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Archi - Living

Ufficio Stampa La Cividina
0432 1746101
pr@carterandbennett.com

ORGATEC 2022 Presents Design Trends and Innovations for Tomorrow's Workspaces

The ORGATEC trade fair takes place in Cologne, Germany, from 25 to 29 October 2022, bringing office design trends – in hybrid and flexible working as well as smart technologies and environmentally friendly materials for the workspaces. Find out more.

Our world of work has changed more rapidly over the last two years than at almost any other time before. **Working from home and videoconferencing, multilocal and virtual working in agile teams have placed new demands on work environments.** Workplaces need to become more flexible and at the same time more sustainable.

Key topics at the leading international trade fair for the modern working world, therefore, include the latest developments in hybrid and flexible working as well as smart technologies and environmentally friendly materials. To give you a view of what the trade event has in store, we take a look at the **current design trends and innovations in the office furnishings industry**.

Welcome Back: the Return to the Office

As the requirement to work from home comes to an end and staff return to the office, the industry faces new questions. What's attractive about an office when it's generally possible to work from anywhere? What kind of environment do hybrid working models need? Which tools facilitate virtual teamwork? Together with its exhibitors, ORGATEC 2022 reflects on office environments for today and the future. **Solutions that make the office more attractive for teamwork, the exchange of ideas, and social interaction are now in high demand.** Instead of rigid workstations, **spaces are being created that support new, creative ways of working**. But what do such workplaces look like?

Forever Flexible: Shaping Office Spaces with Interior Design

Today's offices are an ever-changing landscape of spaces, people, and relationships. In line with **the concept of colorful diversity** over uniform grey surroundings, **employees prefer unique and adaptable office environments.**

The key to agile teamwork in the face of changing requirements is flexibility. With this goal in mind, several companies that exhibit at ORGATEC 2022 offer a wide variety of modular solutions for dividing spaces into zones.

One example is **the Node+ system from La Cividina, designed by Ben van Berkel.** It comprises a series of upholstered parts, backrests, partition walls, and accessories.

With its **Connected Office collection, the Italian exhibitor Alias** is also addressing the question of connectivity and flexibility in the office with a systematic approach.

Among the highlights presented for the first time at the trade fair is the **Accanto 2.0 modular collection by Hund Möbelwerke** for the custom design of storage space in the workplace.

Furniture brands **Mobel Linea and Palmberg** also offer new modular collections for flexibly configuring office spaces with RB and Clamp.

Versatile All-Rounders: Multipurpose Furniture

Today, even individual pieces of office furniture are **increasingly multi-flexible and multifunctional**. A recent example is the **Fundamentals cabinet system from Lande**, which can be rearranged quickly and in many different ways.

The models in **the new Pontis Hypa range from ASSMANN Büromöbel** can be used as desks, seminar tables, or bistro tables. Thanks to their rechargeable batteries, the tables are electrically height-adjustable and their tabletops can be positioned vertically to serve as whiteboards.

Thanks to magnetic supports, **the Stay Agile whiteboards from Swiss manufacturer Adeco** are as flexible as their name suggests and can even be used as meeting tables.

The new, multifunctional Slide table system designed by the kaschkasch design studio for Renz is equally versatile – available in various heights, infinitely adjustable, and mobile thanks to castors.

Naturally Sustainable: Materials in the Cycle

Climate change remains one of the greatest challenges of our time and is playing an increasingly important role in new developments in the office industry. **Product cycles** based on the cradle-to-cradle principle make a decisive step toward **embedding sustainability**. Many office furniture manufacturers are committed to this concept and have been certified accordingly.

The new Nilo range of chairs from Kinnarps, for example, follows the idea of a circular economy. It comprises only a few components, which can be easily disassembled, replaced, separated, and recycled.

The A22 stackable barstool, designed by Swedish designer Anya Sebton for Lammhults, is based on a similar concept. To facilitate recycling, it is made entirely of steel and has no bolts or screws.

The yarn and felt backing used for **the new Shadowplay carpets by Ege Carpets** have also been recycled and can be reused.

Although still a vision of the future, **Palmberg** has designed a desk that is made entirely of locally sourced organic wood and feeds solar energy and the waste heat generated by equipment (back) into the electrical ecosystem in the workplace.

Green Working Environment: Taking Inspiration from Nature

Well-being is a key theme in today's office concepts, and studies show that **green plants** and other **natural features** can be **particularly beneficial**. **The trend toward biophilic design** is therefore set to continue.

Factors such as **natural light, vegetation, or naturalistic design** offer a contrast to technology and the hectic pace of urban life. **Plants can also significantly improve indoor air quality.** So why not integrate greenery directly into office design?

One way to achieve this is with **the modular systems designed by Verde Profilo**, an Italian company that offers solutions for greening large areas of work environments.

Individual items of furniture such as **the Jungla planter by Alea or the Hydroponic Garden by Kettal** also create greener offices by combining various shelf containers.

New color collections for the office, such as **Pigment from Alvic or Cinque Terre Colors & Natural from Fantoni**, which are inspired by colors from the natural world, also convey a sense of being close to nature.

Cozy Office Furniture: the New At-Home Feeling

For years, work has been already increasingly freeing itself from fixed locations. This trend has also blurred the boundaries between design for the office and the home. **While homes have become offices, offices are visibly transforming into home-like feel-good zones.**

For instance, **Sedus** is appearing at ORGATEC to present new launches for fostering a homelike ambiance under the banner of “**The Personal Touch**”.

Other furniture solutions such as **Lounge Vibes by Dauphin** create colorful landscapes that transform the office into a place to meet. Furniture ranges like **HomeLine from OKA** also combine office functions with homely design.

The latest seating furniture – such as **the Alex lounge chair from BOS Barcelona or the Pottolo chair from French label Alki** – also introduces a touch of cozy comfort into the office environment. With their elegant styling, these pieces are suitable for both work and home.

Fun and playful designs, such as **the brightly colored octopus-shaped Medusa stools from Dileoffice or the Pony chair-and-table combination from gumpo** also promise to liven up office work.

Even company bosses avoid hard edges these days. **Recent executive collections like Blade X from Alea** feature soft, dynamic lines and welcoming wood tones.

Office Design for the Home

Working from home has gained new momentum. As a long-term solution, it's an important issue – not only for companies but also in terms of product development.

Manufacturers such as **Alea, Humanscale, and Wiesner-Hager** have developed special furniture ranges for remote workers that meet ergonomic requirements as well as the need to fit into a home environment.

As an alternative to the kitchen table, **height-adjustable sit-stand solutions such as the Gravit iDesk from Kesseböhmer** introduce ergonomics and individuality to working from home. The tabletop can be personalized with bespoke motifs.

Models like **Poppe Swifel from Bla Station or Woom Light from Klöber** are functional items of office furniture and comfortable armchairs at the same time, making them suitable for sitting for extended periods in home offices.

Woom Light features a molded non-woven seat shell made from recycled PET bottles and an integrated reading light that creates an extra-cozy ambiance.

The Souly office chair from Nowy Styl, designed by Oscar Buffon, is another sustainable seating solution, the individual elements of which can be flexibly replaced.

Audible Well-Being: Improving Room Acoustics

The more open and agile the office environment, the greater the need for products aimed at optimizing acoustics. That's why companies like **Strähle** offer customers the option to preview spatial acoustics by entering their own room data.

Room-in-room systems, such as **the extended Se: cube Max from Sedus**, are suitable solutions for existing structures and are both acoustically and visually attractive.

Inspired by Japanese interiors, the Zen Pod from Abstracta also creates acoustically shielded spaces that can be used for digital meetings, quiet conversations, and work requiring full concentration.

The Flexia lamp from Artemide also takes its **inspiration from Japan**, and its origami-influenced design absorbs sound from its surroundings.

More compact options include **seating modules like Mute Focus from Swedish manufacturer Horreds and the upholstered Buddyhub unit from Pedrali**, both of which provide small acoustic islands that allow users to concentrate on work in open office landscapes.

Healthy Workplaces: Ergonomic and Antiviral Products

Health has been a hot topic in the office industry for quite some time now. The happenings in the previous years have given the issue even greater prominence and added additional considerations. **Alongside ergonomics and physical and mental fitness, hygiene matters are now increasingly finding their way into office design.**

The spectrum of current solutions ranges from ergonomic furniture for the workplace to room ventilators and antiviral surfaces.

A healthy posture is supported by products like the fully upholstered **Wave chair from Köhl**, which has ergonomic properties that contribute towards **healthy sitting** and is available in a creative diversity of colors and designs.

The Novus Clu monitor arm from Novus with light gas-spring technology is another recent example of **optimized workplace ergonomics.**

The lamps from Italian manufacturer Artemide featuring Integralis® technology also promote good health when it comes to desk-based work by **disinfecting the surfaces they illuminate.**

The innovations on display at ORGATEC illustrate the rapid pace of change in the world of work. They also show **the ongoing progress towards healthy, sustainable, and intelligently organized office environments.** In addition to innovative solutions and products to satisfy the new requirements, **the leading international trade fair once again focuses on the latest trends with an extensive event program** – and the industry is excited to discover new ideas and inspiration for the future of work.

Koelnmesse – Industry Trade Fairs for the Interior, Outdoor, and Design Sector

Koelnmesse is the world's top trade fair organizer in the fields of interiors, furnishings, design, home living, garden lifestyle, and modern work environments. **At the trade fair grounds in Cologne/Germany, the leading international trade fairs imm cologne, LivingKitchen®, spoga+gafa, and ORGATEC showcase the latest trends, products, and innovations, serving as international, central gatherings for the global industry.**

In addition to the events at its Cologne headquarters, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio internationally: The inaugural **ORGATEC TOKYO** will be hosted in 2022. It will be the first trade fair in Japan to focus on professional and hybrid work environments. **As the satellite event for imm cologne and ORGATEC, idd shanghai** provides European companies in the premium and luxury segment of the interior design industry with a unique platform for showcasing exclusive, design-driven products.