

The Business of Furniture | September 29, 2021

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The Business of Furniture

September 29, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

08 **KIRKBRIDE** Issues with Raw Materials, Components, Logistics, Staffing are Strangling the Industry

<24 Organizers Going 'All Out' for NeoCon Next Week

Walking the showroom floors a few weeks prior to the show, it almost felt like a typical year for NeoCon preparation at theMART.

44 New Design Center Opens in Chicago to Assist Specifiers with a Holistic Approach

54 Bill Wittland: Ideas for the New Steelcase CEO

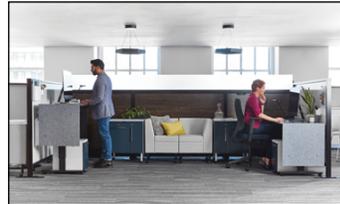
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47 | Steelcase Rides Out Tough Quarter, Sees Promise in Incoming Orders

“The extraordinary inflation in steel, logistics and many other commodities impacted our gross margins more significantly than we expected in the second quarter.”



50 | Herman Miller Exclusive Manufacturer of the National Museum of Norway's Competition Chair Design Winner 'Portrait'

The origins of the Portrait Chair began four years ago, as part of an open competition sponsored by Statsbygg and co-organized with the National Museum of Norway.



68 | ThinkLab Trendspotters: Who You Need to Follow at NeoCon 2021

For those on site, our Trendspotters will aid in digesting what they've seen and identify as must-sees. For those not on site, we'll bring you the “hallway conversations” and help you discover the products you shouldn't miss.



70 | Davis Furniture's New North Carolina Headquarters a Turning Point for the Design-Focused Company

The modern building reflects Davis' modern furniture. That starts at the front of the building with its 12-foot high windows.



66 PLACES Covestro Headquarters – Leverkusen | Arriving at the atrium, both the atmosphere and the interior composition project innovation.



94 PULSE Nemo Tile + Stone Hires Frank Kimmerling / Scott Nichols Joins COE / KI Excited to be back at NeoCon / 3form and LightArt at NeoCon / HBF Celebrates Four Decades of Design Milestones / NARBUTAS now at NeoCon



99 FIRST LOOKS Shev Chair Introduces The Verona Series



The Business of Furniture

BoF Workplaces

MID POINT

BELLOW PRESS

Editor-in-Chief, Bellow Press Rob Kirkbride

Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Publisher, Bellow Press Melissa Skolnick

Vice President, Content Production, Bellow Press Todd Hardy

Staff Writer, Marketing Manager, Bellow Press Emily Clingman

Workplace Guru, BoF Stephen Viscusi

Training & Development Columnist, BoF Sid Meadows

Technology Columnist, BoF Justin Loeber

Contributing Writers, BoF:

Bruce Buursma, John Q. Horn, Stef Schwalb,

Jennie Morton, Michael Dunlap, Carolyn Cirillo, Kevin Budelmann

Illustrator, BoF Jamie Cosley

Copy Editor, BoF Linda Odette

Publishing Headquarters

382 NE 191st St, Suite 253

Miami, Florida 33179

877-BELLOW9 (877-235-5699)

Email: info@bellow.press

Include us on your PR distribution list.

Send To: news@bellow.press

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Business of Furniture, Midpoint magazine 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**

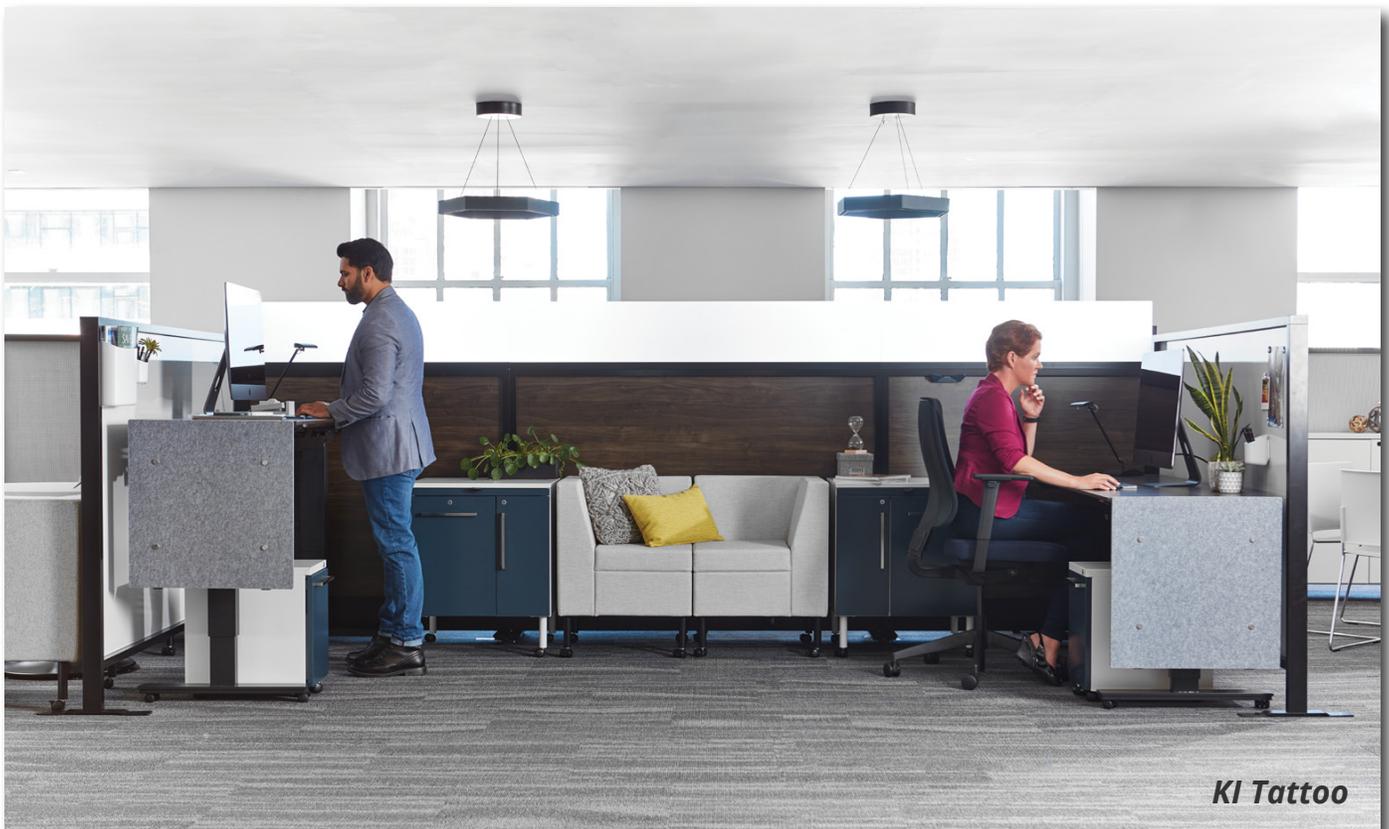


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Is the Office Pergola the New Cubicle? The Future of Work is at NeoCon 2021

➊ Next week the commercial interiors industry will convene to present and discuss the latest solutions and strategies for the workplace at NeoCon, North America’s most important gathering of commercial interior design experts. Leading into the show, industry leaders are putting the finishing touches on the new product innovations that will impact the offices and other shared spaces of the future. Whether it’s tents and pergolas designed for individual and collaborative work, products for a neurodiverse workforce, flooring that incorporates biophilic patterns, or dynamic furniture systems ideal for flexibility, manufacturers will showcase solutions that contribute to the inclusive, efficient and user-focused workplaces critical to the well-being and retention of today’s workforce.

“For more than 50 years, NeoCon has helped launch product solutions that meet, and even anticipate, needs and trends in the workplace and other shared spaces,” said Byron Morton, vice president of NeoCon. “NeoCon 2021 is no different — architects, designers and facility managers in attendance will get a first look at thousands of product launches from the best manufacturers in the industry.”



KI Tattoo

Here are some top workplace trends and products to be featured at NeoCon 2021, Oct. 4-6.

Accounting for mental health and neurodiversity

Employee expectations have changed, and workplaces need to not only be safe, socially distant and clean, but also comfortable and aesthetically pleasing. Andreu World’s Giro Soft by Alfredo

Häberli adds style and sophistication and provides an ideal perch for taking a break in between conference calls or long periods at a desk.

Not only does the noho move chair have a comfortable and supportive feel, it's also made with ECONYL regenerated nylon manufactured by Aquafil — allowing users to feel good about their design choice, too. Its ergonomic design eliminates pressure points and improves the body's circulation.



Flooring brands have innovated collections to stylishly ground any office space, literally and figuratively. Mohawk Group connects workers to the peaceful, natural world through its Data Tide collection, which was created using data sets from environmental studies of greenhouse gases to create biophilic patterns that weave a distinct narrative about the immense role bodies of water play in our world. Armstrong Flooring's Exchange invigorates and inspires employees with soft pastels and rich, saturated tones and a visual texture that adds depth and interest under foot.

Privacy for individual work and personal space

Privacy solutions are not only ideal for heads-down, focused work, they can also offer users a sense of security. With its light and airy organic shape, Steelcase's Work Tent — whether outfitted with a desk and chair or lounge seating — is a stylish and safe personal haven within an open floor plan.

Pedrali's functional and efficient Buddyhub seat, designed by Buseti Garuti Redaelli, offers employees an isolated alcove that encourages concentration and ensures acoustic and visual privacy.

When a quiet spot for meetings with remote workers is needed, Mute's Space S pod with video conference capability is a great option and features a state-of-the-art ventilation system to ensure proper air flow.

In open spaces, where multiple desks and workplace elements need to co-exist, 3Form's Varia desk partitions can establish physical separation for social distancing, and with the option to configure in a number of different ways, create a variety of more intimate areas for personal space and work.

Space utilization and mobility

Offering a myriad of options and areas for different kinds of work requires space utilization efficiency and mobility. Artome's M10 portable, plug-and-play smart solution for presenting, learning and videoconferencing, delivers movable and adaptable audiovisual technology whenever and wherever it is needed.



OM Seating Ginny Multi-Tasker

Space is maximized with KI's Tattoo collection, a modular system of screens, storage, seating and tables that fit spatially and aesthetically within the same footprint, no matter how they are arranged or rearranged. The stations can be adjusted easily to each user, which is ideal for "hot desking."

Lightweight, comfortable and carefully scaled, Keilhauer's carbon neutral Swurve chair can easily be moved and rearranged to create an area that respects physical distance while

encouraging collaboration. Likewise, OM Seating's Ginny Multi-Tasker is ideal for a wide range of work areas and work styles, performing optimally in small workspace alcoves and larger collaborative areas.

The outdoor advantage

The movement of the office outdoors is nothing new, but there is no doubt that the pandemic has accelerated and popularized the trend. Taking advantage of the external environment also allows for greater available use of real estate, such as utilizing the square footage between buildings on office campuses. Once thought of mainly for al fresco social gatherings, employees are increasingly seeking outdoor spaces as havens for focused, individual work and collaboration.



Division 12's durable metal and fully recyclable HDPE seating is engineered with outdoors in mind. Featuring all-weather powder coats and heavy-duty glides, it can take on the elements. Similarly, Allermuir's CROP collection is fully weatherproof and is available with removable seating pads for added comfort.

Everyone has a seat at the table with JANUS et Cie's Rally seating and table collection. It's ideal for outdoor environments and is ADA compliant.

Fermob's Abélio provides unobtrusive, stylish separation within an open plan, open air office. Its transparent plexiglass panel boasts an asymmetrical shape, symbolizing a tree that brings a decorative touch to any space.

"Collaboration between architecture, interior design and furniture design is the catalyst in the evolution of space," said Deirdre Jimenez, president/CEO of the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA). "Of the three, furniture is the most tangible to the occupant, so it has an immense power and impact on the overall environment and end use. Manufacturers understand this critical role, and you will see that firsthand in their showrooms and booths at NeoCon." **BoF**