The productivity of a society is highly dependent on the opportunities afforded by its places of work. The Ipekyol Textile Factory in Edirne, Turkey, and the Rubber Smokehouse in Kedah, Malaysia, are two very different examples of this type of building. The first is a large new construction, the second a small restoration project. The environments and conditions of such places directly affect the well-being of the workers and the quality of their work. These examples reveal the importance of design even when applied to buildings that have historically been considered merely functional and practical.