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Design space: Informal office furniture

By Clare Dowdy



Product: Parcs office furniture range by Bene

Design: PearsonLloyd

Territory: Worldwide

As office work has become less clerical, Bene, an Austrian office furniture maker, wanted to produce a range more appropriate to the growing tendency for employees to work together away from their desks.

London-based agency PearsonLloyd was briefed to create furniture for short, spontaneous meetings, where knowledge can be exchanged quickly and easily. Their solution was Parcs, a collection of freestanding pieces, including Toguna (right-hand picture), a semi-private, circular hub with low ceilings to create an intimacy not usually found in the office. Users come and go through the two openings in the walls and there is room inside for four people to sit on two benches.

Toguna's circular form is intended to make it a non-hierarchical, democratic space. The name and the type of space are derived from traditional meeting spaces for elders in Mali.

More than 21,000 Parcs pieces have been sold since 2009, including more than 500 Togunas, each priced at approximately €12,000. Customers have included Sony, Siemens and PwC.

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