

The Business of Furniture | August 30, 2017

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The Business of Furniture

August 30, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

8 UPFRONT: **MyResourceLibrary** **Releases Latest Version;** **Continues to Gain** **Momentum**

The new version is a massive reboot of the online catalog that has gained serious traction in the industry in recent years.

10 ErgoExpo 2017
The conference and expo, held last week in Las Vegas at the Paris Hotel and Convention Center, was sparsely attended despite a larger venue.

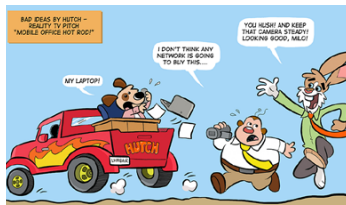
16 Kickoff of the **CBRE Washington** **D.C. Furniture Forum** **Uncovers Consistent** **Challenges**

Participation on this panel was extended to key individuals recommended by industry peers as well-respected, knowledgeable in the furniture process and most importantly: open-minded.

< CBRE Washington, DC
Furniture Forum

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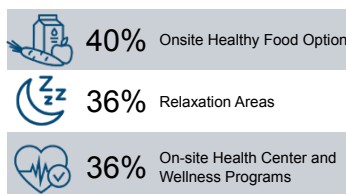


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Chicago Market

Chicago office professionals most want healthy food options & relaxation areas.



*Respondents chose their top 2 responses

34 | Capital One Work Environment Survey Finds Professionals Want Choices to Inspire Creativity

The Capital One survey asked 2,500 full-time office professionals to share their preferences and priorities when it comes to workplace design, environment and benefits.



44 | MyResourceLibrary Releases Latest Version; Continues to Gain Momentum

From its humble beginnings, MRL has grown to 250 manufacturers it is working with under contract, and it is tracking an additional 3,000 manufacturers.



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BoF **Workplaces** 

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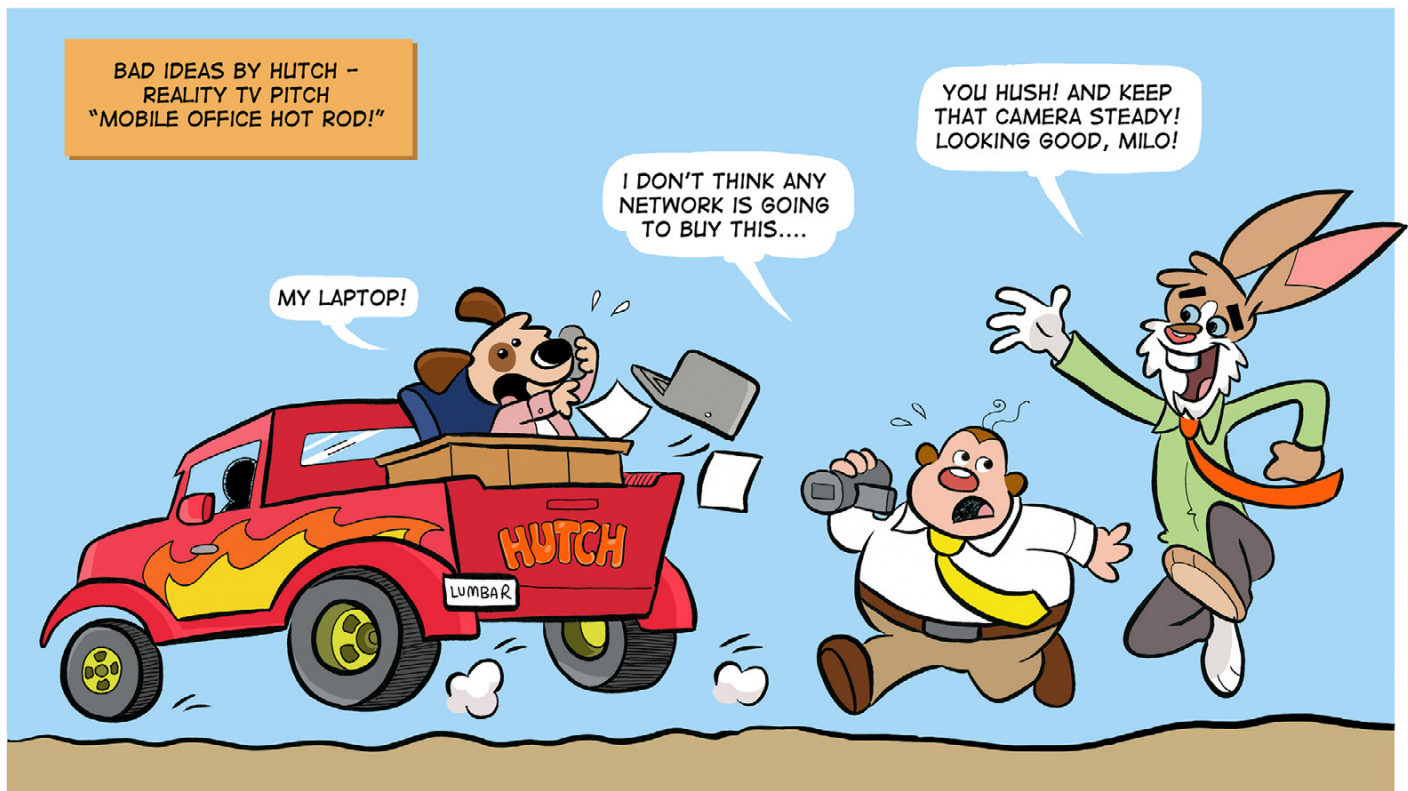
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Business of Furniture and *Workplaces* magazine are the go-to sources for keeping you informed about everything that is happening in the industry. From trends that affect your bottom line, to new products that will help your customers work better, to stories that will help you run a better, more informed company.

ROB KIRKBRIDE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

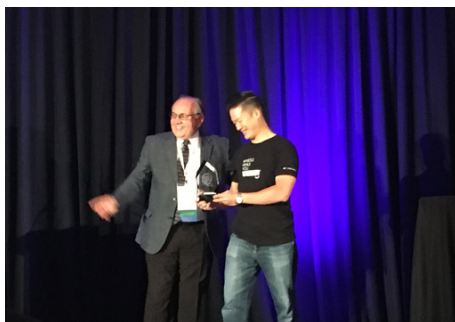




ErgoExpo 2017

THE CONFERENCE AND EXPO, HELD LAST WEEK IN LAS VEGAS AT THE PARIS HOTEL AND CONVENTION CENTER, WAS SPARSELY ATTENDED DESPITE A LARGER VENUE.

STORY & PHOTOS BY TODD HARDY



Attending the National Ergonomics Conference and ErgoExpo twice in less than a year can be a pain in the neck. The conference and expo, held last week in Las Vegas at the Paris Hotel and Convention Center, was sparsely attended despite a larger venue.

Some blamed smaller crowds on the date change — the conference and expo were held in November last year and this year's August date conflicted with the start of school for many. Some exhibitors at the expo took larger spaces, but some were no-shows or substantially pared down their booths.

The conference lacked as well since some of the same presenters (with the exact same PowerPoint deck) were featured this year.

The conference and expo has grown rapidly over the last few

years, requiring a move to the larger venue, Caesar's Palace, to the Paris.

The change in location provided an additional 25 percent square feet of expo floor space to allow for more exhibitors, but the conference saw only a 5 percent increase in the number of exhibitors. OM seating, Mayline-Safco, SiS Ergo and several others did increase their booth size. However, some decreased in size, most notably Humanscale. Its booth appeared to be a quarter the size of last year's. Also, some companies from last year with larger booths did not make an appearance, most notably Microsoft with its ergonomic keyboards and mice.

All of these changes resulted in very wide aisles and a lot of extra room in the back of the hall for tables — nice for networking and enjoying lunch, but a negative for

those looking for new ergonomic products.

It appeared as if there were less attendees at this year's conference and expo compared to last year, though it is unclear whether it just seemed that way due to the larger hall.

Without exception, every exhibitor experienced noticeably less traffic in their booths. At the end of the expo, one exhibitor said they did more than 250 badge scans last year, but fewer than 100 this year.

The expo was only open from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday for an opening night reception, which for the first time did not include long lines for a drink.

The first full day of the ErgoExpo felt the same as Neo-Con's last day. Regardless of the time or which day, with very few exceptions, each booth had more company representatives than



visitors. Many times the workers were experiencing firsthand the comfort of their ergonomic task chairs waiting for someone to come in.

Though they were disappointed in volume, most were happy with the quality of the attendees.

Many said the change from November to August caused a hardship, noting it was hard to get away so early in the school year. For many, last week was either the first or second week of school for their children, which meant missing early events.

Many attend the conference to receive continuing education credits. Since it had been less than a year from the last conference, for many it was harder to get time away for credits. Some of their colleagues could not attend since it was less than a year from last year's conference. Hopefully, next year these issues will be minimized since a full year will have passed between conferences.

This year's expo saw the usual high concentration of ergonomic task chairs, height-adjustable

desks, adjustable monitor arms and desktop risers. An increase was seen in the number of foreign companies that produce adjustable table bases and components, and not just from China. A Poland manufacturer, Ergomaster, also exhibited.

One of the highlights of the expo is the Attendee Choice Awards that are announced before Wednesday morning's keynote. Ergostrad's stool was one of the winners. It was first designed to improve ergonomics for a tattoo artist and was refined for others who need chest support when working, such as dental hygienists. To demonstrate the chair, Ergostrad had a tattoo artist applying tattoos at the expo.

Another winner, for the second consecutive year, was OM. The company's Werksy Chair collection designed by Henner Jahns of Gecco Vision took home an award. The collection includes a stackable guest chair, a hoteling five-star base chair and a rocker that includes height adjustment and a return to center swivel. The shell of the chair has a unique

cutout on each side that allows the user to sit in the seat sideways and use the seat back as an armrest. The back of the chair also has a wide surface that can be used as a perch. It is ideal for third spaces and collaboration. The Werksy promotes movement, particularly the rocker. One important aspect of ergonomics is to keep moving to promote blood flow through the body, including to the brain. This increased blood flow helps with alertness, which is ideal when collaborating. Last year OM received an award for the Truly task chair.

Another standout from the expo was Workrite's Pinnacle Sit2Stand keyboard tray. First introduced at NeoCon, this keyboard tray has 24 inches of travel. It can go from eight inches below the worksurface to 16 inches above the work surface. What makes this unique is how little it extends out from the worksurface. It also features a tilt adjustment allowing the keyboard tray to move from -15 degrees to 10 degrees.







OM's Werksy Chair

Another product that caught our eye at NeoCon was the HOVR foot swing (reviewed earlier this year in *Workplaces* magazine). A small but significant change was made to the product with the addition of a third center spot to place your foot when standing.

Ergonomists, manufacturers of ergonomic products, and those interested in ergonomics flock to Las Vegas not only for ErgoExpo, but also for the National Ergonomics Conference that includes keynote speakers, workshops and breakout sessions. There are five tracks with nine breakout

sessions each and 10 workshops. The sessions are categorized as basic, intermediate or advanced. Of the 55 classes, only one was advanced.

On the final day in the Key Conference Takeaways and Future Opportunities wrap-up, Dr. Alan Hedge, the conference program chairman, acknowledged a need for more advanced sessions and called for the ergonomists present to submit proposals that were advanced.

A few of the office ergonomics track breakout sessions were the same as last year. Not only were

the same topics covered, but some sessions had the same presenter with the same PowerPoint as last year.

The change in venue necessitated a move of the conference from November to August. Only nine months elapsed between conferences, creating a hardship in securing presenters. Although repetition of breakouts was not specifically mentioned in the takeaway session, Hedge not only called for advanced topics, but also for new presenters. **BoF**

