

## Glossary of Best of NeoCon 2025 Product Categories (43)

### **ACOUSTICS & PRIVACY**

#### **–Acoustic Solutions**

Acoustic Solutions absorb sound and improve office and learning-environment acoustics by reducing both visual and auditory noise with acoustic panels, wall tiles, living walls, and fibrous ceiling and floor materials. Acoustic panels or other sound dampening materials such as workspace partitions provide employees with much-needed privacy.

#### **–Panels/Partitions/Screens/Space Dividers**

Panels/Partitions/Screens/Space Dividers are designed to support user privacy. They can be freestanding screens or partitions or modular panel systems that divide spaces and sightlines. These products may or may not contribute to acoustic quality.

#### **–Work Pods**

Work pods are additions to existing open plan offices and are located on the floor plate creating a dedicated refuge for isolated tasks. They remove acoustic interference while ensuring office tranquility. Employees can pop into work pods for private calls, quick in-person or virtual meetings, or distraction-free sessions of solo productivity. Offering sound-proof privacy, people can converse confidentially without locating a conference room or travelling from their regular workspace. Technology integration is important to most users.

### **FLOORING**

#### **–Carpet: Area Rugs, Broadloom & Modular**

Area rugs for commercial, hospitality, and institutional environments. A collection of area rug patterns is a single entry. Entrants can upload multiple images revealing the patterns and colorways.

Broadloom carpets for commercial, hospitality, and institutional environments. A collection of broadloom carpet patterns is a single entry. Entrants can upload multiple images revealing the patterns and colorways.

Modular/tile/planks of carpet. A collection of patterns is a single product entry. Entrants can upload multiple images revealing the patterns and colorways.

#### **–Hard-Surface Flooring: Natural Materials, Specialty & Wood**

Hard-surface flooring created with natural materials such as cork, linoleum, and wood, not synthetic materials. Wood and simulated-wood tiles and planks. Specialty flooring includes poured concrete, polymeric poured seamless floors, solid-surface epoxy, synthetic, recycled rubber, raised flooring systems, and terrazzo.

#### **–Hard-Surface Flooring: Vinyl/LVT**

Commercial hard-surface vinyl tiles and luxury vinyl tiles (LVT).

## **FURNITURE**

### **–Benching & Furniture Systems**

Benching furniture is oriented along a plane facilitating communication and collaboration with a reduced footprint compared to furniture systems. These products tend to make great use of vertical planes while also providing storage and extensive cabling and wire management. May also have sit-stand capability.

Furniture Systems—also called modular furniture or systems furniture—refers to a type of furniture with component parts that have portability and can be assembled, disassembled, and reassembled in different ways as needs change. They include panels, worksurfaces, shelves, and storage assembled into a system for layout providing a solution for organizing the workplace. Technology management is also part of most systems' solutions.

### **–Casegoods/Desks**

Casegoods are furniture items including desks that are modular and freestanding including desks that are built with interior compartments for storage and overhead shelving and cabinets that complement the main desk system. Casegoods generally refers to furniture made of hard materials—such as wood, metal, glass, or plastic components—ranging from use in traditional to contemporary/modern office environments and conference rooms.

### **–Collections for Collaboration**

Seating and furniture combinations with attached or pull-up tables that allow for spontaneous collaborations or conferencing in work or learning environments. They can be soft surface or hard surface, provided they enable user-directed or organized collaboration. Collections can adapt for seated or standing meetings or a combination of both and are useful for informally conversing with a team or gathering for tasks. Pieces usually include sofas, ottomans, stools, tables, chairs, and whiteboards for one-on-one or team use.

### **–Education Solutions**

These may include:

- Seating with tablet arms and storage racks attached specifically for use in K-12 or higher-education environments
- Seating that teams with desking and can be integrated or connected for multiple configurations or pairings and with elements of stacking to aid maintenance
- Active seating solutions targeting classrooms
- Configurable soft lounge systems for classrooms or corridors
- Dormitory furniture with built-in workstations

### **–Lounge Furniture Collections**

Lounge Furniture Collections are versatile seating pieces that can be arranged in multiple configurations. They may include single-seat, double-seat/loveseat, and sofa-size dimensions, along with ottomans and tables that respond to reconfiguration. Power-integration for charging mobile technology is a hallmark of design innovation.

In other applications, the elegance and simplicity of well-designed lounge furniture without technology integration is still welcome for many environments. Functionality, flexibility, and craftsmanship are expected.

*NOTE: If the product is a single lounge chair or sofa, rather than a collection, please enter it in the Seating: Sofas & Lounge category.*

### **–Seating: Benches**

Benches are open, armless, and often undulating with high-back, low-back, or no-back options that come in varying heights and can be single or joined. Benches can seat one-, two- or three- or more people with wood, metal, or cushioned surfaces.

### **–Seating: Conference**

Conference Seating is mostly used in the conference setting, available in fixed arm, armless, and upholstered or hard-surface seat and back. Chairs can be straight-up or sculpted solutions, mesh-back or soft upholstery to engage users in conference rooms. Chairs can swivel to 360 degrees and come with or without casters.

### **–Seating: Ergonomic Desk/Task**

Seating: Ergonomic Desk/Task applies to executive, task, desk, or workstation seating. It specifically addresses the ergonomics of good posture. It employs mechanical and passive tools to provide the most support for the users during seated tasks. Seating tends to conform to and support the body with lumbar support solutions, seat-height and depth adjustment, removable headrests, and innovative approaches to sitting.

### **–Seating: Guest**

Seating: Guest is intended for visitors to a space and may have articulated or static support. Designs and finishes vary widely with upholstered or hard-surface seat pans and backs, with or without arms and casters. Finishes include wood, cushion and fabric, metal, and plastic, with bases and frames of wood, chrome, steel, aluminum, or plastic.

### **–Seating: Modular**

Modular seating is a dynamic and flexible furniture concept that comprises individual seating units designed to be interchanged, rearranged, and combined according to preference and spatial constraints. Unlike traditional contract sofas and chairs, which come in predetermined sizes and configurations, modular seating provides the freedom to assemble seating arrangements that suit specific needs and style preferences. Individual units in a modular seating system can stand alone or be linked together to form cohesive configurations that fit seamlessly into various room layouts. Modular seating systems typically consist of a combination of elements, including corner pieces, chaise lounges, armless chairs, ottomans, and more.

### **–Seating: Sofas & Lounge**

Soft seating collections for lobby/reception/waiting spaces that may be designed in a modular fashion to create or adapt to any environment. Each unit may be standalone and come in various configurations to enable the user to add arms and corners to suit their needs. Sofas and single lounge chairs that are part of a collection or a singular piece.

Entrants can upload multiple images that show single pieces and collections from multiple angles.

### **–Seating: Stacking**

Stacking chairs are used in multipurpose environments and office settings. Commonly, the stacking is cantilevered and takes up little space. It is usually fashioned from hard, durable, cleanable surfaces that strive to be comfortable; some versions offer articulation. Stacking chairs tend to be lightweight yet engineered for structural support and to withstand the rigors of stacking. Colors abound and designers usually have great freedom with color combinations.

### **–Seating: Stools**

Regular-height to bar-height stools that are separate from Seating: Guest. They are specified for workplaces where there are cafes, lounges, and informal meeting areas with high tables.

### **–Storage**

Storage solutions that are wall-mounted, freestanding, or mobile for papers, files, folders, and technology accessories such as file cabinets and carts, credenzas, pedestal drawers, lockers, and bookcases.

### **–Tables: Café**

Café tables are designed to be lightweight and moveable, most commonly found in coffee shops, and can easily be moved and arranged by customers and staff. Café tables come in a variety of sizes with heights set between 28 to 30 inches (71-76 cm) from the ground.

### **–Tables: Conference**

Specifically designed to be the focal point of the room and are used for meetings among the staff as well as clients. Tables range from basic meeting needs to high-end boardroom designs, offering technology integration including a wire management trough or a power/data access port to host in-person and virtual gatherings with A/V and teleconferencing support.

### **–Tables: Height-Adjustable**

Tables: Height-Adjustable respond to multipurpose workplace training needs. Height-adjustability, reconfigurability, and flexibility are hallmarks of training tables. Cylinder, pneumatic, and electric height-adjustment varieties can compete here. When training sessions are not taking place, they adapt to other work needs. Tables also can be used for work away from a traditional workstation or bench in order to commune with others for tasks or hold small meetings.

### **–Tables: Occasional**

Occasional Tables are for formal and informal needs, coming in many shapes, usually smaller in scale, and moving easily. They work well independently but often are part of an ensemble of several furniture items or complement a seating collection.

### **–Tables: Task**

Task tables can have many uses and work well as touchdown points separate from workstations. They come in a variety of sizes and shapes and often have privacy screens, modesty panels, and power components to support individual needs in open workspaces. The tables can be arranged solo or discreetly linked.

## **HEALTHCARE**

### **–Healthcare: Flooring**

Any flooring surface designated for use in healthcare environments.

### **–Healthcare: Furnishings Patient Room**

Patient care chairs and recliners that facilitate treatment and recovery in hospitals, medical facilities and clinics; bedside tables, storage units, and cabinets that are designed to be durable, easy to clean and comfortable to use. They should be mobile or move easily to accommodate medical equipment and overbed tables.

### **–Healthcare: Guest & Lounge Seating**

Seating for waiting rooms in doctors' offices, guests of patients, hospital waiting areas, and for patient lounges. *NOTE: This is not seating designed for use in patient care or delivery of care/support.*

### **–Healthcare: Textiles**

Fabrics and textiles designed especially for healthcare upholstery and other applications and known for durability and cleanability.

## **INTERIOR PRODUCTS & SOLUTIONS**

### **–Architectural Products**

Architectural Products modify the physical interior space, adding both visual interest and function. Ceilings or ceiling systems, cabinet and door hardware and handles, coat hooks, hanging accessories, restroom design hardware, wall additions, wall panels, and glass wall designs are among the solutions that offer functional and aesthetic improvement to the space.

### **–Demountable Walls**

Demountable Walls—also referred to as movable walls—are architectural products used to construct enclosed environments that can be detached from their ceiling and floor tracks and moved to another location. They eliminate the mess and disruption of traditional construction while remaining reusable and reconfigurable for future changes to a work environment.

Demountable walls create a space within a space that can be constructed with glass or solid materials accounting for acoustics, visibility, power, data, audio, media, and lighting. They can be top-hung sliding wall systems or standard pivoting systems. Doors help with sound-absorption and lend to a private-office aesthetic.

### **–Signage & Wayfinding**

Knowing that employees and clients of any facility, especially healthcare, can find their way around is crucial to the final touches of any building. Signage & Wayfinding entrants provide mass-produced and affordable solutions to this conundrum. S&W is widely applicable to hospitals, but also helps on educational campuses and around office parks.

### **–Surfacing Materials & Finishes**

Surfacing Materials & Finishes means any porous or nonporous substance common to the interior of a building or structure, including but not limited to ceilings and walls, window coverings, counters, and furniture surfaces made in laminate, stone, marble, quartz, porcelain, and sometimes textiles and fabrics.

### **–Wall Treatments**

Wall Treatments range from paint to wallpaper, fabric, wood paneling, molding, plaster, and tile. A wall treatment includes wallcoverings that adhere flat on walls or can be 3D modular wall covering systems. Wall Treatments employ patterns, textures, and colors to give dimension and an enhanced visual experience to a space.

## **LIGHTING**

### **–Lighting: Decorative**

Decorative Lighting covers all the traditional kinds of light fittings (floor lights, pendants, chandeliers, etc.) and differentiates them from technical or architectural lighting (downlighters) or task lighting. The basis for the difference is that the decorative light fitting can be seen as accent lights, ceiling-hung pendants, wall-mounted fixtures/sconces, torchieres, table lamps, or panel-infused lights. Illumination sources can be incandescent, LED, or alternatives.

### **–Lighting: Task**

Task lighting illuminates a particular area and makes the completion of a task easier, as opposed to ambient lighting that illuminates a general area or mood lighting that illuminates for atmospheric or effect purposes. Task lighting provides targeted or solution-based lighting that is key to visibility with desk lamps or highly adjustable and flexible fixtures for user-directed applications. Task lighting avoids glare and enhances the effectiveness of traditional ceiling-mounted overhead lighting.

## **OUTDOOR**

### **–Outdoor Furniture: Seating**

Outdoor Furniture: Seating is for individual and lounge seating and seating collections designed to withstand the elements.

NOTE: For tables, see Outdoor Furniture: Tables.

### **–Outdoor Furniture: Tables**

Outdoor tables are waterproof and are usually made of materials such as mahogany, teak, cast aluminum, PE wicker, plastic, and PVC wicker. These materials are durable and can withstand the elements. Another material for modern outdoor furniture is synthetic resin because of its low-maintenance, lightweight, and extremely durable all-weather properties.

### **–Outdoor: Shade/Structures**

Awnings, canopies—fixed and retractable—motorized shades, pergolas, pergolas with shades, sailcloth, rooftop structures, umbrellas, artificial trees, among others.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **–Accessories & Support Devices**

Accessories and devices that support the use of technology such as monitor arms, power and cable management solutions, and charging stations.

### **–Integrated Solutions**

Technology that is an integral part of the furniture and furnishings is changing office and education environments with device management and power solutions. Audio-visual-ready lecterns, workstations, and tables can accommodate office workers, students, and instructors.

Integrated solutions can be used to solve a problem or improve upon previous solutions. In some cases, new technology enables earlier technology to work better, transforming the useful solution into something even better.

## **TEXTILES**

### **–Outdoor, Performance & Specialty Textiles**

Made from a wide variety of synthetic fibers, polyester, acrylic, and even cotton blends, outdoor fabrics are woven textiles that undergo a chemical treatment during manufacturing. This process allows them to repel water and resist soiling and rot, while impeding mildew growth.

Performance textiles are fabrics that provide additional functions such as repellency and/or resistance to or protection from a specified element; such fabrics include those that resist wrinkles, soils, or odors and/or protect from environmental conditions.

Specialty fabrics are designed and manufactured with a specific purpose or application in mind. As a result, they offer better performance than non-specialty, standard fabrics when used for that purpose or in that application. They can demonstrate a variety of properties depending on the fibers from which they are made, along with strength, weight, durability, and more.

*NOTE: Healthcare Textiles have their own category.*

### **–Upholstery**

Fabrics and textiles used mostly as upholstery for seating, sofas, other furniture, and panel fabrics. These textiles help define a space and set a tone through colors and patterns that aid branding and messaging.

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