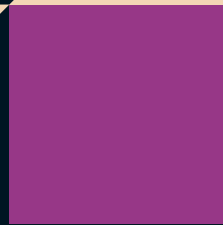
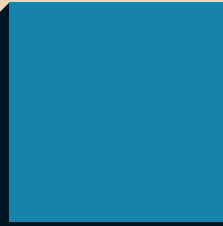
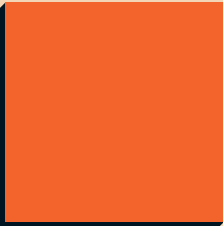


delve

AUGUST 2024

Design Visionaries



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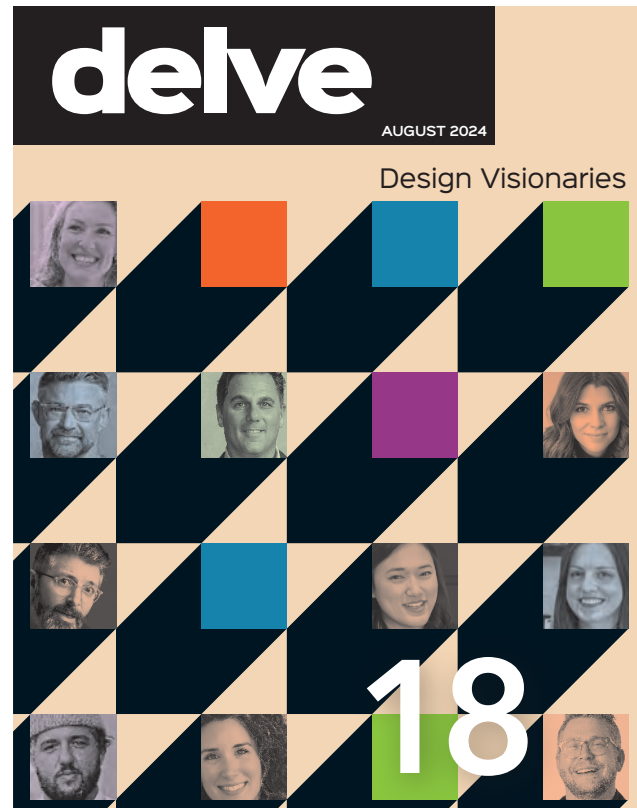
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2024 Top 10 Design Visionaries

Nominated by industry friends and chosen by Delve staff, this round-up of some of the greatest changemakers in our industry today is one you'll want to save. From educators to podcasters, firm founders and futurists, these are the names you're going to be hearing about and looking to for leadership for years to come. Get to know them on a personal level and find out why they were selected.

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The Future of Lab:

On-Carpet versus Off-Carpet



Laboratory & Industrial
Furniture Experts



Material & Design
Cohesion



Commitment to Strategic
Dealership Partners



100% American Made
Since 1981



Formaspace Products Now on CET



IT'S ALL HAPPENING



Who's sad that summer is over?

Not me.

Yes, I'm an unashamed, PSL (#iykyk), Halloween-loving, 'ber months fanatic.

Also, for those of you about to come for me: Fall starts on the first day of school, NOT September 22.

Fight me in the comments :-)

But seriously, I'm so hyped for the rest of 2024, as it's going to be jam-packed with many exciting ventures. Our September issue on education design will be available in just a few short weeks, and it will also be available in print at EDspaces 2024 in Houston in November. What a party that's going to be, as MRL is unveiling its first ever Ultimate Durability Zone at their booth 2047. Learn a little more about that on page 34 in our On Deck column.

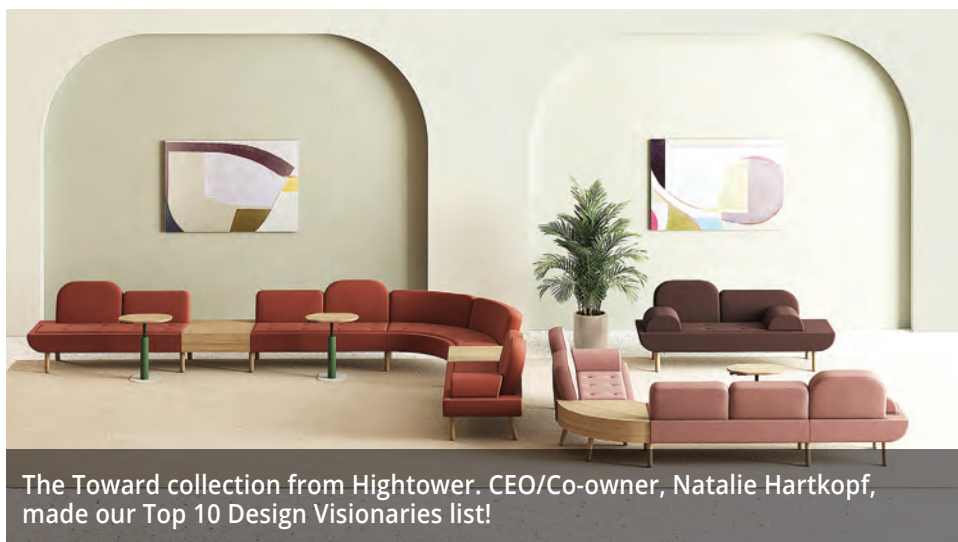
We're also adding another edition of our CET Design Challenge! For more information see our ad on page 8, but this contest—dedicated to our wonderful dealer designers—is asking you to create a rendering of the most engaging and effective learning environment, that addresses and welcomes a neurodivergent population. Due date is October 28!

And the most anticipatory of all (for me at least) is the whole new Delve you'll be seeing, with a more comprehensive redesign coming in 2025. You'll see the changes begin next month though, with a brand-new project well. You can find submission details for that also on page 34.

But as for this issue, what a joy it was to put together. I come away from it so inspired by all the voices we had the honor of featuring from Berco

Designs and Oasis Berco's VP of Sales & Marketing Brooke Corcoran (read her story on page 28) to everybody laying the groundwork for the future of our industry in The Top 10 Design Visionaries cover story (page 18), to how HPFi is helping to evolve America's furniture industry (page 14) – the list goes on and on. It will be impossible to feel anything else than rejuvenated upon reading.

We'll be continuing the conversation on Instagram with many of these subjects in the coming weeks (check out the amazing Jolene Levin's work in the education furniture market on page 16, Michelle Warren's column!)



The Toward collection from Hightower. CEO/Co-owner, Natalie Hartkopf, made our Top 10 Design Visionaries list!

Please follow along for announcements about our upcoming IG Live chats with them (but PSL-lovers only allowed).

Enjoy this beautiful change of seasons!

AnnMarie Martin

KEEPING CONNECTED

Our Keeping Connected section will continue to serve as your place to see and be seen, reviewing all the fun ways you're building up your teams with events, meet-ups, get-togethers and celebrations. You'll also find some important news bytes (see page 7!) as well here for the remainder of 2024.

If you'd like to be considered for the next edition of this column, please send high resolution imagery of your group, with proper identification of each individual (name and title), with location and approximate date of the gathering to Abby Koesterman at abby@myresourcelibrary.com.

SPOTTED

GIBSON INTERIOR PRODUCTS New York, NY

NeoKen, NYC's largest and most fun post-NeoCon event is hosted by Ken Gibson, Laura Balder-Gibson, ELA-Synergy Lighting and their fantastic teams. The NeoKen Event showcases our industries best names in contract furniture, beautiful lighting, textiles, and glass walls which are all on display in their city-block-long Broadway showroom. Over 30 manufacturers and their VIPs were on hand to present and discuss new products, features, and benefits. Guests enjoyed valuable one-on-one time with our manufacturers, unlike the rush of Chicago's Mart and the Fulton Market. NeoKen is a daytime trade show and networking event, followed by an evening of magic, music, cocktails, photos, food and fun. Many of our guests proclaimed NeoKen as the most anticipated industry summer event in NYC. Over 400 clients were checked in throughout the day and night. This year we proudly collaborated with all



local NYC vendors, ensuring a vibrant community connection from Harlem's Sugar Hill Creamery Ice Cream to NYC Jam Band Jonny Rok and Friends. Our coffee bar, pizza pies, popcorn, sushi and caterers, all NYC-based, used eco-friendly plates, cups and silverware too. We are grateful and thankful to our manufacturers and their VIPs who came and collaborated with us to make



this event shine! We also thank our amazing dealers, designers, owners reps and their clients, who came and were educated, embraced, and enjoyed all things Gibson + Synergy.

KEEPING CONNECTED

SPOTTED

BOSCH COLLECTION

Atlanta, GA

Bosch Collection is an extension of Sam Opdenbosch's love for serving the A&D industry. Her market visibility involves understanding that networking with project managers, general contractors, designers, architects, and other reps is crucial to securing projects and providing exceptional service and products. Opdenbosch can be found at critical events like Neocon, Inspire Nashville, and numerous local industry gatherings, demonstrating her commitment to community connection and professional relationships.

Studio 121 designers at the Bosch Collection photo booth at J+J Interiors Inspire Nashville event in July.



Opdenbosch and Paul Phaknikone, senior A+D sales manager at Hawthorn at the Hawthorn happy hour at NeoCon.



Say hello to the Magis Puppy. On August 30, the first Magis Puppy Design Challenge will take place in Atlanta, with all proceeds benefitting Atlanta Mission. Ten firms will design an Atlanta-themed Magis Puppy for auction, all hosted at the Herman Miller showroom, 6-9 p.m.



Opdenbosch and Derek Jayson Rusch with Infinium. Opdenbosch was selected as Infinium's "Rookie of the Year," which was announced at NeoCon.



DAN BINFORD & ASSOCIATES

Cincinnati, OH

Dan Binford & Associates' 12,000-sq.-ft. showroom in Cincinnati is 90% re-stocked with new products. Dan Binford & Associates has been representing quality furnishings in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia for more than 30 years, offering solutions in corporate, hospitality, healthcare, and educational furniture from a vast selection of lines.



YOUR FAVORITE RESOURCE HUB HAS GONE MOBILE

From the very first 6.0 planning meeting in 2023, there was one unanimous goal for the next evolution of MRL: it had to be mobile-friendly. While not an easy task for a platform of this size, the MRL team was determined to make the library and tools easy to access while on the go.

The mobile update officially launched Aug. 12, so the next time you visit myresourcelibrary.com from the browser on your phone, you'll experience the library in its new responsive design, with no need to download an app.

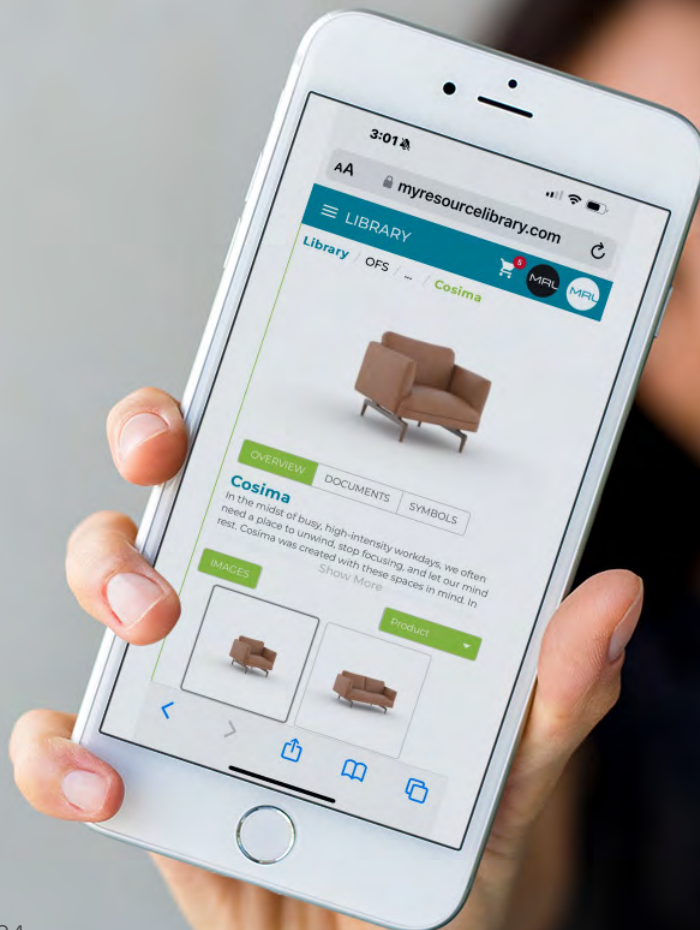
With this update, you can now access the resources you need from anywhere at any time, all available

right in the palm of your hand. This makes it more convenient than ever to search for products, see pricing and spec info, catch up on the latest industry news, review your projects, and more.

The ability to quickly pull up critical information, whether you're at a client meeting, on a job site, or simply away from your desk, can make all the difference in productivity and decision-making.

This update reflects MRL's commitment to evolving and adapting to meet the needs of our industry, ensuring that the tools and resources they rely on are always within reach.

Connect, Collaborate, and Thrive with MRL!





My Resource Library and CET

are partnering for a fun design challenge:

create a rendering of the most engaging and effective learning environment – using extensions from the manufacturers below. You do not need to use every manufacturer, but extra points for creatively combining solutions from multiple suppliers. **For inspiration and product information, visit this special MRL library with easy access to these manufacturers.**

3form

boss

ghent.

arcadia

Encore

clarus⁷

DeskMakers

Lesro

Seating the Way You Want It

artcobell

media technologies

specTM

LOFTWALL



NorvaNivel

via[®]
SEATING

special

SitOnIt • Seating[®]

RULES:

- Only Dealer Designers can participate.
- Overall design should be kept to a 2,000 SF footprint.
- You can use FREE non-manufacturer extensions (e.g. plants, people)
- Full drawing, design, and specification must be done in CET.
 - You may use the Twinmotion extension for CET for the rendering. Enhancing your renderings utilizing any other tools is not allowed.

LOGISTICS

- **Due Date:** October 28, 2024 by 8pm Eastern Time
- Judging will be done by a panel of design industry veterans: Kari Anderson, Kaylie Tucker and Alexandra Tseffos
- Please e-mail deliverables to: **jeff@myresourcelibrary.com**
 - Subject: Submission: **MRL / CET Design Challenge**
- Deliverables:
 - Cmdrw file
 - 3D rendering in .jpg file
 - BOM pdf file

AWARDS

Winning Design: \$1000 gift card
1st Runner Up: \$600 gift card
2nd Runner Up: \$400 gift card

All winners will receive special coverage within Delve magazine and across MRL's social media channels.

Accessories

We've got some fun, flirty and functional pieces this month. These one-of-a-kind accessories can keep users engaged and spaces running smoothly and efficiently. Take your pick...



THREE H CORDJACKET

Made from 100% natural wool, the CordJacket from Three H is a new way to hide those pesky cords. Durable and flame resistant, the specially designed conduit is created from a proprietary configuration of semi-rigid bands inset into the inner liner. Zip the sleeve up or down to easily add or remove cables.



SMITH SYSTEM INTERCHANGE® HIGH-RANGE LEG INSERTS

The Interchange High-Range Leg Inserts from Smith System adjust from 30-42 inches in height in one-inch increments, compatible with any Interchange series table with a depth over 30 in. The 24-in. deep tables can use the high-range insert on glides only, not casters. Dimensions are 1.5 in. x 2.5 in. x 30-42 in. and legs adjust with a single hex screw per leg.



SMITH SYSTEM BOOKTRUCK CASTERS

Get your booktrucks moving with the 5-in. Booktruck Casters from Smith System. The dual-wheel, soft tread casters help multifunctional booktrucks and school carts roll smoothly and easily. One pack includes a set of four. Choose from no locking or a set that features two locking wheels.



WATSON ETCH MARKERBOARD

The Etch Markerboard from Watson is mobile and available in four standard widths and two heights, constructed of welded steel and features a premium powdercoated steel writing surface. Get creative with an array of functional magnetic accessories that offer storage and display needs as well as fun aesthetics. One marker cloth is included with each Etch.

OFF THE SHELF



TONIK

DOTTIE™

Dottie the Sheep is Tonik's official mascot. Colorful, unexpected and the life of the party, not to mention durable, she's full of character with her soft, bulbous shapes and bright inviting colors (available in nine standard and four in Ocean Bound). Dottie is a playful conversation piece and can be placed either indoors or out, also available with illumination. Dimensions: 17.25 in. x 13.75 in., 6 lbs.



LOLL DESIGNS

MINIMALIST DOG BOWL

With so many of our furry friends becoming regulars around the office, the Minimalist Dog Bowl from Loll Designs is a must-have. Made from recycled plastic, this large (3-quart), double dog bowl has no finish or paint, which means nothing flakes off into their food or water. It's also dishwasher safe. Single bowl, as well as medium and small versions are available.



MUUTO

LINEAR SYSTEM TRAY

The Linear System Tray from Muuto is designed to work with and be mounted onto the Linear System Series and allows the user to store objects on the plateau, featuring the inviting warmth of oak. The series places people at its center, creating a place to meet, collaborate or work in focused solitude, and the tray supports that. Designed by Thomas Bentzen.



BYRNE

PATTERN FOR LOCKERS

Allow your workers to park their stuff and safely plug in all at the same time. This 20-Pack Pattern for Lockers is one of many in Byrne's Power Kits for Locker Systems (4, 6, 8, and 20 layouts.) Modular connections distribute power from one locker to the next and only one outlet needed. Choose between under-mounted power and charging USB or in-surface installed snap-in duplex.

Product Spotlight:

HAT Collective's E5 Monitor Arm

Winner of the Best of NeoCon Gold Award in the Technology, Accessories & Support Devices category, the E5 Monitor Arm from HAT Collective is a synthesis of innovation, expertly crafted to accommodate the changing needs of modern workers and workspaces. We got some history on its development when we sat down with Steve Bowman, vice president of engineering, to share a deeper look into the thinking behind E5.

Delve: The E5 has been described as a revolution in monitor arm design. Can you talk a bit about what makes it stand out in the market?

Steve Bowman: We've been working on the E5 for about 16-18 months. Our design process was centered around solving the prevalent problems in the market. We looked at how to make the specification, installation, and user configuration as simple as possible. The entire design was built to handle not just the monitors of today but also the larger, curved screens of the future, as well as multiple monitors up to six.

Delve: As the engineering lead, what challenges did you face in developing the E5 and how did you overcome them?

SB: Our primary challenge was ensuring the E5 would be versatile yet also simple in every way—from specification to installation to daily use and adjustments by the end-user. One approach we took was to integrate a top-down mount and a built-in tension gauge. These features mean that installation is quick and easy, and adjusting the E5 does not require extensive tools or a complete disassembly of the monitor arm. Just these features alone save time and budget related to installation and facility costs.

Delve: The E5 also promises a future-proof design. Can you elaborate on what features contribute to that?

SB: Sure, the nature of technology is its rapid evolution. The E5's future-proof benefit comes from its flexible, versatile, and adaptable design configuration. It supports a broad weight spectrum and accommodates up to six monitors of any size or shape and 14 different screen configurations.

With the E5, adding or removing monitors is quick and seamless. Minimal components allow for maximum expandability. E5's pole and arm joints feature universal push button connections, which offer quick installation and easy expansion. In fact, the pole extension kit eliminates the need for purchasing and installing new poles when monitor needs increase.

Delve: Can you touch upon how customer feedback has influenced the E5's development?

SB: From the engineering standpoint, direct customer interactions have been invaluable. We've incorporated feedback regarding ease of use, such as simplifying the installation process, which led to the one-tool installation feature and a user-adjustable rotation stop.



Benji

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Ben & Mark

Brothers & Co-founders

Getting to Know: Thentic Furniture Group

Derived from the word “authentic,” Justin Wendholt, president, renamed Stemle & Associates to Thentic Furniture Group after he purchased the company in 2020. They serve the healthcare, educational, and commercial furniture markets in Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania. With a 31-year legacy under their belt of “evolution and activity” as Wendholt puts it, they were at the ready to change how they address customer needs in this post-pandemic world.

“I have a lot of creative people on my team that think of fun ways to bring resources to our network,” he said.

We sat down with Wendholt to hear more about how this group has maintained their success, and what their plans are for the years to come.

Delve: How did your rep group get started?

Justin Wendholt: Our group was actually started in 1993 by Steve Stemle. I purchased the group in 2020 and have loved every minute of it. I worked with this group prior to coming onboard through my time at La-Z-Boy Healthcare. I knew them well and knew I was coming into a great group of people with a well-established product package.

Delve: How has the company changed over the years?

JW: Well, it has changed quite a bit! Obviously, the name and ownership has changed. Fortunately, we have always had a great core group of people and

haven't had much change on the personnel side of things. I am thankful for that!

The pandemic caused all rep groups to shift how they stay in contact with their customer network. We love to see our customers face-to-face, but realize the flexible work schedules make that more difficult than in the past. Therefore, we have done things like personalized video emails and developed a YouTube Channel for virtual product demonstrations. Our website offers some handbooks that assist with specification of some of the more intricate products in our portfolio. We still utilize our mobile showroom to be able to show our product on a larger scale, but don't ask our customers to travel too far from where they live. We continue to think outside the box in order to stay valuable to our customers.

Delve: What do you think is the secret to your rep group's longevity and success?

JW: We do our best to make sure our customers know we are available and ready to do whatever we can to make their jobs easier. Lastly, we always try to, at the very least, be a group of good, kind people. We are all in customer service at the end of the day and everyone prefers to work with individuals that are kind and a joy to be around.

Delve: How do you think your group will evolve over the next 5-10 years?

JW: I think the major change we will see is the technology we use to connect with our customers. Design, quoting, specification, managing and communication tools have changed so much in the last few years and I don't see it slowing down. We'll continue to seek new ways to become more efficient, more resourceful and more dedicated to assisting our customers in whatever way they need.



(left to right) Justin Wendholt, president; Mitzi Rouse, sales associate; Jenny Hardison, sales associate; Robin Brawner, sales associate; Leslie Kiesling, sales coordinator; Tessa Davis, sales associate; Gerald Shannon, sales associate; Kelly Hochgesang, sales coordinator/marketing.

Home Base

HPFi is shaping the vision for the American furniture industry—its past, present, and future—founded upon High Point, North Carolina’s emergence as its epicenter.



The ESP program includes training, and meeting tables such as Spencer.

Since 1958 High Point Furniture Industries Inc. (HPFi) has made it their mission to create high quality furniture that combines both form and function, thanks to unparalleled craftsmanship. With that at the forefront of everything they make, the company has helped set the trajectory of the country’s furniture industry, which has always come back home despite any twists and turns in economic cycles and shifts.

From their humble beginnings in specialty residential products, this supplier has evolved into offering a wide breath of product and capabilities that touch markets from education to government and more.

COMPANY EXPANSION

Recognizing the potential for growth and diversification, the company began to offer commercial

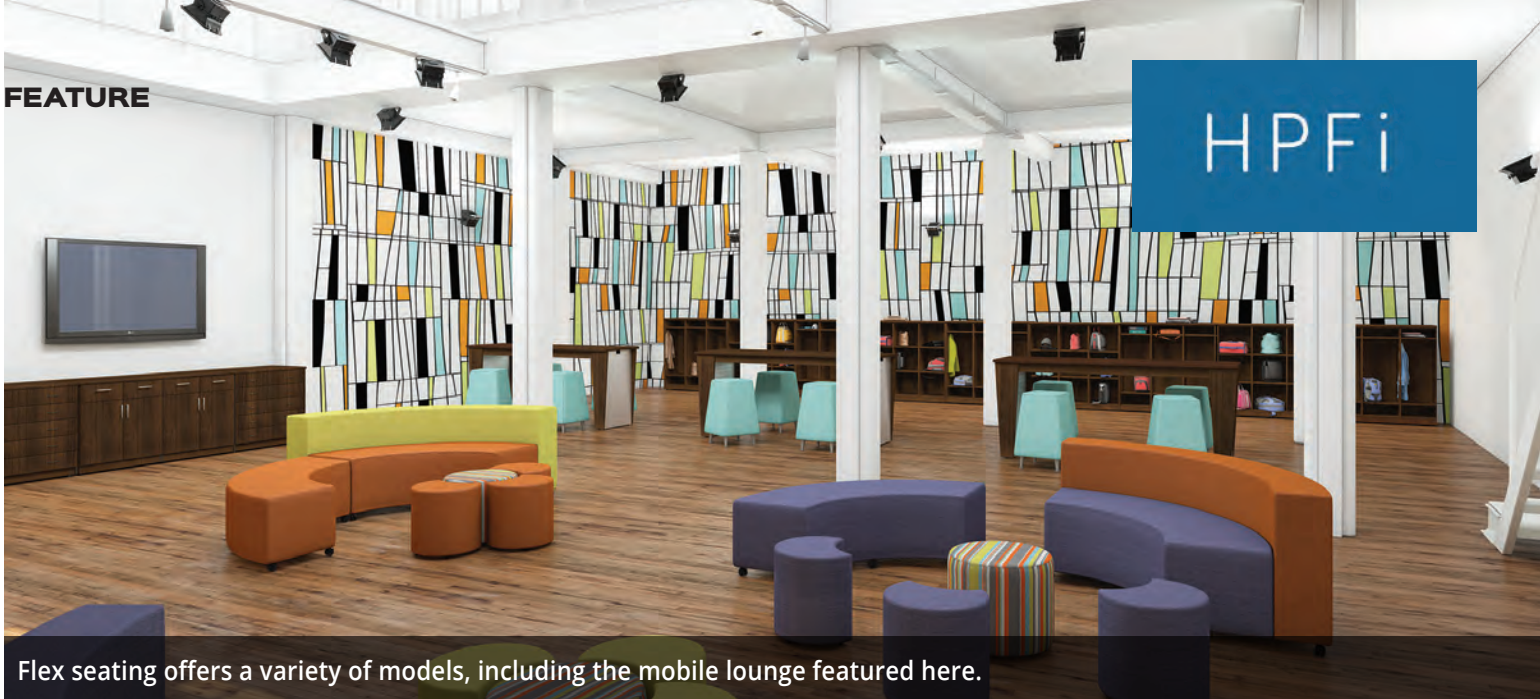
furniture in 1963, transitioning to include the use of metal for lower cost desks, lounge furniture, case-goods, medical gliders, sleepers, training tables and so much more as the years went on, with a special emphasis today on pieces that support collaborative environments.

MARKET EVOLUTION

Here’s how HPFi has seen their target markets develop over the years.

Education: Learning environments are now community spaces where furniture supports the gathering and exchange of ideas. It needs to set the school apart while also holding up to the daily wear-and-tear of these high-traffic spaces.

Business: Today’s business leaders and designers are creating more “team-centered”



Flex seating offers a variety of models, including the mobile lounge featured here.

operation models that revolve around gathering for problem solving and group discussion, even in those traditional private office settings.

Government: Federal, state, and local government offices have very specific needs. Their trusted suppliers need to meet the stringent quality and compliance standards, as well as the variety of options necessary to accommodate them. These agencies are in need of a one-stop-shop that can outfit offices for an administration, training facilities for a military branch, or even a Veterans' Administration hospital, for example.

Healthcare: Medical facilities of all realms can involve public, patient, and administrative spaces. Their public spaces especially need to be thoughtfully designed in order to support and recharge the family caregiver as well. Allowing family to spend extended time in-room allows faster healing and recovery. Mobility is also key here, a priority maintained with equipment that performs flawlessly.

TURNKEY SOLUTIONS

All product HPFi develops to meet these outlined needs is manufactured at their High Point, NC facilities, proving that American production is alive and well. Speed and reliability are up there with the finest quality craftsmanship, with their Expedited Shipping Program (ESP).

This includes their best-selling portfolio of products including Flex (lounge, mobile, ottomans, tiered)

seating; Eve and Evette Lounge Seating; Rokkitt; Stax; Timbre (chairs and stools); Boost; Clique; Duality and Spencer Tables. All are available in 15 business days (or less) with no unit quantity or dollar restrictions.

HPFi also offers custom design and space planning services with their lines available in the Cyncl 2020 library, giving anyone who utilizes Giza, CAP Studio or CAP Complete the ability to generate office layouts from it. Their library is also available in Revit families, Configura (CET) and KITS Collaborator. You can also request the services of their in-house team with the Space Planning Request Form.

As the company looks to the future, it remains dedicated to upholding the values that have defined not just its success but also that of the U.S. furniture industry's for more than six decades. With their customer-centric approach, HPFi is well positioned to continue its legacy of excellence in this ever-evolving world.

The Eve lounge line surrounding the Flex ottoman.



A Champion for Children

Jolene Levin has made it her mission to reprogram education systems around the world to make them work for all learners. Here she outlines how she's doing so by helping people move away from the traditional ways of thinking that, sadly, left some behind.

BY MICHELLE WARREN FOUNDER/PRESIDENT, CATALYST CONSULTING GROUP, LLC

To add to the already amazing gathering of design visionaries in this issue, I wanted to introduce you to one of my own.

Meet Jolene Levin—co-founder of NorvalNivel, an innovative K-12 furniture design company—who has such an incredible story of perseverance, strength and dedication that I knew upon meeting her at NeoCon that I had to tell it.

I would be remiss if I didn't start with her undying passion for equity in the education market. She is driven to ensure that all learners, regardless of their background or circumstances, are given every opportunity to thrive in their educational journey.

"I believe in breaking down barriers, challenging conventional wisdom, and constantly innovating to create inclusive, empowering learning experiences that meet every learner where they are," she said.

After meeting her husband, an industrial designer, they decided to start their own business (when she was eight months pregnant no less.) Installing into homes and offices to start, their first education job was a delivery of very high-end chairs to a Christian school in Australia, where a conversation with the principal changed their trajectory for good.

"We opened up the back of the truck and he turned around and said, 'You know, this is not the type of furniture that we want at all,' and proceeded to point out there are no furniture companies providing pieces that facilitate collaborative learning environments."



Intrigued, they said "well maybe we can help you." His only directive was his desire to create booths at the back of his eighth-grade classroom, so his first order was of 50 double-seater couches.

"We delivered them and a week later he called us and said 'You need to come back. The most incredible things are happening. The kids that were struggling, coming in late and disengaged are ready to learn,'" she explained.

The business snowballed from there, with schools finally starting to focus on the problem, not the product.

"Because if we understand the problem we're actually solving for—movement, choice and ownership over their space—and we understand what that means from a design perspective, we're going to be able to create the high impact environments that kids don't have to push out on, they can push in, and that normalizes differences. That changes the social dynamic for kids inside these spaces. And it became very emotional to see how we were helping the kids who were struggling," Levin said.

And it was from here that their mission statement was born.

Here it is (in part):

I hold firm to the conviction that thoughtfully designed products and intentionally curated spaces are crucial in nurturing engagement and fostering agency among learners. When crafted with purpose, these environments have the potential to elevate the learning experience, inspiring individuals to

reach heights they may have never imagined possible.

By combining intentional design, human-centered thinking, and a commitment to inclusive transformation, we can create educational experiences that not only impart knowledge but also ignite passion, foster creativity, and empower individuals to shape their own futures. I believe that designing with this intention connects us to learning as a personal journey, unique to each individual, and encourages a design approach that encompasses the diverse needs of all learners.

Fast forward to 2017 and the two moved their family to Dallas. They attended Edspaces that same year and were embraced by the industry much faster than she expected. But one question from customers began to inspire her to learn even more about the world she was trying to change.

"Immediately they would say 'Well how do you know? If you expect us to go and spend X amount of dollars on something, how do you know that it's going to work?' So that question became very important to me, and I started to really get into the research around neuroscience, environmental behavioral science, psychology, physiology, and what that looked like inside the learning environment so that I could speak to people from that platform. Because the research does exist," Levin said.

The struggle becomes connecting the research with the design, and having to tell teachers they need to break years-long habits and ways of operating like cluttering the walls, closing the blinds. "I feel like we need to get this out there, because if people knew more, they would do better."

Levin identifies her proudest achievement thus far as helping to develop Edmarket's Certified Learning Place Specialist (ECLPS) research-informed certification program for school district and industry professionals tasked with planning, managing, and designing learning environments of the future. Her hope is that the certification—authored by Dr. Lennie Scott-Webber, owner, INSYNC: Education Research + Design—will raise the bar in that industry so that anyone providing any type of solution when it

comes to learning spaces is doing so with knowledge.

It's a three-level program that can earn professionals 30+ AIA LU and HSW credits. Those three levels include:

- 1. Foundations:** Change the "why" to a future-focused vision by ensuring the guidelines are implemented into decision-making protocols for interior architectural/interior design solutions across an educational campus at levels for all learning spaces.
- 2. Performance-Based Design:** Change the "how" by generating a vision which defines the reimaged institution's strategic plans and culture.
- 3. Implementation & Management:** Change the "what" by managing the planning, processes, alignment, and implementation by integrating the components, plus policy/codes into the visioning for any upfit, renovation, or new project.

She believes these three domains need to come together in order for all of us to be on the same page, because "if a kid walks into a classroom and cannot see themselves and their identity in there, they feel disconnected and there's mental and emotional problems with that and how they feel about coming to school. We just want to make sure that we are creating environments that are meeting every kid where they're at."

You can learn more about the ECLPS certification here: <https://www.edmarket.org/eclps/>. And if you're a woman in the education market, a good place to start getting involved is the Bold Women Collective, powered by EdMarket: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14404325/>.



MICHELLE WARREN

Founder/President, Catalyst Consulting Group, LLC

THE 2024 TOP 10 DESIGN VISIONARIES

COMPILED BY ANNMARIE MARTIN

It's the superstar lineup you've been waiting for. This incredible group of professionals is making waves on so many fronts: inclusivity, sustainability, and fostering the next generation are the big ones though (shouldn't they always be?)

We were lucky enough to hear not just about their endeavors, but who they are as people with this feature. So, without further ado, allow me to introduce our Top 10 Design Visionaries of the year. We'll be getting to know them even more, via Instagram Live chats scheduled throughout the remainder of 2024. And this will now be an annual feature! So get those 2025 nominations ready.

Natalie Hartkopf

CEO/Co-owner, Hightower

Something you love: Anticipation and possibility—like walking into a restaurant with amazing ambiance, warmth, lighting, ready for a delicious meal and a great evening, or the start of a road trip.

Visionary status unlocked: Hightower is providing an all-encompassing product portfolio now called Considered Solutions, representing a paradigm shift towards inclusivity, sustainability, and wellness

within the furniture industry. Designed to meet and exceed ADA compliance standards, Considered Solutions goes further by addressing the needs of neurodiverse individuals, providing more options for physical disabilities and limitations, offering solutions to enhance specialized environments such as spiritual (prayer) and wellness/lactation rooms, designing pieces that are cognizant of wayfinding needs, accommodating occupants in larger bodies, taking into consideration the stability, safety, and sense of belonging for all. This commitment to inclusivity ensures that every user feels valued and supported in their environment.

What or who inspires you?: Business leaders who are doing things differently.

What's the hardest part of your job?:

Wanting to perfect everything, but not being able to do it right away; having ideas and not being able to execute on all of them.

What's your favorite space and why?: Station F & La Felicità in Paris. It is a dynamic restaurant and coworking space in a converted 1920s train station. It's large but cozy, there are plants everywhere, there are multiple food stalls and drink options so you're not locked into one. There are a lot of zones with different seating areas. The space is always trying new things, highlighting new artists, new foods and it's adjacent to a huge tech incubator with beautiful co-working space design.



Natalie Hartkopf

Kaelynn Reid

Certified Futurist and Podcaster, Kimball International



Origin story: While practicing as an interior designer, a major health scare dramatically shifted my perspective. It sparked a deep curiosity to explore unconventional sources of inspiration and data to answer pressing “why” questions. During the pandemic, I channeled this curiosity into the *Alternative Design Podcast*, offering fresh insights for Kimball International. Along the way, I discovered *Foresight*, a powerful tool that transforms curiosity into actionable steps for building a better future.

Visionary status unlocked: In these uncertain times, everyone needs hope and a way forward. By analyzing today's data, we can shape tomorrow's future. As a futurist, I explore how placemaking might evolve, a task that is both sobering and empowering. Designers have the unique privilege—and responsibility—of ensuring that these changes lead to a better world.

What or who inspires you?: Right now, my biggest inspiration is my son. As a new mom, I'm amazed by his sense of wonder. When I get caught up in the complexities of the world, he brings me back to the simple joys—like how fascinating a whisk can be.

You can't live without: I so wish it wasn't my phone, but unfortunately it is. Runner up is mushroom coffee.

Everyone is sleeping on: The Oura Ring.

What's the hardest part of your job?: Synthesizing what all of the data means and staying high level.

What's your favorite space and why?: My local farmers market on Saturday mornings. I love how the values of community, craftsmanship, and coffee converge into this "warm hug" experience. #millennial

You're working toward: A work-life balance <3

Ceri Lovett

Creative Director, Boss Design

Visionary status unlocked: Pioneered the use of Bio-Pur® with the Remi chair. This bio foam is made using renewable raw materials instead of fossil fuels and has a carbon footprint 75% lower than conventional PU foam (data being verified through an accredited LCA and EPD assessor.) This is a game-changer in our industry. It means that furniture designers will be able to create products that benefit from the workability and durability of PU foam while drastically reducing the impact these products have on the environment.

How do you stay ahead of the industry?:

I like to cast a wide net to scan the horizon for emerging global trends, with a focus on design integrity, responsible materiality, and societal wellbeing. This involves tracking social media, connecting with colleagues, attending seminars, reading reports and monitoring legislation, health and well-being developments, blending these insights with trends from designers and architects from different sectors.

Go to outfit?: Black jeans and t-shirt, jacket and boots. Such a cliché...

Something most people don't know about you: I have five children and my wife is a revolutionary in the sustainability world.

What makes you good at your job?:

No fear of failure and hard work to deliver an idea. And the passion to make it better.

You're working toward: Embedding a deep-rooted sustainability culture in every aspect of Boss Design, focusing on people, design, and craft. Over the next five years, my goal is to help the team develop a portfolio of products with a strong, responsible, and conceptual provenance.



Co-Founders, Equity in the Built Environment: A Colorado Coalition (EBECC)

Sam Ward

Project Manager, Elsy Studios

Mei-Ling Krabbe

Workplace Strategist, Stantec

Visionary status unlocked:

Sam: I believe I was graciously nominated for this feature because of my work with Equity in the Built Environment: A Colorado Coalition (EBECC). I'm a co-lead of the grass roots organization, and want to help bring awareness and action of EDI to the built environment that goes beyond policies, such as with educational events, resources, and discussions. I think



knowledge is a powerful tool that I hope we can help people wield as they make impacts in design. One of our most successful events is *Take the Mystery Out of History*, where we take walking tours of different neighborhoods that are historically and culturally significant. As redevelopment sweeps Denver, what significance and stories are lost to new buildings?

How do you stay ahead of the industry?:

Sam: I keep up to date on trends via rep presentations that show new products, but it's not something that I keep track of on a project-by-project basis. The industry will move forward with trends with or without me, so I'd rather design for the project rather than keeping it "Instagrammable."

Mei-Ling: I read and listen to podcasts (anything NPR, for example) so that I am continually educating myself on what is going on in the world. Doing research and benchmarking is part of my job and it aids me in making well-informed decisions.

Go to outfit?:

Sam: Anything with flats and a cute pair of earrings.

Mei-Ling: Usually, all black or black with a splash of an accent color (part of your typical designer starter pack!)

Something most people don't know about you:

Sam: In addition to being a co-lead for EBECC, I'm a docent for Historic Denver. I give tours of the Potter Highlands and LoDo historic districts.

Mei-Ling: I was a coxswain for my college's rowing club team.

Give us an untapped resource you think everyone is sleeping on:

Sam: A local library.

Mei-Ling: Collaboration. I think it is easy to silo ourselves into our given disciplines when really, cross-discipline collaboration can produce more innovative, well-rounded results.

Something you hate:

Sam: Hate is a strong word, I'd rather mention something I don't like. I dislike the feeling of fake mohair.

Mei-Ling: I think hate is a strong word, so I am going to go with something I dislike. I am not a huge fan of insects that fly at me.

What's the hardest part of your job?:

Sam: Staying ahead of emails, design detailing and balancing management and production while getting everything communicated to a client in a timely manner for important decisions.

Mei-Ling: Helping clients think outside of the box.

What's your favorite space?:

Sam: I really enjoy going to the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Mei-Ling: I like to be outside, especially in the mountains. It is the most natural form of space, and I am constantly inspired by it.

You're working toward:

Mei-Ling: Over the next five years, I am committed to establishing myself as a subject matter expert in workplace strategy. This ambition involves deepening my knowledge of evolving trends and best practices, while actively shaping how workplaces adapt to meet modern needs. As the landscape of the workplace continually shifts due to technological advancements and evolving societal expectations, my focus will be on staying ahead of these trends and addressing them effectively. This includes mastering emerging concepts like hybrid work models, integrating new technologies, and prioritizing employee well-being. Ultimately, fostering well-being in the workplace is not just beneficial for individuals but also has a broader societal impact. Healthy, engaged employees contribute to a more productive workforce and a more resilient society, as well-being at work translates into improved overall health, reduced burnout, and a more balanced approach to life.

Scott Ross Steffes

Senior Interior Designer, Associate, Shepley Bulfinch



Origin story: I ventured into the world of interior design post high school and 10 years into another industry. Turned out to be the perfect career path.

What or who inspires you?:

That is a big question. I am always inspired by adjacent creative industries such as fashion, music, industrial design, and even sports. I also find I am in true awe of my younger colleagues and the students I work with. The drive and creativity they bring is so energizing.

You're working toward: Bringing IIDA's Design Your World education pathway program to the Phoenix market. Big reach, but looks like I put the pressure on now.

Something most people don't know about you: My age. I'm a baby face.

A resource everyone is sleeping on: Your local reps and market colleagues. With the hybrid dynamic, and with various companies that consolidate parts of navigating the industry, I think we have lost those connections. There are so many benefits to having strong industry partners.

Something you hate: Hate is a strong word, but I really dislike soggy bread.

Something you love: The smell of lilacs. Oh how I miss that from the Midwest.

The hardest part of your job?: Creativity. I know you weren't expecting that. It's hard to be creative and find the right ideas at times. Sometimes the path to the best idea is a bit rocky (not necessarily in a bad way). This is why collaboration is so important, as we never do anything individually or without influence, and a path is always easier navigated with others.

Matt Berman and Andrew Kotchen

Founding Principals, Workshop/APD

Visionary status unlocked:

Andrew: In 2006 we won Brad Pitt's Global Green

competition to rebuild a more sustainable New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Our proposal



envisioned a sustainable community featuring cutting edge green technology, social services and spaces, and shared amenities. Up to that point our projects had been primarily single family residential, and the competition was a sort of springboard, opening our eyes to how diverse and expansive our practice could be.

Many of the concepts in our proposal (better integration of indoor and outdoor spaces; amenities that bring neighbors and communities together; contextual, sustainable design) are critical to our projects 25 years later. It also gave us the courage to pursue and win projects like Building 92 at Brooklyn Navy Yard and NYC development The Printing House. Those are seminal moments that began to define a broader practice and portfolio for Workshop/APD. Each of these allowed us to see how we could leverage our work from one area into the next, constantly building the firm of the future.

How do you stay ahead of the industry? Track social media, connect with colleagues, attend seminars?:

Matt: It's all of the above. You want to understand the conversations and the challenges, and then you figure out how to not pay too much attention to them. As experts and creatives, the general public is often asking us to translate the latest developments and trends for them, but we don't want to put too much stock in anything fleeting or what's "hot" right now.

One thing you can't live without:

Andrew: Sadly, I can't live without my phone—to capture images and video, to consume content, to work whenever and wherever I need to.

Matt: Coffee. The gym. If I had to just pick one, I'd say my husband, Jim. I just like being with him.

Go to outfit?:

Matt: Typically, I wear head-to-toe black. I like the simplicity of a uniform. But I am trying to branch out a bit, maybe add some color into my wardrobe. Either way, it has to be comfortable. I'm done with formal, impractical, uncomfortable clothes.

Something you hate:

Andrew: I hate design that values price and exclusivity over proportion, scale, texture, tone, and materiality. This idea that gallery-level furnishings define good design—spaces that are an aggregate of disparate pieces instead of a holistic vision—makes me crazy. The components may be interesting and beautifully crafted, but they don't always result in pleasing or functional environments.

Matt: I hate olives. And fruit in desserts. Controversial, I know.

You're working toward:

Matt: You know, we're celebrating our 25th anniversary this year as a firm, and it's such an extraordinary milestone. It's been exciting to reflect on how far we've come, and to think about what we, as a group, want to do next.

Andrew: We're always growing and evolving, and right now we're particularly focused on developing leaders that can see the company into its next chapter and through the next 25 years. I want the firm to thrive and continue long after me, shaped and guided by a group of incredibly talented leaders in a way they see fit.

Alexandra Tseffos

Founder, The Design POP

Visionary status unlocked: I am an ex-dealer designer who worked for Configura as a trainer during the recession. I launched a consulting business when I had my first baby, and worked with dealers and manufacturers on the adoption of new technology.

I started The Design POP in 2021 because I wanted to offer highly searchable video training, so I recorded everything I know in regards to CET and Spec in five-minute increments. We started with 35 videos and now we have 600+, excluding manufacturer content (manufacturer CET extension training is available on AIS, OFS, JSI and Stylex). We offer courses on CET, Spec, & Worksheet that are geared towards both designers and salespeople.

You're working toward: We are always adding to our existing content, yet a large goal is to add more manufacturer training to the website.

Something most people don't know about you: I was a competitive figure skater in my youth, and the most fun I have ever had in my adult life is when I became the skate coach (with hot pink laces of course) for my son's hockey team.

What's your favorite space and why?: I love living in Minneapolis and experiencing all the city has to offer but many times people will find me at my family cabin in northern Wisconsin. There are times I need to be away from the city, and I'm so fortunate to be able to water ski and play with my kids but also get my work done.

What or who inspires you?: As it relates to business, I'm really lucky that I have a dad who owned a technology dealership, structured similarly to furniture dealerships. He tells me what I need to hear, doesn't sugarcoat it, and I appreciate that.

Go to outfit?: Love my dresses and heels. I literally just bought my first pair of sneakers for a trip to New York City two weeks ago—that's how much.



Ryan Swanson

Founder/Creative Director, Urban Conga

Origin story: I started exploring the idea of creating more playable cities during my thesis in architecture school. I was hosting giant conga lines through cities, installing interactive projections on buildings, hanging swings in underpasses, and pushing giant beach balls through streets. From these early guerilla-style activations, I started The Urban Conga.

Visionary status unlocked: My work focuses on encouraging people to think about the value of play beyond the playground and how creating more multigenerational play everywhere can dramatically impact our daily lives.

One thing you can't live without: I could not live without my partner both in life and the studio, Maeghann Coleman.

Something most people don't know about you: I played volleyball in college and coached junior national volleyball for almost 10 years.

Give us an untapped resource you think everyone is sleeping on: The voices of the communities in which we are designing for.

What makes you good at your job?: I would say my ability to connect to people at a personal level and translate their stories into the physical space.

What's the hardest part of your job?: Working with municipal agencies and pushing against the bureaucracy.

What's your favorite space and why:

Washington Square Park in New York City, because it showcases how people make a space. There is always so many different things happening there, from families picnicking in the park to a guy training wild pigeons.





In Profile: Brooke Corcoran

The Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Berco Designs and Oasis Berco merges design savvy with business acumen.

Brooke Corcoran's work is a testament to her passion for human-centered design and innovation. Her career began in fashion, taking her to vibrant cities like LA and New York before settling in Kansas City. The transition from textiles to interiors highlighted her fascination with the intersection of design and human interaction. "I realized I was interested in more than just trends; I loved how interior design influences socialization," Corcoran explained.

Leaving the fashion world behind, she pursued a degree in interior design, gaining valuable experience at a tile company. "I adored working at a tile showroom," she reflected. "Starting part-time,

I soon managed the division and was captivated by the world of finishes." Now, as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Berco Designs and Oasis Berco, Corcoran is breaking barriers in product design, setting the stage for innovative solutions.

DESIGN VISION

Corcoran embodies Eleanor Roosevelt's empowering words: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent," and her design philosophy echoes the National Parks Service's ethos of leaving everything better than you found it. For her, design is about solving real-world problems,

FEATURE

building relationships, and understanding people on a higher level.

"Empathy helps me as a designer because I care deeply about the end user's happiness with their space," she said.

CONFIDENT CONTROL

Founded by an independent sales rep who saw a need for quality in table bases, Berco Designs began with a mission to control production from start to finish. Their in-house engineering team allows Berco to control the quality of its product from the very beginning, empowering dealers and designers to deliver the perfect solutions.

Berco's St. Louis factory houses dynamic processes seen in solid surface fabrication. "I was pleasantly surprised by our in-house solid surface fabrication," Corcoran shared. "Coming from the tile world, this approach offers an elevated finish without the extra markup."

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Corcoran believes in learning from diverse industries, noting, "We once viewed healthcare and education as sterile, but now they're warm and inviting." She champions adding residential elements for a welcoming atmosphere, which has a profound psychological impact.

COMMITMENT TO PROTOTYPING & COMMUNITY

Berco makes furniture solutions real enough to learn about them. "We create prototypes for all new products," she noted. This dedication was evident at NeoCon 2024, where Berco shared space with other innovators, fostering collaboration.

A chance meeting with MFC (My Favorite Company), led to an exciting partnership, resulting in an Egaming table design. "Esports fascinate me," Corcoran admitted. "I've never been a big gamer and I've never 'saved the princess,' but I want to bring this design to the world."

THE VALUE OF DESIGN IN BUSINESS

Once you've witnessed the quality of a Berco Designs table or booth or office pod at a job site, it's impossible to ignore the advantages. Behind the walls of Berco, their team decides what products go outside of them. Corcoran continues the journey with a thoughtful eye out for other industry visionaries in fields impacting hers.

There will always be the spark of manufacturing processes developed over Berco's long track record. Their St. Louis location and innovative spirit ensure Berco's leadership in diverse markets. Quality and efficiency opened the door for Berco. Collaboration and visionary design lead the way forward.



Shaping the Future

Take a look at how these visionaries of the past are still heavily influencing A&D today.

BY LAURA CARLSON, DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURAL DIVISION, MY RESOURCE LIBRARY

In the vibrant world of commercial interior design, the concept of a design visionary is one that holds immense significance. These individuals or companies not only imagine the future of spaces but also possess the unique ability to bring their ideas to life in ways that profoundly impact society. Their work transcends aesthetics, blending creativity, innovation, and sustainability to create spaces that are both functional and transformative. Let's explore the key attributes that define a design visionary, how these characteristics manifest in their work, and how they are still making their mark.

PUSHING BOUNDARIES

At the heart of every design visionary is a relentless drive for innovation. They challenge conventional wisdom and are unafraid to take risks, leading to the creation of spaces that are not only unique but also ahead of their time. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright's concept of organic architecture revolutionized the relationship between buildings and their natural surroundings. His iconic creation, Falling-water, is a testament to his innovative thinking, seamlessly integrating the structure with the waterfall over which it hovers. Wright's ability to envision and execute such groundbreaking ideas showcases the essence of what it means to "walk the walk" and not just "talk the talk."

In the commercial interior design industry, this pioneering spirit is echoed by companies like Tarkett, who has partnered with Mycocyclus to address the environmental impact of construction waste. By utilizing mycelium, the root structure of mushrooms, to detoxify and recycle materials,

Tarkett demonstrates how innovative thinking can lead to sustainable solutions that benefit both the environment and the industry.

DESIGNING WITH PURPOSE

A true design visionary understands the importance of placing the user at the center of the design process. Empathy drives their approach, ensuring that the end



Framery Four is a soundproof meeting pod for up to 4 people, designed for modern teams and hybrid work. Includes fine-tuned acoustics, adaptive ventilation, and automated lighting to adapt to all types of workers and their tasks at hand.

product not only meets functional needs but also enhances the user experience. Charlotte Perriand, a pioneering figure in modern interior design, exemplified this quality. Her work with Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret emphasized simplicity and functionality, with a strong focus on how people would interact with the spaces and furniture she designed.

In contemporary commercial design, this user-centric approach is critical.

Today's workplaces, for instance, are increasingly designed to accommodate diverse needs, from open spaces that encourage collaboration to quiet zones tailored for neurodivergent individuals. This trend reflects a broader understanding of human diversity and a commitment to creating inclusive environments.

INTERDISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE

Design visionaries often draw from a rich tapestry of information that spans across various fields like art, technology, psychology, and sociology. This interdisciplinary approach enables them to create designs that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also technically feasible and socially relevant. Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, another iconic figure, exemplified this by blending architectural minimalism with modern materials to create timeless structures like the Barcelona Pavilion. His dictum “less is more” continues to influence designers worldwide, emphasizing the power of simplicity and precision.

In the commercial realm, interdisciplinary knowledge is essential in creating spaces that resonate with users on multiple levels. The integration of technology, such as IoT-enabled lighting systems or interactive digital displays in retail environments, illustrates how design visionaries are blending art, science, and culture to create immersive and engaging experiences.

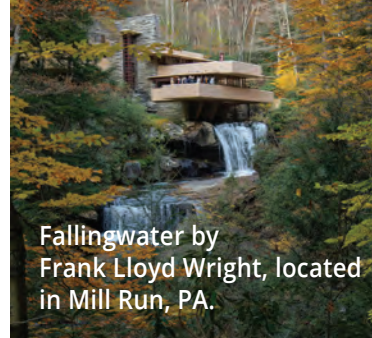
SUSTAINABILITY AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In today's world, sustainability is a crucial consideration for any design visionary. Frank Lloyd Wright was ahead of his time in advocating for the use of local materials and designing buildings that harmonize with their environment. His Usonian homes were not only affordable and efficient but also reflected his commitment to sustainable and accessible architecture.

Another company that exemplifies how today's producers can continue this legacy is Mushlume, also utilizing mycelium to replace conventional materials. All Mushlume lamps are “grown,” not manufactured, from the roots of these mushrooms and are biodegradable at the end of life. This promotes a circular economy as instead of adding pollutants back into the atmosphere, it adds nutrients back into the soil, creating a better future for all.

VISION AND LEADERSHIP

A design visionary has a clear vision of the impact



they want their work to have, and they possess the leadership skills to inspire others to share

in this vision. Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin Fellowship, an apprenticeship program he established, nurtured a new generation of architects who carried forward his principles. His leadership extended beyond his designs, leaving a lasting legacy that continues to influence the field of architecture.

Organizations like the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) are also giving the next generation a platform to explore their talents and make an impact while doing so. Since its inception in 2021, their Design Your World program has expanded to three cities, providing high school students with exposure to the possibilities of a career in design.

AN ENDURING INFLUENCE

Design visionaries are the driving force behind the evolution of commercial interior design. Their innovative thinking, empathy, interdisciplinary knowledge, and commitment to sustainability are qualities that not only define their work but also set new benchmarks for the industry. By blending creativity with a deep understanding of the needs of society, they create spaces that are not just beautiful but also meaningful and impactful.

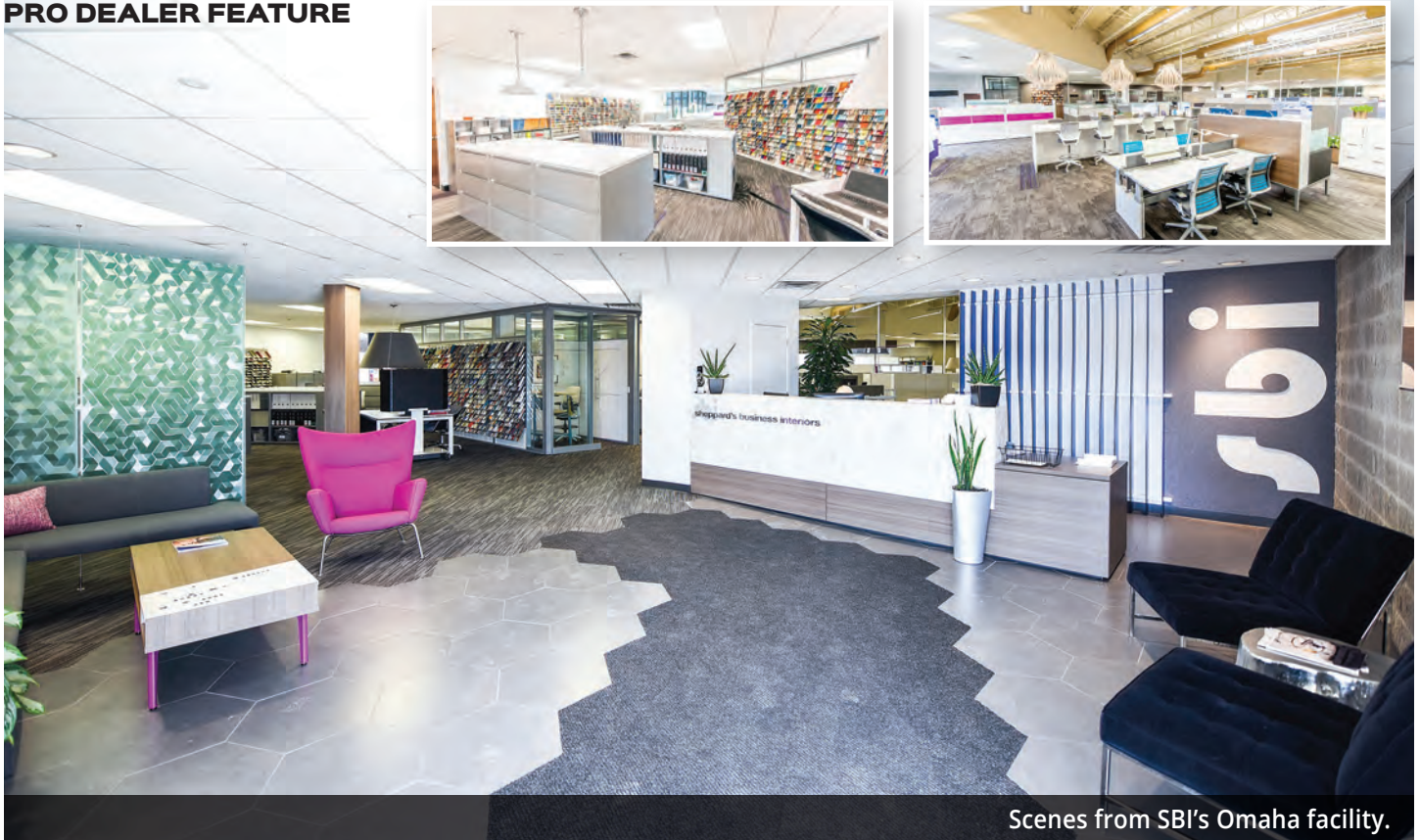
As we look to the future, the influence of design visionaries like Frank Lloyd Wright, Charlotte Perriand, companies like Tarkett and organizations like IIDA will continue to shape the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. Their legacy reminds us that great design is not just about aesthetics—it's about creating a better, more sustainable future for all.



LAURA CARLSON

*Director, Architectural Division
My Resource Library*

PRO DEALER FEATURE



Scenes from SBI's Omaha facility.

Getting to Know: Sheppard's Business Interiors

Omaha, Nebraska

CONTRIBUTOR: LORRIE COATS, SALES & DESIGN RESOURCE COORDINATOR; APRYL LINK, DIRECTOR OF DESIGN

In business for 69 years, Sheppard's Business Interiors (SBI) is a family-owned one-stop-shop, with their Omaha facility being home to their working showroom with the design, sales, project management, operations teams and more, all of whom serve SBI's local, regional, and national clients. They employ 75 team members who can boast a 10-year average tenure.

As a Steelcase Premier Partner for the Omaha metro area marketplace, they also represent more than 100 other manufacturers. This allows them to provide limitless product solutions for furniture, modular walls, acoustics, and so much more. Their

options tailor to each client's specific requirements, resulting in built environments that maintain high-level aesthetics while still complying with the health, safety and well-being of the employees for each project.

SBI works with most Fortune 500 companies in Omaha and has clients in all industries (including but not limited to healthcare, education, corporate, government, banking, industrial, and more) with projects of all sizes.

Read on to see how they use My Resource Library to cater to each client's unique needs, finding the best product solutions to answer every single one.



SBI participated in Walk MS 2024 under the team name "Striving. Believing. Inspiring," to support those living with multiple sclerosis. Thanks to the incredible dedication and generosity of the team, clients, and supporters, they smashed their fundraising goal of \$2,000 and raised over \$5,000!

Delve: Tell us how your team members use MRL.

SBI: Let's break it down by department.

Sales and account managers use the left tab as a way to store all our dealer specific information for each of our vendors. Account managers will use the Inspiration tab to brainstorm, and the search feature to find specific products. The sales coordination team (our order entry team) oversees every aspect of the order from entry to delivery and they need the information that is in our left tabs to do their jobs!

Design uses the Inspiration tab and the search feature for product selection as well as customizing project folders specific to each project.

Our marketing department even has a link to our library on our website.

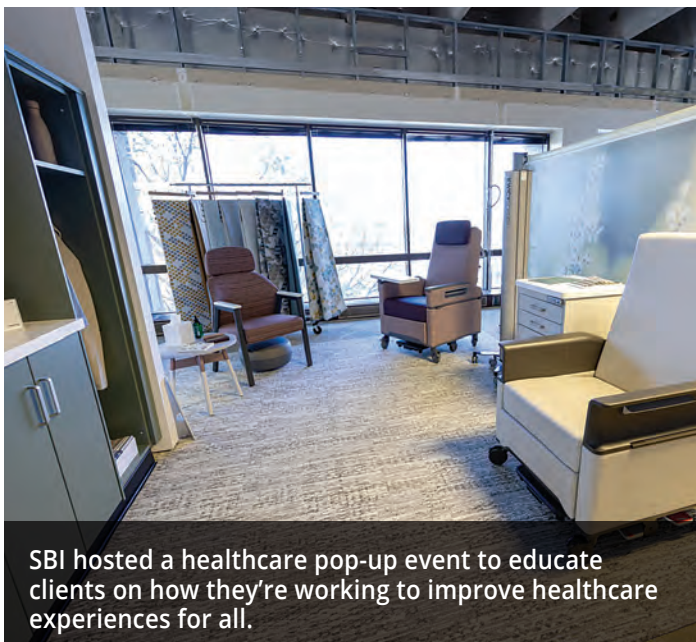
Delve: What key features of MRL Pro Dealer do you find the most beneficial to your daily activities?

SBI: We use the Project Tool to build projects internally and house our showroom floor plans and documents. We have created binders for specialized items such as children's furniture, reception desks, custom millwork, conference tables, accessories, etc. We also have binders housing examples of previous bid response proposals for new team members to easily access and review for reference purposes.

The Enhanced Search feature is a huge time saver when it comes to product searches. It is very easy to use, and the results are accurate. The full product library also opens us up to new vendor partners that we may not have had access to in the past. It gives us new, fresh options for the teams to select from.

Delve: How has MRL impacted your client engagement best practices?

SBI: MRL Pro Dealer has made an impact on our organization by helping us to manage the data for each individual manufacturer that we use. The ease of updating the information and accessing it has been a game changer for us. New employees have access to the search feature so they can easily find products that fit their customer's needs and wants without spending a lot of time searching individual webpages. The project binder tool has helped us communicate documents within our organization and with our clients.



SBI hosted a healthcare pop-up event to educate clients on how they're working to improve healthcare experiences for all.

Calling All Education Designers

We still have a couple slots left to feature YOUR projects in the September issue!

Our September issue is going to be a special one. As Delve continues to grow and evolve, one of the major additions you'll find is coverage of the most ground-breaking interior design projects around—and our September education issue will be the first place you'll find them.

That's not all. Delve prints two of its issues every year and September is the second, distributed at EDspaces in Houston, TX, Nov. 12-14. So not only will your work be featured both in print and online, but it will also get in front of some of the most influential players in the education market today.

My Resource Library will be at booth 2047 distributing copies and playing in our Ultimate Durability Zone. Part science experiment, part interactive exhibit, this space will explore all the performance requirements set on education furniture in order to deal with everything from second graders with markers to college freshmen with

chewing gum. MRL and industry partners will be diving into these specific market challenges across multiple product categories and explore practical solutions to designing spaces that will last and look good for school years to come. There will also be games, prizes, and giveaways—don't miss it!

To submit your project for coverage, please send the following to Delve Editor AnnMarie Martin at annmariem@hellofromsloan.com, no later than Sept. 5:

- 5-10 high resolution (300 dpi, jpegs or tiffs) sampling of interior photographs
- A design brief or narrative that includes the lead designers and specifiers
- Let us know if MRL was utilized in the design process.

We're looking for all types of learning environments, and that includes higher-ed, K-12, training centers, libraries, and even museums. AnnMarie will notify you upon receipt of the materials if she would like to move forward with an interview.

We can't wait to see the results of your blood, sweat, and tears! And we'll see you in November at EDspaces. In the meantime, follow us on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the latest updates and info.



Also look for our September feature, *A Lesson in Equity*, with commentary from educators, designers and Patricia Cadigan, chief development officer, Artcobell (products pictured). They'll discuss how to address school distress and avoidance right in the classroom, with flexible seating and more, making it an adaptable, successful learning environment for all student neurotypes.