

# The office returns, scandal of lost children and building with AI

For those whose jobs allow and homes are spacious, the working from home revolution was seen as a real benefit that came out of the pandemic and a cultural change that workers want to continue. But is the tide now turning back in favour of the office? We head to the City of London, still eerily empty on a typical Friday, to find out how employers and employees view the move to get more of us back in the office more of the time, look at attitudes in the US tech sector and find out how countries around the world regulate hybrid working patterns.

**The big story** *Page 10* →

**One woman's quest to find her birth family and trace how she was taken from a children's home in Bangladesh to new parents in the Netherlands** raises disquieting questions about western adoption practices. Bibi Hasenaar's story exposes a scandal of "lost children", many of whom would never see their mothers again when families sought help via a Dutch NGO that was working in a country ravaged by a bitter fight for independence. **"My mother spent her life trying to find me"** *Page 34* →

**Architecture's attempts to get to grips with AI** has produced wildly fantastical but possibly unbuildable designs, some of which illustrate Oliver Wainwright's lead feature in the Culture section this week. He meets architects playing with AI possibilities and some who are fearful their profession is under threat.

Our second Culture feature is determinedly future-proofed as Michael Hann goes on the road with bands who, despite having few if any original members, still play to fans eager to hear old tracks played live.

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### On the cover

Despite many firms cajoling or ordering their workers back to the office, few business districts are back to their pre-pandemic economy. The sight of commuters filing through city streets may fill some with a sense of nostalgia or make others feel a great employee gain is being eroded without thought to the benefits it has brought.

*Photograph: Ezra Bailey/Getty*



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