The Business of Furniture | September 4, 2019

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The Dirt on Smed's New Business, Falk Built Technologies

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September 4, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS

08 UPFRONT: Benchmark Is Set to Launch the Sage Collection by David Rockwell

During this year's London Design Festival, British furniture brand Benchmark will be launching a new collection of office furniture by American architect David Rockwell.

10 The Dirt on Smed's New Business, Falk Built Technologies

At a time when most executives would hang it up and relax on a warm beach, Smed is back at it.

34 KFI Studios: Speed, Prices, Quality... and Now Design

Products the company is launching are from a who's who in office furniture design.

< Lighting from KFI

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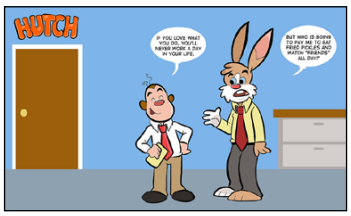
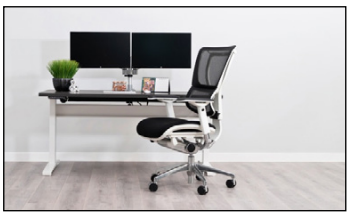


7 | Hutch Industry Cartoon

8 | Upfront



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10 | The Dirt on Smed's New Business, Falk Built Technologies

At a time when most executives would hang it up and relax on a warm beach, Smed is back at it, once again creating a brand that is sure to cause a buzz in the industry and has infuriated the leadership of his former company.

14 | CIFF Shanghai Starts Sunday

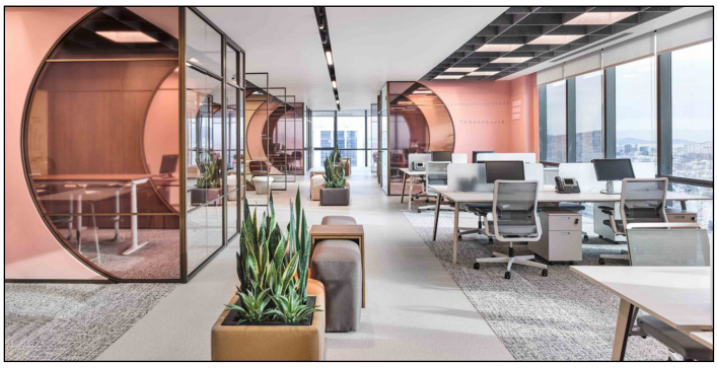
CIFF expects more than 150,000 visitors from 200 regions and countries worldwide. The theme of this year's show is "A Paradigm for Global Living."

30 | AMDG Architects Creates a Beautiful Mess With New School Design

Students at South Christian High School in West Michigan are enjoying a new state-of-the-art school. Funded mostly by cash gifts from the community.

34 | KFI Studios: Speed, Prices, Quality...and Now Design

KFI was a brand that had a few things going for it: It had speed, competitive prices and quality products. But it didn't have the design chops to get noticed by the office furniture industry.



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38 FIRST LOOKS The latest product introductions

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BoF Workplaces BELLOW PRESS

Editor-in-Chief, Bellow Press Rob Kirkbride
Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Publisher, Bellow Press Melissa Skolnick
Vice President, Content Production, Bellow Press Todd Hardy
Staff Writer, Marketing Manager, Bellow Press Emily Clingman
Workplace Guru, BoF Stephen Viscusi
Training & Development Columnist, BoF Sid Meadows
Contributing Writers, BoF:
Bruce Buursma, John Q. Horn, Stef Schwalb,
Jennie Morton, Michael Dunlap, Carolyn Cirillo, Kevin Budelmann
Illustrator, BoF Jamie Cosley
Copy Editor, BoF Linda Odette

Publishing Headquarters
382 NE 191st St, Suite 253
Miami, Florida 33179
877-BELLOW9 (877-235-5699)
Email: info@bellow.press

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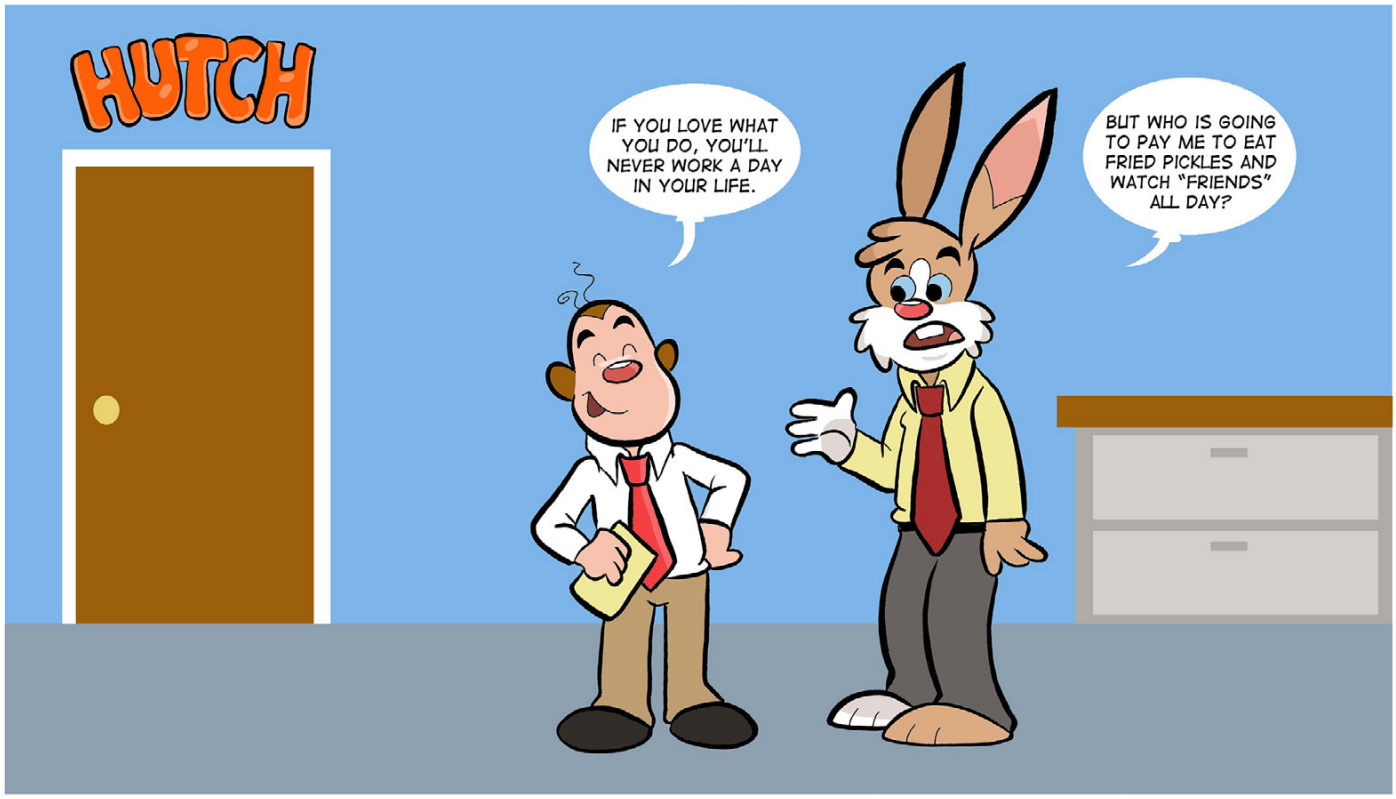
ROB KIRKBRIDE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



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SEATING

ASTRAL - Modernity Without Compromise

Groupe Lacasse has introduced ASTRAL, a chair designed by Italian designer Claudio Francesco Bellini.

The ASTRAL chair collection brings forth a bold design and offers conference, guest and stool models, plus a fixed counter height stool.

The chair's flowing lines and natural curves stand out thanks to its unique monocoque frame conception. Its one-piece contoured shell is made of rugged polypropylene in a Willow Grey finish. The flexible backrest offers comfort while following the body's natural movements, resulting in no need to fiddle around with settings to find the right seating position.

The collection comes standard with a fully integrated, swivel-tilt mechanism under the seat cover for a clean, sleek look.

ACCESSORIES

Kay Chesterfield Announces "Workplace Pillows" Capability Pillow Production Plumps Up as Offices Get Comfortable

Kay Chesterfield, a contract pillow maker and upholsterer since 1921, has launched Workplace Pillows from Kay Chesterfield featuring a series of specialized resources devoted to the fabrication and project management of office pillows for national corporate clients.

Over the past three years, Kay Chesterfield has witnessed a dramatic increase in custom pillow production concurrent with the rise of more residential-styled office interiors. "Corporate clients, their furniture consultants and their designers need focused expertise in managing throw pillows and cushions, as offices literally soften up all over the world," said Kriss Kokoefer, Kay Chesterfield's president and owner.

Last year the company produced thousands of pillows, which graced the offices of Visa, Google, Airbnb, Salesforce and other global employers. Clients have found pillows to be a cost-effective way to bring color, texture, comfort and sound absorption to their environments.

This rise of the workplace pillow has driven Kokoefer to add equipment, grow her team of project managers and develop a new website — www.workplacepillows.com — to increase the capabilities and national presence for her almost 100-year-old company. "We keep track of textiles ordered from around the world and stay current on fill options," Kokoefer said. "Additionally, we work with unique dimensions and finish details, closely monitor ship dates and maintain meticulous quality control. All of these elements are our forte, and I'm thrilled our company is expanding with this specialized pillow capability."

Kokoefer has more than 20 years of expertise in contract furniture and architecture-and-design businesses. As the fourth owner of Kay Chesterfield she is dedicated to advancing the company's role as a national supplier of custom pillows, cushions and contract upholstery to all sectors of the commercial furniture industry. Fabrication is performed in Oakland, California.