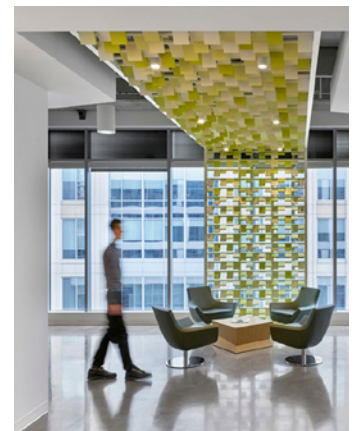
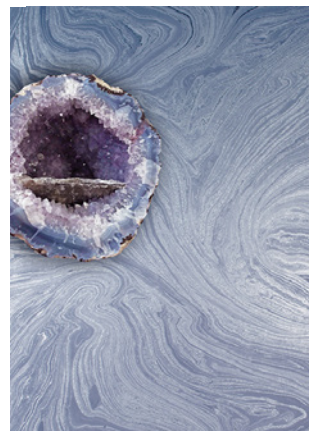
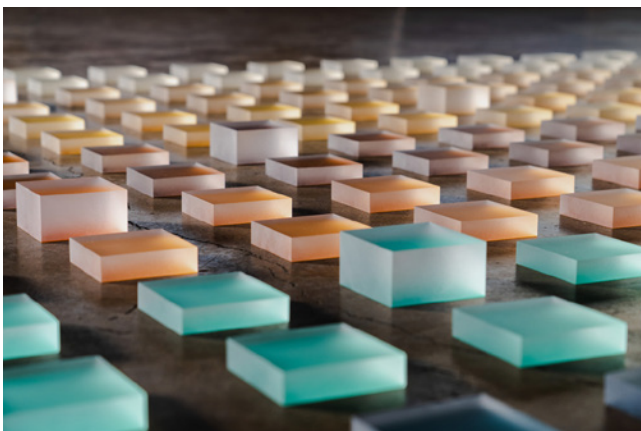




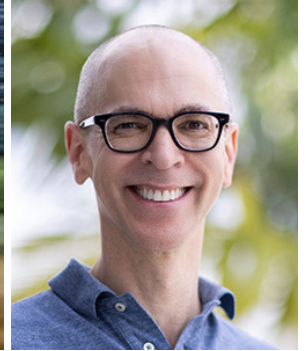
officeinsight

2021

Year In Review



year in review



2021 Year In Review

After the pandemic's unprecedented disruption to the global economy in 2020, we entered 2021 with both trepidation and hope for a better year. New vaccines promised a return to normal, with businesses reopening and workers returning to offices. Understanding that the new normal will not be like the old normal, workplace designers were busier than ever analyzing trends and proposing new hybrid work models with an emphasis on flexibility, adaptability, and resilience.

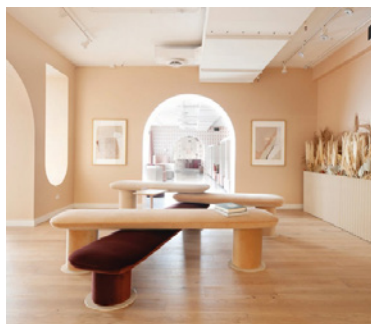
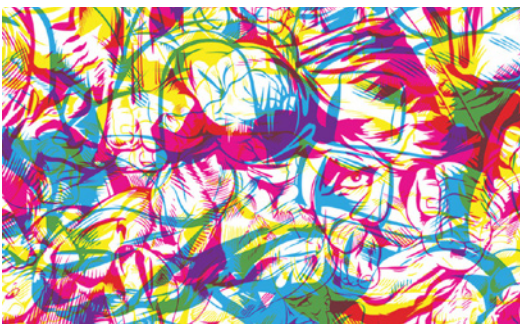
Major trade shows in our industry that had been cancelled in 2020 moved their 2021 dates to the fall to give the pandemic more time to subside: NeoCon, originally scheduled for June 14-16, was rescheduled for Oct. 4-6; and Salone del Mobile.Milano, originally scheduled for Apr 13-18, rescheduled a scaled-down event Sept. 5-10 called Supersalone 2021. Both shows were successful, and officeinsight was there with first-hand reports to share with our readers. At NeoCon, our publisher Bob Beck had the honor of serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Best of NeoCon awards!

The biggest news story of the year for us was Herman Miller's acquisition of Knoll, which took everyone by surprise. MillerKnoll's consolidated revenues now exceed those of Steelcase, which was previously the world's largest office furniture manufacturer.

Innovation continued by manufacturers and design firms of all sizes who recognized the opportunities in responding to new workplace demands. New products targeted the new normal, with an intensified focus on employee health and well-being. Indoor air quality and easily sanitized surfaces became more important. Fully enclosed pods and reconfigurable space-dividing systems became more popular. Lounge furniture became even more comfortable, and technology solutions became even more amazing and interconnected. The goal of enticing workers back to the office was the subject of countless surveys and research studies, many of which we covered during the year. There was no shortage of experts offering workplace design advice.

Sustainability remained a top priority, as the effects of climate change and other environmental issues became increasingly evident. Diversity also remained an important emphasis for design firms and companies of all types.

As we enter 2022, the future is still uncertain, with supply chain issues, inflation, political polarization, and the ongoing pandemic with its seemingly endless evolution of new variants. However, we can be sure that all facets of our industry will respond creatively to whatever new challenges happen to arise.



year in review

JANUARY

>A Material Study with Suzanne Tick: New officeinsight Editor Anna Zappia's feature on insights from Luum Textiles Creative Director Suzanne Tick was one of our most popular stories of the year based on visits to the officeinsight.com website. Looking to fabrics that both enhance business spaces and increase our sense of well-being after the tumultuous year of 2020, Ms. Tick shared her thoughts about the power of color, organic materials, and trends she anticipated for offices in 2021. [[1.18.21](#)]



Suzanne Tick, Creative Director of Luum Textiles - Photo credit Martin Crook



Sam Aquillano - Photo courtesy of Design Museum Foundation

>Design Museum Everywhere - An Interview with Sam

Aquillano: Design Museum Everywhere is a nonprofit, nomadic museum of design. One might legitimately ask what that means, exactly. By now many in our community already have participated in, attended, read, or listened to a production of this prolific organization. But to answer the question for those not familiar with it, Bob Beck spoke to Sam Aquillano, its founder and Executive Director. [[1.18.21](#)]

>Remembering Jack Lenor Larsen: Renowned American textile designer Jack Lenor Larsen passed away in December 2020 at the age of 93. We wanted to pay tribute to the master weaver's life and legacy, but rather than recounting the details of his life and work in "obit" form, we spoke with some of today's leading textile designers: Mary Murphy at Maharam, Sina Pearson at Momentum Group, Mary Holt at Carnegie, Suzanne Tick at Luum Textiles; Kathrin Hagge at Wolf-Gordon; Lori Weitzner at Lori Weitzner Design; Dorothy Cosonas at KnollTextiles; and Amanda Eaton at Arc-Com. [[1.25.21](#)]



Dapper Jack Lenor Larsen favored hats - Photo courtesy of LongHouse Reserve

>The Evolving Role of the A&D Sales Rep: Claire Butwinick, Account Coordinator at Paxson Fay, and Harriet Morgan, who works for Design Libraries and is the resource librarian in the CallisonRTKL Los Angeles office, shared how the pandemic showed that we need sales reps more than ever. From adopting technology to hosting collaborative, socially distant trunk shows in parking lots, sales reps are going the extra mile to bring normalcy to a difficult time, while offering significant project resources to ease the burden on designers. [[1.25.21](#)]

>January officenewswire highlights:

-Kvadrat marked 2021 by entering the North American market independently. It opened its first U.S. office and showroom in Grand Rapids, MI and was set to open showrooms in Los Angeles and New York later in the year, working with esteemed designers Jonathan Olivares and Erwan Bouroullec.



Kvadrat Enters North America Independently

-Landscape Forms acquired Duluth, MN-based Loll Designs. "We've been working together for several years co-developing new solutions to enhance the enjoyment of outdoor spaces," said Landscape Forms CEO Marjorie Simmons. "Coming together in a more formal way feels like a natural evolution in an already very successful relationship."

-Uhuru Design, Brooklyn-based heirloom quality furniture designer and manufacturer, acquired the assets of Grand Rapids-based Renegade Customs, a full-service design and mill shop providing custom design at scale.

-OFS received a platinum certification for its corporate office by the International WELL Building Institute. The company's 49,000sf headquarters is the first in Indiana to achieve this.

-HNI Corp. closed on the acquisition of Design Public Group, a leading e-commerce distributor of high design furniture for the office and home. Matthew Lieb and Todd Thedinga, the former joint owners of Design Public Group, joined HNI and will continue to run Design Public Group.

-HAT Collective officially launched on Jan. 18 in North America. The HAT Collective brand unifies a range of office product solutions from several well-established industry brands, including HAT Contract, SiS Ergo, and Innovative.

-Kimball International launched Interwoven, a new furnishings brand providing thoughtful and purposeful solutions to the healthcare market through person-centered design.

FEBRUARY

>Remembering the Interiors Awards: For the first time in 42 years, the Interiors Awards, featuring "The Designer of The Year," was not celebrated. John Rouse, Publisher of *Interiors* and *Contract* from 1994 to 2016 and now a Partner at Perception Studio, shared his memories. Taking chances on undiscovered talent in the early 80's was risky business in design publishing. Beverly Russell merits a most deserved callout as the creator of the awards, and countless editorial and marketing professionals made it all possible. [[2.1.21](#)]

>What is the Future of Work? A lot has been pondered, discussed, and written about what the best way to return to the office might be. A group of approximately 15 researchers and front-line thinkers from HOK and Steelcase met for an extraordinary three-day collaboration to explore this question. Thinking about things that weren't perfect before the pandemic, the team came to an "Aha" moment. They proposed the idea of "reimagining an ecosystem of spaces that truly addresses our needs; now and in the future." The three components of the ecosystem are the Home, the Spoke, and the Hub. [[2.8.21](#)]

>Herman Miller Hasn't Given Up On Offices, But Sees A Post-Pandemic Future In WFH: While the office furniture industry suffered through a grueling 2020, Herman Miller was positioned to capitalize on the nationwide flight of workers from the corporate office to WFH. Slouching on the couch just didn't cut it anymore for Americans who were stuck in their homes, tapping on keyboards for months at a time. They began to spend more money on ergonomic chairs. [[2.1.21](#)]

>Nassimi Launches Supreen™: With deep roots in innovation, the company that was the first to introduce realistic faux leather to the market launched its latest innovation. The trademarked name Supreen™ is a portmanteau, a made-up word coined from a combination of the words "supple" and "preen." Supreen is a performance composite material that retains the beauty and luxurious softness of a woven fabric while incorporating the performance of a coated textile. It has an incredibly supple hand, upholds extremely well, and feels wonderfully soft to the touch. [[2.15.21](#)]



Supreen™

>Introducing Framery One: Framery's newest product, Framery One, combines technology with the superior acoustics the Finnish company is known for. Video conferencing and remote work are now a regular part of our lives, so this debut couldn't be timelier. officeinsight editor Anna Zappia spoke with Lasse Karvinen, head of products at Framery, about this latest pod, hybrid workplaces, and the next iteration of the open office. [\[2.15.21\]](#)



Framery One

>Edward Mazria Receives 2021 AIA Gold Medal: This year marked a breakthrough for the one-per-year AIA Gold Medal. Edward Mazria has not designed buildings that appear on magazine covers or turn up in conventional architectural histories. Instead, it is through his pivotal work on the energy demands of buildings that he has – in AIA's words for the recipient's qualifications – “had a lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture.” [\[2.22.21\]](#)



AIA Gold Medal - Edward Mazria - Photo credit Jamey Stillings, © Mazria, Inc.

>Mockett's New President: Doug Mockett & Company began its fifth decade with an announcement naming Tyra Cunningham as president, demonstrating the company's continued commitment to diversity and to fostering the talents of employees of all ages and backgrounds. [\[2.22.21\]](#)



Tyra Cunningham, Doug Mockett & Company's new president

>February officenews highlights:

-ASID appointed Gary Wheeler as CEO and promoted Susan Chung, Ph.D. to Vice President, Research and Knowledge. Mr. Wheeler, who had been serving as Interim CEO since mid-2020, has led practices at Perkins&Will, Gensler, and HDR; and designed workplaces for companies such as Apple, Time Warner, American Express, and JP Morgan. Dr. Chung has developed some of the Society's signature research, including the Outcome of Design Awards and Impact of Design Series, and aided in the COVID-19 response with projects such as the Resiliency Report and ongoing Pulse Surveys.

-David Krakoff was named the new CEO of Momentum Textiles and Wallcovering. He takes over from Roger Arciniega who announced his retirement in November after a 33-year career at Momentum. Mr. Krakoff has had a diverse, international career spanning more than 30 years as a senior executive with leading, world class, global companies in the building materials, decorative products, and technology sectors.

-Michael Loughlin was promoted to Design Director of Wolf-Gordon. Having worked at Wolf-Gordon for eight years as the WG Customs Lab Director and Lead Designer for wallcovering and RAMPART® wall protection, Mr. Loughlin has extensive experience in surface design. Prior to joining Wolf-Gordon, he worked at David Goldberg Design, a handmade wallpaper company, and at J. Josephson, a commercial wallcovering mill.

-Jennifer Busch joined custom fabrication firm Eventscape as Director of Client Partnerships. This appointment followed the launch of Eventscape's New York Headquarters in Long Island City. Ms. Busch was previously Vice President of A&D relations at Teknion for several years and has more than two decades of media experience as an Executive Editor, Editor in Chief, and Editorial Director for Contract magazine.

-Herman Miller shared results of a survey of 1,000 office workers working at home due to COVID-19. According to the survey, workers are sitting 20% more than they did pre-pandemic, and nearly 90% of the respondents reported experiencing pain or ailments such as a stiff neck, back pain, difficulty sleeping, sore arms, sore legs, and headaches or eye strain since the beginning of the pandemic.

-Steelcase released a new global report, "Changing Expectations and the Future of Work." Company researchers engaged more than 32,000 people in multiple studies conducted in 10 countries. Synthesizing this research uncovered five overarching needs that will drive new ways of planning and designing offices: employees need to be and feel safe; feel a deep sense of belonging; be productive; be physically, cognitively, and emotionally comfortable; and have control

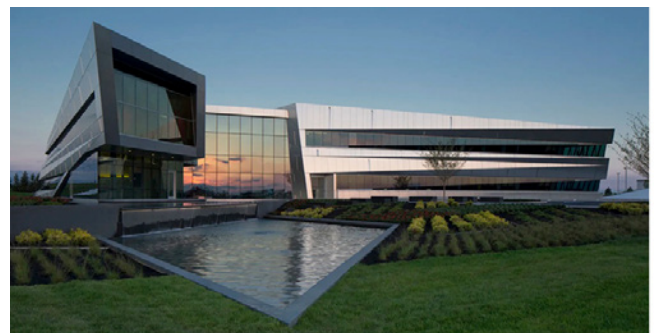
over where and how they work. According to the report, 87% of business leaders plan to allow more flexibility around how, when and where people work; and 86% of businesses plan to shift their long-term real estate strategy.

MARCH

>The Thriving Workplace: Knoll published "The Case for a Thriving Workplace: A Forecast of the Post-Covid Workspace and Planning Approaches" and a companion white paper, "The Thriving Workplace: Crafting a New Narrative." Based on fourth quarter 2020 data from a survey of 81 workplace executives across a wide range of organizations in North America, the study shows how workplace performance and well-being considerations are shaping the future workplace, and it highlights the need for organizations to support post-pandemic business continuity strategies through flexibility. [\[3.1.21\]](#)

>HAT Collective's New Work Solutions: The new brand gives HAT Collective's dealers a complete line of ergonomic furniture. officeinsight editor Anna Zappia interviewed Libby Ferin, vice president of marketing for Innovative Ergonomic Solutions, the parent of Hat Collective, to introduce the brand to our subscribers. [\[3.1.21\]](#)

>AIA Architecture Firm Award for 2021: AIA's Architecture Firm Award annually recognizes one architectural firm that has "consistently produced distinguished architecture for at least 10 years." Moody Nolan, the first Black-owned firm to receive this honor, has far exceeded those qualifications. [\[3.8.21\]](#)



Projects by 2021 AIA Architecture Firm Award winner Moody Nolan: The Connor Group Headquarters, Miamisburg, OH - Photo by Brad Feinknopf; CenturyLink Technology Center of Excellence, Monroe, LA - Photo by Brad Feinknopf.



Projects by 2021 AIA Architecture Firm Award winner Moody Nolan: Wintrust Arena, DePaul University, Chicago - Photo by Jeff Goldberg/ESTO; Texas Southern University Student Library and Recreation Center, Houston - Photo by Sam Brown.

>Teknion Explores the Evolution of Workplace Communication: Near the end of 2020, Teknion surveyed 1,000 participants representing multiple industries and job functions and were able to glean valuable insights into the new ways we relate to – and communicate with – our coworkers. The results of the survey are very interesting, if not surprising. [\[3.8.21\]](#)

>The Latest in Wallcoverings: The Wallcoverings Association is a non-profit trade group that represents the entire wallcoverings industry, with manufacturers, distributors, designers, and suppliers among its members. officeinsight editor Anna Zappia talked to four members of the association – Wolf-Gordon, Versa Designed Surfaces, Len-Tex Wallcoverings, and MDC Interior Solutions – to find out what's new and what's coming soon. [\[3.22.21\]](#)

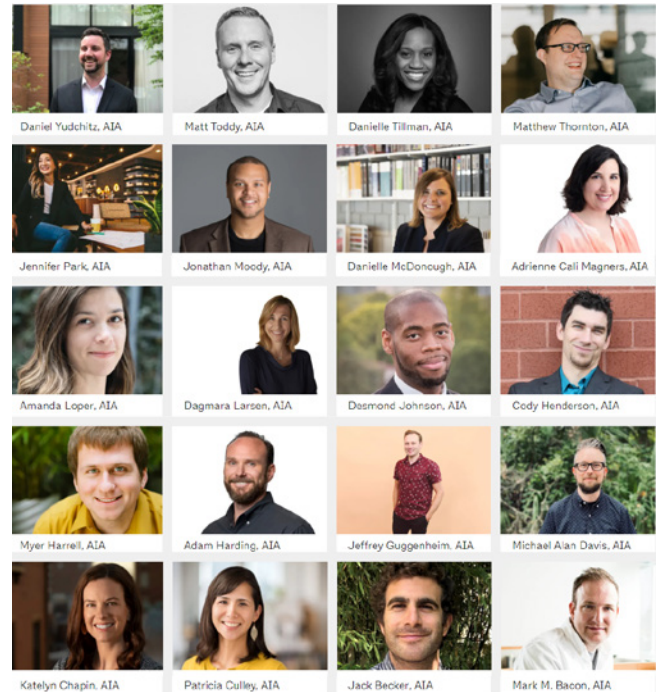


Wallcoverings: Printed on mylar, Aislinn by Len-Tex Wallcoverings has a touch of shine

year in review

>Promising Outlook for the Design Profession: What role can interior designers have in leading the industry? What leadership quality helps most in that role? These nuggets and more pack the 2021 ASID Outlook and State of Interior Design Report, with commentary by officeinsight contributor Stephen Witte. [\[3.22.21\]](#)

>AIA Honors Its Young: What talents does the architecture profession most admire today? The winners of the 2021 AIA Young Architects Awards are chosen from nominees who have been licensed to practice less than ten years – age not a factor. Choosing just 20 from the entire country assures us of exceptionally talented honorees. [\[3.22.21\]](#), [\[3.29.21\]](#)



2021 AIA Young Architects Awards

>March officenewswire highlights:

-Humanscale appointed Nancy Pedrick as President of North American Sales, overseeing both the North America Commercial market and all Global markets. Ms. Pedrick originally joined Humanscale more than 17 years ago and has consistently excelled in each new role at the company.

-Mohawk Group announced that all its commercial showrooms and design studios are set to achieve the WELL Health-Safety Rating from the IWBI, making it one of the first flooring manufacturers to achieve this distinction.

-BIFMA launched BIFMA Compliant, a new industry-wide registry of furniture products that conform to BIFMA safety and durability standards. Compliant provides clarity to the

market by differentiating products that meet established industry standards. Manufacturers around the world are invited to participate.

-Scandinavian Spaces broke ground for a new 43,000sf, state-of-the-art showroom and warehouse in Round Rock, TX. The company partnered with IA Interior Architects' Austin, TX office to design the showroom.

- Steelcase introduced more than 40 products designed to meet the emerging needs and expectations of workers.

-Perkins&Will unveiled its new Manhattan home at Nomad Tower, located at 1250 Broadway in Midtown. The 12,000sf, second-floor studio provides passersby with a peek into its design culture while connecting staff to the street life below.

-Herman Miller opened its new standalone location in Chicago's Fulton Market. Transitioning from a traditional trade-only showroom in the Merchandise Mart, the company brought its growing family of brands together under one roof in a new retail, showroom and exhibition space. The 45,000sf location occupies a landmark 1920's brick building with an adjoining five-story newbuild, complete with a rooftop and outdoor pavilion.

APRIL

>French Advocates of Reuse Win the 2021 Pritzker Prize: The Pritzker Prize is the closest equivalent in the design world to the Nobel Prizes. The 2021 honorees Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal do not design new buildings with dazzling configurations in far-flung locations. Instead, they advocate the reuse of existing structures, and they show the world how to do that with exceptional skill. [\[4.5.21\]](#)



Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal - Photo credit Laurent Chalet

year in review

>Turf Design Introduces Timber: Turf Design, Chicago-based manufacturer of custom acoustic solutions, launched its latest innovation, Timber. Designers can choose from eight digitally-printed wood finishes in 30 colors. Fully customizable, Timber baffles can be configured to complement any space. [\[4.5.21\]](#)



Turf Design's Timber ceiling baffles can be used to create sculptural forms on the ceiling

>Kettal Introduces Pavilion O: The Spanish manufacturer known for its stylish outdoor furniture introduces an indoor solution for the office. The innovative modular system can be configured in countless ways to support different working styles and zones within the modern workplace. [\[4.12.21\]](#)



Pavilion O by Kettal is a modular system to be used within workspaces.

>Herman Miller to Acquire Knoll, Industry Reacts: It was announced that Herman Miller is set to acquire Knoll in a \$1.8 billion cash and stock transaction, an unprecedented deal that will create the largest company in the industry. We asked A&D leaders to share their thoughts on what

year in review



Charles and Ray Eames began their relationship with Herman Miller in the 1940s, with their designs for molded plywood chairs

it all means for the industry, and the legacy of these two iconic brands. Industrial designer Carl Gustav Magnusson, founder of CGM Design, noted that “In 1941 Eero Saarinen and Charles Eames, Cranbrook Academy classmates, won

the MOMA Organic Design in Home Furnishings award. Eero went on to create extraordinary designs for Knoll, while Charles did the same for Herman Miller that continue today as master classics. Their cultural collaboration was prescient of the moment we are now in some eighty years later; the merger of the very companies that represent the continuation of simply the best in modernism and its global distribution to the office and home markets. The best find each other.”

Ken Wilson, Design principal and co-global interior design director at Perkins&Will commented that the announcement came as a surprise to everyone. He quoted Brent Capron, Design Director of Interiors in New York as jokingly saying, “I feel like someone just told me Ford bought Chevy.”

Zurich Esposito, former executive vice president, AIA Chicago, said “The joining of these two legendary furniture giants is exciting and logical. Collaborate rather than compete. How many of us should take that advice?”

Most comments were supportive of the move, and all were insightful. Some industry leaders expressed concern about the merger’s impact on competition. [\[4.26.21\]](#)



Charles Eames and Eero Saarinen with a lightweight tensile structure designed for a 1939 faculty exhibition at the Cranbrook Academy - Photo credit Richard G. Askew



Designed by Charles and Ray Eames for Herman Miller, the Eames lounge chair and ottoman was introduced in 1956



The Tulip Chair, designed by Eero Saarinen for Knoll, 1957; Florence Knoll and Eero Saarinen

year in review

>Merger of Rivals Reunites Designs of Eames, Saarinen: George Nelson, Herman Miller's director of design from 1946 until 1972, once said of a rumor that involved Herman Miller acquiring Knoll, "I think that would be the worst thing that could happen." Now that the deal was done, contributor Stephen Witte explored the history of the two brands, and how their rivalry led to innovation and creativity for both. [\[4.26.21\]](#)

>Steelcase Names Sara Armbruster CEO: Jim Keane, Steelcase's current president and CEO, announced that he will retire after 25 years with the company. Sara Armbruster will take over as president and CEO, the first woman to lead the company in its 109-year history. [\[4.26.21\]](#)



Sara Armbruster

>April officenewswire highlights:

-Elissa Black was selected as Executive Director of NYCx-DESIGN. Ms. Black has been deeply involved in New York City's cultural and design world for over fifteen years with leading roles at Van Alen Institute and the Guggenheim Museum.

-Mohawk Group achieved the WELL Health-Safety Rating for all of its commercial showrooms and design studios through the International WELL Building Institute.

-Herman Miller named popular streamer Tim Betar (known as "Timthetcatman" professionally) as the brand's very first global Brand Ambassador. Timthetcatman has been streaming since 2012, gaining millions of followers drawn to his inspiring skills, upbeat personality, and entertaining banter, streaming popular games including World of Warcraft,

Counter-Strike, Overwatch, and Fortnite. As an ambassador, he will actively share his experiences using Herman Miller products.

-Herman Miller joined the Future Forum as a founding partner. Future Forum is a Slack-backed consortium that's helping executives at leading companies deliver on the transformation needed to thrive in the post-pandemic world.

-Casey Baxter joined HBF + HBF Textiles as Vice President, General Manager. Based in New York City, Ms. Baxter has more than 16 years of sales and leadership experience in the commercial furniture industry with a focus on design-oriented brands.

-Adrian Parra joined HBF + HBF Textiles as Director, Creative and Marketing. He brings more than 16 years of combined experience in contract furniture and direct-to-consumer e-commerce.

-Pratt Career Night was held virtually via Zoom. MFA and BFA Interior Design students presented their portfolios, all available for online public viewing on a dedicated website, "Pratt Shows." Career Night attendance included 130 interior design students, 10 design firms, and 20 designers and architects.



Pratt Students Anashwara Mandalay, MFA; Kelli McGrath, BFA; and Fangming Cai, MFA; with Vitra SVP Diane Barnes on Pratt Career Night

year in review

MAY

>In Memoriam: Arthur Gensler: Art Gensler, 85, passed away peacefully May 10 at his home in Mill Valley, CA. He was the co-founder, with his wife Drue and associate James Follett, of M. Arthur Gensler Jr. & Associates, Inc. known simply to us as Gensler – the world's largest architecture firm. [\[5.17.21\]](#)



Art Gensler - Photo credit Emily Hagopian

>In Memoriam: Helmut Jahn: "Starchitect" Helmut Jahn was killed in an accident on May 8. He was one of the most prolific of the postmodern architects, with buildings around the globe. While he found extensive acceptance in his native country of Germany, his contribution to the outstanding architecture of Chicago is undeniable. [\[5.17.21\]](#)



Helmut Jahn - Photo credit Ingrid von Kruse, courtesy of Jahn

>In Memoriam: Ed Friedrichs: Edward Charles Friedrichs, III, age 77, passed away peacefully at his Reno, NV home on May 13. For 34 years he was a key leader at Gensler. He was a driving force in establishing the firm's successful practice areas in entertainment, transportation, urban and master planning, and strategic facility consulting. [\[5.24.21\]](#)



Ed Friedrichs in the very early days at Gensler's first San Francisco office

>Carnegie and Création Baumann's Ideal Partnership: For more than four decades, Carnegie and Création Baumann have partnered to bring high-performance contract fabrics to the American market. The two companies have now solidified their affiliation, with Carnegie now exclusive distributor of all Création Baumann products in the U.S. [\[5.3.21\]](#)



Solio from Création Baumann is a semi-transparent curtain fabric in Trevira CS

year in review

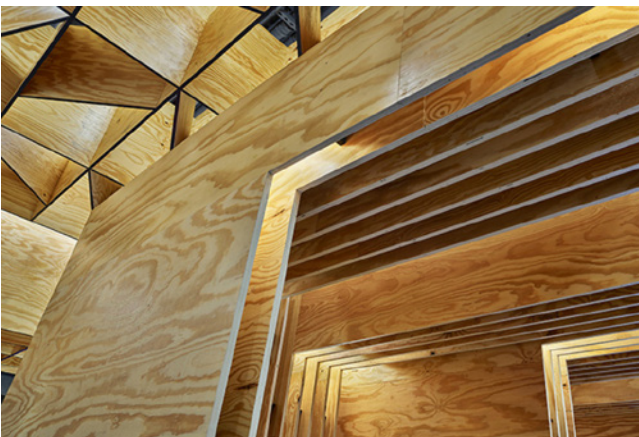
>Art Set to Transform Post-Pandemic Workplaces:

Absolut Art is a brand extension of the Absolut spirits company, best-known for their vodka, and today also noted as a champion of emerging artists. Art is no longer an adornment for plain walls but serves to provide inspiration for employees. Lisa Törner, global director of partnerships, shared her insights about current trends, and how art is set to transform the post-pandemic workplace. [\[5.3.21\]](#)



Absolut Art: Rebel Rebel by David Stenbeck features a neon sign floating in pink clouds

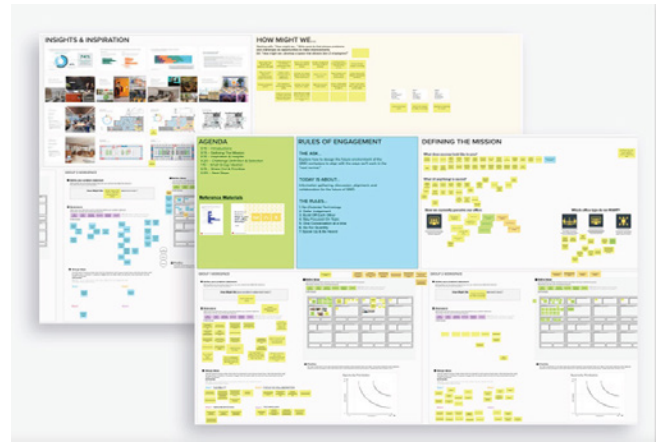
>AIA's Interior Architecture Awards for 2021: As with other recent architectural awards, this year's awards for interiors show clear evidence of the profession's heightened emphasis on environmental responsibility and community values. Among this year's eight winners we can find commendable ecological and social strategies – and no overly lavish expenditure of resources to serve essentially private goals. [\[5.10.21\]](#)



AIA Interior Architecture Awards: CO-OP Ramen, plywood details - Photo credit Timothy Hursley

>NELSON Worldwide's Workplace Innovation Sessions:

The team at NELSON Worldwide developed interactive sessions to understand an organization's unique needs as they come back to the office. These collaborative workshops are designed to spark innovation, ensure that cross-functional teams are working toward a common goal, and, ultimately, foster a user-centric design. [\[5.10.21\]](#)



Leveraging their branded MURAL platform, NELSON Worldwide's staff facilitates a series of interactive workshops

>Strategies for Enhanced Indoor Air Quality: There is now growing demand for strategies that facilitate nonviral environments, enhance air quality, and supplement whole health building systems. Experts from DudalPaine Architects shared recent projects and their thoughts on the importance of greenery, improved ventilation, and bringing the outdoors to our interiors. [\[5.17.21\]](#)

>Cranbrook and the Power of Beginnings: Design's household names like Knoll, Eames, Saarinen, and Bertola have something in common: they all studied at Cranbrook Academy of Art. A surprising number of influential designers in the field of contract furniture have continued to emerge from Cranbrook. What is it about this school that attracts and delivers such talent? Contributor Stephen Witte revisits the school's beginnings to find out. [\[5.17.21\]](#)

>NeoCon 2021 Live and In-Person: The re-emergence of NeoCon Oct. 4-6, live and in-person after the pandemic shutdown, was greatly anticipated. [\[5.24.21\]](#)

>AIA's Twenty-five-year Award for 2021: The AIA confers its 25-Year Award annually on a work of architecture "that has set a precedent for the past 25-35 years and continues to set standards of excellence." Most of the architects who have won this award since its inception in 1969 would applaud this year's choice, the Burton Barr Phoenix Central Library, designed in the early 1990s by Will Bruder Architect in a joint venture with another Phoenix firm, DWL Architects + Planners [\[5.31.21\]](#)



AIA 25-Year Award - Burton Barr Phoenix Central Library - Photo credit Bill Timmerman, courtesy of Will Bruder Architects

>May officenewswire highlights:

-Sedia Systems celebrated the grand opening of a freshly renovated 60,000sf manufacturing plant in Asheboro, NC. The event marked the consolidation of its manufacturing from two separate leased plants in neighboring High Point, NC.

-Gordon Boggis is the new CEO of Carnegie Fabrics. Mr. Boggis previously served as the CEO of Mission, an innovative textile company that produced personal cooling gear. Over the past 17 years, he has led several highly successful brand-centric companies as CEO, including Redco Foods and Unreal Candy.

-Maharam updated its North American presence with new showrooms in Chicago and Los Angeles—both designed in collaboration with architect Neil Logan.

-Coalesse sat down with a panel of industry leaders with one question in mind – “What Could Be?” The conversation covered topics including sustainability, wellness and what tomorrow’s offices might look like. Hybrid models, tech integration and a focus on wellness in the workplace are important changes needed to return to the office.

-Configura now offers its signature software product, CET Designer, as three CET industry products: CET Commercial Interiors, CET Material Handling, and CET Kitchen & Bath. This transition allows the software company to offer an industry-focused user experience.

-Buro Happold acquired one of the world’s leading acoustics and audio-visual consultancies, Vanguardia Limited, and its subsidiary Crowd Dynamics International. Having worked together on renowned sports and entertainment projects for more than two decades, the businesses have helped to deliver some of the finest venues and experiences in the world. The collaboration also extends from Buro Happold’s work in integrated engineering design and consultancy.

-NYCxDESIGN named the recipients of its inaugural grant program, The Breakout Grant. As its first initiative as a non-profit, the Breakout Grant was conceived to help financially support NYC-based designers and design businesses in implementation or furthering the momentum of a product or

project that is in pre-market, late-stage development. Grant recipients Matt Tyson of Modos Furniture, Danielle Arps of Artisan Alliance, and Gisue Hariri and Mojgan Hariri of Hariri & Hariri Architecture D.P.C. will be able to pursue the next steps of their inspiring projects.

-Pulp Studio provided glass curves and panels for the Hurricane Maria Memorial, which opened to the public in NYC. The memorial, designed by Puerto Rico-based architect Segundo Cardona, features an ascending glass spiral, meant to echo a hurricane and a shell, which is a symbol of protection against the elements.

JUNE

>Introducing Coil Collection Naturals: Seattle-based lighting studio LightArt introduced a new addition to their signature Coil Collection, Coil Collection Naturals. The fixtures are made from upcycled waste, just like the originals, but now feature new colors, bold shapes and sizes, and superior performance technology. [\[6.7.21\]](#)



The fixtures in LightArt’s Coil Collection Naturals line are made from upcycled waste

>One Workplace and Uhuru Launch Heirloom Design: Heirloom Design, a new joint venture, was formed to slow the carbon-intensive cycle of furniture refresh. The commercial interiors industry offers programs to refurbish or recycle some products, but founding partners Dave Bryant and Jason Horvath want to transform the current model to meet the urgent need to eliminate waste. [\[6.14.21\]](#)



Uhuru Design’s Cyclone Lounger, made with reclaimed wood from the Coney Island Boardwalk

year in review

>Davis Furniture Inaugurates a New Headquarters in High Point, NC: Danny Davis, president and CEO of the company, said of the building, “Our goal with this new facility was to prioritize a strong focus on a modern and evolved corporate headquarters. This new facility embodies the Davis brand and our values, bringing together our top-tier manufacturing and our unwavering focus on design.” [\[6.21.21\]](#)

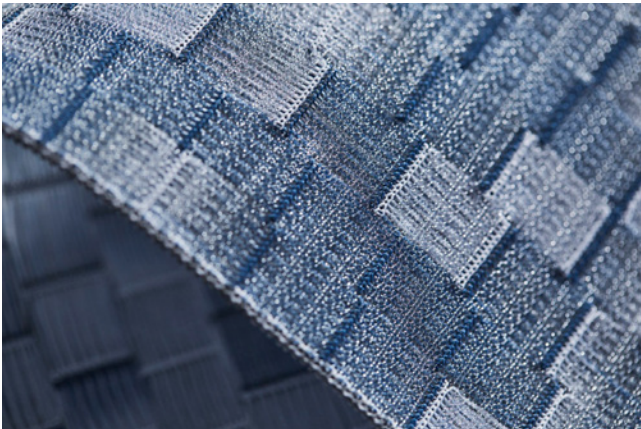


Davis Furniture's new headquarters - Photo credit Tim Buchman



Davis Furniture - The third, fourth and fifth generations of the Davis family - Photo credit Yasmin Leonard Photography

>Introducing Camira Knit: For more than two decades, Camira's knit division has been responsible for producing technical fabrics for leading manufacturers in a range of



Camira Knit brings precision engineering to fabric creation

sectors, from automotive to furniture. The U.K.-based textile company is highlighting this advanced technological capability with a new name, logo, and look as part of a complete brand refresh. The launch of the brand, Camira Knit, comes at a time when knits are in high demand. [\[6.21.21\]](#)

>An Interview with Swivel CEO Scott Harmon: Swivel, which provides a digital leasing platform for offices, introduced a new product, Swivel Space Planning, that offers office design capabilities. Contributor Troy Segal spoke to Mr. Harmon about this new tool, the advantages it offers design pros and clients, and why it's especially relevant for post-pandemic offices. [\[6.21.21\]](#)



With Swivel Space Planning, landlords, leasing agents, and design professionals can view a replica of the space, not just a generic room

>Haworth and Hope College Open the Haworth Hotel: The new Haworth Hotel in Holland, MI, is officially open for business. A \$7.5 million joint project between Haworth and Hope College, the former Haworth Inn and Conference Center has been totally reimagined. With design driven by Haworth and led by Patricia Urquiola and her studio, the hotel boasts 48 guestrooms, a ballroom, and a range of conference spaces. [\[6.28.21\]](#)



Haworth Hotel ribbon cutting (L to R) Franco Bianchi, Haworth President and CEO; Matthew Haworth, Chairman; Matthew Scogin, Hope College President; Richard Haworth, Chairman Emeritus; Kurt Vander Schuur, Haworth Global Brand Director

year in review

>Vitra's Club Office: Club Office is now open at Vitra's headquarters in Birsfelden, Switzerland. Developed as a flexible working space for the company's own research and design team, three key areas are central to the concept: a public section, a semi-public area, and a private zone. Club Office incorporates new and existing Vitra products, all designed to support productivity. [\[6.28.21\]](#)



Vitra's Club Office - Photo credit Eduardo Perez

>June officenewswire highlights:

-Nick Haritos was promoted to president of AIS. Bruce Platzman will remain as CEO and Arthur Maxwell will continue as chairman of the board.

-AIS wrapped up its philanthropic Sew the Masks program after donating more than 600,000 facemasks to over 500 organizations in 31 states across the U.S.

-Meghan Sherwin was promoted from Vice President, Marketing to Chief Marketing Officer of Keilhauer.

-DIRTT opened a new manufacturing plant located in Rock Hill, SC.

-Unique Design X Group, a commercial platform dedicated to promoting collectible design, held its first U.S. event in Savannah, GA. Following two successful boutique design fairs — Unique Design X Shanghai in 2019 and Unique Design X Paris in 2020 — the Savannah show presented a curated selection of unique and limited-edition design pieces.

-Kimball International earned the WELL Health-Safety Rating for its recently renovated Headquarters Campus in Jasper, IN, through the International WELL Building Institute. The WELL Health-Safety Rating takes into account operational policies, maintenance protocols, stakeholder engagement and emergency plans to address a post-COVID-19 environment.

-Herman Miller announced the launch of the Diversity in Design Collaborative, a group of companies united by a belief in the critical role that diversity plays in creating

strong, impactful businesses and innovations. Founding members include 2x4, Adobe, Architecture Plus Information, Aruliden, Civilization, COLLINS, Dropbox, Fossil Group, Freeman, fuseproject, Gap Inc., Herman Miller Group, Knoll Inc., Levi Strauss & Co, Pentagram, Stamen Design, Studio O+A, Wolff Olins, and Work & Co.

-Paul Makovsky is the new Editor-In-Chief for ARCHITECT, the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, published by Zonda Media, previously Hanley Wood. Mr. Makovsky most recently served as consultant for multiple architectural firms and product manufacturers, and prior to that he spent two years as the editor-in-chief of Contract Magazine. Before joining Contract, he served at Metropolis magazine for more than 18 years.

-Humanscale announced that 25 of its products, about 60% of sales, are certified climate, water, and energy positive through the Living Product Challenge.

-DIFFA held its first in-person fundraising event since before the pandemic—DIFFA Pride presented by Shaw Contract Summer of Color Series.

-Shannon Cochran was named the new Brand Leader of Patcraft. She has served as Vice President of Creative and Design for the last five years.

-AIA, in partnership with Oldcastle BuildingEnvelope, released a new report, Business Opportunities & Sustainability Trends Amidst a Pandemic. While the impact on commercial and institutional nonresidential projects was especially negative, demand for architectural services on single-family home projects increased. The report also found that architects working on sustainable projects were not negatively impacted.

JULY

>Stylex Does Hybrid: Stylex CEO and design director Bruce Golden talked with officeinsight publisher Bob Beck about how the company's product offering has evolved to include more than the seating they're famous for. With the launch of Free Address 2.0, an advanced modular furniture system, Mr. Golden explained how the new collection, as well as classic pieces, support hybrid work. [\[7.12.21\]](#)



Stylex's Free Address 2.0 is a kit of parts with innumerable configuration possibilities to support the hybrid workplace

year in review

>Teknion's Future Smart: In Future Smart, Teknion addresses the sudden change in the workplace—and the world—and how the past year has challenged us all to think differently. Steve Delfino, vice president of corporate marketing and product management, explained the knowledge-based piece, which focuses on future workplace layouts, innovative product design, and empathetic, people-first office design. [\[7.12.21\]](#)



>An Interview with David Schutte: As the new president of TUUCI, David Schutte brings extensive leadership experience to the role, spanning key residential and contract businesses in the industry. Now, he's set to apply his expertise to the world of outdoor furnishings. Schutte talked about what he learned at Knoll, his take on TUUCI, and the importance of exterior spaces. [\[7.12.21\]](#)



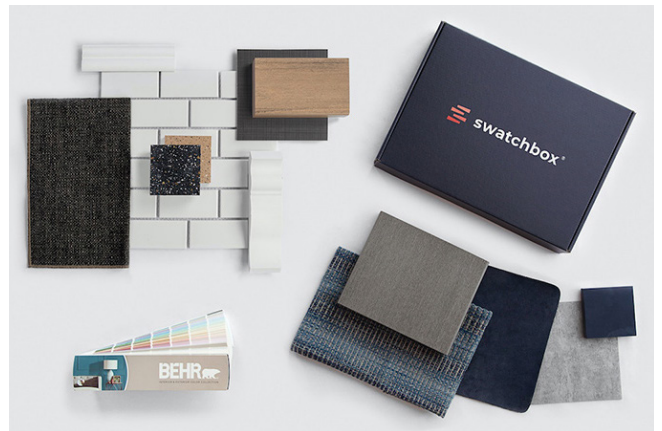
David Schutte, the new president of TUUCI

>Lighting the Post-Pandemic Office: Since Lutron Electronics founder Joel Spira invented the first solid-state electronic dimmer, the company has become synonymous with innovative lighting for residential and commercial interiors. Two leaders at Lutron shared their thoughts about the evolution of workplace lighting—from static fixtures to cutting-edge tools that allow the user to create an ideal environment for work using intuitive systems. [\[7.19.21\]](#)



Dynamic lighting like Ketra shifts in color temperature throughout the day, creating an environment that always feels natural - Photo credit Jake Holt, courtesy of Lutron

>Introducing Swatchbox Pro: Swatchbox, the premier sample fulfillment service, has launched Swatchbox Pro, a new AEC platform for researching and requesting samples of building products. It allows architects, designers, and contractors to order samples from leading manufacturers and have them delivered with minimal wait time. [\[7.26.21\]](#)



Swatchbox Pro

year in review

>July officenews highlights:

-Alfred Vidaurri Jr. of Fort Worth, TX, was inducted as the president of NCARB at its 2021 Annual Business Meeting. Mr. Vidaurri is the first Latino president in the organization's history.

-Ethnicraft opened its first North American showroom, a permanent, 2,500sf space in suite 322 of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

-Kimball International announced a new customer-centric go-to-market strategy. It provides customers access to the company's full portfolio of Workplace, Education, and Health brands including Kimball, National, Etc., and Interwoven, as well as select products from Poppin, which was acquired in December 2020. The company's sales and service organizational structure has migrated from branded selling teams to a more collaborative organization designed around a broad portfolio of brands and solutions.

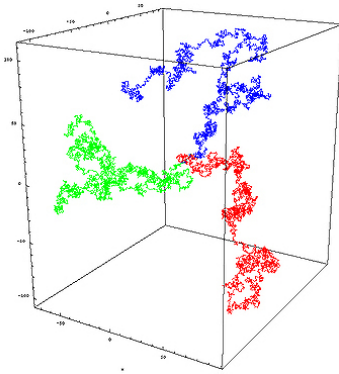
-NARBUTAS celebrated its 30th anniversary with a new factory, new furniture collections and commitments to both people and the environment. The company, founded one year after Lithuania regained its independence, started its furniture production with a computer desk in 1991 and today offers more than 70 different furniture collections in more than 50 countries, with a network of 750 reliable sales partners globally.

-Knoll Common Stock ceased trading prior to the opening of the market on Jul. 20 and is no longer listed on NYSE. Herman Miller, which completed its previously announced acquisition on Jul. 19, announced that the combined company will move forward as MillerKnoll.

-In Memoriam: Selina Thompson. You are missed every day. - Casey McNamara, Stephen Viscusi and the many in the industry who knew and loved you.

AUGUST

>**MillerKnoll: A Random Walk:** There is no question that the biggest news in the commercial design and furnishings industry in recent memory is Herman Miller's acquisition of Knoll. Publisher Bob Beck, an industry and Knoll veteran, reflected on his time at Knoll, and even amid uncertainty, remains hope-fully optimistic as we usher in the MillerKnoll era. [\[8.2.21\]](#)



A Random Walk

>**Inauguration of an idesk Showroom in Dallas:** The new space occupies close to 200,000 sf, with ample area dedicated to the showroom of Cherryman Industries' upscale brand. The showroom was designed to be both functional and highly adaptable, just like the products. [\[8.9.21\]](#)



idesk design team (L-R) John Manson, Zhanna Manko, Carl Magnusson, Shawn Littrell

>**LGBTQIA+ Faces of the Workplace Design Industry:** In a time of unprecedented challenge, designers and architects continue to focus on inclusion and equity, highlighting the experiences of people who identify across the spectrum of genders and sexual orientations. Industry leaders shared their perspectives on cultivating a diverse representation in the A&D community. [\[8.16.21\]](#)



Industry leaders are continuing to focus on equity and inclusion in the workplace

>**A New Design Week: Stockholm Creative Edition:** Set to take place Sep. 23-29, Stockholm Creative Edition is the initiative of Ulrika and Philippe Attar of multidisciplinary studio Atmosfär by Attar. The pair wanted to provide participating companies with the opportunity to showcase their work in an exciting way. [\[8.23.21\]](#)



Ulrika and Philippe Attar of design studio Atmosfär by Attar are behind the new design week, Stockholm Creative Edition

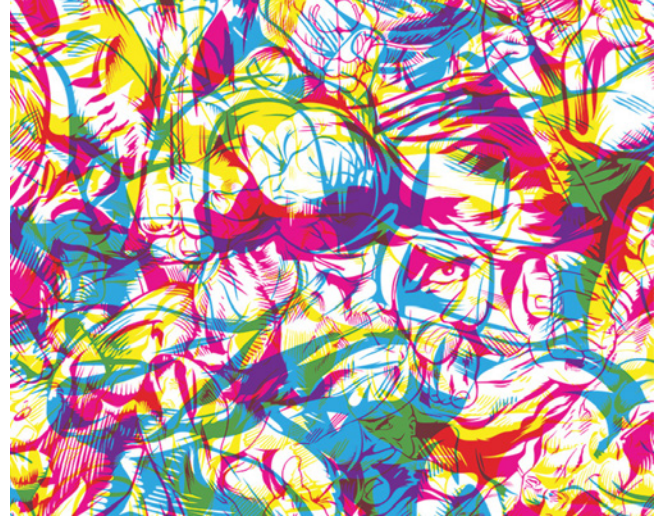
>Spacestor Introduces Verandas: The first of its kind, Verandas is a modular meeting room system that gives businesses the flexibility to build, remodel, or deconstruct conference spaces as their offices change. It is essentially a kit of parts that is easy to assemble, allowing staff to utilize it as their needs evolve. [\[8.30.21\]](#)



Verandas by Spacestor

>Wolf-Gordon Expands the Curated Collection: Expansion of the Curated Collection of digitally-printed wallcovering, panel, and upholstery textiles introduces 13 new designs from six different artists. The styles in the collection reflect the diverse backgrounds and influences of the creatives: ASVP, Ghislaine Viñas, Kari Kristensen, Ryan Bradley, Audrey Stone, and Studioestudio. [\[8.30.21\]](#)

year in review



Wolf-Gordon Curated Collection's Super Matter 24 by ASVP features bold color and comic book references

>August officenewswire highlights:

-In Memoriam: Andrew Morrison—who designed the Morrison System, the best-selling product in Knoll history—died on July 27 at his home on Long Island, NY. He was 82. Mr. Morrison began working independently on an office system for Knoll in the late 1970s, initially proposing radically simple, unfolding carpeted surrounds for independent workstations. Knoll introduced the Morrison Office System in 1986, and through its 33 years in production, it ultimately exceeded \$3 billion in sales

-In Memoriam: Bernard Lax, the founder, owner, and CEO of Pulp Studio, died unexpectedly on Aug. 3 at age 64. Mr. Lax was a pioneer who paved the way for change in many aspects of the glass industry. Beginning in 1996, growing the company to the premier fabricator Pulp Studio is today, he was never shy about challenging the norms, pushing the envelope, and fighting for improvement.

-In Memoriam: Alan J Heller passed away on Aug. 13. He was founder of Heller and well-known to the design community for his dedication to – and long successful history of bringing “Good design at affordable prices” to the world.

-The National Institute of Building Sciences Consultative Council issued its 2020 Moving Forward Report to the President of the United States. The report examines how buildings can protect and promote public health, providing recommendations for President Biden and policymakers on three components of healthy buildings: indoor environmental quality, the importance of design in promoting health, and promoting knowledge transfer between building owners and public health officials.

year in review

-The Society for College and University Planning (SCUP) and partner brightspot, a Buro Happold company shared results of a new national study of Post-Covid campus facility trends. According to the study, student enrollment is fast outpacing U.S. universities' ability to accommodate their enrollees in academic and residential facilities. Grappling with the pandemic, over half of school leaders also see the need for more flexible staff and faculty offices, while 48% are expanding multicultural student spaces over the next year to make their campuses more inclusive and equitable.

-Be Original Americas' 6th annual Be Original Americas Student Fellowship program reached a global audience of more than 2,200 registered students. After a successful pivot to virtual programming in 2020 to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the 2021 Fellowship was again held digitally. Registered students gathered via webinars June 2-25 to learn about topics ranging from sustainable manufacturing to contemporary approaches in interior design and architecture.

-Lindsay Baker is the new CEO of International Living Future Institute. Ms. Baker brings a robust resumé of experience in green building and sustainability from a range of different positions. She has worked with environmental NGOs, led a tech start-up, and worked within the corporate sphere with Google and WeWork. She also co-hosts, with Kira Gould, a podcast called "Design the Future" that features notable women in sustainability.

-Steven Bramson is the new President of Innovative Ergonomic Solutions. Mr. Bramson, with more than 25 years of executive leadership experience, most recently served as President of Humanscale North America from 2016 to 2019. He started his career at Humanscale in 1996 as a District Sales Manager and quickly rose through the ranks.

-ASID and the International Code Council joined forces to support designers through a series of initiatives and programs that will promote building safety. As their first initiative, they will collaborate on a new certification credential for which designers may apply: the Interior Design Code Specialist (IDCS), which will promote building safety through the profession of interior design.

-Dyer Brown shared insights into how changes in the commercial real estate market since the pandemic have increased demand for spec suites.

SEPTEMBER

>An Interview with Kait Paradowski: Recently joining mosaic manufacturer Artaic as design director, Kait Paradowski serves as the leader of the brand's design department, overseeing the conception of in-house collections and the design proposal process for clients seeking custom pieces. Anna Zappia spoke with her about her move from textiles to mosaics, the benefits of tile, and how mosaics are enhancing indoor and outdoor spaces. [\[9.13.21\]](#)



Kait Paradowski

>What Can the Workplace Learn from Lockdown? Australian firm Hames Sharley surveyed all staff across its six studios to investigate the impact of working from home and the lessons that could be translated back into the workplace. Stephen Moorcroft, workplace portfolio leader at Hames Sharley, reported on the findings and what they mean for post-pandemic workplaces across the globe. [\[9.13.21\]](#)

>Supersalone 2021: Publisher Bob Beck returned from a whirlwind trip to Italy to attend Supersalone 2021, the special 2021 Salone del Mobile.Milano event that was created as a solution to the problem created by—as they say in Italy, the “Emergenza COVID.” This year 425 brands showed their wares in four Halls contained within two Pavilions. But smaller wasn't necessarily worse—it was better in many ways, with plenty of exceptional design on display. [\[9.20.21\]](#)



Supersalone 2021: The entire exhibition was curated and designed by the office of Stefano Boeri Architetti. The backdrop for all the stands was fabricated using natural MDF and plywood, mechanically attached to a steel superstructure. This technique allowed for the panels to be disassembled and reused or recycled. Some companies agreed to buy the panels to use in manufacturing. Photo credit Andrea Marini

>An Interview with Melissa Bailey: Ms. Bailey, who recently joined Portland, OR-based Wildwood House as procurement director, spoke with Anna Zappia about her new role, the breadth of her industry experience, and the office of the future. [\[9.20.21\]](#)



Melissa Bailey

>Davis Gets Ready for NeoCon: With global mobility greatly curtailed by COVID restrictions, publisher Bob Beck wondered if product development would be affected. The team at Davis is well-known for working closely with European designers and companies, and despite the pandemic, that tradition continued, with nine new products set to debut at the trade show this year. [\[9.27.21\]](#)

year in review



Davis Furniture: Quad by jehs+laub

>September officenewswire highlights:

-In Memoriam: Robert J. Verrier, founder of Chelsea, MA-based firm The Architectural Team (TAT), died Aug. 24 at age 81. A Fellow of AIA, Mr. Verrier was known for his pioneering work in historic preservation and adaptive reuse. He is also remembered for his support of community and charitable groups, his devotion to family, and his mentorship of young architects.

-HNI Corp. is opening a new office furniture manufacturing plant in Saltillo, Mexico. The 160,000sf facility will provide additional capacity to meet HNI's growing customer demand for office seating.

-OM Seating achieved BIFMA LEVEL® 2 certification across its product lines.

-Mark Baker, Chief Operating Officer of Santa Clara-based One Workplace since 2017, was named CEO. He succeeds Mark Ferrari, who is celebrating his 50th work anniversary (36 of those years as CEO) and will expand his role as chairman of the board of the family-owned company that was founded by his father in 1947.

-AIS expanded its Design Department to provide comprehensive design services to dealers and customers across North America and beyond. Director of Design Michael MacLean joined AIS in January to lead all department programs.

-Elizabeth Margles joined Humanscale's Marketing Division in the role of Chief Marketing Officer. With a background in public relations and advertising, Ms. Margles has 20 years of experience in design, fashion, and retail. Prior to joining Humanscale, she was Vice President, Marketing for North America and Latin America at Caesarstone for over five years.

-Mannington Commercial completed the purchase of select assets from AtlasMasland, the commercial floor covering business of The Dixie Group.

-Sherwin-Williams' 2022 Color of the Year is Evergreen Fog SW 9130, "a nourishing and sophisticated" gray-green.

-**Steelcase** entered a new relationship with Established & Sons, a British design brand and manufacturer of iconic products with style and personality. Steelcase will distribute a curated collection of Established & Sons designs, including some important examples of 21st-century design. Many of the pieces have been acquired by international museums, galleries, institutions, and private collections.

OCTOBER

>**NeoCon 2021 Product Preview:** With only days away from the start of NeoCon, Oct. 4-6, officeinsight was ready with our annual Product Preview issue. After more than a year of Zoom meetings and virtual product reviews under our belts, we eagerly anticipated seeing all the products displayed “in the flesh” – in nearly one million square feet of exhibition space at theMart. [\[10.1.21\]](#)



theMart

>**Best of NeoCon 2021:** Recognizing 81 products by 50 companies in 48 categories, the honors included 39 Gold Awards, 37 Silver Awards, 10 Innovation Awards, and 10 Sustainability Awards (a new category) for a total of 96 awards plus the Best of Competition Award. Bob Beck, Publisher of officeinsight, acted as Master of Ceremonies at the celebratory breakfast on Monday, Oct. 4 where the winners were announced and received accolades. **DARRAN Furniture** was awarded Best of Competition for **Honey**, the Gold Award winner in the Furniture Systems & Enhancements category. DARRAN VP of Sales Jeff Hollingsworth was asked about the inspiration and design process that made the juries fall in love with Honey; he acknowledged that all the credit goes to the designers, Mark Müller and Christopher Wright. Honey offers open and closed collaborative zones, meeting spaces, lounge, or desking in sitting, standing, or height-adjustable adapting to the way you work. [\[10.12.21\]](#)

year in review



Best of NeoCon Master of Ceremonies Bob Beck and Director of Competition Eileen McMorrow

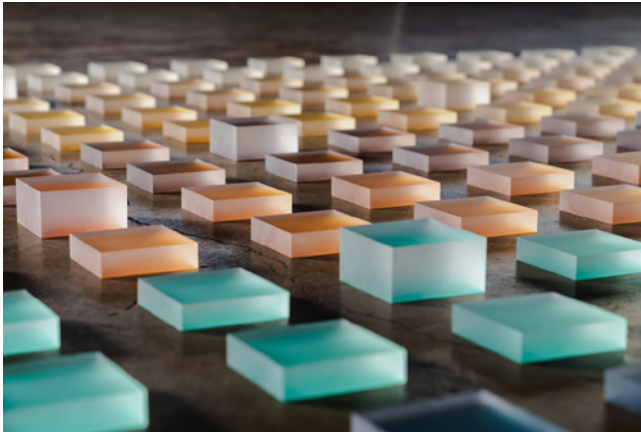


DARRAN Furniture - Honey workspace furniture

>**Delights of NeoCon:** This was a different NeoCon, for sure. Attendance was about half what it was in 2019, but most exhibitors we talked to didn't seem to think that was a terrible thing. The upside of low attendance was that the average showroom visitor was much more likely than attendees in prior years to be looking for products for a specific project. Another plus was that one could see the products in most showrooms rather than just seeing the crowds. And despite masks making it harder to recognize old industry acquaintances, being together again in-person was a real treat. For officeinsight publisher Bob Beck, the Best of NeoCon Awards program was totally delightful. Said Beck, “I had the best job possible for an awards competition. I hadn't spent the last 18 months or so developing a new product that was entered in the competition, so I wasn't nervous about winning (or not). I wasn't involved in the hard work of judging 274 entries, so companies that didn't win couldn't blame me. I got to announce the winning companies and feel the excitement and see how happy the awards made them. So, from my place on the stage the whole event was energizing and uplifting!” [\[10.18.21\]](#)

year in review

>Promoting Well-Being in the Workplace Using Restorative Design: As companies face the challenge of encouraging employees to return to the office, a holistic and integrated approach to design is needed. Marketing consultant Sarah Welker, former director of marketing at 3form, explored how enlisting color and light can positively affect the mental and physical well-being of workers for a greater sense of wellness. [\[10.25.21\]](#)



Restorative Design - Color and natural light play important roles in design's impact on well-being. Photography courtesy of 3form

>October officenewswire highlights:

-Hightower received IIDA's Best Small Showroom (under 4,000 sf) and Best of Competition awards for its newly redesigned Chicago showroom at NeoCon. It is the second time Hightower has come away with these prestigious honors. For their 2021 redesign, Hightower again partnered with Casey Keasler and her team at Casework, a Portland, OR design studio, transforming the 3,500sf Chicago space to give visitors a provocative new way to interpret the Hightower brand.



Hightower showroom

-Mercato Place, a new materials sampling solution for the A&D industry, was unveiled at an event during NeoCon. Mercato Place is a new online resource and service for interior designers to explore materials and trends, search easy-to-use resource libraries and order free textile samples curated from exclusive textile manufacturers and distributors.

-Tangram acquired BKM Total Office of Texas, expanding into the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Located at 9755 Clifford Drive, Suite 100 in Dallas, the office is Tangram's regional headquarters. BKM Total Office, a Steelcase Premier Partner in 2017, has been a market leader in curated office furniture creations in the DFW area for more than two decades. It operates within four facilities, with the headquarters office spanning over 44k sf and three main warehouse spaces totaling 120k sf.

-Configura acquired ProjectMatrix, which is now part of the Configura Group. ProjectMatrix is the leading software creator for pricing and specification solutions in North America's commercial interiors industry. "Configura and ProjectMatrix have worked together as partners for 14 years, helping designers do what they do best – design beautiful spaces that make a difference," said Configura CEO Stefan Persson said.

-ASID's National Board of Directors released its first-ever Position Statement on Climate, Health, and Equity. This statement acknowledges the impact of interior designers' decision on these three areas and the power the profession has to improve them.

-Buro Happold acquired one of the world's leading sustainability consultancies, Paladino and Company. Having worked together on renowned building projects for nearly a decade, the businesses have helped deliver some of the finest and most innovative solutions in the world, including the acclaimed Tower at PNC Plaza in Pittsburgh, Pa., a LEED Platinum-certified headquarters complex called "the world's greenest high-rise."

-Herman Miller Group's Chicago showroom at Fulton Market was awarded the WELL v2 Gold Certification by IWBI. This achievement comes in the company's second year as a member of WELL and after achieving the WELL Health-Safety rating earlier this year.

-AIA announced the winners of the AIA Film Challenge 2021. Judges selected POP Courts! – by filmmaker Brodie Kerst and Lamar Johnson Collaborative – as this year's Grand Prize winner. POP Courts! provides much-needed outdoor amenity space in the heart of Chicago's Austin neighborhood.

-In Memoriam: Richard "Dick" Schultz, the jovial and quick-witted designer who created the first truly Modern outdoor furniture, passed away at the age of 95. Mr. Schultz was an integral part of the Knoll story during its formative years— and his immeasurable impact on Knoll's brand legacy is still felt today.

NOVEMBER

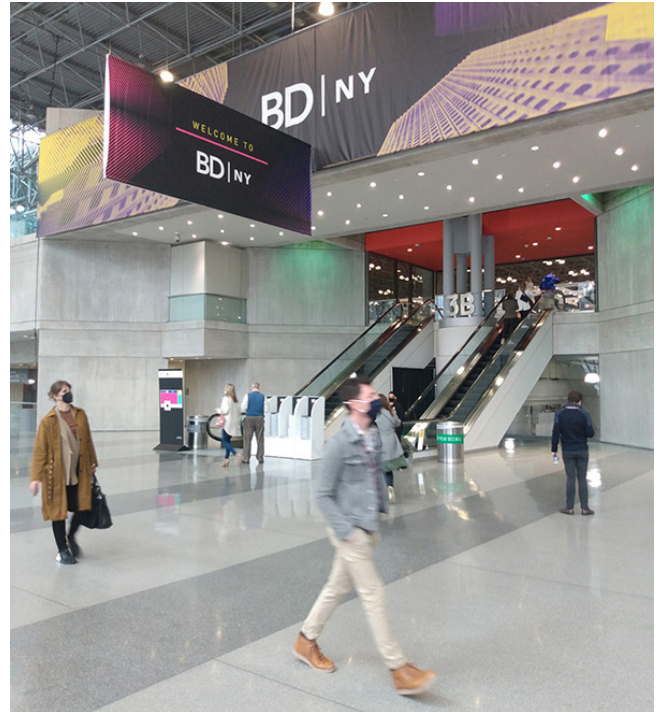
> **An Interview with Rodolfo Dordoni:** During Salone del Mobile in Milan, publisher Bob Beck had the opportunity to interview — and introduce our subscribers to — Italian designer and architect Rodolfo Dordoni, whose work is well-known and widely admired in Europe, but less so in the States. The two sat down to discuss Dordoni's early career, his rational approach to design, and an eagerness to try his hand at more casual products. [\[11.1.21\]](#)



Rodolfo Dordoni - Photo credit Federico Cedrone

> **BDNY Preview and Top Trends:** officeinsight Editor Anna Zappia, anticipating Boutique Design New York's return to the Javits Center for its 11th edition Nov. 14-15, put together a product preview in advance of the show, and she also compiled a summary after the show of the top trends she observed there. The leading trade fair for hospitality and lifestyle products featured the latest furniture, textiles, flooring, and accessories — for both indoor and outdoor settings. This year's trends included bold floral designs, patterns replicating natural stone, and new furnishings that can be used in either commercial or residential environments. [\[11.8.21\]](#), [\[11.29.21\]](#)

year in review



BDNY at the Javits Center in Manhattan

> **The Office's Mark Twain Moment:** Kurt von Koch, CEO and Chairman of FM:Systems, says the office is having a Mark Twain moment: reports of its death have been greatly exaggerated. He notes that moving forward, the most effective workplace strategies will focus on monitoring and assessing how employees interact with space, and how that supports short and long-term business goals. [\[11.8.21\]](#)



Kurt von Koch, CEO and Chairman, FM:Systems

year in review

>ASID Charts Interior Design's Path Beyond the Pandemic: Contributor Stephen Witte shared key findings in the 2021 ASID Interior Design Resiliency Report. The latest report details the interior design industry's realities, opportunities, and directions following global, pandemic-era disruption. [\[11.15.21\]](#)

>People — The Solution for the Future of Work “Problem”: Lauri Goodman Lampson, President and CEO at PDR, explains that we can solve the “Future of Work” problem based on what is best for the human beings who have dedicated the work part of their lives to our organizations. She adds that the future of work is about creating the best possible human experience — for the humans doing the work. [\[11.22.21\]](#)



Lauri Goodman Lampson, President and CEO, PDR

>November officenewswire highlights:

-Herman Miller, Inc., officially changing its name to MillerKnoll, Inc. on Nov. 1, changed its ticker symbol on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange from “MLHR” to “MLKN” at the open of market trading. This follows approval of name change at the annual shareholder meeting on Oct. 11, following Herman Miller’s acquisition of Knoll on Jul. 19.

-Steelcase acquired Viccarbe Habitat, S.L., a Spanish designer of contemporary furniture for high-performance collaborative and social spaces. The acquisition builds on more than 10 years of successful partnership between Viccarbe and Steelcase.

-Humanscale launched a new residential designer trade program. It will support residential designers and architects

to create ergonomic and sustainable home workspaces for their clients. The new trade program is open to all licensed and accredited interior designers and architects in the U.S. and Canada with certification or major design or architecture organization identification.

-Nemo Tile + Stone acquired Modern Stone Consulting, leading specialists in the sourcing, project management, and quality control of natural stone. Modern Stone Consulting is active in both Europe and the U.S., with consultants in New York, Boston, and Carrara, Italy, a city renowned for its natural stone production and concentration.

-DIFFA joined forces with Bloomingdale’s and top interior designers to create “Holiday By Design.” Twelve over the top tablescape were on display at Bloomingdale’s 59th Street flagship and auctioned off on CharityBuzz to raise money and awareness for those living with and impacted by HIV/ AIDS, as well as homelessness and drug addiction.

-Configura Oct. 26-28 held its largest CET Experience yet. This year’s user conference, held virtually, brought together more than 1,200 attendees across the globe – 300 more attendees than the previous year’s event. Hosted virtually for the second year in a row, the event offered participants nearly 50 presentations and educational sessions. This year’s conference theme was “Create Together. Create the Future.”

-Kourtney L. Smith was appointed Chief Operating Officer, Workplace and Health, at Kimball International, Inc. She remains an Executive Vice President and will continue to report directly to CEO Kristine L. Juster. Ms. Smith joined the Company in 1988 and has held roles of increasing responsibility in marketing, product development, sales, and service. In August 2020, she was appointed President, Workplace.

-Victor F. “Trey” Trahan, III was selected as the 2021 Laureate for The American Prize for Architecture, organized jointly by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies. The Chicago Athenaeum additionally recognized two Trahan Architects projects for American Architecture Awards.

-Office Resources, a leading Knoll dealer in the NY-NJ-CT Tri-State area, acquired Arenson Office Furnishings. With a combined annual revenue over \$250 million, this will make Office Resources one of the largest furniture distributors in the world. Arenson, a top contract furniture dealer for more than 35 years, and a founding Knoll dealer, will be rebranded as Office Resources.

-Lakisha Ann Woods will serve as the 15th EVP/ CEO of AIA, effective Jan. 31, 2022. She will succeed Robert Ivy, who is retiring after more than a decade of leading the organization. Ms. Woods has held several significant leadership

roles in the design and construction industry, currently serving as President & CEO of the National Institute of Building Sciences.

-World Monuments Fund awarded John Puttick Associates the 2021 World Monuments Fund/Knoll Modernism Prize for their thoughtful and detailed conservation on the Preston Bus Station in Preston, UK.

DECEMBER

>Future-Proof Interior Design: Designer David M. Sullivan brings an elevated aesthetic to a range of projects, from upscale residences to boutique hotels and custom furniture. As we return to our work and leisure spaces, new protocols, materials, and schedules are being implemented. Mr. Sullivan described key areas that specifiers and end-users alike can explore to future-proof interiors, post-pandemic and beyond: Hospitality-Driven Design and Service, Modern Materials, Customization and Integration. [[12.6.21](#)]



David M. Sullivan

year in review

>The Planet-Saving Superpowers of Designers: Sustainable Practices That Create Industry Change: Mike Johnson, the director of sustainability at 3form, and Ryan Smith, LightArt's president and creative director, detail some of the ways designers can begin to rethink material selection and specifications in their practice. [[12.6.21](#)]



Sustainable Practices - LightArt's Coil Collection created from recycled material

>World Honors for Architecture and Other Arts: One of the two highest international awards for design accomplishment, the Japan-based Praemium Imperiale honors one outstanding individual per year in the field of architecture and other arts. Contributor John Morris Dixon gives us a look at the exceptional work of this year's recipients. The 2021 honoree for architecture, Glenn Murcutt, differs from the typical Praemium Imperiale winner by operating an essentially one-man practice. He designs works of small to medium scale, and only in Australia. Yo-Yo Ma won the prize for music; Sebastião Salgado was honored in painting, and the prize for sculpture went to James Turrell. The 2021 Grant for Young Artists went to the Advanced Training School of the Central Institute for Restoration, an Italian academy that educates young professionals in art restoration. [[12.13.21](#)]



Praemium Imperiale 2021 honoree for architecture, Glenn Murcutt - Photo credit Anthony Browell

year in review

>Lockers for the Hybrid Workspace: Lockers are no longer just for education spaces or gyms, they are now changing the office landscape. As organizations rethink their workspaces, Travis Hollman, president and CEO of leading locker manufacturer Hollman, Inc., explained how lockers are the new office amenity. [\[12.13.21\]](#)



Hollman's Vecos locker solution can be operated easily via a smartphone or an employee's access badge

>December officenewswire highlights:

-Empire Office entered an agreement to acquire DeKalb Office Environments, establishing its local presence in Atlanta and Birmingham.

-Kvadrat opened a new flagship showroom in Los Angeles designed by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec. Materiality, integral to the Kvadrat brand, is center-stage throughout the space. The Bouroullecs created a two-story wooden construction within the showroom with raw, over-dimensioned beams reminiscent of original settler homes.

-AIS was named to the Inc. 2021 Best in Business list and received a silver medal in the 2nd annual awards program's manufacturing category. The list recognizes small- and medium-size privately held American businesses that have had an outstanding influence on their communities, their industries, the environment, or society as a whole in the past 12 months. More than 2,700 businesses submitted applications to this year's awards program, and AIS was among only 147 companies to be named to the list.

-Landscape Forms ranked top three in the 2021 Best Small and Medium Workplaces in Manufacturing Production™ compiled by Fortune Magazine and research partner Great Place to Work®. Rankings were determined via anonymous survey feedback representing more than 220,000 employees working in the Manufacturing & Production industry in the U.S. This is the second consecutive year Landscape Forms has earned a top three spot on this list.

-DIRTT opened a 14,000sf client experience center in Dallas, TX, designed in partnership with Gensler.

-Pantone's 2020 Color of the Year, PANTONE 17-3938 Very Peri, is "a dynamic shade of periwinkle blue with an invigorating violet red undertone that blends the fidelity and constancy of blue with the energy and enthusiasm of red... a symbol of the global zeitgeist of the moment and the transition we are going through."



Pantone Color of the Year