most governments, to create safer air at work places. SEM reached out to its team and was granted a firsthand deep insight into their rescue mission.

A conversation with **Manuel Winter**, Co-Founder & CEO Oxygen At Work

What drummed up the need to create 'Oxygen at work'?

Oxygen At Work: The decisive factor was our own experience: Joel and Manuel worked in open-plan offices and wanted to improve the atmosphere at work by bringing nature back into everyday life. With our special plant concepts, which help reduce pollutants from the air such as carbon dioxide, we ensure more green and good air in everyday working life. We see pure indoor air as a privilege that should be accessible to all.

While some still hold skepticism for artificial intelligence, why did you think combining AI and nature was the best way forward for 'Oxygen at work'?

Oxygen At Work: We believe that we have to leverage what nature gave us. That's why we rely on nature in combination with artificial intelligence. AI helps us to choose the most efficient plants from over 100 species for each individual office space to optimize the air quality. Studies show that with the right plants and good air quality sick-leave absences can be reduced by up to 60%. Together as a team, you've amplified the benefits of cooperative efforts.

How did the team connect in the first place?

Oxygen At Work: We are very complimentary and work very well together. Rita is a professional garden, park and indoor designer and has over 40 years of experience in that area. Joel is a former biology student with a lot of entrepreneurial experience. Manuel is a HSG-Alumni in international management



Manuel, Rita and Joel

and marketing with a corporate innovation background. Joel connected us as a team since Rita and Joel are family friends for a long time already and Manuel and Joel went to kindergarden and did multiple projects together.

'2 for 1' and 'Net Positive Effect', say a lot about your plans. Could you simplify them?

Oxygen At Work: In addition to the fact that our plant concepts have a positive impact on companies, but also on individual employees, we want to do more to protect the environment. That is why we have launched the following two projects: 2 for 1: It's a social project in India. For every plant our customers have, we plant two trees a year in endangered rainforest areas. Net positive effect: Every year we