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my spot. a new kind of workspace.

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my spot.

a new kind of workspace.

Bridget Dee Sheehan

A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the
College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
for the degree of
Master of Fine Arts, Industrial Design
Rochester Institute of Technology

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Master of Fine Arts Degree
Industrial Design
School of Design
College of Imaging Arts and Sciences
Rochester Institute of Technology

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Abstract

Designed with the creative industry in mind, **my spot** is a work space that accommodates today's rapidly changing technology and the shifting workforce. The user can create a work space that works best for his or her unique tools and technologies, whether digital or analog. It offers multiple work surfaces, allowing the worker to utilize their space in different ways throughout the day. This modular system is minimal and functional, but it also allows the worker to maintain his or her identity within the office environment. **My spot** attempts to break down the traditional cubicle wall and encourage collaboration with an open environment while maintaining a sense of place for each user.

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Introduction

It is important for workers to maintain their identity and individuality while at work. A modular system has been developed to address this need while also keeping the future of workspace environments in mind. Having a spot that is uniquely theirs is critical to a worker's productivity, health, and overall happiness. This modular system allows the worker to create and easily modify a space to meet his or her needs and make it his own.

In 1968, Robert Propst, then President of Herman Miller Research Corporation, developed the Action Office II. This was an open-plan office system consisting of click-together desks and pop-up walls, marking the beginning of the cubicles. With the Action Office II, workers had an opportunity to create an environment that suited the way they worked. This opportunity would slowly fade as the office cubicle would come to reign as the standard for office furniture from the 1970s to today; Steelcase, Knoll, and Herman Miller produced multiple variations, many of which are still in use. The development of these systems would become known as cubicles. The cubicle shows us that a radical idea of how work environments could adapt for each user morphed into a cold, rigid, standard cubicle - four walls and minimal power supply. The cubicle offer privacy and basic power supply, but tend to limit a worker's opportunity to easily modify their space to meet their current or future needs.

Today's office is constantly evolving. Technology is rapidly changing, and the workforce is shifting from baby boomers to millennials. Because of this, each worker approaches his or her work with a different set of tools and work styles. This project offers work surfaces that can be utilized several ways throughout the day, adapting to individual needs for long-term and short-term interactions with people and projects.

Statement

Our environment has an influence on the way we work. Through simple, modular furniture, a worker has the opportunity and ability to create an environment that suits the way that he or she work on a day-to-day basis. This thesis addresses the mental and physical way workers approach their workstations. In this design, an individual worker is given an eight-foot square space, which is given distinction through a change in floor material/texture/surface, and a modular workstation which has a footprint of roughly six square feet. By giving the worker more space than their workstation's footprint, my spot allows he or she to arrange their workstation within their distinct work area, giving them the opportunity to design their workspace to suit their needs. Through a modular system, the worker can activate his or her space with greater ease.

Research

Spring 2013

Minimal workstations were researched in order to understand work surfaces, sizes, functional environments and the time and energy spent in an individual's workspace. It was noted that many furnishings and environments do not encourage collaboration and movement, resulting in workers sitting for extended periods of time. Physiologically speaking, the human body is not meant to sit for long periods of time, and workers are often at work for eight or more hours in a day. We are built to move and our work environments should encourage movement and allow the worker to activate themselves and their workspaces. This movement will address our bodies physiological needs and create a more active, healthy work environment.

The research and ideation lead to the desire to change the way people work through their environment.

Opportunities

Create a workspace that encourages the worker to activate themselves and his or her space.

Encourage interaction and collaboration between workers.

Eliminate the physical barriers between workers, while maintaining a sense of personal space.

Develop a station that encourages physical movement within an individuals work station.

Project Objectives

Create a mental barrier, not a physical one, to separate workers from one another.

Have multiple height work surfaces within one space.

Develop a variety of modular pieces that will allow the user to create an environment that suits their needs.

Built-in, easy-to-access power outlets.

Why Work

Work is something that everyone takes part in, though each individual experiences it in a very different way. I wanted to discover what work is and how the experience can be improved through the environment, specifically through an individual's work station.

Understanding Work

In the book *My Desk is My Castle: Exploring Personalisation Cultures* the authors explored the culture of work and the psychological aspects of office decoration. From this book I discovered it was not the furniture itself that gave an individual a sense of ownership within a workspace, it was instead the objects and belongings they placed within that space.

“The desk is a place of work and of action, but it also serves as a place to exhibit personal things and preferences.”¹

From the information gathered from *My Desk is My Castle: Exploring Personalisation Cultures* and through survey results and my case study, I recognized the opportunity to create a minimalist workstation would allow the worker to create their space through the objects, tools, and chair he or she brings into their work environment.

1. Brandes, Uta, and Michael Erlhoff. 2011. *My Desk Is My Castle*. Basel, Switzerland: Actar-BirkhauserD.

Research Methodology

Methodology

I approached my design research much like the methodologies of award-winning global design firm, IDEO as read in *Rotman Magazine*.¹ IDEO believes that “Radical innovation requires both evidence and intuition: evidence to become informed, and intuition to inspire us in imagining and creating new and better possibilities.”² They believe that research should not be simply based on historical research, but should also include research that provides human-centered insight, continual learning, and that helps to find the potential of an opportunity.

For **my spot** research included:

- /gaining understanding of future and current work trends
- Historical analysis
- Speaking with workers about their experiences
- Looking at existing work situations and behaviors
- Exploration of objects in space

This research allowed me to gain insight and find opportunities that can be addressed with innovation and design.

Initial Research

Throughout my initial research, I spoke with workers from a variety of occupations including education, clerical, engineering, design, medical, and social work. By speaking with workers from a variety of occupations I was able to discover that workers are moderately satisfied with their workspaces. In order to improve a workspace, workers looked for ways to personalize their space, find better storage solutions, and looked for more inspirational spaces to work in.

My research also included an in depth historical analysis of office systems and layouts from the early-twentieth century to the present, this span of time represents the evolution of the modern office and shows how work has evolved with technology. To understand the recent history and current trends in office furniture manufacturing, I read a variety articles and studies, produced by leading furniture manufacturers, Herman Miller and Steelcase. These articles and studies gave me the insight into how manufacturers see the future of work and what they feel it entails. With this understanding of how office systems developed over time, I began to look into the

1. Fulton Suri, Jane. 2008. “Informing Our Intuition: Design Research for Radical Innovation.” *Rotman Magazine*.

2. Fulton Suri, Jane. 2008. “Informing Our Intuition: Design Research for Radical Innovation.” *Rotman Magazine*. 53.

research continued

psychological approach workers take toward their work, and how they view their office space.

Through three-dimensional experimentation, I was able to build temporary workstations that I would work at and have others work at to see if it met their needs and wants within a workstation. This method allowed me to gain a better understanding of what people are looking for within their workspace, and to discover if the stations I was designing was meeting the objectives I had set when I began working on my thesis. My design went through several iterations until I arrived at a design that I felt met the objectives I set and would be a workstation that would meet the needs of my target market, the creative industry.

Historical Research

1900 to 1960

In the early twentieth century, offices were open, crowded and monotonous, with desks and furnishings bolted to the ground. The tools at this time were basic, typically paper and pens with shared phone lines for secretarial purposes. In the 1950s, the introduction of the typewriter led to a great deal of office noise from the keys to the slide of the paper finger. This white noise brought about the need for a change in the layout and furniture of the office; there was a sudden need for furnishings that would absorb the noises introduced by typewriters.

It is important to note that it was not uncommon for workers in many occupations to stand while working during the early part of the twentieth century. Some common examples of this were ledgers and educators. With ledgers in particular, they stood at tall desks, and if they wished to sit, they sat on stools that were simple and acted more as a leaning post as opposed to what we would call an office chair.

Action Office

In 1968, Robert Propst, then President of Herman Miller Research Corporation, developed the Action Office II, an open-plan office system consisting of click-together desks and pop-up walls, marking the beginning of the cubicles. With the Action Office II, workers had an opportunity to create an environment that suited the way they worked.

“The Action Office concept makes provision for the need to design highly varied work stations. Moreover, it permits a significant degree of adjustment and selection by the user himself. He can shake down his facility until it works and he can change it as his work restructures.”¹

This opportunity would slowly fade as the office cubicle would come to reign as the standard for office furniture from the 1970s to today; Steelcase, Knoll, and Herman Miller produced multiple variations, many of which are still in use.

Cubicles offer privacy and basic power supply, but tend to limit a worker's opportunity to easily modify their space to meet their current, or future, needs.

1. Propst, Robert. 1968. *The Office, a Facility Based on Change*. Elmhurst, IL: Business Press. 50.

Historical Research Continued

Recent History

With the trend of the cubicle in full-swing, Herman Miller and Steelcase became the leading manufacturers of office furnishings. While cubicles do offer the benefit of a sense of privacy a very basic power supply, they tend to limit the worker's opportunity to create a space that meets their current, and future, needs.

By looking at the recent history of Herman Miller and Steelcase, it was evident what was necessary when creating a new workspace.

To Do:

- Think about the user, meet their needs and expectations for their workspace
- Gain an understanding of the tools used
- Develop a system, create the ideal office space
- Maintain a neutral color palette

Not to Do:

- Focus on the aesthetics, particularly in the beginning
- Overcomplicated the connection points
- Attempt to develop a system that works for everyone

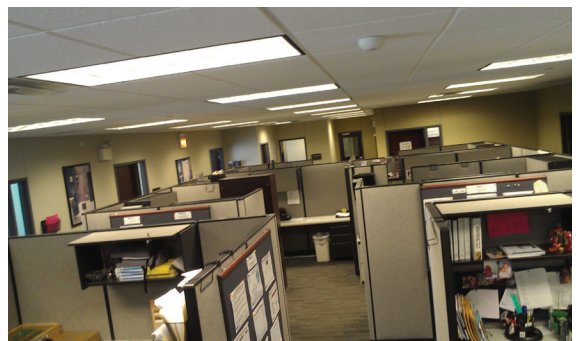
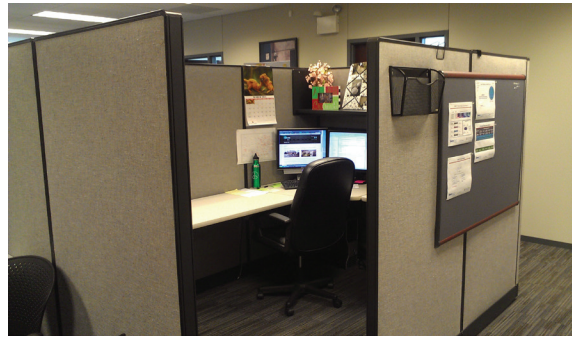
Work Evolution

There is a constant evolution going on in the workplace, that can be seen in the changing workforce from baby boomers to millennials. This generational gap brings about a unique challenge to meet the needs of both an analog and digital workforce; baby boomers and millennials each have their unique tool-set and methods of work.

The work evolution can also be seen in the changing tools, from analog to digital, this is most evident during meetings and short-term interactions between workers of different generations. Having this wide of a variety of tools and technology causes the need for a wide variety of storage types, paper and digital being the most prominent.

Existing Office Spaces

In order to gain a greater understanding of what working in a cubicle is like and how worker's create their own spaces, a variety of people to photographed their workstations and offices. Below is a sampling of the images that were sent to me.



Existing Office Spaces



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Survey

In the Fall of 2013, a survey was developed to gain an insight into the current office conditions for workers in a variety of occupational fields. The results of the survey allowed me to identify the needs and wants of workers from different occupations; which lead me to the conclusion that office spaces need to be improved for all occupations.

Survey questions can be found in Appendix A4.

Survey Results

For me the question that held the most importance in the early design decisions of my thesis was: How can your workspace be improved?

Below are several responses from my survey:

“The air conditioner fan is obnoxiously loud and annoying.” Female, 18-25, Legal

“I could clean it up, it’s a train wreck. ‘Organized Chaos’ we’ll call it, because I know where everything is, but it could be cleaner.” Female, 26-32, Artist/Designer

“More power outlets” Male, 26-32, Education, Library or Training

“There are awkward dividers in the table that should be removed.” Female, 18-25, Artist/Designer

“The walls could be a little higher. I sit by a main walking area and conversations take place right outside my cube on a regular basis. If I didn’t see them I probably wouldn’t hear them.” Male, 40-50, Computer/Mathematic

A complete set of survey responses can be seen in Appendix A5.

Conclusion

After reading the results of the survey, I recognized that designing a workstation that worked for everyone was simply not a reasonable task. Instead, I set out to develop a workstation for a specific type of work environment, a specific occupational field.

Defining the User

Target Market

In the early days of my thesis, sometime in March 2013, I set out to change what work was and how an individual works. That became an overwhelming task, and to define what work is for everyone is a task that is far beyond the scope of this thesis, because work is something that is different for everyone. With this in mind, I quickly began to define what work is for office workers, though I quickly realized that within the category of “office workers” were a series of smaller categories including, but not limited to, clerical, data processing, design, and engineering.

Each of these categories, while they share similar needs and tools, have unique work methods and equipment necessary to complete their job. With a few basic industries/categories in mind, clerical, data processing, and creative to be specific, I was able to further define what work was for each of those categories through a simple survey and conversations with people from each industry. After defining what work was for each industry, I was able to define my target market as workers from the creative industry.

Keeping in mind the designers, engineers, architects, writers, and marketing professionals of the creative industry, I was able to begin the design process. I quickly began to develop my design and make contact with workers from a variety of the occupations within the creative industry in order to discover their needs and wants of a workspace.

As I continued with ideation and the design process, it became evident that there was a vast difference between small and mid-sized creative studios and large corporate creative offices; this marked a fork in the road and left me with yet another decision to make: do I define my target market as small to mid-sized creative studios or large corporate creative offices? After digging a little deeper into the creative industry, I realized that I wanted to create a new type of office for the small to mid-sized creative studio. One that would allow them to share an open space, maintain a sense of privacy, and give each worker a sense that they had their own space.

Case Study

Having defined my target market as workers at small to mid-sized creative studios, I knew I needed to spend time observing how creatives work and interact within their workspace. With that in mind, I called in a favor with a Buffalo based designer, Casey Kelly, and her coworkers at White Bicycle, to set-up a time to visit their studio and observe how they work.

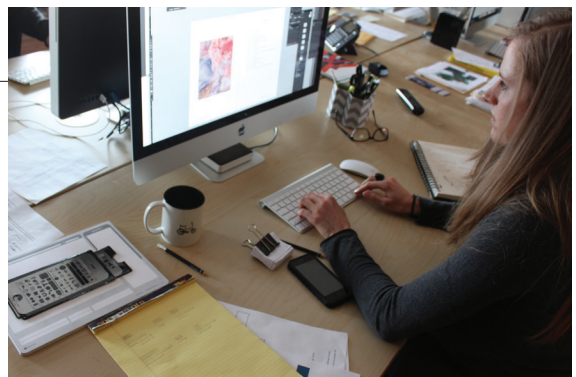
White Bicycle

On March 26, 2014 I had the privilege to spend the afternoon with the design trio of Brian Grunert, Kyle Morrissey, and Casey Kelly at the White Bicycle studio. In their own words:

“White Bicycle is a trio of designers based in Buffalo, New York. We build brands in a powerful and meaningful way. Our work includes exhibitions, identity, logos, packaging, posters, publications, signage, strategy, websites and other media.”



During my time at White Bicycle I quickly realized that these graphic designers use all of their available surfaces, including the fourth desk of the studio which was not being used that day. This information quickly reinforced the fact that having multiple work surfaces to work at on a daily basis would be a positive attribute to their office space.

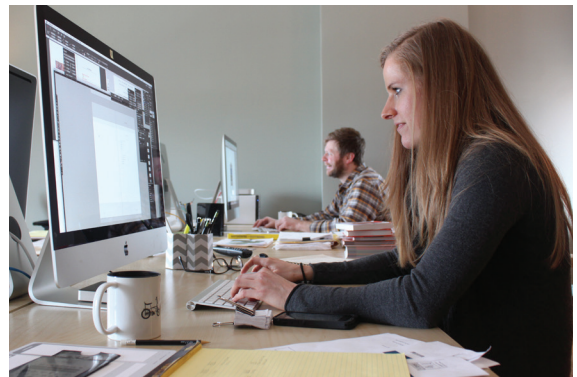


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Though the majority of their work is done on their iMacs, each of them had several sketch/notebooks on their desk to take notes while working, during phone calls and meetings, or to quickly draw out their ideas. With this observation I came to realize that while there is a shift from analog to digital work, in the creative industry there is still a need for basic analog tools like pens and paper.

White Bicycle has a landline office phone, which serves as a call box to the front door and line of connection to their clients. Each designer also has their smart phone out on their desks, and I began to wonder how my spot could accommodate the use of both a traditional office phone and personal cell phones.

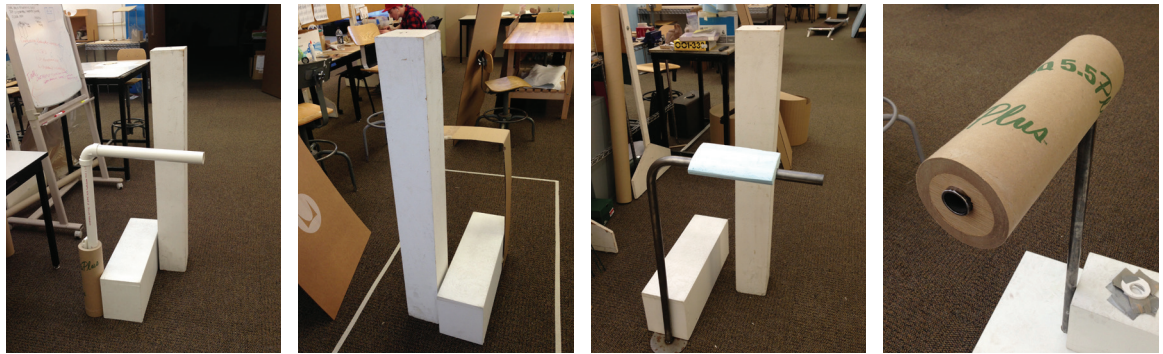
After some time at White Bicycle, I looked under their desks and saw that there were cords everywhere, much like other offices, and that they could use a little help in cord management. Through the use of the hub and the flooring panels, I would be able to manage and hide the cords, giving these graphic designers a cleaner environment to work in.



Design Process

Spring 2013

In the spring of 2013, I set out to discover what furnishings were necessary for short-term or temporary work. Through three-dimensional experimentation, I developed a bare-bones workstation and minimal seat that activates the user within their space. This research and ideation lead to the desire to change the way people work through furniture.



Fall 2013

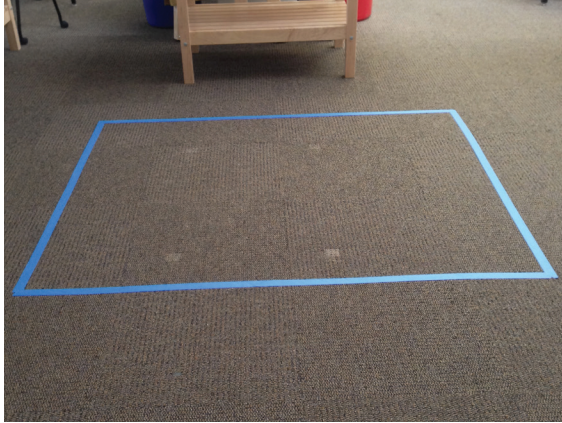
After a summer of research, which can be seen beginning on page 10, I began the design process. For my spot, the process began with asking a lot of questions in order to define what work was, who a worker is, and what tools are necessary for work in today's society (a full list of terminology can be found in Appendix 3). After defining the basic terminology of my spot, I began to create and explore in three-dimensional form.



My earliest three-dimensional exploration was to gain an understanding of what it is like to work in a small space with walls much like a cubicle. After a short period of time working in a small, relatively confined space, I felt I could make an informed decision to eliminate the walls in what would come to be known as, my spot.

With the walls eliminated, I set out to define what the appropriate size for a workstation would be and still maintain a sense of personal space. To do this, I simply sat down on the ground and

Design Process



marked out how much space I needed. To my surprise, this space came out to be just under six-feet square (as seen to the left).

Physiologically we are not meant to sit for 8, or more, hours in a day. People are meant to be active and move throughout the day, which is why, from the beginning, I wanted to have a work surface at standing height; this would allow the user to stand while working and offer them a more active, healthy work environment.

The Blog

In October 2013, I started a blog to journal my ideas, process, and research for my graduate thesis. Posts included a variety of images, thoughts, resources, and process for my thesis. It was not the most exciting blog, but it gave me an outlet to illustrate my process and allowed me to journal my thoughts and design changes as they happened. By creating a public blog, I was also able to share my process with the outside world and gain feedback on my design from the workers I was creating the space for. A full copy of my thesis blog, including process images, can be seen in Appendix A6.

The Process

My process consisted of a lot of three-dimensional exploration and the development of full-scale, working mock-ups. In order to make informed design decisions, I needed to be able to work within the space and understand the user experience. Through full-scale mock-ups, I was able to gain the insight necessary to develop a workspace that takes into account the user, how his/her tools would be used and interacted with, and how the height of the work surfaces would effect the productivity and posture of the user.



My workstation quickly transformed from a simple, standing only workstation to a multi-level workstation that offers the user the choice to sit or stand throughout the workday. After a basic layout, of two workstations, a central tower, modular storage, and a flooring system which can be seen to the left.

Components

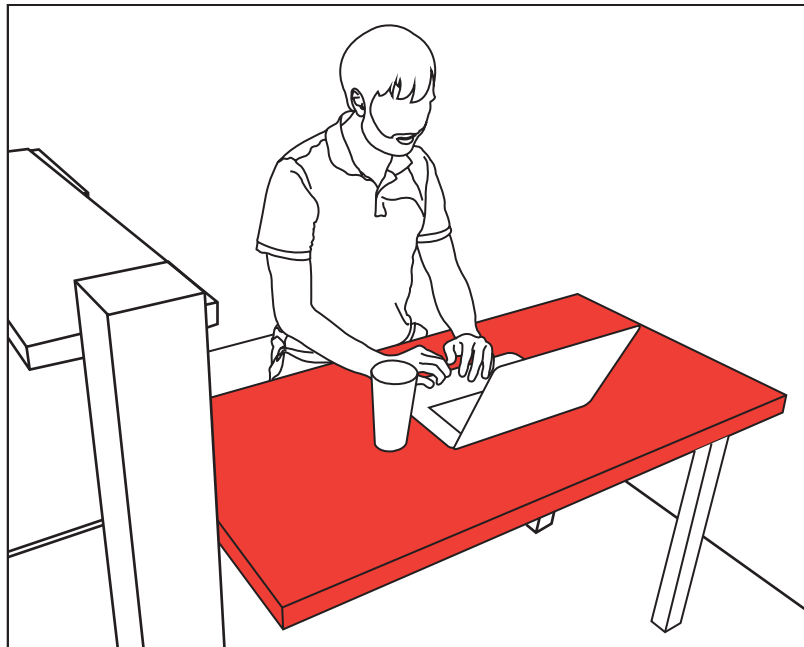
My spot consists of a set of modular components: two work surfaces, two-sized storage units, a central power hub, an anti-fatigue flooring, and an ErgoErgo stool. Each of these components were developed individually and applied to the larger piece. By developing the overall concept followed by each piece individually, I was able to give the proper attention to the form, size, and function of each individual piece. The following sections outline the process and final design for each of the components of my prototype.



Components

Work Surfaces

The first components I set out to further define was the work surfaces, specifically the surface size and height off the ground. The seated surface quickly defined itself, after laying out a piece of two-foot by four-foot plywood to act as the temporary surface. After laying out my typical tools, a laptop, notebook, phone, and a few pens it became clear that this was the appropriate size to work at. It was wide enough to spread out my tools, and at the right depth that I could reach tools even at the back of the work surface. In order to improve posture and increase productivity, I set the seated desk height at 30".

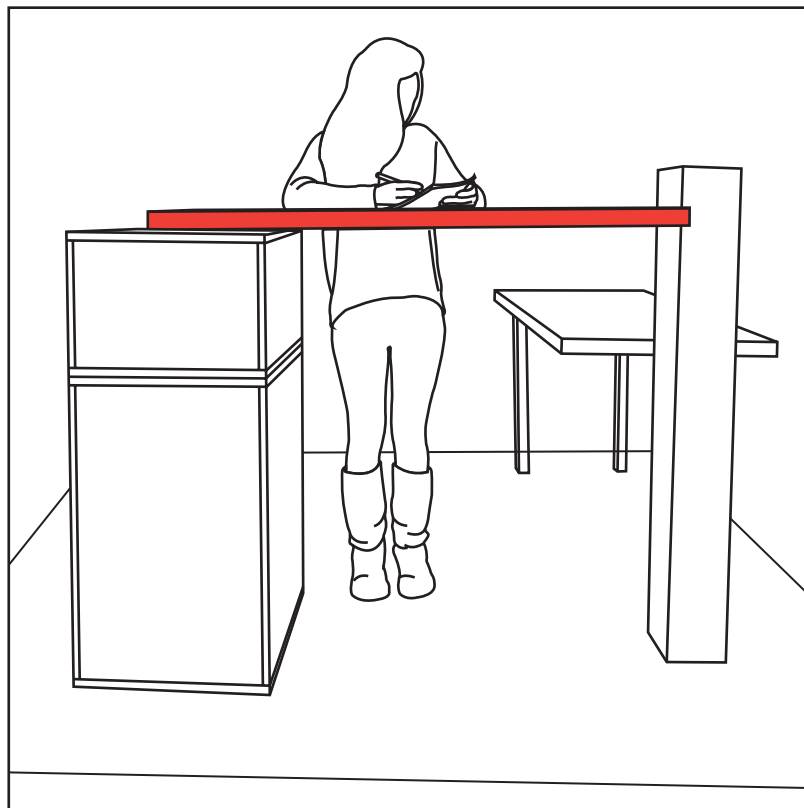


seated 48" x 24"

This work surface is 30" off the ground, a height that encourages better posture and, in turn, allows the worker to become more productive. This surface was designed for longer-term work that needs a greater amount of focus by the worker. At 24" deep, this surface is an appropriate depth to accommodate today's work tools without being so deep that a worker cannot reach the entire surface.

Components

The standing work surface started at the same size as the seated surface, though it was quickly whittled down to a compact size of 13" by 48". This size is large enough to hold a laptop (up to 17"), notebook, and allows for enough personal space to hold a conversation over it with a coworker. The height of the standing surface started at 42", which is a standard bar height. I quickly realized that by raising that surface to 43¾" the user would have better posture and it would feel more natural to work at, as it mimics the shoulder to surface height of the seated desk, which can be seen in the illustrations in Figure 1 on the following page.



standing 48" x 13"

At 43¾" off the ground, this surface is at a height that can be utilized by people ranging from 5' to 6'5" (Figure 2, page 25). Designed for short-term work, this 13" deep surface is the appropriate width to set a laptop comfortably, compare notes with a co-worker or simply write a few emails.

Components

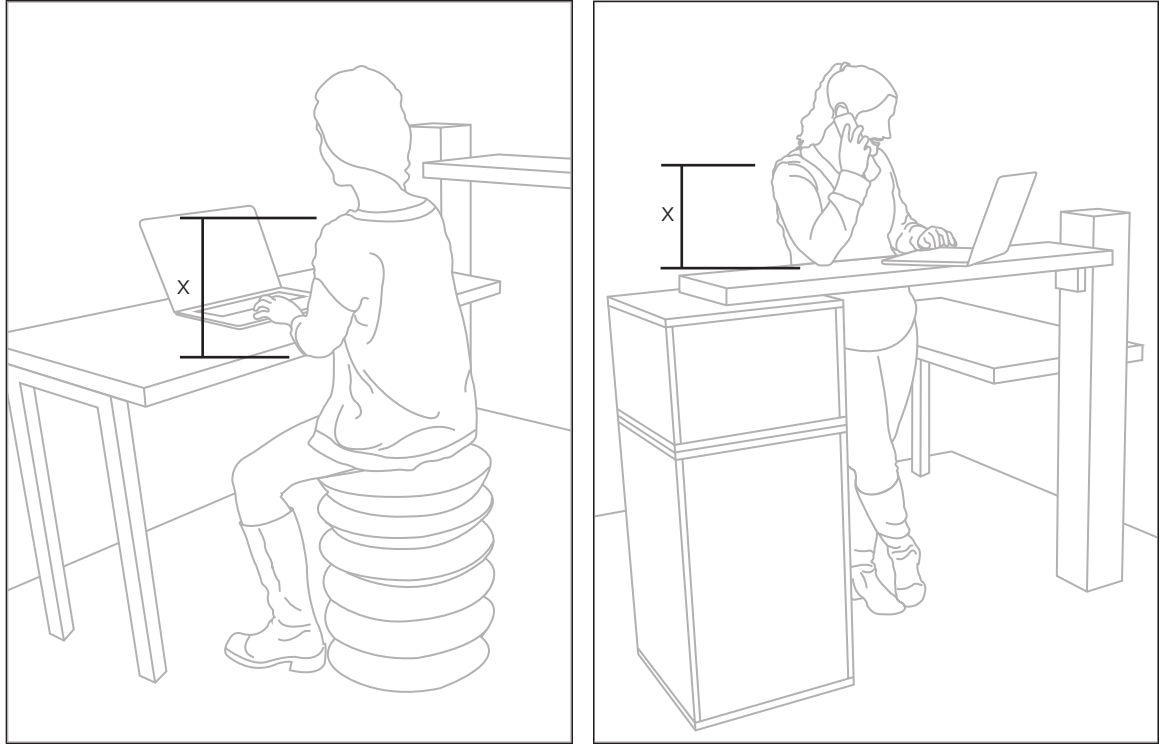


Figure 1

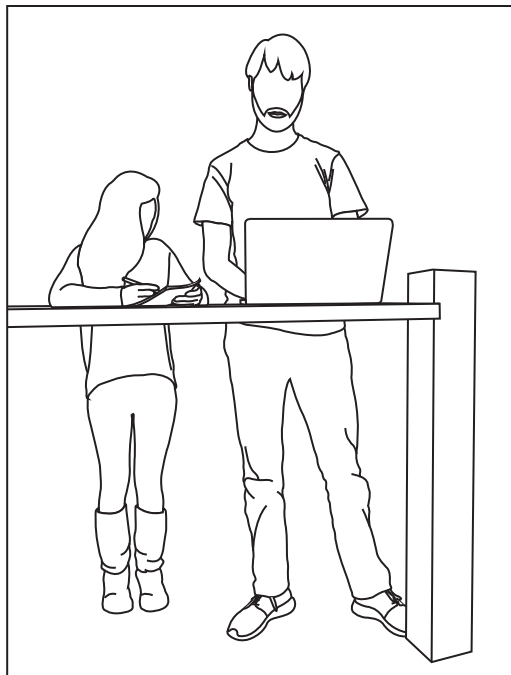


Figure 2

Components

Storage

In the earliest stages of my design process, the storage unit was represented by a found black pedestal (figure 1). This storage unit would act as the support structure for the standing work surface, and come in a variety of options. Once I had the work surfaces basically figured out, I built two 18"x18" cubes and stacked them on top of each other, and a kick plate (figure 2). Shortly after building these, I recognized the opportunity to develop two sizes of storage units to stack on top of one another. This would allow the lower unit to be used as a support structure, and additional storage, for the seated desk. With this in mind I set out to design and build what would be the final prototype.

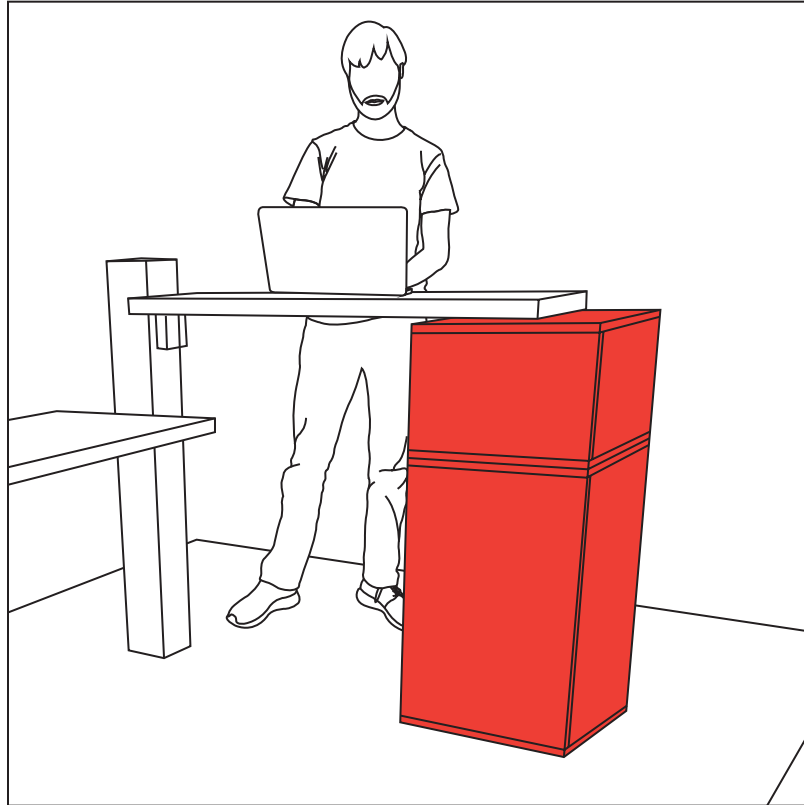


figure 1



figure 2

Components



upper 18" x 18" x 14"

lower 18" x 18" x 25³/₄"

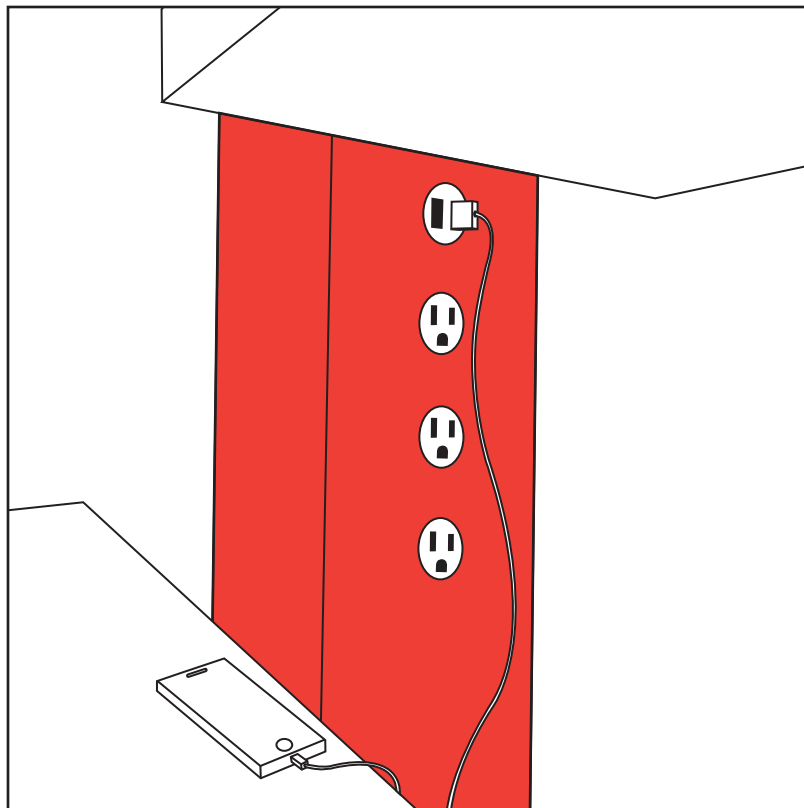
Available in both open storage with adjustable shelving and drawer configurations, this storage system allows the worker to create a space that fits their needs.

The lower cabinet's drawer configuration acts as a file cabinet or deep drawers, depending on the users needs. If more storage is desired, the lower storage unit can be used as a support for the seated work surface.

Components

The Hub

The central hub and structural element was represented in the early stages of the design process by a tall white pedestal (see figure 1 on page 23), and quickly became a key design feature of **my spot**. The hub also became the main power source for the workstation, which is also the detail that would go through a variety of options before landing at the final design, shown in the illustration below. I wanted to keep the structural connections simple and I initially thought to have external power boxes act as the attachment mechanism for the work surfaces. This however, would be scrapped somewhat last minute when I realized how obtrusive the white power boxes were, so I designed a simple bracket to support the work surface and added flush-mount, round outlets (USB and A/V) to the hub.



the hub 6" x 6" x 48"

The hub acts as the central support element for the modular system, connecting to the work surfaces and creating one unit. The hub also features both A/C & USB power outlets, found under both work surfaces. These locations allow for easy access to long- and short-term power.

Components

The Floor

The flooring is what I believe begins to set my spot apart from existing workstations. The flooring begins to take into account the user's mental state as they cross the threshold and begin to work. By changing flooring material, or color, of the floor I create a mental barrier to become the threshold they cross when they enter a state of work. This mental barrier also allows for a sense of privacy throughout the workday, eliminating the need for cubical walls. Initially the flooring began as sheets of MDF flooring, giving a sense that you "step" into work. However, this quickly became an issue for wheelchairs and wheeled desk chairs. With a "step" into work no longer being an option, I came up with the idea to use anti-fatigue rubber flooring to delineate space and add a level of comfort for a standing worker.



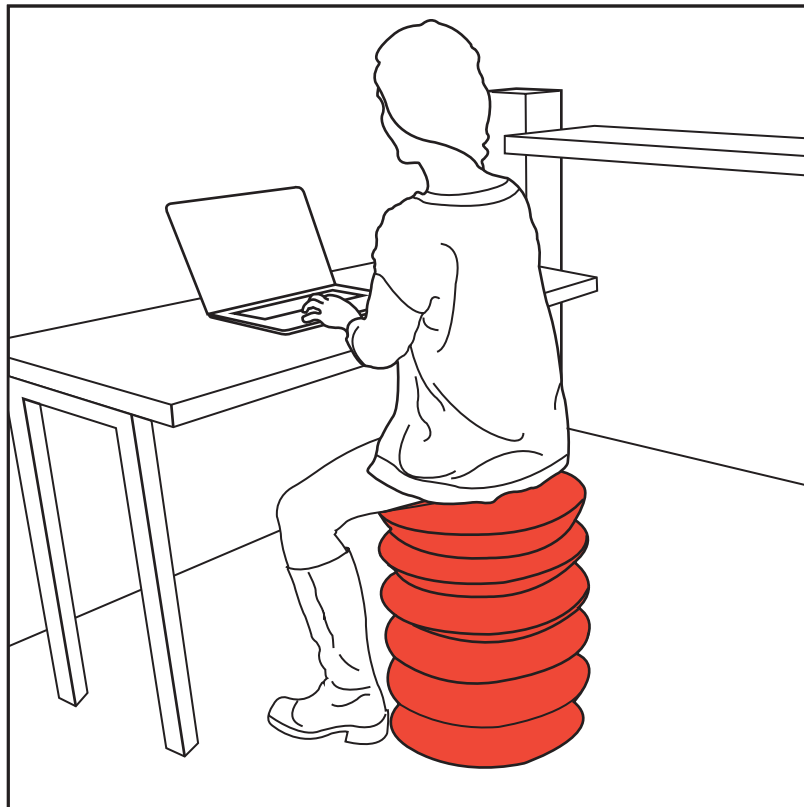
Anti-Fatigue Flooring 8' x 8'

By changing the floor within the work space, an individual's space is identified without the use of physical barriers. The use of Anti-Fatigue flooring acts to combat the physical strain on the body as it stands for long periods of time, allowing the worker to feel more comfortable as they stand.

Components

The Seat, ErgoErgo

There are a tremendous amount of office chairs on the market today, ranging from short-term task chairs to long-term office chairs. Though these chairs are ergonomically designed and built, they also create a stagnant body. The more active or engaged a worker's body is the more productive they will be. Keeping this in mind, I set out to find a chair that activates the body and will allow the worker to become healthier and more productive. During my initial research in the Spring of 2013, I was introduced to the ErgoErgo stool which was designed by Alan Heller.



The ErgoErgo Stool

Designed by Alan Heller in 2009, the "ErgoErgo is a revolutionary seating concept combining the benefits of active sitting with a bold contemporary design. The patent-pending ErgoErgo allows the body to rock gently in any direction to build strength and flexibility. ErgoErgo is intelligent design. Versatile enough to be used at your desk, for breakout meetings, guests, working or relaxing. It promotes wellness and productivity."

- ergoergo.com

Components

Other Components

With one workstation built, I was able to begin to understand and decide what other furnishings, spaces, and tools would be necessary to create a new, better office.

While my spot takes into account the tools and objects often found within a space, there are still details that need to be resolved. Examples of this can be seen in the storage of personal belongings such as backpacks, purses, cups, and coats. While this was discussed at length, time did not allow for me to develop the features/elements required to suit the needs of a user.

An open office is great for the collaborative environment of a creative studio, however there are many instances where employees, particularly introverts, need a quiet space to take a phone call or hold a meeting with a client. Which is why in an office plan that incorporates my spot, I would look to incorporate both a small, more personal closed-off space for phone or skype calls. This space could also be used for portions of the work day that require greater focus and fewer interruptions.

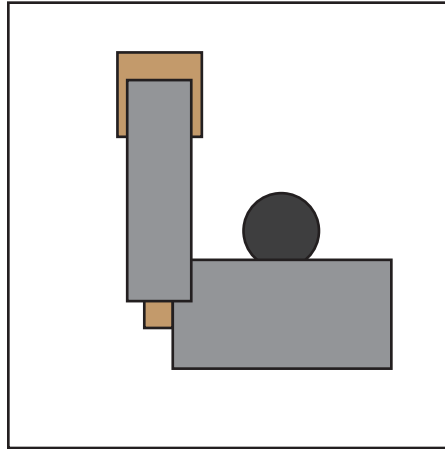
Along the same lines, creative offices need a quiet, private space to hold meetings. Whether a meeting is simply a few coworkers discussing a new project or with a client, a separate space allows the worker to speak without disturbing their coworkers. This also gives a client a sense of privacy and importance when they enter the creative office.

Other spaces within the office are, in part, occupation dependent. An example of this can be seen at the office of my case study, White Bicycle, where they use an existing closet and small desk dedicated to their print and mock-up needs. The tools in this space include a printer, x-acto knives, rulers, paper, and a variety of adhesives. Similar spaces would be seen at other graphic design, industrial design, and architecture studios, though each of these spaces would vary to the specific tools and space necessary. Industrial design and architecture studios may also have a dedicated space for model making and prototyping, though this again will vary from studio to studio.

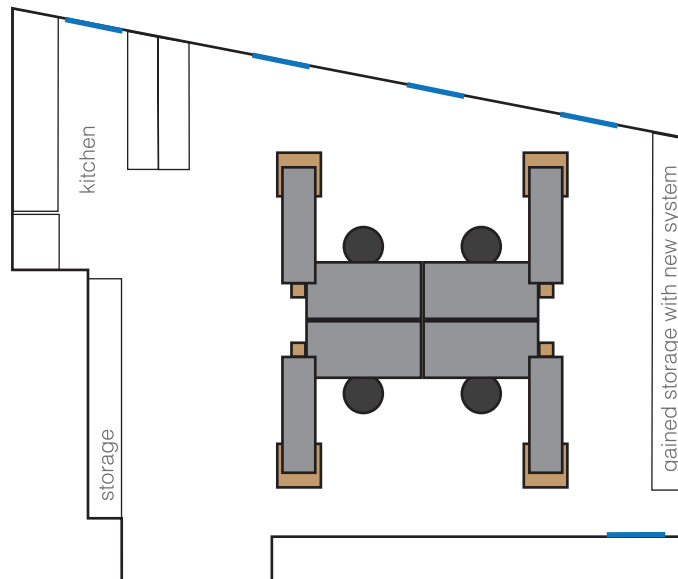
Another key issue to attack is the need for paper/hard storage in many creative occupations. The form of this storage could be a variety of things and would be different for every office, as their need for storage may range from paper to three-dimensional models. An example of hard storage can be seen at the office of my case study, White Bicycle, who uses a combination of file drawers and open storage with cardboard boxes. In order to develop a series of storage systems, I would need to further discover what workers need and want from their office storage and do a series of case studies, each from a different creative occupation.

Layouts and Scenarios

One Station



Applied to Case Study



When **my spot** is applied to White Bicycle, you can see that without the use of the optional flooring, they are able to gain space along the exterior of their office. With this gained space they are able to add storage along an entire wall. This additional storage will allow the team at White Bicycle to have more samples of their work available to show potential clients and visitors to the studio.

The Prototype



The Prototype



The Prototype



my spot. a new kind of workspace.
Bridget Dee Sheehan

The Prototype



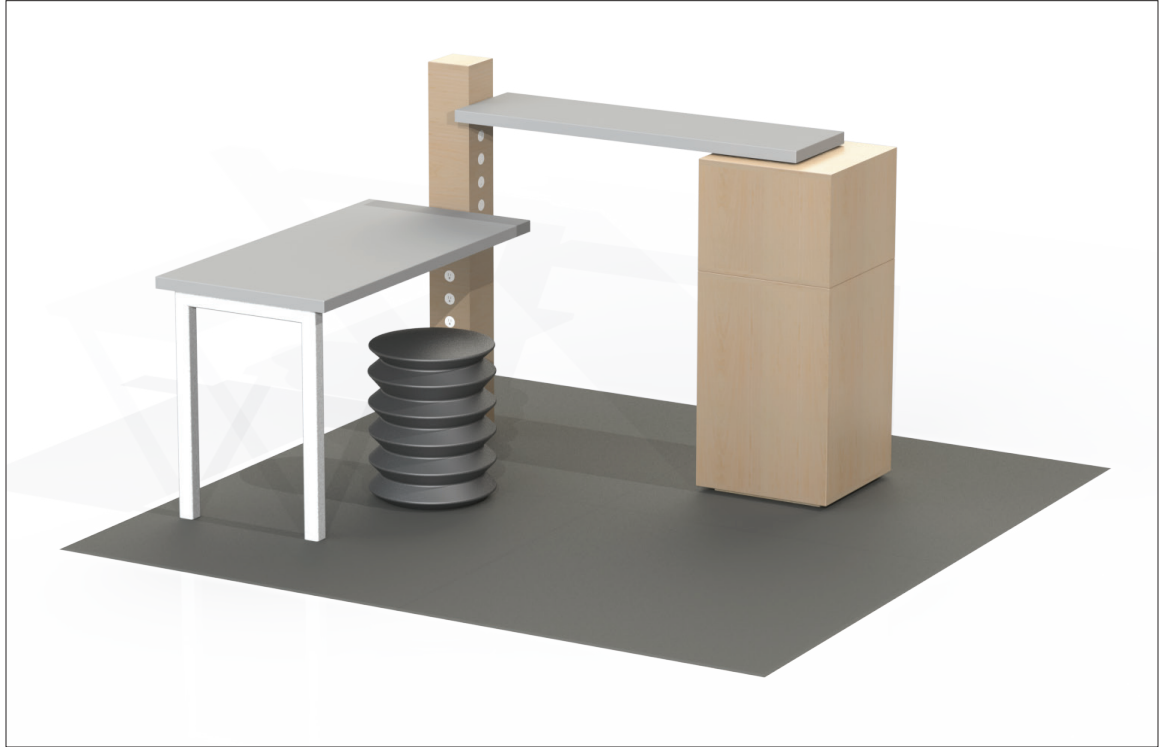
The Prototype



The Prototype



Final Renderings



Next Steps

A few of my next steps with this project would be to build a second, more resolved prototype for further user testing. I would need to stabilize the support for the seated work surface in order to make the system stable, and safe, enough to work at. Building a second prototype would also give me an opportunity to build and explore the other options available within my spot.

After developing a second prototype I would be able to apply that knowledge and build a set of work stations that could be adopted by an office, much like White Bicycle. By having a small office adopt the system, I would be able to see how the system works in the real world, and over an extended period of time. An important note is that due to the relatively simple construction, I would be able to build these prototypes by hand rather than investing into expensive tooling/machining used to develop many office furniture systems.

I would also look to develop an overall system that would become a part of a new way to work, including the new rooms, components, and technology mentioned on page 27. This system could also be applied to a case study, much like White Bicycle, and give me the information necessary to continue the development of this office system.

Usability Testing

Testimonials

Allison Lachance

“My spot is the perfect solution that accommodates a variety of needs from the majority of it’s users. Being a Very active individual I found that a work environment with the flexibility within the workspace to sit and stand kept me intrigued in my work. I also found that the ability to “switch it up” promoted creativity and imaginative thought process. Having a clean and sleek look allows the occupant to personalized their workspace and create their own icon, my spot.”

Alexander Bennett

“As someone who fits into the 95th percentile height (6’5”), I’ve found it incredibly difficult to find a workstation that fits my needs. I’ve also found it horribly taxing on my knees to sit for prolonged period of time, so having the opportunity to stand, throughout the day, while working is liberating.”

Liana Beer

“Having had the chance to test out ‘My Spot’ allowed me to see firsthand how it would effect both human interaction and work flow on a daily basis. It is very difficult for me to sit at a desk for a long period of time and ‘My Spot’ gave me the alternate option of standing comfortably while working on my laptop. I think that it would increase my productivity because I would no longer have to leave my desk to take a break from sitting for a little while. I would be able to continue working while in the standing position, which would also allow others to come stand next to me and talk with me for a little bit while I have my laptop accessible.”

Conclusion

I set out to change how people work and while my spot may not change how they work, it may help change the way they view work. Looking back on the experience and my design, I feel as though I was able to design a smart, reliable workstation that allows the user to make it their own through their personal belongings. As we become a more mobile society, both in and out of work, the objects we carry give insight into who we are as people. My spot allows the user to personalize their space with their belongings, allowing it to function as either a long-term or temporary workspace.

My spot is a modular system. The components minimal, functional, and would be easy to pack in production. As outlined on pages 20 to 27, each of the components serves a very important and distinct function. An added bonus found prior to my thesis show installation is that components of one workstation fit nicely onto one pallet or into a standard sized crate (Figure 1).



Figure 1

Though my spot was designed for workers in the creative industry, I feel that with a few minor adjustments it could be applied to a variety occupational fields.

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Appendices

A1 Original Thesis Proposal

A2 Original Thesis Schedule

A3 Terminology

A4 Survey Questions

A5 Survey Responses

A6 The Blog

A7 Acknowledgments

A1 Original Thesis Proposal

myspot A THESIS

an approach to modular workspaces

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A1 Original Thesis Proposal

Abstract

Our environment has an influence on the way we work. I believe that through simple, modular furniture, a worker has the opportunity and ability to create an environment that suits the way that they work on a day-to-day basis. My thesis will address the mental and physical way workers approach their workstations. In my design, an individual worker is given an eight-foot square space, which is given distinction through a change in floor material/texture/surface, and a modular workstation which has a footprint of roughly six square feet. By giving the worker more space than their workstation's footprint, I allow them to arrange their workstation within their distinct work area, giving them the opportunity to design their workspace to suit their needs. By using a modular system, I allow the worker to activate their space with greater ease.

Introduction

I believe it is important for workers to maintain their identity and individuality while at work. To allow workers to maintain their identity in the work environment, I will develop a modular system that addresses not only their current office needs, but also addresses the future of work. Having a spot that is uniquely theirs is critical to a worker's productivity, health, and overall happiness. By creating a modular system I will give workers the opportunity to continuously change their environment; this system will allow a worker to create and easily modify a space to meet their needs and wants in their office.

In 1968, Robert Propst, then President of Herman Miller Research Corporation, developed the Action Office II, an open-plan office system consisting of click-together desks and pop-up walls, marking the beginning of the cubicles. With the Action Office II, workers had an opportunity to create an environment that suited the way they worked. This opportunity would slowly fade as the office cubicle would come to reign as the standard for office furniture from the 1970s to today; Steelcase, Knoll, and Herman Miller produced multiple variations, many of which are still in use. Cubicles offer privacy and basic power supply, but tend to limit a worker's opportunity to easily modify their space to meet their current, or future, needs.

Today's office is constantly evolving. Technology is rapidly changing, and the workforce is shifting from baby boomers to millennials. Because of this, each worker approaches their work with a different set of tools and work styles. I believe that a workstation needs to be able to adapt with the changing tools and technology, and should work for a wide variety of digital and analog tools. This workspace should also offer work surfaces that allow the worker to utilize their space in different ways throughout the day. A modular system will easily adapt to an individual's needs by offering multiple work surfaces for both long and short term interactions with people and projects.

A1 Original Thesis Proposal

Statement

I believe it is important for workers to maintain their identity and individuality while at work. To allow workers to maintain their identity in the work environment, I will develop a modular system that addresses not only their current office needs, but also addresses the future of work. Having a spot that is uniquely theirs is critical to a worker's productivity, health, and overall happiness. Current office environments offer a unique challenge and serve as a segway into the future of how we will work. Today, workers are surrounded by a combination of monitors, laptops, tablets, and smartphones. By creating a modular system I will give workers the opportunity to continuously change their environment; this system will allow a worker to create and easily modify a space to meet their needs and wants in their office.

The key components to my system will include, but not be limited to, a series of horizontal work surfaces at varying heights, modular storage that will be used as structural support, and easily accessible power. My design will take into consideration the mental and physical changes that happen as a worker approaches their workspace by addressing not only the furnishings, but also the environment as a whole. Furnishings are a small aspect of the office, this project will also address the mentality and approach a worker takes toward their work and workspace.

Approach/Methods

My research will include, but not be limited to: gaining understanding of future and current work trends, historical analysis, speaking with workers about their experiences, looking at existing situations and behaviors, and the exploration of objects in space. This research will allow me to gain insight and find opportunities that can be addressed with innovation and design.

Preliminary Results

Throughout my initial research, I have spoken with workers in a variety of occupations including education, clerical, engineering, design, medical, and social work. This has led me to discover that people are moderately satisfied with their current work stations; however they lack appropriate storage and personalization, and are not inspirational spaces to work.

My research will also include a historical analysis of office systems and layouts from the early-twentieth century to the present. I have also read a variety of articles and studies, produced by furniture companies including Herman Miller and Steelcase, which show the direction of modern office furniture and the lives of the modern worker. I have begun to look into the psychological approach workers take toward their work.

A1 Original Thesis Proposal

Through three-dimensional experimentation, I have been able to build temporary workstations, allowing me to better understand they are like to work at it. I have gone through several iterations of the workstation, which have been tracked and noted about on a blog dedicated solely to my thesis, bridgetdsheehan.wordpress.com. This blog allows me to accurately decipher why I have made design decisions, and to track the evolution of the design and my research.

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A2 Original Thesis Schedule

Work Plan	
August/September	Research Defining Terms Identifying Commonalities in Office Life Historically Speaking Tools Jobs/Work Styles - Defined Architecture Office Landscape Technology Current Trends Tools Jobs/Work Styles - Defined Architecture Office Landscape Technology Future of Work - Where are the Current Trends going to take us Human Factors - Gathering Numbers Defining Terms Develop Survey/Questionnaire for Workers Develop Questions for HMI and Steelcase regarding research
October/November	Ideation/Development Sketches and Mock-Ups To-Scale and Full-Scale Correlate Survey Data Make Design Decisions Develop Prototypes Continued Research Start Documentation
November 19	Initial Presentation
December	Documentation Begin Defense Further Prototyping - Design Decisions
January/February	Implement Final Design Finalize Prototype Prepare for Show - Design Space and Boards
February 11	Thesis Show Planning Meeting

A2 Original Thesis Schedule

March Prepare for Show
March 4 Thesis Show Installation Meeting
March 7 SHOW OPENING
Documentation
Prepare for Defense

April Defense
Documentation

May Finish and Turn in Documentation

May 23 Graduation

Terminology

Work productive/operative activity done or completed at one's place of employment; an activity done for pay.

Worker person completing a task/performing a task for pay or voluntarily.

Office place where someone completes their work.

Employer the person or company paying for the services being provided to them by the worker or employee

Employee person being paid to perform a task assigned to them by an employer.

Desk the work surface, the necessary space or surface to hold a worker's tools and supplies while working.

Office Worker a person who works at or in a building/space dedicated to a specific organization or employer, traditionally someone who has worked at a cubicle.

Creative Work imaginative/original work done by an individual or team for a client/employer

Clerical Work traditional office work, similar to the work that the original Action Office looked to solve. Examples include typing, filing, data processing, and secretarial work.

A3 Survey Questions

What is your age?

18-25

26-32

33-40

40-50

50+

Please select your gender.

Male

Female

Which occupational field best describes your work?

Artist/Designer

Office and Administrative Support

Life or Social Science

Legal

Business/Finance

Engineer or Architect

Sales and Related

Education, Training, or Library

Computer or Mathematical

Other

How long have you been at your current place of employment?

0-2 years

2-5 years

5-10 years

10+ years

What best describes your current work station?

Cubicle -- Individual

Cubicle -- Shared

Freestanding table in an open space

Private/Separate Office

Other

Is your workspace of an adequate size?

Yes

No

Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?

Yes

No

A3 Survey Questions

Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?

Yes

No

What tools/objects are found on your work surface?

Office Phone

Cell/Smart Phone

Desktop Computer

Monitor

Keyboard

Laptop

Pens/Pencils

Markers

Paper/Notebooks

Post-its

Printer

Tablet

Light

Other

Do you feel your workspace is personal?

Yes

No

Can your workspace be improved?

Yes

No

If yes, how can your workspace be improved?

(blank text box for open responses)

On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?

0-3

3-6

6-8

What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?

Facebook

Twitter

Other Social Media (blogs, etc.)

Personal e-mail

Personal phone calls

Text Messaging

A4 Survey Results

The following pages show the responses of 86 surveyed workers from artist, designers, engineers, architects, office and administrative supporters, sales representatives, life or social science workers, educators, librarians, computer scientists, mathematicians, business and financial workers, and other industries.

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/6/2013 19:46:08	26-32	Female	Sales and Related	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	No	Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Printer, Light	Yes	Yes	better storage	3-6	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/6/2013 23:02:56	18-25	Male	Computer or Mathematical	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Tablet	Yes	Yes	Surface area of desk is adequate, but it could be designed more efficiently so that more of it is within easy reach.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/6/2013 23:03:54	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	No	Yes	Difficult to concentrate when others nearby are talking on the phone, not sure how to fix that.	6-8	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/6/2013 23:06:48	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Cubicle – Individual	No	No	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	No	Yes	Better lighting, it's a boring dull blue-grey color, more storage space, needs a better chair, more space to hang items up!	6-8	Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/6/2013 23:53:47	18-25	Female	Legal	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	No	Yes	The air conditioner fan is obnoxiously loud and annoying.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 0:46:06	18-25	Female	Artist/Designer	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Mouse, Mugs/Cups, Docking Station	No	Yes	Although my desk is an adequate size, it would be nice if it were larger so that I could spread out my stuff more.	6-8	Personal e-mail
10/7/2013 5:21:11	18-25	Female	Office and Administrative Support	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	No	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Post-its	No	Yes	Made more personal, more room is needed for my materials.	3-6	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 6:01:23	18-25	Female	Allied Health	0-2 years	10 desks crammed into a room	Yes	Yes	Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Tablet, Light Binders, books	Yes	Yes	office size or move some desks into a vacant room to create a second office, we can spread out a little bit.	6-8	around 2 hours of my day are at the desk, 6 hours a day are providing therapy in other rooms
10/7/2013 8:13:15	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	2-5 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Printer, plant	Yes	Yes	Locking drawers and more electrical outlets.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 8:36:55	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	10+ years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Printer	Yes	No		6-8	Personal phone calls

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 8:48:18	50+	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Share a room with another person	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	No		6-8	Text Messaging
10/7/2013 8:53:18	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light scanner, small fan, folder bin, informational flip chart, file/enex, stapler, tape dispenser, paper clip holder, label maker	Yes	No	Better whiteboard coverage. I do have a very small one (20 inches by 30 inches?). The ability to sketch on the wall in important and everyone should have easily accessible space.	6-8	Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 8:08:46	26-32	Male	Computer or Mathematical	5-10 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	Yes	Yes	The walls could be a little higher. I sit by a main walking area and conversations take place right outside my cube on a regular basis. If I didn't see them I probably wouldn't hear them.	6-8	Text Messaging
10/7/2013 8:17:15	18-25	Female	Artist/Designer	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	Yes	There are awkward divider in the table that should be removed	0-3	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Text Messaging, homework
10/7/2013 8:17:41	33-40	Male	Computer or Mathematical	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Picture Frame, Kenex	Yes	Yes	More privacy	6-8	Other Social Media (blogs, etc.) Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 9:33:53	40-50	Female	Office and Administrative Support	5-10 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Printer, Light	Yes	No		6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 9:34:48	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	No	No		6-8	

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e., desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 9:36:31	40-50	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Shared Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Printer	Yes	Yes	Painting the walls so it looks better. I need to get more organized and remove clutter.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls
10/7/2013 9:37:00	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	2-5 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	No	Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Post-Its, Office Phone,	No	Yes	Larger desk and dividing counter	6-8	
10/7/2013 9:44:44	50+	Male	Computer or Mathematical	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	Yes	Yes	Better chair	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 9:48:21	26-32	Female	Office and Administrative Support	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	Yes	Yes		6-8	
10/7/2013 9:48:54	26-32	Male	Computer or Mathematical	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light, WhiteBoard	No	Yes	taller cubicle walls and a smaller entrance to the cubicle to add to the feeling of privacy	6-8	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 9:50:53	40-50	Female	Computer or Mathematical	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light, WhiteBoard	Yes	Yes	Prefer a workspace with lesser cables, so the place is less cluttered with the cables.	3-6	
10/7/2013 10:17:44	26-32	Male	Business/Finance	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Printer, Light	Yes	No		6-8	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 10:24:48	40-50	Female	Office and Administrative Support	10+ years	Freestanding table in an open space	No	No	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Scanner	No	Yes	New furniture, with more privacy for phone conversations and bigger work space.	6-8	
10/7/2013 10:38:42	26-32	Female	Artist/Designer	5-10 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	I could clean it up, it's a train wreck. "Organized Chaos" we'll call it, because I know where everything is, but it could be cleaner.	3-6	Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 10:40:05	26-32	Female	Medical	2-5 years	Retail	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Printer, Light	No	No		6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 11:21:48	26-32	Female	Social Work	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	No	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	No	Yes	I need more space to work with individuals at a table.	3-6	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 11:23:48	40-50	Female	Office and Administrative Support	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Post-its, Printer	Yes	No		6-8	
10/7/2013 11:41:39	33-40	Male	Engineer or Architect	10+ years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Printer, Tablet, Light	Yes	Yes	More pictures on the walls, more personalized.	6-8	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 11:46:21	26-32	Female	Computer or Mathematical	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Tablet	Yes	No		6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 12:07:25	26-32	Female	Life or Social Science	0-2 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	Yes	Yes	A window I work part time. For that reason, it's not a personal work space. If I was here full time and it was my desk and work space without the sharing, that would be nice. I would make it more personal and it could be improved in that way to make it more cozy. It is adequate for the situation though.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 12:08:47	26-32	Female	Office and Administrative Support	0-2 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	No	Yes		6-8	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:08:31	16-25	Female	Sales and Related	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Post-its, Printer	Yes	Yes		6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e., desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 13:10:21	18-25	Female	Sales and Related	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	No		3-6	Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:10:50	18-25	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Printer	Yes	Yes	more organized	0-3	Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:11:04	18-25	Female	Marketing	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop	Yes	No	electrical built in or on the floor to reduce wires crossing from the wall to my table/desk	3-6	Facebook, Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:21:21	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, document camera		Yes		3-6	Facebook, Twitter, Personal e-mail
10/7/2013 13:22:13	18-25	Male	Engineer or Architect	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	No	Yes	Better storage Although it's usually quiet, it's an open environment which means I can easily get distracted by what others are doing.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Fantasy Sports
10/7/2013 13:38:25	26-32	Female	Sales and Related	2-5 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Laptop, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	Yes			Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:41:58	26-32	Male	Engineer or Architect	5-10 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	Yes	More comfortable chair. Better organizational methods.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:54:52	18-25	Female	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	More space for materials/files	6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 13:57:47	33-40	Female	Business/Finance	5-10 years	Cubicle – Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	No		3-6	Twitter, Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 14:02:23	26-32	Male	Engineer or Architect	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light, Red swing line stapler	No	Yes	Desk height is too low for provided chairs	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 14:25:58	18-25	Male	Computer or Mathematical	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Tablet, Nerf Guns (multiple) + darts	Yes	No		3-6	Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 14:30:29	18-25	Female	Active Events Industry	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	Private office with door.	6-8	Facebook, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 14:39:45	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Share an Office	Yes	No	Yes	Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Post-Its, Tablet	Yes	Yes	More storage for all of the materials I have. Better cord management under my desk as well as a larger extension cord to plug more in (my lamp is unplugged at the moment), more space on my desk to hold my scanner and phone (I recently moved these to balance on my computer tower and rearrange as needed). Also, I have a bulletin board to make my space personal, but it isn't allowed to be hung due to an exterior wall (building code)-- would be better to have it above my desk instead of off to the side.	6-8	Personal e-mail
10/7/2013 14:54:08	26-32	Female	PR/Marketing	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	No	Yes	No	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	Yes	Yes	More color and personalized belongings	6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 16:34:59	26-32	Female	Computer or Mathematical	10+ years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light, Gradebook	No	Yes		6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 16:34:59	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	Classroom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Printer, Light, PHOTD EQUIPMENT	No	Yes		3-6	Personal phone calls
10/7/2013 16:37:12	26-32	Male	Artist/Designer	2-5 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	Yes	More privacy, quieter.	3-6	Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/7/2013 16:39:59	26-32	Male	Business/Finance	0-2 years	Freestanding table in an open space	Yes	No	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	Yes		6-8	Text Messaging
10/7/2013 16:40:39	50+	Female	Computer or Mathematical	10+ years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	No		6-8	Text Messaging

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your workspace (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your workspace?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/7/2013 18:56:18	33-40	Male	Non profit	0-2 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	Better positioning of computer tower (right under my feet), longer cords for mouse/keyboard.	Facebook	
10/7/2013 20:16:33	26-32	Male	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Classroom	Yes	Yes	Yes	Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	More power outlets		
10/7/2013 22:48:07	50+	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, books, speakers, fan, Giant Office Phone.	No	No	need more outlets		
10/8/2013 10:16:19	50+	Female	Office and Administrative Support	5-10 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Cell/Smart Phone, Pens/Pencils, Laptop.	Yes	Yes	need more filing/storage		
10/8/2013 10:24:16	26-32	Female	Computer or Mathematical	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Post-Its	No	Yes	More comfortable chair. High cube walls.	Facebook, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging	
10/8/2013 13:18:39	50+	Male	Business/Finance	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop.	Yes	Yes	I need to organize my space more efficiently. Having three laptops is too many, but each client wants me to firewall their systems by using their computer for their work. It look messy, but there is space.	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, monitoring the news, sports and markets	
10/8/2013 13:52:04	26-32	Male	Engineer or Architect	5-10 years	U-Shaped Table in a studio-format	No	No	No	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	overhead storage is limited	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging	
10/8/2013 22:28:44	26-32	Female	Life or Social Science	0-2 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, File Folder-Holder, photos, second computer monitor, scissors, tape.	Yes	Yes	The location of outlets and docking port for my laptop and desk phone makes it a bit challenging to arrange everything on the desk—it can be cluttered around that area. I wish I had more open space on my desk to work and lay stuff that I am working on out.	Twitter, Personal e-mail	
10/8/2013 22:36:40	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, stapler, tape, organizer	Yes	Yes	Ability to hang information using tacks, etc. Right now it's difficult to hang up information unless using Scotch tape	Twitter, Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging	
10/8/2013 16:26:16	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	Nicer paint colors, updated furniture.	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging	

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e. desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/9/2013 22:00:43	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, Light	Yes	No		3-6	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging, Facebook, Twitter, Other Social Media (blogs, etc.), Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging, many of these specifically the social media, are work related.
10/9/2013 22:04:54	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	Larger workspace, windows, larger office (however, the size is sufficient)	6-8	
10/9/2013 22:05:44	40-50	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Monitor, Laptop, Pens/Pencils	Yes	Yes	more plants	6-8	Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/9/2013 23:55:24	26-32	Female	Teacher	5-10 years	Cubicle - Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Pens/Pencils, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	More filing or storage space	6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging, Surfing internet
10/10/2013 7:08:42	33-40	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle - Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	I can decorate or bring in personal items.	6-8	Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/10/2013 8:11:10	40-50	Male	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	classroom and office desk	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	I can always use more space	6-8	
10/10/2013 8:12:47	40-50	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	Cubicle - Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pens/Pencils, Post-Its	No	Yes	An individual work space would be easier. The desk is for one person and we currently have to share. Having a desk top would make work easier to complete	6-8	Text Messaging
10/10/2013 8:20:28	33-40	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Cubicle - Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	No	No		3-6	Text Messaging
10/10/2013 9:04:01	39-40	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle - Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	Yes	More organized	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/10/2013 9:07:46	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	0-2 years	Cubicle - Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its	Yes	No		6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/10/2013 9:50:18	33-40	Male	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle - Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks	No	No		3-6	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging, rarely get the opportunity to email/call or text for personal life
10/10/2013 9:58:42	40-50	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Cubicle - Individual	Yes	Yes	No	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-Its, shirt ton of paperwork, sunglasses, my keys & a diet coke	Yes	Yes	Have a much larger desk space or better yet a treadmill desk, cordless phone & television available to turn on to turn into significant national or world events as they unfold	6-8	

Timestamp	What is your age?	Please select your gender.	What occupational field best describes your work?	How long have you been at your current place of employment	What best describes your current work station?	Is your workspace of an adequate size?	Is your workspace, and it's furniture, appropriate for your occupation?	Is your work surface (i.e., desk, table) an appropriate size?	What tools/objects are found on your work surface?	Do you feel your workspace is personal?	Can your workspace be improved?	If yes, how can your workspace be improved?	On average, how many hours of your work day are spent being productive?	What other activities do you take part in while you're at work?
10/10/2013 14:32:48	50+	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	No	Yes	No	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Tablet, stapler, paper clip dispenser, tape, plant, picture, coffee cup	Yes	Yes	I need a larger surface area so I can open a book grade next to it and my laptop. I also need more immediate file space.	6-8	Personal e-mail, Personal phone calls, Text Messaging
10/10/2013 15:01:44	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	No		6-8	Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
10/10/2013 15:54:40	33-40	Female	Education, Training, or Library	5-10 years	Private/Separate Office	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	Yes	More comfortable furniture, no fluorescent lighting, more color, not white walls	6-8	Personal e-mail
10/11/2013 8:01:52	26-32	Female	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle – Shared	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	No		6-8	Text Messaging
10/11/2013 11:06:30	33-40	Male	Education, Training, or Library	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	Yes		3-6	
10/11/2013 18:58:28	26-32	Female	Teacher	5-10 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	No		6-8	School programs
10/14/2013 18:43:04	18-25	Female	Education, Training, or Library	2-5 years	I work in a classroom surrounded by a wild pack of students who are busy yolo-ing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Cell/Smart Phone, Pens/Pencils, Post-its, Tablet, snacks on snacks on snacks	Yes	Yes	it should be papered with a whiram poster because george michael is the best	6-8	crying over chipotle
10/18/2013 15:57:53	18-25	Female	Business/Finance	2-5 years	Cubicle – Individual	Yes	Yes	Yes	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Laptop, Pens/Pencils, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its	Yes	No		6-8	Facebook, Other Social Media (blogs, etc), Personal e-mail, Text Messaging
12/8/2013 20:09:33	50+	Male	Business/Finance	10+ years	Cubicle – Individual	No	No	No	Office Phone, Desktop Computer, Monitor, Keyboard, Pens/Pencils, Markers, Paper/Notebooks, Post-its, Light	No	Yes	change and raise the walls to lessen noise	6-8	Personal phone calls

A5: Thesis Blog

Why the Blog?

October 08, 2013

This blog will be used as a process catalog for my MFA Graduate Thesis. My posts will include a variety of images, my thoughts, resources, and inspiration for my thesis. It may not be an exciting blog, but it will show my design process as I embark on my thesis.

My thesis statement:

Our environment has an influence on how we work. In many offices, employees are given the same phone, computer, work surface, and storage within a larger system of separated cubicles. Whether our work is completed at home or in a traditional office building, it is how we earn wages and it is what we spend the majority of our adult life doing. I believe that through simple, modular furniture, workers will be able to create an environment that suits the way they work.

More information regarding my thesis can be found under Thesis Proposal on the menu.

MySpot 1.0 and MySpot 1.1

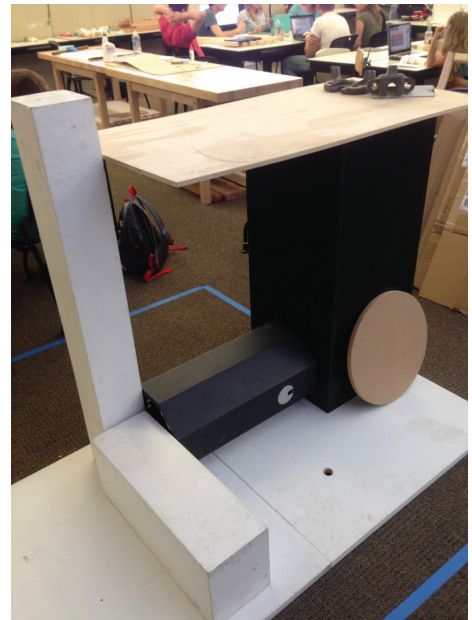
October 08, 2013

This past week I finally put some objects out in space and began exploring the relationships that they create. This is where I'm at, and I must say, I'm fairly excited about where this project is headed.

MySpot 1.0

Working on developing a standing workstation first, I recognized the need for a footrest and grabbed an object that was an appropriate height. After discussing with my prof, Stan, it was decided that while a footrest needs to be addressed, that was not the proper solution.

Each component of this design is representative of what the final component will be. The large black pedestal represents a modular storage unit, while the taller, white pedestal would act as a power center and allow for cord management. The plywood, warped as it may be, is meant to ask as a work surface, and has actually proven to be an appropriate size for a work surface.

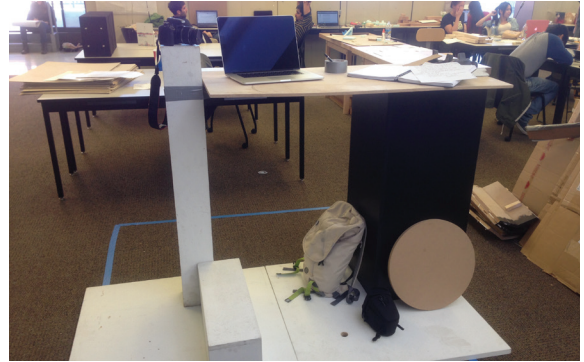


A5: Thesis Blog

MySpot 1.1

As with software, every version of my design process involves several small revisions prior to starting an entirely new mock-up or model.

In version 1.1, the original footrest was removed. Allowing the white footrest (seen in these images jutting out from the system) to become a more primary component of the system.



MySpot 1.1 was also modified to strengthen the desk, giving me the opportunity to see the work surface in use and justify its size and shape.

Adding Levels

October 18, 2013

Over the past few days I have been working on developing a second level of work surface. This second work surface will give the worker the choice to sit or stand while at work.



This exploration, seen below, brought about a few insights to be explored. In this stage of design, insights also bring about issues that need to be resolved; but that's all part of the fun.

A5: Thesis Blog

The biggest issue brought about with this exploration is how to give a seated worker enough space so that they do not ram their head into the corner of the standing work surface. To come up with a solution to this problem I will work in both full-scale and quarter-scale models.

The ideas are running rampant in my head, and I'm looking forward to getting those ideas out into physical space.

Just for Standing?

November 05, 2013

After a short conversation with a thesis committee member, I decided to explore having one work surface. I chose to stick with the standing surface, as that is a healthier alternative. The initial thought about this concept was to develop a stool/leaning spot that was built into the structure of the desk itself.



While it started out as an alright thought, I have officially scraped the idea and will be continuing to develop a workspace that features 2 work surfaces.

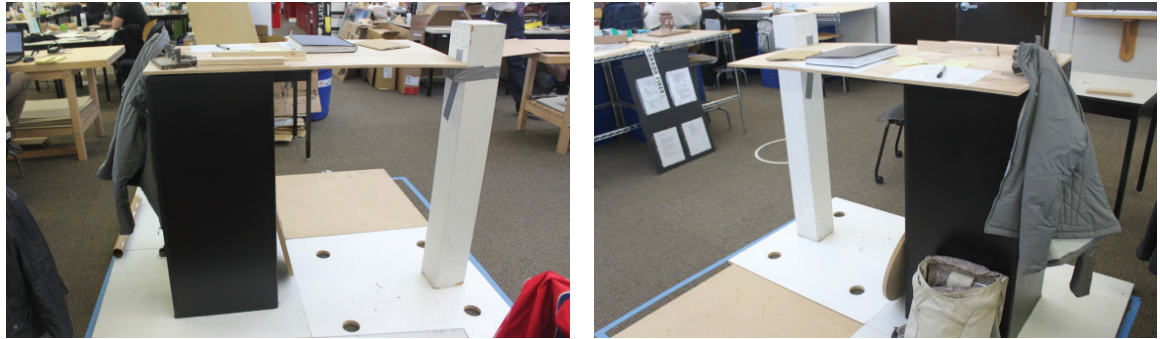
Below are some photos of the standing only concept "in use".

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One Small Surface...

November 05, 2013

Had to snap a few photos of the desk with one, small surface while I was rearranging some furniture.



Curve or No Curve? That is the Question.

November 05, 2013

It was a busy week of 3d exploration last week, I have finally found a few basic layouts and have purchased materials for making my first working prototype. There are questions that remain about the final design, but I am at the point where I need to begin some user experience testing and find out if what I have is what people from different professions are looking for.

I have been working in the space I created, you can see some reenactment photos later on in this post, and have come to find that I am enjoying having the flexibility of multiple-height work surfaces. I have sat, stood, leaned, and collaborated within my workspace and am looking forward to seeing how others react to the space. I have had a lot of positive feedback from fellow industrial design students and faculty, but it will be interesting to see how people outside of design will relate to the space.

Currently, I'm exploring the use of a curvilinear edge to the standing work surface, offering a variety of ways to approach your work (something I hope to keep as a key component/idea behind my thesis). While the curvilinear edge has proven a positive, I also explored the use of a simple, straight cut to offer the same sort of approach. At this point I see benefits to both, but am leaning toward continuing with the curvilinear edge in order to stress the multiple approaches that are available when standing at work. The curvilinear edge also lends itself to letting the user lean against, or sit on, their lower work surface while working. This eliminates the need for a second seat, and allows for a more inviting workspace.

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The placement of the more personal area of a workspace also comes into play when I begin exploring multiple ways for a user to approach their work. By placing a work surface away from the edge of a given workspace, thanks to the use of a gridded floor, I allow the user to collaborate with their coworkers across a shared surface. I have believe that the more ways you can approach work, the greater the chances are you will have a positive and fresh attitude about what you're doing; I'll be researching the psychological effects of this in the coming weeks.

At this point he next step is to get moving on building a working prototype and continue researching existing work spaces. For now, enjoy a few shots from my process shoot from earlier this evening.

Images from this exploration can be seen below.



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Bar

November 18, 2013

While I may frequent bars, that is not where my most recent design decision came from...

Through conversation and exploration I have landed on the final shape of the standing work surface. I have chosen to use this surface as a secondary work surface that can be utilized for short periods of time. This surface will offer a slight change of scenery, open more opportunity for collaboration with coworkers, and will give the worker a chance to move around a bit while working.

After a little trial and error, I have landed on final dimensions for the standing work surface. With this decision made, I am able to begin developing the storage and power units that are used within the space.



Storage 1.0

November 18, 2013

They're rough, very rough, versions of what the storage unit may become. They are simply explorations of the size and shape, the design details will be worked out in CAD prior to construction in order to best utilize the materials.



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Getting Closer January 14, 2014

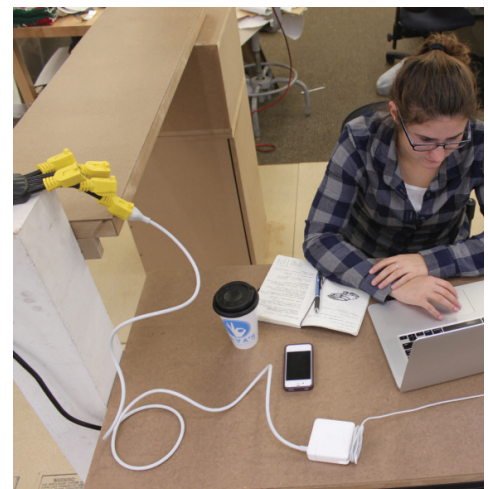
In late November, I made great strides in the overall design of the workstation. This rendition shows the storage tower using two equal cubes with a kick plate, to bring it up to the proper height. After working at this station for a short period of time, and talking with potential users of this product, I realized that if I created two different sized boxes. This would allow for the opportunity to use the larger box as support for the seated surface on it's own, and when combined with a smaller box would allow for support of the standing surface.

Below is a photograph that illustrate the desk as it was with two equal cubes.

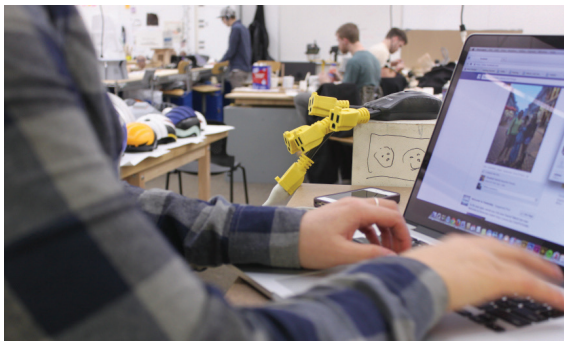
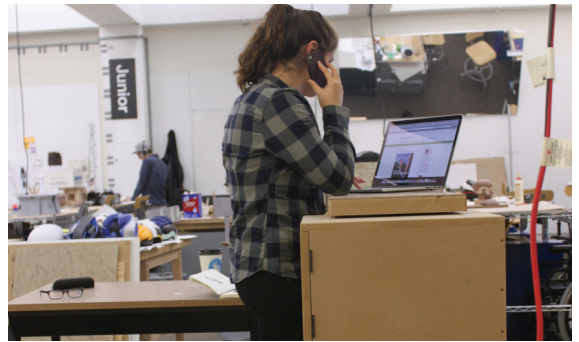
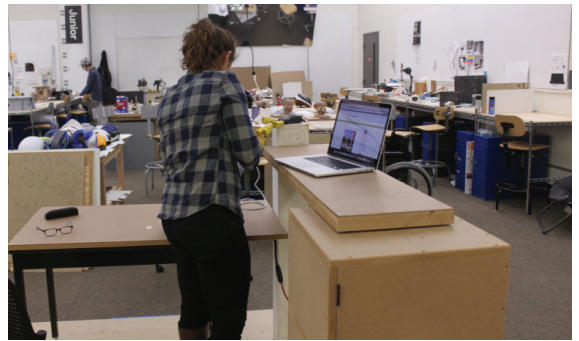


End of Semester One January 14, 2014

The end of the semester came up quickly, and my thesis show is just around the corner (less than eight weeks). This is where my thesis stood just three weeks ago, and will likely be the last mock-up prior to the development of a final prototype for the show in March. With time seeming to run short, I met with all my thesis committee members during finals week and have made several strides in the design of the workstation. The images below represent the workstation as it was during my conversations with my thesis committee, show a "working" power tower.



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my spot. a new kind of workspace.
Bridget Dee Sheehan

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After discussing at great lengths the current design and the opportunities it presents, I have decided to do the following:

- increase the height of the storage tower to meet with the height of the standing desk, allowing for more usable surface area
- develop a series of storage units to allow for a more adaptable, universal system
- make final decisions on materials
- speak with cabinet makers about the best way to construct the unit
- find greater use and versatility for the power tower/central hub
- cord management!
- develop a list of common office objects and find a place, or places, for those objects within the workstation
- build up the options in solidworks and create renderings to show the versatility and universality of the system I'm creating

If you can think of anything I may be missing, please let me know.

The Home Stretch January 26, 2013

It's the home stretch people, and decisions have been made as I have just a few weeks left until my thesis show is here. Materials choices, fabrication, and the development of multiple variations of the structures have all begun and it's just a matter of time before I have a finished piece to exhibit at my thesis show.

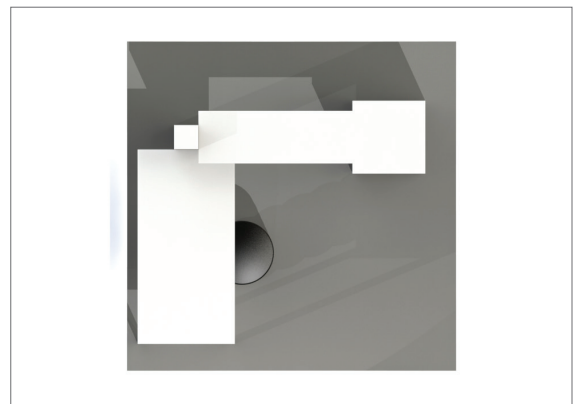
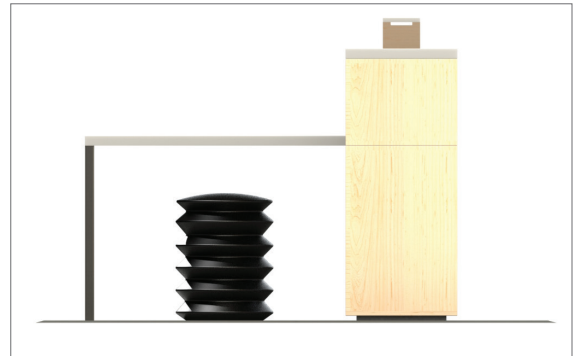
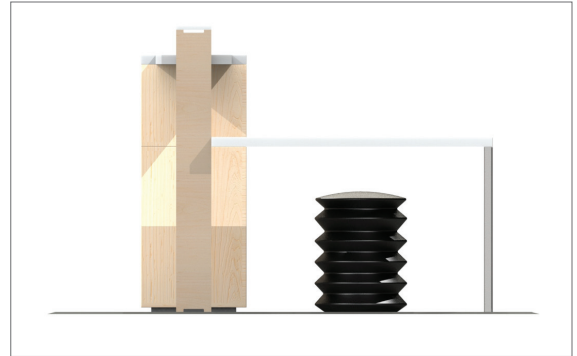
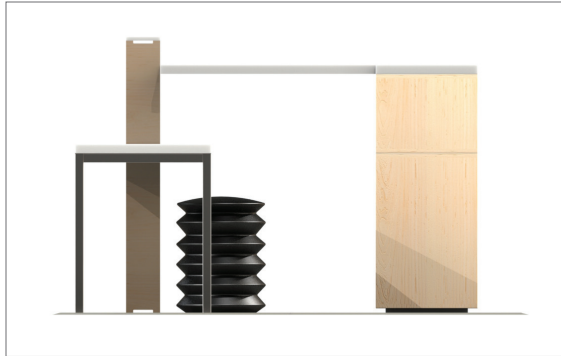
As I stated above, I have made a number of decisions regarding the materiality of the final prototype for my show. The materials for this prototype include 3/4" birch plywood for the storage unit and power tower, solidsurface countertops for the work surfaces, and a welded aluminum for the seated desk support structure. The floor will be made of anti-fatigue rubber mats, still working out the details of where these will be coming from, but that will be ironed out shortly.

In the next week I'll be meeting with my thesis committee members in order to iron out the details of my design, including hardware and materials, and how I will be manufacturing the prototype for the show.

A few design details still need to be ironed out, including cord management and coat/personal belonging storage (note they all seem to revolve around the power tower, and I'm hoping to resolve this issue in the next couple of days so I can begin manufacturing as soon as possible.

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Below are a series of renderings that show you where the design stands for now, some details may be changed, and this is simply a basic design option, more designs will be released, eventually. Feel free to respond with any feedback, questions, and concerns.

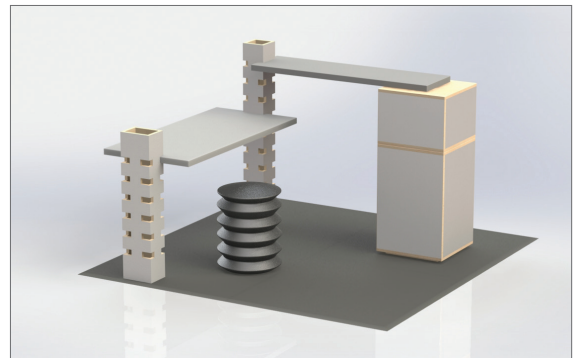
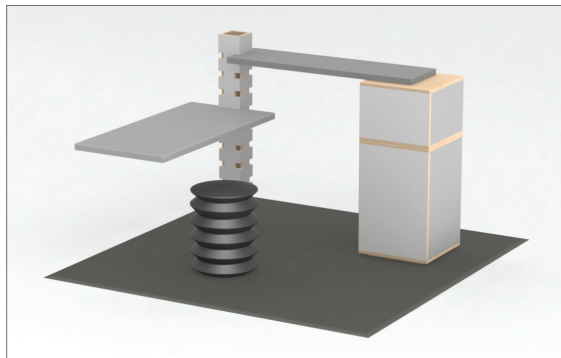


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So close, I hope... January 29, 2014

It's been a fast few days of designing in my world. I hope I'm getting closer, just a matter of ironing some more details (like the desk support).

Send your thoughts my way!

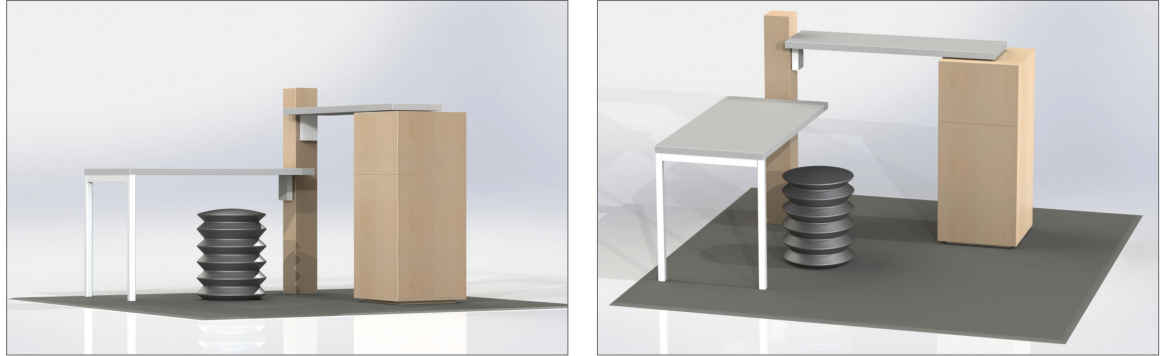


If you build it they will work. February 04, 2014

So I should probably start building...

The last week has been busy, to say the very least. Design decisions were made, many conversations were had with professors, RIT ID alumni, and students last week which has lead me to the design of the prototype I will be making for my show.

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In case you were thinking, “Bridget, this used to look so much more complicated and intense, what happened?” I will admit that I was over-thinking the whole thing, and after a few conversations it became blatantly clear to me that I needed to create a cleaner, simpler space. So, the power of the “power tower” will act as a support for the work surfaces, this power will be in external powder coated aluminum boxes (represented in the renderings above by white boxes). Allowing for easy access to all the power, making life a little easier for workers.

The number of materials being used for my thesis is 3 (plus the rubber floor, so I suppose 4):

- 3/4” Birch Plywood
- Dupont Corian Countertops
- Powder-coated Aluminum

Fewer materials means fewer suppliers which should lead to a lower cost.

Due to time constraints, I’ve also begun seriously thinking about how to put this together for my show, which will be installed in 4 weeks. By the end of this week I will know how every piece of this giant workstation of a puzzle will come together.

The Target Market February 06, 2014

What is my target market and how did I arrive at it? Well, the following post should give you a little insight. As always, any questions or comments are welcome.

In the early days of my thesis, sometime in March 2013, I set out to change what work was and how an individual works. That became an overwhelming task, and to define what work is for everyone is a task that is far beyond my knowledge. So, I pivoted a bit and set out to define what work is for “office workers”. After a very short period of time, I recognized that within the category of “office workers” was a series of smaller categories including, but not limited to,

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clerical, data processing, design, and engineering. All of these categories, while they share similar needs and tools, have unique work methods and equipment necessary to complete their job. With a few basic industries/categories in mind, clerical, data processing, and creative, I was able to further define what work was for each of those categories through surveys and conversations with people within their perspective industry. After defining work, I chose to set out to create a workspace that was designed for creative industries but was versatile enough to be applied to other industries.

Basically, my target market is workers within the creative industry (designers, engineers, architects, writers, marketers, etc). Knowing this allowed me to more rapidly develop my design and make contact with workers within those fields and discover their needs and wants of a workspace. Below you'll find a list of common tools/objects on a creative's desk and a photo of what my workspace (working within my prototype to best understand the experience) looked like while trying to define what my target market is and what they need.

Basic Tools/Objects:

Paper

Computer: Laptop, Desktop or Both

Computer Accessories: Mouse, keyboard, etc.

Tablet

Physical/Paper Storage

Digital Storage

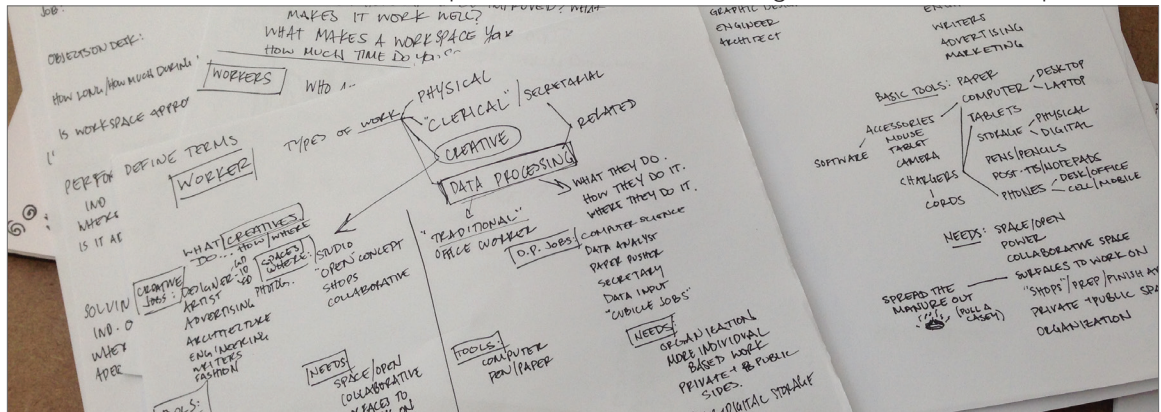
Pens/Pencils

Sticky Notes and Notepads

Office Phone

Cell Phone

For the electronics, we must also keep in mind the need for chargers/cords within the space.



my spot. a new kind of workspace.

Bridget Dee Sheehan

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Underway February 10, 2014

Construction of the my spot prototype is officially underway. With compromises and decisions made, it's nearing crunch time. Earlier today I ordered a pair of grey laminate countertops (color sample shown below) for the work surfaces. While I initially set out to use solid surface counters, the reality of a budget and time constraint came into light and I chose to use a laminate counter top for my work surfaces. So, WilsonArt International Laminate it is (the color is called North Sea, if anyone was wondering). I won't lie, I'm excited about it.



Electrical boxes have been found, and faceplates and outlets are the next step in this glorious process. Though I do in fact have a few leads onto some brands to look at, but I'll keep you posted as I go along. I've spent a fair amount of time searching for an electrical box that suits my needs/wants as a designer, it was more difficult than I had initially imagined. With little knowledge and no experience with electrical units/boxes/wiring, I think I've learned a little and hope I don't set anything on fire as I build this power tower I've designed. Below are a few of the boxes I found and considered for use, I'll keep you all wondering which one I picked, because let's face it, I have to leave something as a mystery.



What else is there... oh yes, the legs for the seated desk, steel is being purchased and will be welded this week (hopefully) so it can get off to the powder coaters to get this sucker (I really do like my thesis) finalized.

Keep on truckin' folks, we're officially in the home stretch.

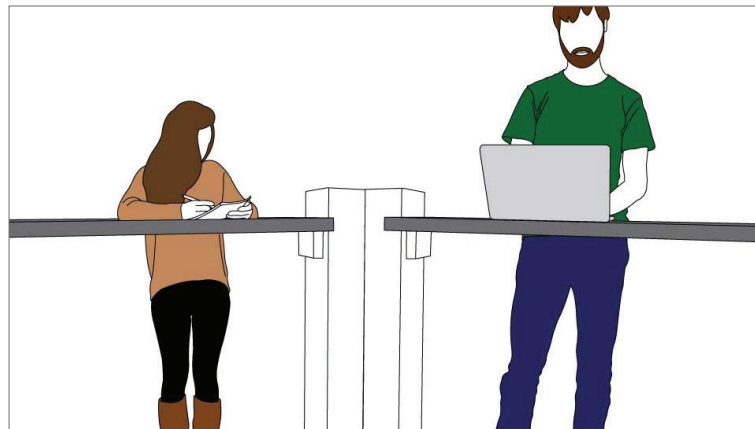
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the graphic design of things. February 13, 2014

While the bulk of the components are being manufactured, I've begun to focus more of my energy on the graphic design side of my thesis show. There will be two main graphic design based components in my show, the poster and a graphic booklet explaining the other options that would be available if the system were to be produced.

The Poster.

A simple, clean and illustrative explanation of my thesis, why I chose the subject, what sets it apart, and how it came to be. I've chosen to use illustrations, not renderings or photographs, to show the reasoning behind my design decisions. An example of the illustrative style I'll be using can be seen below, this type of illustration will allow the viewer to picture themselves in the space, allowing them to create an emotional connection to the piece. It also allows me to play around in Adobe Illustrator and channel my inner graphic design nerd.



The Graphic Booklet.

Much like a booklet you'd pick up about a car at the AutoShow, this booklet will give the viewer an inside look at what I see this system becoming and how versatile this modular workstation can be. Included within this booklet will be illustrations showing the various configurations and materials, allowing the user to mentally create their ideal workspace. More on this booklet will be posted as the graphics and layouts are developed. Get excited folks, because the graphic designer in me cannot wait to get this thing rolling.

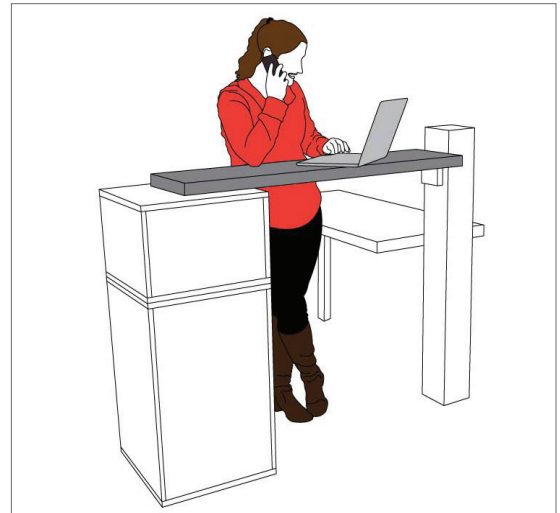
If you are reading this and don't know about my background, I have a BFA in Visual Communication and am a total graphic design nerd. I'll take this time to direct you to the "The Designer" page if you'd like to read a little bit more about me.

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Graphic Design February 16, 2014

While yes, I do in fact have a degree in the subject, I find it amusing that the bulk of what needs to be done for my graduate thesis show in industrial design is the graphic design work. Although, I am very thankful I have a background in graphic design it comes in handy.

I've spent pretty much my entire weekend in front of my computer on Illustrator and InDesign making grids, illustrations, and developing text layouts. Oh, and of course writing content for the posters and booklet to try and tell the story of my thesis. While I can tell I'm making progress on all of this, there is still quite a bit of work ahead of me in the next week as I prepare for the show and photoshoot. For now, here is yet another little sneak peak at the visual language of my graphics.



ErgoErgo, How I love thee. February 19, 2014

So, in case you missed it, I'm not designing the chair for my workstation. There is a tremendous amount of good chairs and seats on the market. For my show, and photography, I've chosen to use the ErgoErgo stool. Designed by Alan Heller in 2009, this stool encourages a healthy, active work space (homes and schools are also common location for the awesome stools). After meeting Alan in May of 2013, I recognized a very similar goal in mind between my thesis concept for a healthy and productive work space and the active, posture driven Ergo. ErgoErgo describes the seat as:

ErgoErgo is a revolutionary seating concept combining the benefits of active sitting with a bold contemporary design. The patent-pending ErgoErgo allows the body to rock gently in any direction to build strength and flexibility. ErgoErgo is intelligent design. Versatile enough to be used at your desk, for breakout meetings, guests, working or relaxing. It promotes wellness and productivity. And it's comfortable, durable and easy on the budget.

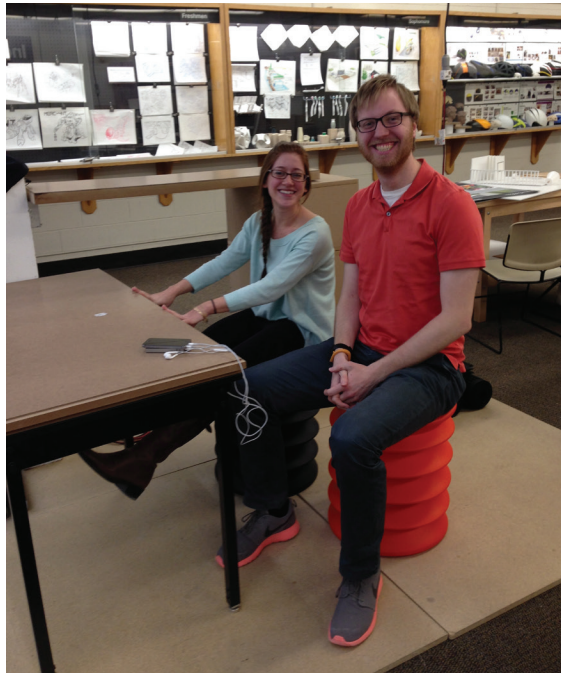
I won't lie to you folks, I've sat on it for several hours now and I'm completely and fully in love with this seat. Granted, I'm a rather antsy person by nature, and the subtle movements required to balance on the seat allow me to release that nervous energy just a bit. Sure, I've only sat on it one night, but I'm fairly certain there will be a small fleet of them in my future home (so future

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house guests, consider yourselves warned).

Shout out to Alan Heller for sending these stools my way and for designing such a stellar seat.

Here's a few brilliant photos of some fellow students enjoying the Ergo.

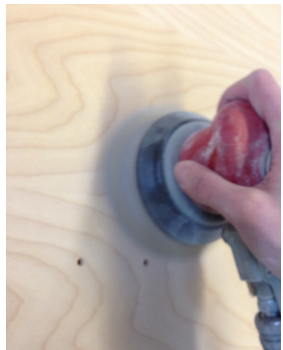
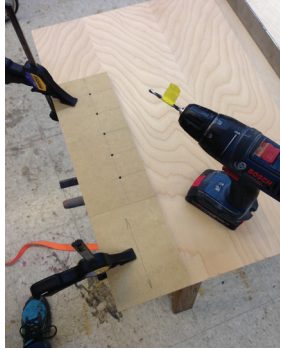


Making it Happen February 27, 2014

It's been a crazy, exhausting, and terribly fun few weeks here in Rochester. It started with the building of my thesis cabinetry at Wendell Castle's studio with the help of Peter Kenney. Simple and straightforward as these cabinets may be, they took a little work and a couple of days to build them up and put some finish on them. Below are a few photos that represent the process of building, sanding, and finishing. I won't lie, it felt great to be back in the shop for a few days!

If you're thinking you'd see the final product, you'll have to check back. That's gonna be a bit of a suspense a little while longer. It's all together, but I have to give everyone a reason to show up at my thesis show next Friday, March 7 from 5-7pm in RIT's Bevier Gallery.

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my spot. a new kind of workspace.
Bridget Dee Sheehan

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the install. March 17, 2014

Just over a week late on this post, but better late than never?

In a matter of a day and a half my show was completely installed, cleaned, and ready for the opening which took place on March 7 (blog post to come shortly). With a good plan in place about how to install and what needed to be where, it was a fairly smooth install. With a little help from the staff at the gallery and a good friend, after the first day of install all that remained for me to do was to paint a pedestal and put out my printed work. Below are a few photographs of the exhibition prior to the opening.



The Opening. March 17, 2014

March 7 was a day for the books. It was full of family, friends, and mentors (many meeting each other for the first time) and celebrating a year's worth of my graduate thesis work.

As you may recall (at least I think I've mentioned it), this journey began in March 2013 as I began exploring the opportunities presented to improve and modernize the work station. The

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last 12 months have been full of research, exploration, sleep deprivation, beer, conversations, and prototyping and the hard work paid off at the opening. In the words of my thesis graphic, special thanks to:

Wendell Castle and his studio, Alan Heller, Rochester Vibratory and Assembly, and Empire Fabricators for helping make this prototype a reality. My committee members, Stan Rickel, Josh Owen, and Kim Sherman, and the rest of the RIT ID Faculty for their knowledge and guidance throughout this process. My family and friends for their constant love and support. To my parents for giving me every opportunity to find and follow my passion.

To those who were physically present and drove many miles to share the night with me, words cannot express how incredible it was to share that night with you. I am a firm believer that we are only as great as the people we surround ourselves with, and I grow more thankful everyday for the incredible people I have the privilege to call my family, friends, and mentors.

Below are a few images from my graduate thesis show's opening weekend.



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case study April 7, 2014

I recently had the pleasure of visiting White Bicycle, home of graphic designers Brian Grunert, Kyle Morrissey, and Casey Kelly.

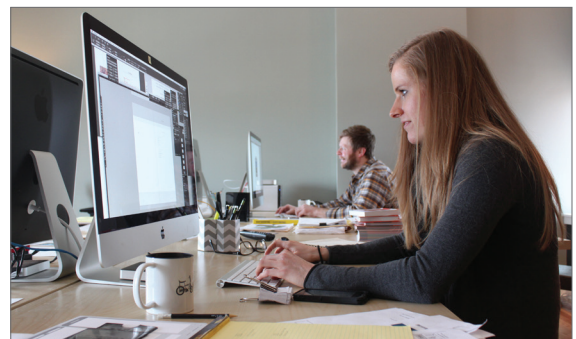
White Bicycle is a trio of designers based in Buffalo, New York. We build brands in a powerful and meaningful way. Our work includes exhibitions, identity, logos, packaging, posters, publications, signage, strategy, websites and other media.

While I thoroughly enjoy visiting design studios and seeing where people work, that was not the sole purpose of this visit. I was there to watch them work and see how they interact with each other, their tools, the furniture, and the space. It was probably the creepiest research I've done in a long time, so huge thanks to the trio for putting up with the creepiness.

The office consists of an open workspace with 4 workstations, a conference room, storage room, bubble hockey table, a kitchen, bathrooms, and a small print station for developing mock-ups. My focus was with the open workspace, particularly on the workstations/surfaces and how each designer utilized the furniture around them. This allowed me to see if my workstation was feasible within a creative space and discover opportunities to improve my spot. Look for future blog posts about how what I learned from observing the trio at White Bicycle helped me in making improvements to my design.

I also brought along the ErgoErgo to see how designers would react to working on one for an extended period of time (I left it there for them to use) and have it as a replacement to their desk chair, or at least as an option at their work station. So far, I've hear nothing but good things and am starting to wonder if the Ergo will ever return to its home in Rochester, so it's a good thing I know where they work.

Below are a few photos from my little adventure to White Bicycle.





my spot. a new kind of workspace.
Bridget Dee Sheehan

A6 Acknowledgments

Thank you

Wendell Castle and his studio for their generous help and support in the construction of my final prototype. Alan Heller, designer of the ErgoErgo and Founder of Heller, Inc. for the donation of the ErgoErgo used for the exhibition and prototype. Rochester Vibratory and Assembly, and Empire Fabricators for helping make my prototype a reality. My committee members, Stan Rickel, Josh Owen, and Kim Sherman, and the rest of the RIT ID Faculty and staff for their knowledge and guidance throughout this process. Casey Kelly, Brian Grunert, and Kyle Morrissey of White Bicycle for giving me the opportunity to visit the studio and observe them working. My family and friends for their constant love and support. To my parents for giving me every opportunity to find and follow my passion.