

RETHINK: issue two
April 2018

inspiring environments
for working & learning | **bof**[®]

RETHINK

ISSUE
TWO

RESHAPING LEARNING SPACES

How did universities become a hotbed for innovative architecture?

5 WORKPLACE DESIGN TRENDS FOR 2018

What to expect from workplace design this year, reacting to the changing millennial office.

THE RISE OF 'RESIMERCIAL'

What is 'Resimercial' and what challenges and opportunities does it present for businesses?



CONTENT

| | |
|--|----|
| 5 Workplace Design Trends for 2018 by BOF What to expect from workplace design this year, reacting to the changing millennial office | 4 |
| The Rise of Resimercial by Frövi What is 'Resimercial' and what challenges and opportunities does it present for businesses? | 6 |
| University of Southampton - Connaught Halls Case Study by BOF Discover more about our recent installation for Southampton's students | 8 |
| Achieving "Ultra Violet" in your Workplace by BOF Pantone's Colour of the Year 2018 | 9 |
| Reshaping Learning Spaces by KI How did universities become a hotbed for innovative architecture? | 10 |
| Virtual Reality Has Arrived by BOF Use the BOF VR goggles to immerse yourself in some of our 3D plans | 12 |
| University of Surrey - George Edwards Library Case Study by BOF Discover the latest trends in cutting-edge library design | 14 |

Who We Are

Here at BOF, we create inspiring environments for working & learning. Based in South Wales, we are an independent furniture supplier who provide you with the furniture you need; sourced from homegrown and global manufacturers.

Our creative, passionate & knowledgeable team posses over 30 years experience as a furniture specialist within the Education, Public & Private sectors. We aim to provide an honest, professional and personal experience from initial inspiration to finished installation.

This issue features guest articles from our partners:



What We Do

Design & Planning

Creative design is what excites us. This is why we provide a professional service, while having a little fun along the way!

We understand the design process can be one of the most integral parts to the overall success of a project, so our design team are involved in every project we undertake.

With over 60 years of combined experience in planning inspiring environments for working and learning, we are also one of the most experienced design teams in the industry.

Furniture Supply

Supplying furniture is the most important part of what we do. We supply furniture for all working and learning environments across a wide range of sectors.

As an independent brand, we aren't biased towards a single supplier.

We provide you with the furniture you need, sourced from homegrown and global manufacturers. Our independence ensures that we specify products with the correct aesthetic, form, function and most importantly; within your budget.

Delivery & Installation

Our delivery and installation team are professional, experienced & trained to the highest level with valid CSCS cards and up to date health & safety training. We are always uniformed and ready to answer any queries you may have regarding your installation. With allocated weekly delivery routes, many sole supply contracts around the UK and a unique location in South Wales, we are ideally positioned to deliver efficiently across the UK in our own fleet of commercial vehicles.

5 Workplace Design Trends for 2018

1. Materials, Finishes & Textures

Pantone's official colour of the year for 2018 is "Ultra Violet. Expect to see this colour popping up a lot more in 2018, whether that's in Branding and Logo Design, Web Design and of course, furniture and interiors. Go to page 9 to discover how to create your own Ultra Violet environment.

"Complex and contemplative, Ultra Violet suggests the mysteries of the cosmos, the intrigue of what lies ahead, and the discoveries beyond where we are now. The vast and limitless night sky is symbolic of what is possible and continues to inspire the desire to pursue a world beyond our own."

The word 'biophilia' literally means a love of life or living things. (It stems from Greek "bios" = life and "philia" = love) We have an intuitive and deeply ingrained attraction to nature, and a biological need for contact with the natural world.

Biophilic design integrates nature and natural elements, material and forms into architecture and interiors.

2. Biophilic Design

Biophilia is described as the inherent link between man and nature. It has long been known that mother nature can have extremely positive effects on both physical and mental health and is no longer viewed as a luxury but an important consideration. Biophilic Design is an innovative way of using elements of nature to create a positive impact on your workspace.

Biophilic Design started to grow at a steady rate last year, and doesn't look like it's slowing down. There are a number of simple ways to introduce elements of nature to your environment including furniture, finishes, layout and accessories.

Furniture

The "On-Point" table from Swedish design house "Offecct" is an innovative way of bringing mother nature to the forefront of your environment. Incorporating vegetation into the centre of the table creates a unique piece of micro-architecture that echoes the theme of outdoors within an indoor space. We used this creative product in a number of projects last year, and are already specifying the range on our 2018 projects.

Finishes

Elements of nature can be brought into the office in a number of ways including through colour, texture and pattern. Using materials like wool, wood and stone build a natural environment, whilst using textures and patterns found in nature help to create an immersive outdoors experience.

Consumers are becoming more and more aware of sustainability and are starting to demand that suppliers take more consideration for the environment. Back in 2005, leading fabric manufacturer Camira started developing fabrics made from wool and nettle fibre. After success with nettles, Camira then started experimenting with making fabrics from wool and hemp. Now one of BOF's most popular ranges, with a wide variety of colour options, Camira Hemp lives up to its 100% wool counterparts, while being significantly better for the environment. In 2018, we expect to see more and more manufacturers developing and suppliers planning, environmentally aware products for clients.

Daylight

Multiple studies confirm that workers who get sunlight are likely to be more active, sleep well and are generally of better mental and physical health. In turn artificial lighting, including office lighting and light from electric devices can be disruptive to our system and can result in poor sleeping quality. Poorly designed lighting can also result in eyestrain, headaches or can affect our vision. Big windows that allow plenty of daylight are key to a well-designed workspace.

3. Technology

As with most years, Tech giants released a number of innovative, revolutionary mobile devices in 2017. Some of which have changed the way in which mobile devices interact with the static world around them. As a furniture provider rooted in working and learning environments, not a day goes by that we don't specify or supply a piece of furniture with integrated power. This could be a work surface with sleek, concealed power in the surface or a comfy sofa with power and charging facilities included in the arms. The technological advancements in 2017 will force the industry to reconsider the specification of power provision.

Samsung and Google and many other mobile device providers made the switch to USB C in 2017; a new digital connection that provides a better way of charging that also has started the process of removing the headphone jack from handsets (Which a lot of people are still unhappy about). It's not just phones too! A lot of laptops and tablets are now using USB C as their primary data port.

Our verdict? Expect to see leading electrical accessory manufacturers introducing USB C to their portfolio throughout 2018, sooner rather than later!

4. Virtual Reality

The process of communicating interior design schemes and furniture layouts is changing, and very quickly. As technology advances and Virtual Reality becomes more common in everyday life, from advertising, gaming and shopping; expect to see a huge shift towards Virtual Reality being a viable and affordable communication tool for architects, interior designers and furniture providers alike.

In 2017, we invested heavily in Virtual Reality and used this innovative, exciting process to demonstrate creative projects to some prestigious clients. To view some examples of our VR capabilities, grab yourselves a VR headset (something like Google Cardboard will work fine) and immerse yourself in our VR environments on page 12.

5. Resimercial Spaces

"Part Residential, Part Commercial"

Throughout 2017 we saw a rise in the number of domestic inspired products being brought to the forefront of working and learning design. We all know work is a major part of our lives and bringing some home comforts with us into our working lives has a positive impact. More and more workplaces feature casual working environments with an added focus on comfort to aid collaboration whilst the relaxed atmosphere helps bring people together.

Expect to see this trend really take off in 2018 with more and more manufacturers and designers switching their focus to products perfect for Resimercial spaces. **Read more about Resimercial Workplace Design on page 6.**



Hemp Fabric by Camira

OnPoint by Offecct



The rise of 'Resimercial'

Where two worlds collide

By **FRÖVI**

The office is becoming a place where residential and commercial design collide, but somehow it works perfectly. What is 'Resimercial' and what challenges and opportunities does it present for businesses?

Resimercial is a relatively new workspace design term, coined to describe anything from furniture, layouts to architecture which blends residential interiors with commercial design. It's a term which encompasses social spaces, community-focused design, flexible offices and the provision of choice over where staff work, socialise, eat and relax.

Productivity, of course, is the driver, through the aims of energising and inspiring staff, and encouraging connection, collaboration and creativity.

Resimercial is a reflection of the blurred lines between homeworking and flexible working and how the office has become more agile – where people are working from a variety of locations, from hot-desks to sofas, sit-stand desks, and collaborative 'huts' and 'caves,'

to longer canteen tables that double up as multiple hot desk spots around the office. This very traditional notion of 'here's your desk, here's a task chair, this is where you sit every day' has completely gone.

At the heart of this trend lies the disruptive start-up culture, a record-breaking rise in homeworkers and growth of the UK freelance economy.

Homeworkers hit record levels

In the UK, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS), the number of homeworkers has hit record levels. In the first quarter of 2014, there were 4.2m homeworkers (14%

of those in work), a number, we believe, has increased further since this research.

According to the Association of Independent Professionals and Self Employed (IPSE), in a report from February 2017, the number of freelancers in the UK grew by almost half (43%) between 2008 and 2016, with two million UK freelancers contributing £119bn to the national economy.

The reason for the increase in freelancers is partly down to new generations of workers with new habits and ideas; who are accustomed to working from everywhere but in a fixed office.

New habits

Workplace author and speaker, Dan Schawbel, writes in Forbes that millennials will make up 75% of the global workforce by 2025, and they have vastly differing working habits to previous generations like Baby Boomers and Generation X. "There is no doubt that millennials will redefine 'face-time' as more work from home each year and fewer want to pick up the phone or go into an office," he says.

To combat this shift and bring people back into the office, it makes sense for employers to create a warm and welcoming environment where workers feel comfortable; a place they want to come to work in, rather than a place



A Fine Line

Resimercial design is a direct response to the increased flexibility afforded by digital technology and the move towards more mobile workforces. But the resulting proliferation of varied workstations presents challenges for businesses, home furniture is designed for lounging, not working. If it feels too much like home, could it have a negative effect on people's attitude and productivity? Need to get the balance just right.

This is where workspace designers are becoming more effective business partners than ever. Long gone are the days when you'd just buy some furniture and have it installed in your office. An office refit is less transactional these days. It has to be. There needs to be consultation with everyone involved (so they're productive and happy), some deep brand thinking (so the design reflects who and what image they want to project) and as much usage data as you can gather, so it's an informed, cost-effective investment.

they have to be. Where else do we feel more comfortable than at home?

Resimercial also emulates the balance between work and home. By mimicking the atmosphere of the home environment and the cafe culture, employers show they understand their staff have a life outside of the office, and they're prepared to compromise for them. That's a powerful plus-point for an employer.

The Rise of Resimercial

Evidence of the resimercial trend spread throughout last year's (2017) annual NeoCon furniture trade show in Chicago, according to Michigan's online news magazine, MiBiz. "The show floor was full of products in warm pastel colours, as well as vibrant upholstery and carpeting," it says. "It also featured lounge furniture and conference tables that looked more fitting for a dining room than a corporate boardroom."

The Resimercial term fits perfectly with the Frovi product range. It helps to explain the latest designs, which have a more luxurious residential feel but they are specifically designed for commercial office environments. It's a term to try to explain how everything fits together creating a practical social space. The term sums it all up!

When customers think about designing their office space, it's less about traditional desking and more about collaboration spaces and agile locations. The more workspace design has moved in that direction in recent years the more the resimercial term has grown. Every design now considers, creating agile, collaborative, flexible working spaces.





Connaught Halls

University of Southampton

Wessex Lane is a large complex of halls which provides a more traditional student village feel, with a wide range of room types, vibrant social scene and close proximity to the popular student area of Portswood.

The halls complex is divided into two main sites; Montefiore, and the part-catered Connaught halls.

As the appointed furniture supplier to the University of Southampton we refurbished the social spaces and entrance lobby of Connaught Halls in September 2017.

We collaborated with HPW Architecture Ltd to ensure the furniture supplied met the clients brief and created the desired environment for student residents.

Achieving Ultra Violet in your Workplace

Pantone's Colour of the Year 2018

At the end of each year, Pantone Colour Institute announce the 'Colour of the Year' - their forecast for a shade that will be favoured throughout the following year. After researching design, film, food, fashion, art and entertainment as well as travel, sports and technology, Pantone have announced that 2018's Colour of the Year is Ultra Violet.

This announcement got us thinking, how can we incorporate this colour concept into what we do? So here's our suggestions on how to bring Ultra Violet into your workplace.

Create colour palettes

Whether it's a monochrome palette with different shades of just one colour, a harmonious palette with two or more similar colours together or even a complementary palette with contrasting colours that appear opposite each other on the colour wheel; creating a colour palette can be a helpful starting point when introducing colour into an interior. There's a wide variety of tools available online to help create colour palettes and if you're struggling to pair colours and find something you like, there's a vast selection of palettes already available online.

Once you've worked out the colours you'd like to incorporate into your environment, you can start planning how and where to use the colour.

Ultra Violet is a very bold colour, it needs to be approached with a little caution!

Create an Ultra Violet accent

Most people won't want to cover their entire space in Ultra Violet so creating a colour accent with accessories and interchangeable objects means that it can be changed as trends change. A wall colour or single piece of statement furniture is an easy way to incorporate Ultra Violet. To ensure the accent stands out, keep the rest of the room neutral. Grey tones and wooden elements will pair well while also adding warmth to the room. Balance out the room by using plants to freshen up the space.

Choose your materials

At BOF, the products we supply can be manufactured in a wide variety of fabrics and finishes. There's so many combinations to choose from, whether that's mixing a woollen fabric with wood finishes or metallic features with leather upholstery. You have the option to use different combinations to be able to achieve your perfect aesthetic.



From top to bottom - Camira Blazer Sheffield, Holyoke, Kvadrat Remix 682, Camira Blazer Nottingham, Loughborough



PANTONE®
14-4506
Ether



PANTONE®
15-0525
Weeping Willow



PANTONE®
15-4307
Tradewinds



About a Lounge
by HAY



ILK
by Frövi

David Barbour Photography

Re-shaping Learning Spaces

How did universities become a hotbed for innovative architecture?

By

KI

Furnishing Knowledge

OUR SEATING PICKS

Ruckus Task Chair

Users can quickly and easily change from focused to collaborative work on the fly, without the disruption of rearranging furniture.

Perry Chair

The seat is suspended from the lower back, so the occupant's weight perfectly counterbalances the tilting pressure on the backrest.

Doni Task Chair

With 17 degrees of hip-articulation and body-conforming curves, Doni encourages active movement throughout the day.

Education facilities, especially those for higher and further education are undergoing enormous change. Akin to the rapid evolution of workplaces, learning environments are adapting to the changing needs, expectations and priorities of its occupants.

Largely, but not exclusively influenced by technology, educational institutions are creating spaces that are transforming the user experience. In an increasingly competitive market, they are acutely aware that they must be able to attract the best students.

A global playing field

As employers are in a 'war for talent', higher education and academies are globally competing for students. Students face fewer restrictions than workers when considering international opportunities as study visas are more accessible than work permits or a more permanent immigration status. Where employers might be competing for talent locally, universities are vying to lure students internationally. This is making higher education a valuable export and a vital component of the UK economy.

Changing expectations

The expectations of, and aspirations for architecture and design is being driven by local and international students alike, both of whom now pay substantial tuition fees. Expanded budgets are being ear marked for a greater investment in planning and fit out for every aspect of a campus. Education providers are regularly finding themselves at the cutting edge of architecture and design. From innovative wayfinding in large, complex structures to providing third spaces for people between lectures and formal study times, universities and colleges are aspiring to create open and transparent physical environments that people love to be in. Just like many forward-thinking companies, maximising productivity and wellbeing are pertinent factors. Even academic and administration offices of universities are moving away from traditional cellular spaces to more open plan landscapes. The lines between learning and working environments are most definitely blurring.

Ruckus Task Chairs with Trek Tables

A smooth transition

The design of university buildings has an undeniable impact on the expectations of students who are soon to join the workforce. This may explain why institutions cite employability statistics of their graduates as a measure of success. With youth unemployment crises prevalent across many advanced economies, being 'work-ready' can become an attractive benefit to students who are considering their options. If the physical environment is familiar, the transition will be smooth and the new generation are less likely to experience a culture shock.

And of course, technology matters a lot

The impact of technology can't be ignored. Younger generations have high expectations of teachers, facilities and content. Showcased through evolved teaching methods and curriculums, advanced student awareness of ergonomics and comfort, and also by how students study, learn, and are assessed. The nature of their studies, like today's work environment, demand collaboration and

flexibility rather than solitary, rote education. Active learning - learning through experience rather than instruction is transforming the physical space and the shape of furniture and fixtures within it. Nesting or stacking chairs, chairs on castors, or those featuring tablet arms are sought after in order to facilitate easy collaboration, and to create multi-purpose spaces. Being able to immediately adapt to the lesson is becoming a priority.

Mobility, flexibility and connectivity are intertwined. Technology has allowed everything to be available at the touch of a touchscreen, students expect to be able do their work virtually anywhere. Future-proofed, low maintenance furniture and interior design that supports this kind of activity can improve the student experience. By selecting furniture that provides somewhere to prop up books, tablets computers, laptops, papers and notebooks can turn a dull lounge into a vibrant hub of activity. Kevin Geeves, Sales Director - Education, KI Europe.

A guest article,
with thanks to:

KI

Virtual Reality Has Arrived!

In 2018, Virtual Reality is more prominent in the media than ever. Here at BOF, we have invested in state-of-the-art technology to allow our clients to immerse themselves within their inspiring new environments, way before installation.



For the best viewing experience, make sure you're viewing our environments on the BOF VR goggles. To get your hands on a pair send us a request at info@bof.co.uk.



How to view in 3D virtual reality

Simply download a "QR" scanning app on your smartphone, scan one of the QR codes above, pop your phone into your brand new BOF cardboard device and transport yourself to some of our 3D rendered environments. It's that simple!



Tweet us a photo @bof_furniture using your new BOF VR headset!

Scan to View in 3D

University of Surrey George Edwards Library

The University of Surrey's George Edwards Library, situated within the George Edwards building has recently undergone a major transformation across a number of spaces; with BOF chosen as the furniture provider to excite students and staff with a truly 21st century learning environment. The Library, named after Sir George Edwards, the outstanding aircraft designer and engineer; comprises of 3 physical sections. The original George Edwards building, the 1980 Mullens extension and the 2011 Learning Centre extension.

The recent refurbishment project focused on Levels 4 and 5 of the George Edwards section of the building and on levels 2, 4 and 5 of the Mullens section. The library improvements have created 120 additional spaces for this academic year. Individual carrels on Level 5 all have their own task lights and provide really effective space for more concentrated study.

When re-designing the space, it was important to provide a wide variety of spaces that gave students the option to choose the method of study that suits them. From large, open plan collaborative environments, to quiet study booths and impromptu reading stations; the library is an environment that caters for all.

Phase 2 is planned for next summer following the success of the original re-design. Feedback from students and staff alike has been positive and imperative to ensure that further improvements fulfil study requirements and current learning trends.

Workbay Meet by Vitra

"The George Edwards building houses the University's main library which operates extended opening hours throughout the year, being open 24/7, 365 days a year. It was essential therefore that the building remained fully operational throughout this refurbishment project. BOF's design and delivery methodology enabled this to happen with no impact upon this critical student service. We found BOF's Project team to be flexible in meeting our specific needs and are really pleased with the completed result."

Caroline Rock
Director of Library & Learning Support Services, University of Surrey

Twisted Little Star by Flokk

Magic Stool by Boss Design

Find us on social media:



/BOFfurniture



@bof_furniture



@bof_furniture



/bof

www.bof.co.uk

01656 661061



inspiring environments
for working & learning

bof[®]