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Office Uncubed

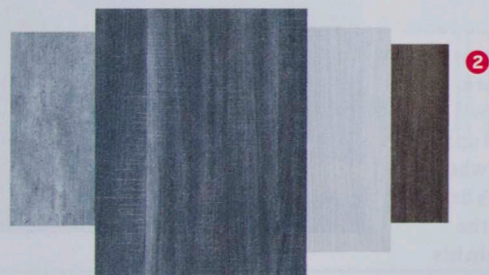
New products at NeoCon promise to make the daily grind easier.

Aside from the common complaint of noise, flexibility remains a persistent challenge in today's diverse workplaces—to accommodate different generations all working together under one roof, and the changing nature of tasks that need to be done.

At this year's NeoCon fair in Chicago, manufacturers like Herman Miller, Vitra, Keilhauer, and Steelcase are offering compelling options to better meet users' needs. With 730 exhibitors and more than 40,000 expected visitors, the fair is positioned to be one of the best in years.

Not only has the Mart reorganized the exhibit show floors, it is also launching Onsite, a new NeoCon app. The program keynote will be delivered by *Metropolis's* publisher and editor in chief, Susan S. Szenasy, who will talk with Studio O+A about workplace design for a tech-rich world.

Here is a selection of products on display at the Mart, all exhibiting the kind of creative problem solving necessary for our flexible work environments to better meet the needs of users and the planet. **M**



1
COALESSE MASSAUD CONFERENCE COLLECTION
Designed as an antidote to the corporate office, this comfortable luxury chair comes with a weight-sensing mechanism and a flex back. Contrasting upholstery is offered as an option, as are polished aluminum arms, three back heights, and a four- or five-star base. coalesse.com

2
INTERIORARTS LAMINATES
These four new HPL design laminates all emphasize texture and a distressed look—a weathered cement wall, textured gray oak, Nordic white oak, and a high-gloss desert oak. They come in a four-by-eight-foot size, and are GreenGuard certified. ialaminates.com

3
HUMANSCALE RISE
A retrofit that allows users to move seamlessly between sitting and standing positions at work, Rise can be clamped onto any work surface. The height of the monitor and keyboard can be easily adjusted thanks to Humanscale's constant-force technology. humanscale.com

4
BENTLEY THE NEW BOHEMIAN COLLECTION
This collection celebrates a free-spirited, nomadic lifestyle. The three designs—Vagabond, Wanderlust, and Troubadour (shown here)—feature layered and abstracted patterns that suggest a beautiful patina acquired over time. bentleymills.com

5
ARBORITE TWILL
This laminate takes an abstract, graphic approach to its namesake textile weave, washing out portions of the pattern in color. The new design is available in seven shades, including three neutrals and four ultra-brights (shown here). arborite.com



6
VITRA TYDE SIT-STAND TABLES
The Tyde series allows you to sit or stand at double workstations or conference tables. A nifty electric height-adjustment motor is especially quiet and is hidden under the table, inside a sound-absorbing cover. vitra.com

7
3M VESSEL
Designed specifically with restaurants in mind, Todd Bracher's Vessel pendants and sconces have solid quartz bodies that carefully control the distribution of light from a single LED. Vessel comes in three lengths, six color options, and two color temperatures. 3m.com

8
HERMAN MILLER LOCALE L-DESK
Designers Sam Hecht and Kim Colin treat the open-plan office like a tightly knit neighborhood. A system of modules—including desks, seats, and tools—creates an environment where many kinds of work and postures can occur during the course of the day. hermanmiller.com



9
KIMBALLOFFICE WISH CHAIR
These option-rich seats promise everything you wish for in any kind of work space, with variations available for arms, lumbar support, seat sliders, bases, wishbones, uprights, and controls. Designers can also choose from nine colors for the mesh back and seat. kimballoffice.com