

Glossary of Best of NeoCon 2024 Product Categories

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 having to travel far from their regular workspace. Technology integration is important to most users seeking a sound-proof environment.

FLOORING

–Carpet: Area Rugs

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.

–Carpet: Broadloom

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.

–Carpet: Modular

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

Hard-surface flooring created with natural materials such as linoleum and cork—not synthetic materials. Also specialty flooring such as 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). Wood and simulated-wood tiles and planks. Not carpet.

FURNITURE

–Benching

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.

–Casegoods

Furniture items 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 in work or learning environments. They can be soft surface or hard surface, providing 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, smaller tables, chairs, and whiteboards for one-on-one or team use.

–Conference Room Furniture

Conference Room Furniture includes tables (large/medium/small) that can be standard or reconfigurable, with or without modesty panels. Lecterns, podiums, multimedia cabinets, stereo cabinets, whiteboard and marker board stands and supports, and A/V cabinets are included.

**NOTE: Seating: Conference is a separate and distinct category. Do not enter conference room chairs here.*

–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

–Furniture Systems

Systems furniture—which is also called modular furniture or a furniture system—refers to a type of furniture with component parts. These components have portability and can be assembled, disassembled, and reassembled in different ways as needs change.

Furniture Systems are 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.

–Enhancements to Furniture Systems

Additions and enhancements to existing furniture systems, as described below, that improve upon previous functions.

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–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 designed environments. Functionality, flexibility, and craftsmanship are expected.

NOTE: If the product is a single lounge chair or sofa, rather than a collection, please enter into 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, 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

Seating: Sofas & Lounge is the category for soft seating collections for lobby/reception/waiting spaces for offices, education, healthcare, and hospitality settings. These seats 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 may enter this category.

–Seating: Stacking

Seating: Stacking is 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 and strives 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.

–Seating: Stools

Seating: Stools include 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, carts, 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: Communal

Tables: Communal serve as personal informal work areas where one person uses an auxiliary work surface in casual environments. Used for work away from a traditional workstation or benching arrangement or to commune with others for minor tasks or small meetings that may be less formal. Task tables may be ideal for touchdown tablet-based work or to stimulate group interaction.

NOTE: These tables would not be entered in Tables: Task.

–Tables: Conference

Tables:Conference are 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.

NOTE: Additional conference room equipment such as a lectern, credenza, presentation easel, projection screen or audiovisual cart should be entered in the Conference Room Furniture category.

–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 for other work needs.

–Tables: Occasional

Occasional tables are for formal and informal needs. They come in many shapes, usually smaller in scale, and are easily moved. Occasional tables work well on their own 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.

–Workplace Accessories

Workplace Accessories include social-distancing solutions, personal workspace management systems, white and marker boards, display cabinets, lightweight and mobile stools, storage consoles for mobile workers, laptop stands, charging devices and pads, recycling and refuse receptacles, acrylic and Plexiglass panels, footrests, and other employee-support tools and accessories.

–Work from Home Solutions

Resources and solutions that employers can provide for their employees to work effectively, safely, and comfortably in their homes.

HEALTHCARE

–Healthcare: Flooring

Any flooring surface designated for use in healthcare environments.

–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: Patient Seating

Patient Seating is designed exclusively for use by the patient and for delivery of care to the patient. With the movement to caregiving in chairs versus the reclined position, more styles of patient seating are being designed to keep physicians and patients at the same level when engaging.

–Healthcare: Storage & Accessories

Storage & Accessories for use by medical and clinical staff for securing medications or supplies. Also enter personalized storage for patients in short-term/outpatient care or for long-term care.

–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: Fabrics

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.

–Outdoor: Shade/Structures

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

–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.

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.

–Product Specifications Software

Software programs unique to the specification of a company's products/furniture/ furnishings/ flooring by architects, interior designers, and facilities managers. Tools guide the specifier in terms of choosing the actual products/solutions through digital catalogs that lead to cloud-based specifications of materials, finishes and modifications unique to its function. Software can also provide users with custom design apps.

–Workplace Solutions Software

Software programs that contribute to spatial intelligence and the identification and management of space, people, furniture, furnishings, and workplace tools. This includes enterprise management software solutions and sensor technology that evaluates real estate, space needs, and planning. Solutions should aim to continuously optimize spaces to reduce costs and improve employee experiences.

TEXTILES

–Performance & Specialty Textiles

Performance textiles are textiles 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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