

EMPIRE OFFICE



NEOCON
Trend Report
2022





INTRO

As we returned to Chicago in June, we were inspired by the innovative designs of Neocon 2022. This year’s theme, *Design Makes a Statement*, emulated from every showroom.

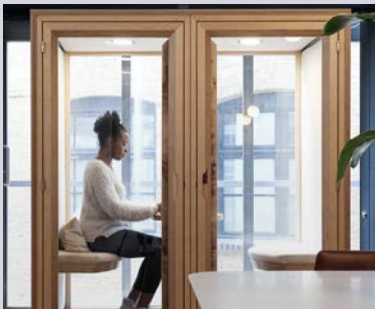
Even as hybrid work remains top of mind, the typical workplace is certainly not forgotten. As evidenced by what was on display at Neocon this year, brands are doubling down on technology solutions, resimercial designs, enhanced collaborative solutions and areas for focused heads-down work.

Curved features, geometric shapes, Scandinavian-inspired designs and earthy color tones dominated Neocon this year.

Check out all that’s new in our annual Neocon Trend Report.

TRENDING THEMES

Across every Neocon showroom, common themes emerged as defining pillars embodying where the world of work is today, and where it is going.



AREAS FOR PRIVACY

A top concern for many returning to the office has been the open floorplan. With so many used to the comfort, quiet and privacy of their home offices, now going back into an open work setting has been a challenging change. Privacy pod solutions and other visual/acoustic dividers provide a easy adjustment to an existing space.



DUAL PURPOSE SPACES

Now more than ever before, a company’s real estate footprint and usage is top of mind. With many adopting a hybrid work policy, the chances a private office space is utilized 100% of the time is low. In order to tip the scales, we are seeing many more solutions for dual purpose spaces, allowing a private office to be used as a collaboration space when the office resident is working remotely.

These themes not only resonate with our own experience of a return to office, but also reflect how flexible the world has become in response to the global pandemic.



COLLABORATION SPACES

A major reason people want to come back to the office is to be with their co-workers again. When given the option of a day full of Zoom calls versus sitting across the table from their colleagues, most would choose in-person collaboration. The solutions we saw at Neocon this year support that concept as well providing many ways for people to gather together again safely.



HYBRID WORK/FLEX SOLUTIONS

Companies that have a hybrid work model need their workspaces to accommodate many different work styles and individuals. Every day in the office can bring to light an entirely new work pattern. As with most things over the last two years, we have all learned how to pivot quickly to respond to new information and our workplace solutions are doing the same.

PRODUCT FEATURES

Curved Edges & Shapes

Standing Meetings

The Layered Look

Conical Table Bases

Roofs, Tents, Canopies, Alcoves

Indoor/Outdoor

Privacy Nooks

Casters

Stacking Ottomans/Stools

Geometric Shapes

Tubular Chairs





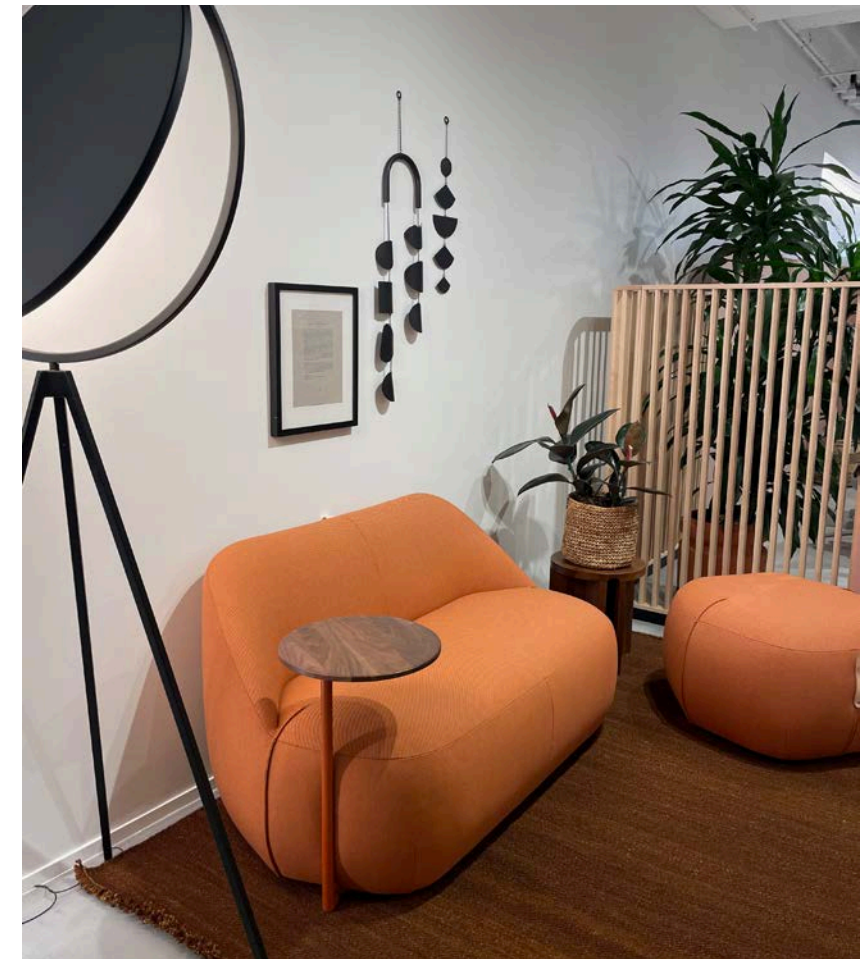
CURVED EDGES & SHAPES

Go ahead, show off your curves.

From rounded corners to soft edges, curves were front and center at Neocon this year. Creating a fluid flow from vignette to vignette, the welcoming shapes comforted the eyes and invited you in.

Arches were also prevalent throughout providing a stark contrast to the definite shapes and dimensions of the room architecture and other elements in the showrooms.

This trend is a clear indication the return to office needs to be met with a sense of calm, safety and comfort.







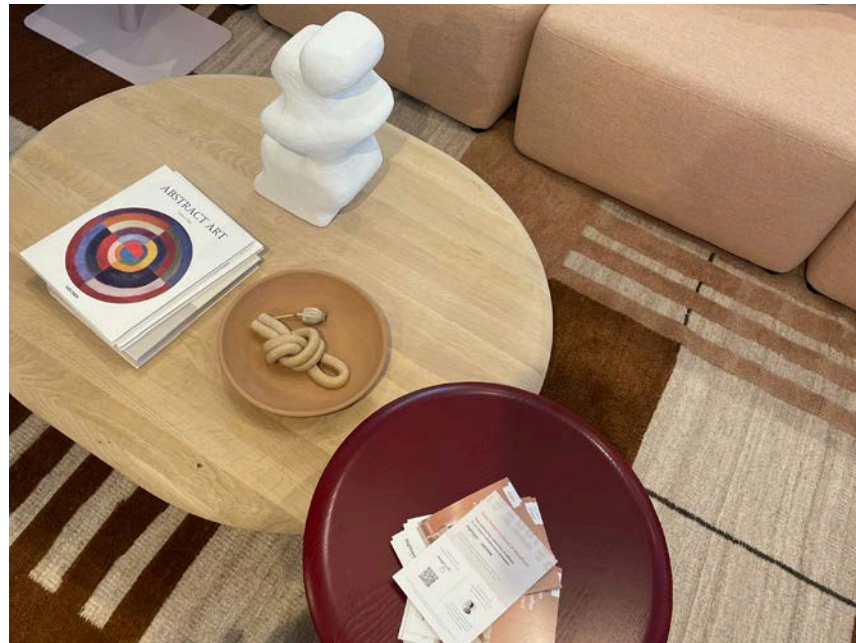
STANDING MEETINGS

Changing postures when gathering together.



With all the sitting we did at home during the pandemic, it's no wonder a return to office is seeing so many options for new ways to meet. Whether integrated with technology or just a bar- or counter-height meeting solution, the pieces we saw definitely got our standing ovation.





THE LAYERED LOOK

Double the table, double the fun.

Popular for some time now, the layered look was on display in nearly every showroom. Bunching side tables is an easy way to add dimension and visual interest (plus more surface area for accessories!). Layered side or coffee tables provide flexibility for various group sizes and uses allowing the smaller tables to be moved easily to accommodate the desired functionality.

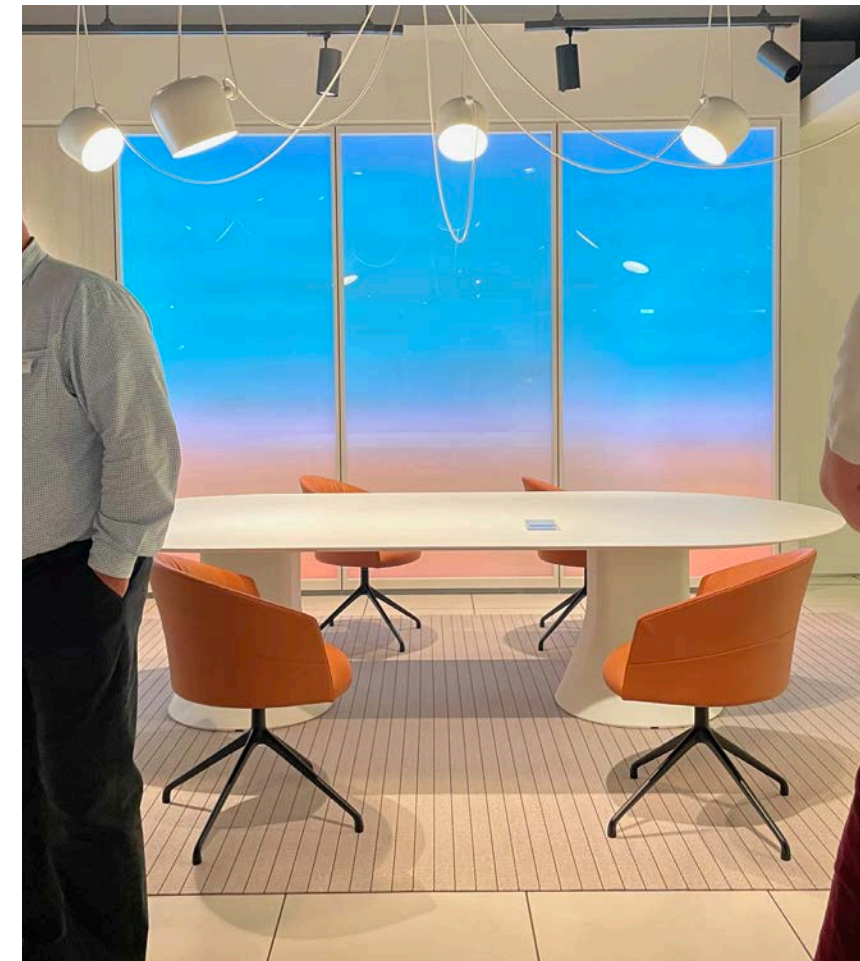




CONICAL TABLE BASES

Cones weren't just for ice cream this summer.

Chunky table bases echoed throughout various showrooms this year. The cone-shaped feature makes a bold and solid statement yet still creates a soft transition with its tapered curved lines. It also adds a visual interest moment beneath the surface.

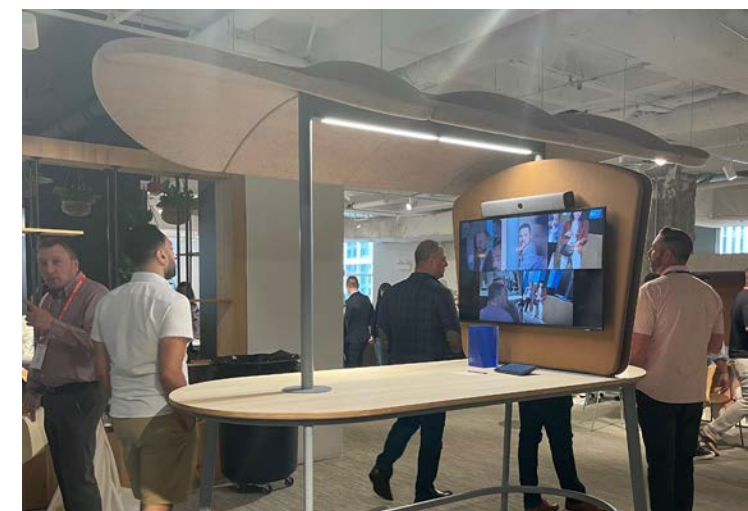




ROOFS, TENTS, CANOPIES, ALCOVES

Enveloped in a workspace.

A common element all over Neocon this year was a sense of coziness. Built into the solutions in different ways, this comfort-forward feeling is especially evident in the roofs, tents, canopies and alcoves displayed here. We especially loved the soft architecture elements as a flexible way to achieve privacy while still accommodating unforeseen changes that could arise.





INDOOR/OUTDOOR

Fresh designs for enjoying the fresh air.

We saw many solutions built for both indoor and outdoor use—yet another nod to flexibility. Featuring a powder-coated finish or all-weather plastic, these products are the ideal solution for areas that require high-clean-ability too like terraces, hospitality and cafe spaces.





PRIVACY NOOKS

The modern version of *do not disturb.*

Dividers, screens and privacy pods took over. With hybrid work becoming a lingering trend post-pandemic, most manufacturers had a solution for creating visual and acoustical privacy within a workspace to help entice people to leave their quiet home offices and return to the office.



OTHER PRODUCT FEATURE TRENDS

CASTERS



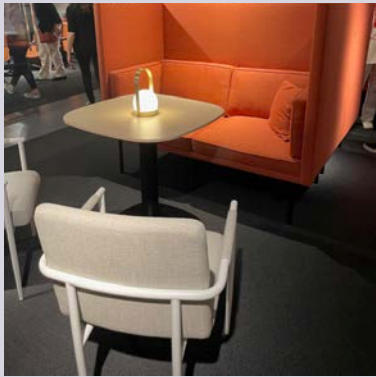
STACKING OTTOMANS/STOOLS



GEOMETRIC SHAPES



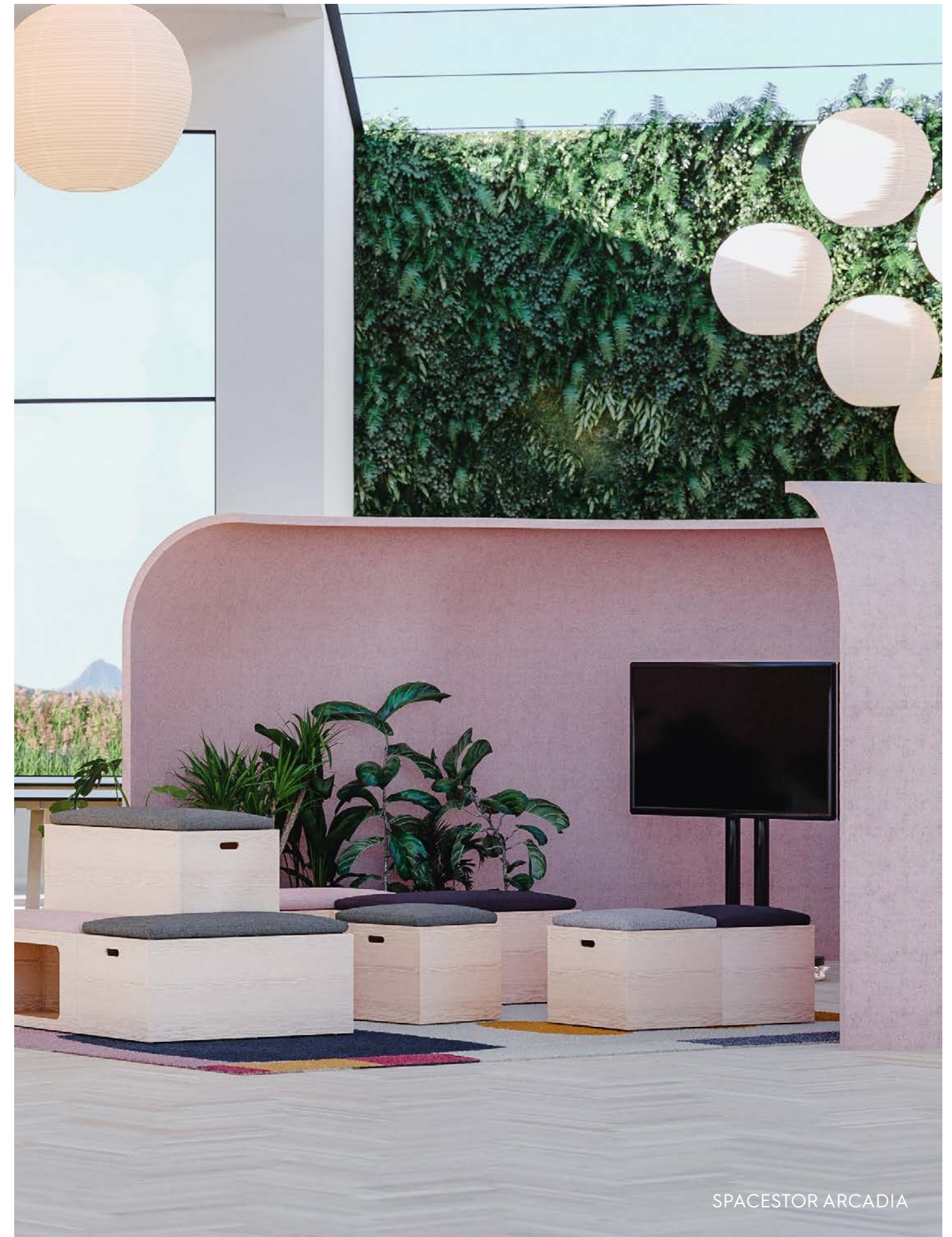
TUBULAR CHAIRS



Empire's Top 10

EVERY YEAR, WE SELECT TEN OF OUR FAVORITE NEW PRODUCTS LAUNCHED AT NEOCON. FROM ALL WE WERE INSPIRED BY, THERE WERE A FEW THAT STOOD OUT.

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SPACESTOR ARCADIA



HALCON HELM



BERNHARDT DESIGN ALLORO



STEELCASE EVERWALL



HIGHTOWER GIMBAL JR



MIZETTO UNDERSTOOD



OFS KALEID



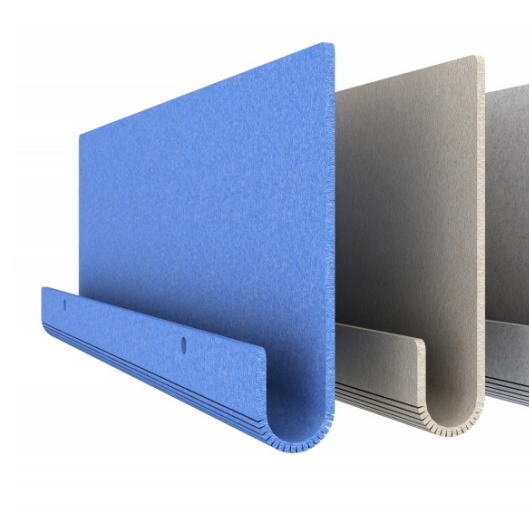
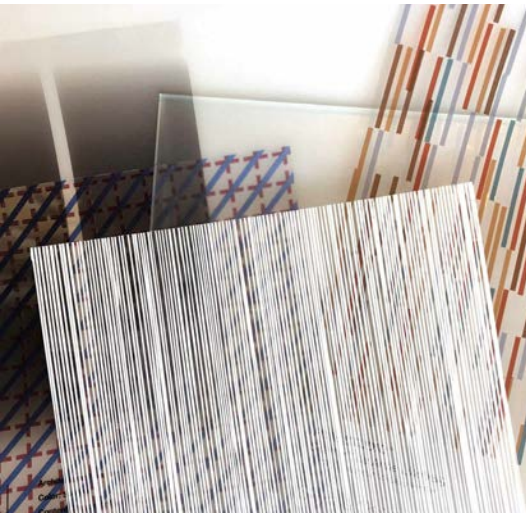
HBF TEXTILES WITH ERIN RUBY IN YOUR SKIN



ANDREU WORLD ORU TABLE



ALLERMUIR BASTILLE



FEATURED NEOCON WINNERS

*as pictured on opposite page
left to right, top to bottom*

FURNITURE: CONFERENCE SEATING
Davis Furniture Sola
(Best of Neocon Silver)

FURNITURE: GUEST SEATING
Scandinavian Spaces Yarn
(Best of Neocon Innovation)

ACOUSTICS & PRIVACY: WORK PODS
Hushoffice HushHybrid office pod
(Best of Neocon Silver)

“BEING BIOPHILIC”
DesignTex Beguiled by the Wild
(Metropolis Like)

FURNITURE: CASE GOODS
Nienkamper Vox LCS Workstation
(Best of Neocon Gold)

“EFFICIENCIES OF SCALE”
Leland Furniture Gemma Collection
(Metropolis Like)

INTERIOR PRODUCTS: SURFACING
MATERIALS & FINISHES
Skyline Design Film Studio
(Best of Neocon Gold)

FURNITURE: COLLECTIONS FOR
COLLABORATION
The Senator Group Adapt Wall
(Best of Neocon Gold)

FURNITURE: LOUNGE FURNITURE
DYD Furniture Futo
(Best of Neocon Silver)

FURNITURE: OCCASIONAL TABLES
Stylex Umo
(Best of Neocon Silver)

FURNITURE: WORKPLACE ACCESSORIES
AIS PET Wire Managers & Enclosures
(Best of Neocon Silver + Innovation)

FURNITURE: SOFAS & LOUNGE SEATING
Calligarisgroup Contract Reef by Connubia
(Best of Neocon Innovation)

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