

Previous winners





2017





2017 Challenge & Brief

The challenge -*“The future of work is here... designing human centred workplace settings with new and emerging embedded technology”*. Research the emerging trends in the vast area of smart technology and propose new and innovative solutions, which remove complication and barriers to better workflow and interactions.

Technology has enabled us to increase our productivity by an order of magnitude, through the years, however there is evidence to suggest we are less passionate and more frustrated with our work lives. There are many barriers in the way of achieving cosiness, flow and fulfilment in the work environment and the results can lead to discomfort and dispassion.

Workers should be able to sculpt their environment, to suit their needs and wants, but there is now reason to believe that technology can assist with this. How can solutions, which are embedded into the furniture and environment help? More importantly, how do these new hybrid products look, feel and respond to our emotional and physical requirements?

Propose how high tech solutions can effectively disappear out of plain sight, and how our natural human movements, habits and cultures can be expressed more fluidly.

Define The definition of workplace is changing rapidly, with new areas and services hosting workers for short periods of time. Perhaps thinking about why coffee shops, public and other spaces have become so popular, can inspire your thought structure to empathise with the worker and their needs.

Bringing a new sense of togetherness and community through the lost art of radio. An office is not a machine it's a family.



'SIGMA' Office Radio, Elge Urbanoviciute & Kevin Corley, NUIM.

Generations before us have sought comfort, found friends and connected through the sounds of radio.

Through our ethnographic stage we carried out an array of techniques to give us valuable insights. In depth interviews with many dedicated and driven people helped us understand the emotional and working atmosphere in the office.

We found patterns of poor sharing and detachment in working or personal relations. Belongingness has been proven to have multiple and strong effects on emotional patterns and on cognitive processes. We believe that SIGMA can build a real community



Elge Urbanoviciute & Kevin Corley



Breaking the barriers, bringing people together to achieve an enriched sense of culture for all.



Provides users the ability to share tips, projects and experiences while adding a personal touch to their departments segment.



Building a real community with the personalities that make an office. Share, laugh and grow as a team.

Winning project 2017

SIGMA aims to build community through the loss art of radio. SIGMA office radio system enables organisations to 'Record, Edit and Share' department announcements. Individual Departments are in full control of their segment, allowing individualism and creativity to flourish. An app will allow the user to edit audio, and sounds effects to achieve a high quality radio show. The app will also allow a news library for individual to review projects, events or meetings.

'Sigma is a system that build community, because the office is not a machine it's a family'



Ogham

Ogham, the real life voice mail encourages contact with coworkers and reduces distractions in a very simple way. When you see that some one is busy you just record your message on your ID Badge and tap it off of one of the empty voicemail cards on their desk for them to listen to.



Ogham

Feature



Ogham

Research

From research we found personalisation can greatly increase productivity so we designed Ogham to be customisable to suite each user



During our process we carried out several semi-structured ethnographic interviews to gain a clear in depth understanding of office works daily lives.



"When I am talking to someone, I feel I am distracting the person beside them"

"There is no way I could carry out my job without disturbing people"



"When I take my brain away form work for 1 second, it takes me 15 minutes to get into it"



2 to 8 seconds of distraction creates 23 minutes to regain concentration



1 minute of interruption is enough to wipe out your short-term memory.



31% of Employees waste an hour of work a day

Talk



Tap



Listen



'OGHAM' – Gerard Duffy & Cathal Curran, N.U.I.M.

Runner Up 2017

Ogham is a real life voicemail to encourage contact with co-workers and reduce distractions. Record a message on your personal ID Badge, tap it off one of the empty voicemail card on the persons desk so they can listen when available. When you tap off an empty voicemail card an E Ink image of the person who left you a message will appear. This is a product to encourage communication and a move away from office email.

Talk, Tap, Listen

Gerard Duffy & Cathal Curran



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth



2016





2016 Challenge & Brief

The challenge - to draw inspiration from the emerging science of Biophilia and develop an innovative proposal for a more calming, productive workplace environment, with a specific focus on natural human interactions.

Demonstrate an appreciation for the social, physiological and psychological underpinnings for healthy workers. The outcomes should focus on enriching the holistic experience of the worker in the work environment, wherever that may be. A compelling vision document that will inspire future solutions in the commercial world, with truly innovative concepts, will be central to the success of this project. For this, you must understand the current and emerging trends in technology, space planning, furniture and emotional design. This research should inform the structure of your developments.

Propose how using Biophilic and human-centred design principles can encourage and facilitate continuous, low-threshold movement.

Inspire by proposing how the natural environment can be used to build more naturalistic connections between workers to their space and to each other.

Explore how people like to work and how personality, mood and posture can affect workflow. Think about scale, proportion and customisation of particular spaces. Propose how workstations, quiet zones, meeting spaces and other areas can evolve, through Biophilia and how can this change habits

Define your target workplace. Thinking about traditional offices, creative spaces, third-level education, or other, identify how to integrate these solutions and how designs will affect traditional use patterns.



EDEN Point

Employees can use the EDEN app to search for EDEN Points in their city. With their subscription they can sign in to use the stands wifi.



Wifi Hotspot



Gets people up and moving



Weatherproof



Employee well being

‘EDEN’ – Joseph Halpin, Peter O’Meara, NUIM.

Winning project 2016

Eden, a revolutionary outdoor workspace. A subscription based service for businesses or individuals, the app allows individual to book a space to work in the outdoors with a fully functioning office space including WIFI, charging points. Capable of standing four people comfortable around the table it can be used for individual or group meetings.

The judges commented “Eden is a simple solution resulting from strong product and system design. Achieving simplicity is the most difficult aspect of a complex design but this partnership have been rewarded for their tenacity and conviction to bring a clear, concise and intelligent solution for the worker of the 21st century. The duo have displayed an understanding of the requirements for human movement, and importance of integrated technologies.”.

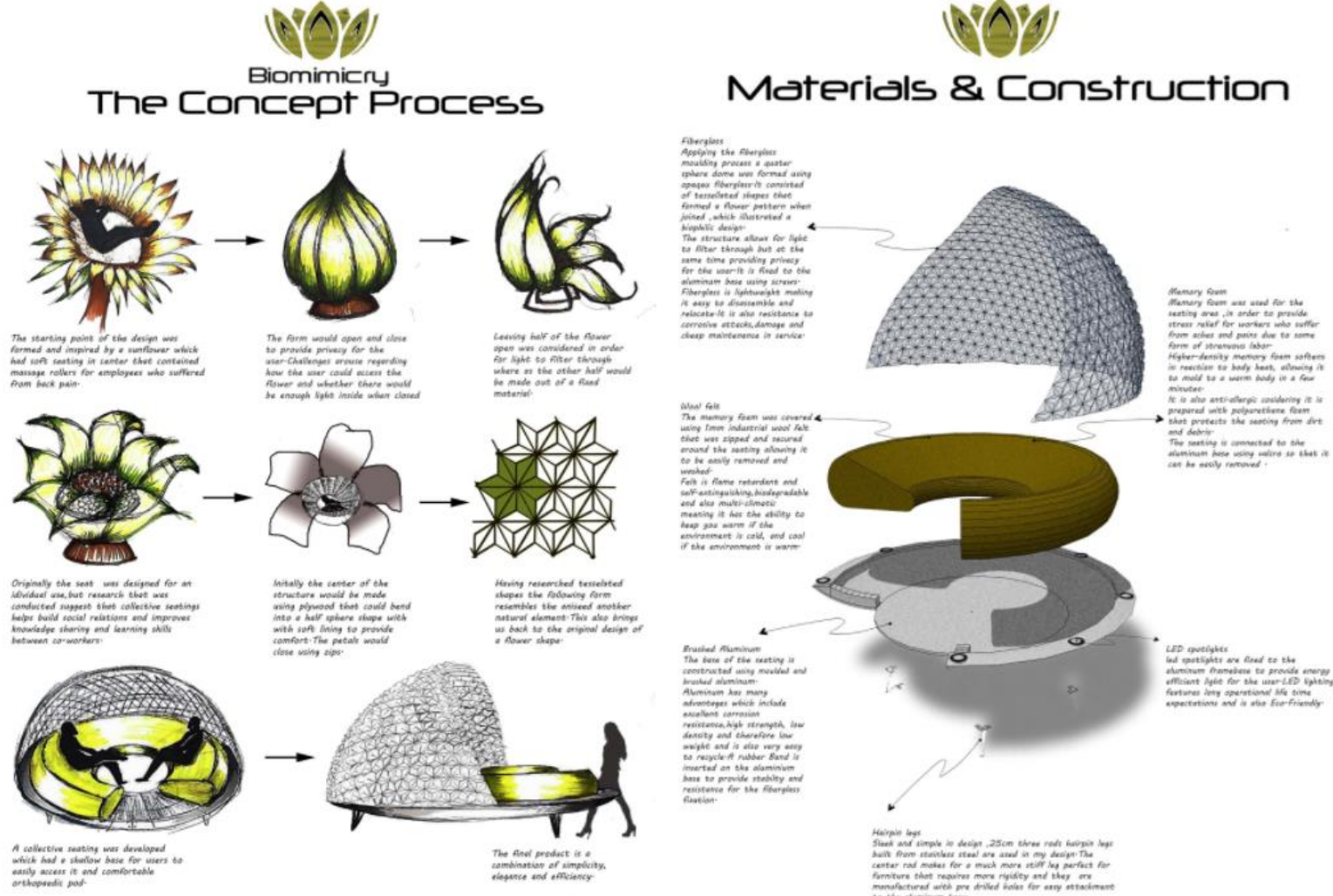
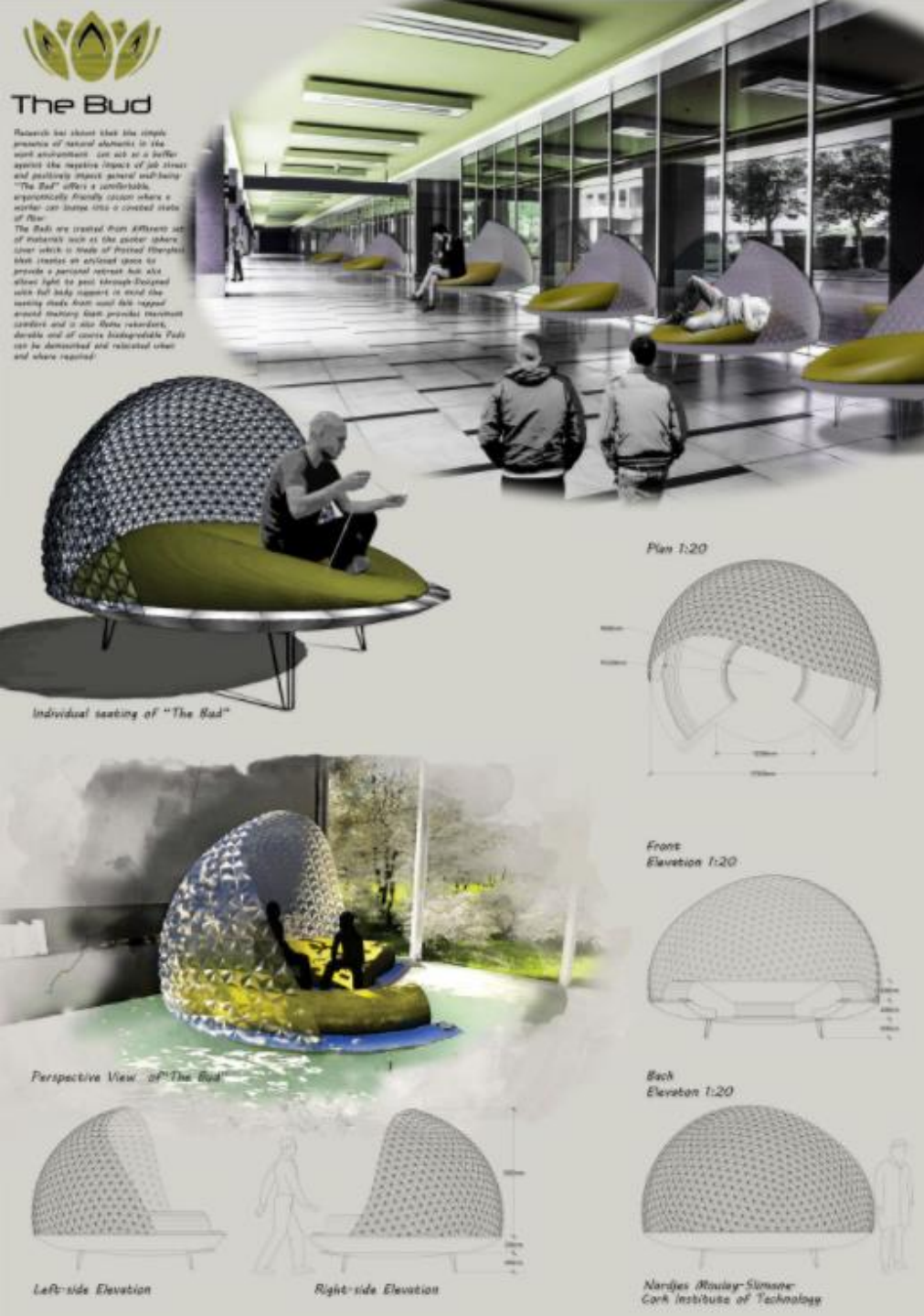


‘EDEN’ – Joseph Halpin, Peter O’Meara, NUIM.

Winning project 2016

Both Joseph and Peter spent time with Perch Dynamic Solutions and Orangebox to develop their design. They have completed their internship and initial prototypes have been developed.

This provided the winners with a hands on approach to design development, working with suppliers and development teams and we hope to see more from this duo in the future.



"The Bud" – Nardjes Moulay Slimane, C.I.T.

Runner Up 2016

The design was inspired by a sunflower, the final design includes a memory foam cushion base with opaque colour fibre glass to allow natural light to filter through but not compromising on privacy. The judges commented "the Bud represents a very clear, distinct, and considerate approach to biophilic design. The final designs represent a simple and complex thought process that places the user needs at the core of the concept."



“The Bud” – Nardjes Moulay Slimane, C.I.T.

Runner-up 2016

Nardjes recognised the ergonomic issues that occur while sitting at your desk all day. The bud was created as individual or collective breakout units to encourage employees to relax and increase productivity within the Office.

Nardjes also completed a two week placement with Perch and Orangebox as part of the prize. She spoke about her experience “it has been an exceptionally valuable learning experience. It provided me with an honest and worthwhile insight into both the challenges and the rewards of working within companies such as Perch and Orangebox”



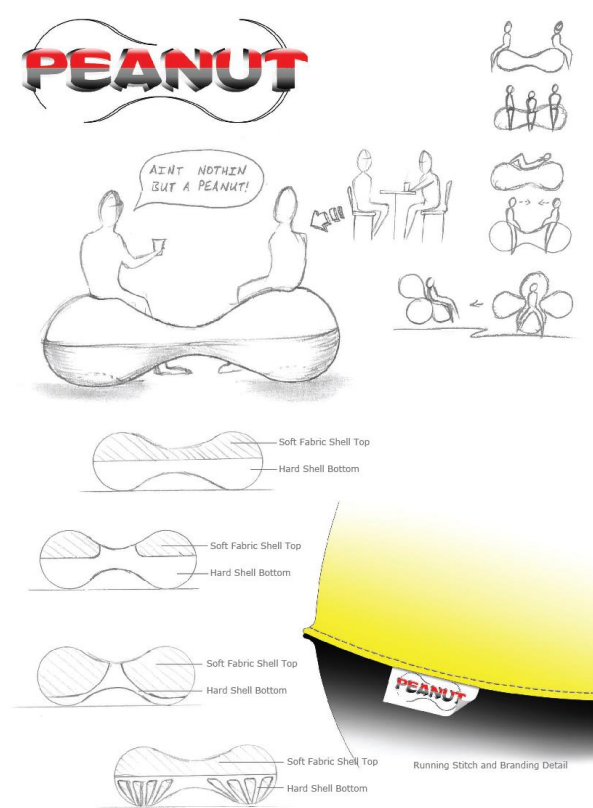
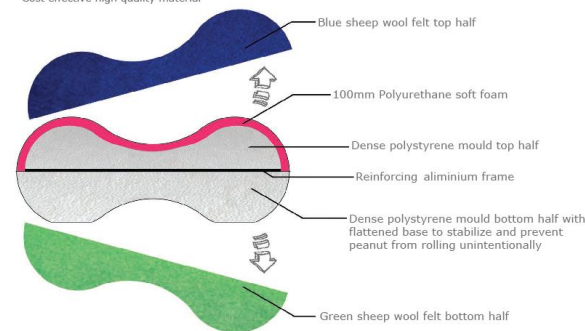
The Peanut Nuts for Nuts!

This design focuses specifically on the importance of natural human interactions in the context of a working environment. A biophilic and human-centred design, the playful forms of the peanut enable low threshold movements creating more naturalistic connections between users. Perfect for informal meetings, waiting lobbies and breakout areas.

The form and lightweight materials used in the design of the Peanut makes this product easy to stack in groups for storage when not in use. The tessellated configurations evolve to facilitate innovative interactions and creative workspaces.



Irish Sheep's wool will be stretched over the peanut form to make up the final exterior finish.
Benefits:
Environmentally friendly renewable material.
Sheep's wool also has sound insulation qualities, perfect for an office.
Unlimited colour variations.
Cost effective high quality material



Alan Kingston, Cork Institute of Technology

MATERIALS

Alan Kingston, Cork Institute of Technology

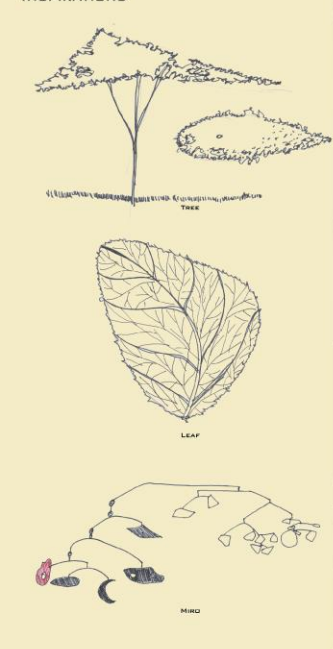
CONCEPTS

“Peanut” – Alan Kingston, CIT.

Highly Commended

“Peanut” introduces a sense of fun and playfulness to the office space. It has a unique and simplistic design – its curved forms stand out against the traditional office setting. Designed with manufacturing in mind – it is cost effective and easy to manufacture. The tessellated stacking of the product was inspired from research development while stringing peanuts together to form an overlapping cross pattern which was then abstracted into the form of the final design. A circular base plate 1200mm in diameter has two hemispheres at two ends for the first peanut to slot in between.

It is lightweight, and versatile with acoustic properties and has a variety of functions in the office including breakout areas, reception areas, informal meeting spaces.

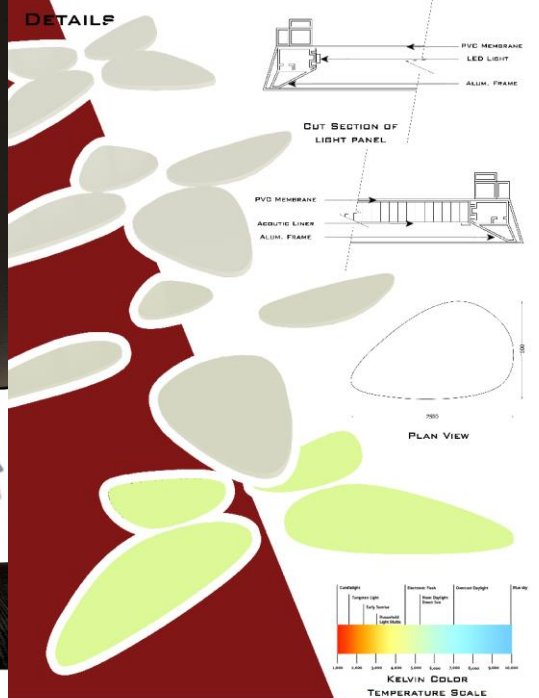
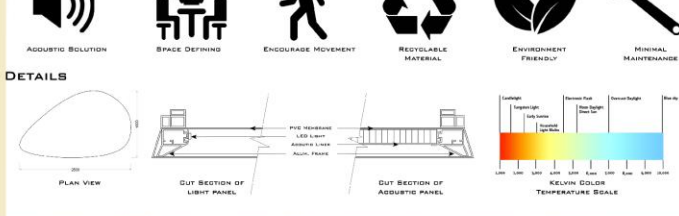


FALLING LEAVES

Falling leaves is a modular ceiling panel that hanging down from the ceiling. It has two different types of ceiling panel which consist of changeable LED light and the other one consist of acoustic liner which helps to absorb sound. The LED light panel serve as a task lighting in an office space. The changing color of LED light can bring different mood to the space depending on the function of the space when it is used. Meanwhile, the acoustic panel acts as an acoustic solution to the office, which help to absorb sound and give more privacy to user. The combination of both LED light panel and acoustic panel help to define a space in an office. It serve several functions that not only benefits the user, the material selection is also benefits the environment. The use of PVC membrane is environment friendly, it is non-toxic, recyclable and maintenance free. The membrane act as light diffuser and transmit 75% of light. The aluminium frame enable different shape to be formed easily and it is light weight. The panel system is mounted onto suspended frames to create floating ceiling designs. The frames can create modular ceilings using varied suspension height.

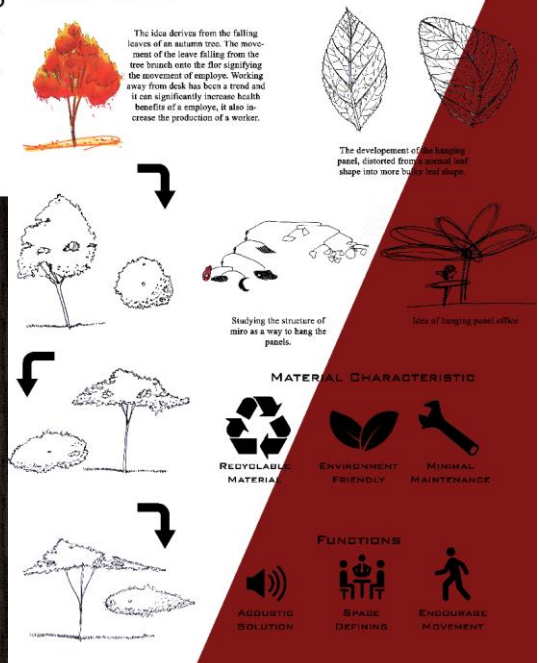


FUNCTIONS MATERIAL CHARACTERISTIC



ALVIN ENXEAN LAI INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE 4

FALLING LEAVES



Falling Leaves - Alvin Enxean Lai, CIT.

Highly Commended

Falling leaves is a modular ceiling panel consisting of changeable LED lights and/or an acoustic liner which helps to absorb sound.

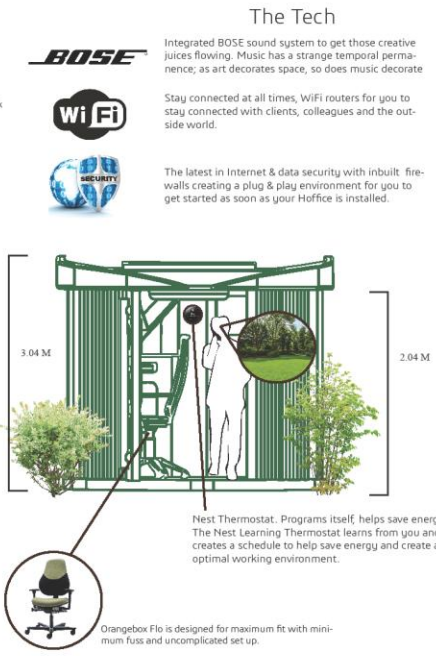
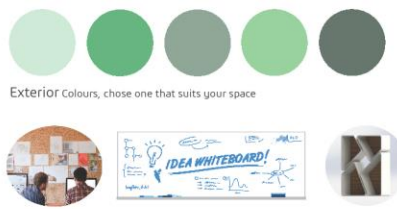
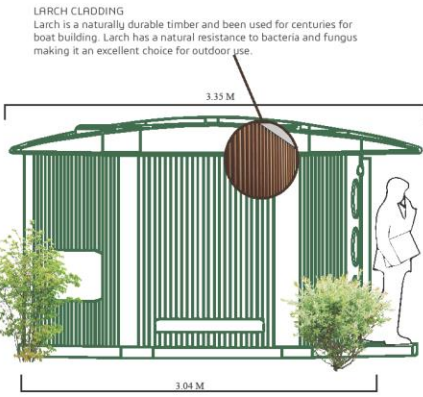
The LED light panel serves as a task lighting in an office space. The changing colour of LED light can bring different mood to the space depending on the function of the space when it is used. Meanwhile, the acoustic panel acts as an acoustic solution to the office, which helps to absorb sound and give more privacy to user. The combination of both LED light panel and acoustic panel helps to define a space in an office. It serves several functions that not only benefits the user, the material selection also benefits the environment. The use of PVC membrane is environment friendly, non- toxic, recyclable and maintenance free. The membrane acts as light diffuser and transmits 75% of light. The aluminium frame enables different shapes to be formed easily and it is light weight. The panel system is mounted onto suspended frames to create floating ceiling designs.

In order to set up an office quickly and on budget, purchasing a modular system ceiling like “Falling Leaves” can easily transform any space into an office space. The flexibility of the product is suitable for everyones use, and it can be used everywhere, as long as there is sufficient height for the ceiling.

HOFFICE

YOUR COMPLETE HOME OFFICE SOLUTION

In today's world we are required to work in innovative ways. The Hoffice is specifically design to enhance & improve your daily work experience. Bringing the inside out, creating a relaxed, modern and spacious environment for you to focus without the daily distractions of the home.

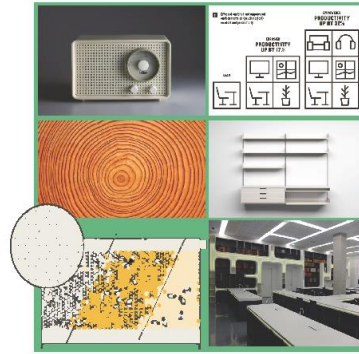


HOFFICE

YOUR COMPLETE HOME OFFICE SOLUTION

Inspiration

Inspiration for the Hoffice came from a variety of sources including Dieter Rams, nature and the alphabet library as well as work / products from each of the judging panel. The aim was to create an a professional studio space that caters for the physiological & psychological needs for a healthy work environment. The design caters for all technological and physical properties required for a state of the art workspace.



IT Sligo
An Innovative Technology Solution
Submitted by Ronan McCabe, IT Sligo
Student No: S00158599



Ronan McCabe – The Hoffice, IT Sligo

Highly Commended

As demand globally for office space continues to increase year on year, alongside rising occupancy, this sector will no doubt become more and more critical as time progresses by not only large corporate organizations, but small & medium size enterprises.

The home office is now seen as a viable alternative to commuting to a corporate facility. However, there are factors that can make the home a less-than-ideal work environment. These include interruptions, distractions, loneliness, technology support issues and lack of suitable space.

The Hoffice is a professional studio space that caters for the physiological & psychological needs for a healthy work environment. The design caters for all technological and physical properties required for a state of the art workspace.

Thoughtful consideration has been given to every detail in order to create a structure that offers an off the shelf, fully functional & complete work space. The design thinking does not stop at aesthetic features, special consideration to nature, efficiency and performance of the structure have also been considered.

From the curvature of the internal walls, the interactive materials used such a cork board, white boards and digital displays to the external larch cladding that will transform itself overtime.

Using the latest technology, the design will assist in decreasing high energy bills while at the same time keeping the work space comfortable for the user. As well an eco-friendly design, thoughtful incorporation of a biophilic design approach have been utilized to assist performance such as thermal comfort, acoustics, energy and lighting.





The water evaporates to create raindrops



The with LED shines to create sunlight.



Connects wirelessly to the weather app on your phone or tablet



The fan is activated to create wind



The heating element causes the water to evaporate.



Research Board

Data Synthesis

After reading online literature and researching about biophilia and about what workers dislike or like about their workplace we came up with these statistics



Desk Research

Interviewing four people, from various work environments we gathered our main insights mentioned below. Observing the Google Offices in Dublin we gained useful insights for the way they designed their workspace to suit the worker to work efficiently



44% of people want natural light in their workspace



20% of people want plants in their workspace



19% of people want a quiet workspace



15% of people want bright colours in their workspace

Ethnographic Research

From decoding our interviews our key insight is below, which contributed to the inspiration to our idea



"My window faces onto another office building, so there is no natural sun, and I can't see anything"



"My desk chair doesn't face my window, they are all behind me"



"I love working outside, in all weather conditions I take the good days with the 'bad' days"



"I usually arrive to work in the dark and go home in the dark"

"Atmos" – Kathleen Gahan, Grace Kelly, NUIM

Highly Commended

By definition Biophilia is the human tendency to interact or be closely associated with other life forms of life in nature. From our research phase we concluded with one overarching and recurring insight - access to windows. Even if the office space had a window, their desk might not face it. Many also expressed frustration that the work environment was 'cold', 'flat' and 'artificial'.

"Atmos" is a smart plant environment that recreates the weather conditions in real time by connecting wirelessly to a weather application either on your phone or tablet. This allows the user to experience nature as they work at their desk. The plants used are native to the geographical area. For example offices located here in Ireland would use Ash, Birch, Wild Heather and Blackthorn allowing the user to feel more connected with their environment. Using a white LED which depicts the sun, this provides the user a more natural light source at their desk.

In manufacturing "Atmos" we aim to use recycled materials, for example, the base and lid would be made from recycled plastic. Our aim is to keep our carbon footprint as low as possible which is achievable when making Atmos. We have researched that new plastic is cheaper than recycled plastic, however using recycled plastic will give our product a unique aspect in a way that it is giving back to the environment while being a biophilic design.

Atmos gives the user a brief time to escape their hectic workday and relax with nature without actually having to leave their workspace. Our product cleverly incorporates nature into the workspace without over powering the work environment or the user.



HACKING air³

An Orangebox Design Competition
facilitated by
Ireland's leading workplace supplier Walls to Workstations.



2015 Challenge & Brief

The challenge - seeking ideas to create a new generation of work Pod that utilises the engineering and performance finesse of Orangebox's Air3 but reimagines how this could be 'hacked' to create a new vernacular of individual pods.

That allows designers of office environments to 'go it alone', to customise a standard office system and realises more verity and personal vitality within their workplace projects.

About Air3

The Air3 acoustic pod system is an advanced room system, which provides freestanding meeting or workrooms, private booths and touch down rooms.

Air3 is achieved from a precision-engineered aluminium structural frame combined with flat and curved structural glass and an advanced acoustic panel sub assembly, which integrates with advanced acoustic foams. Which together are designed to create a refined level of insulation and speech privacy. The Air3 room system is demountable and can easily be moved, re-positioned and fully re-used. Interchangeable panels allow you to swap, change and refresh colours and fabrics anytime.

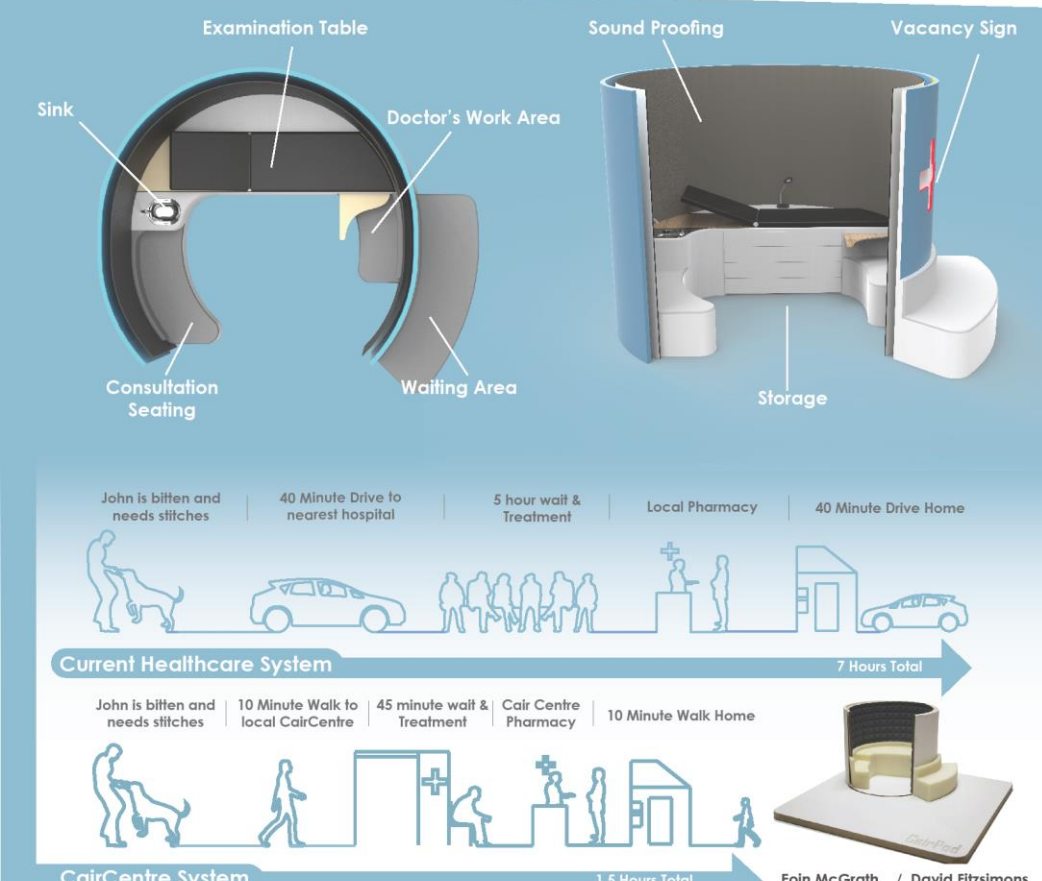
We believe that a diverse landscape of solutions for today's agile, collaborative workplace is critical to our success and central to this product landscape is the Air3 pod system. We know that delivering choice is critical and while Air3 is an internationally successful product, we believe it has additional potential to clients, architects and designers as a customisable structural system. Where a new attitude to function and materials can be combined with the engineering and performance intelligence, which are central to the success of Air3.

CairPod +

Designed to be setup in vacant spaces around the country, relieving hospitals from the pressures of over-crowding and providing more accessible healthcare for everyone.

③ Types of Pod

1. Skype Pod for contacting specialist doctors around the country or in different countries.
2. Minor ailments Pod for people who require stitches, bandages or just general GP guidance.
3. Ultrasound Pod for pregnancy consultations.



CairPod +

CairPod – Eoin McGrath, David Fitzsimons, UL

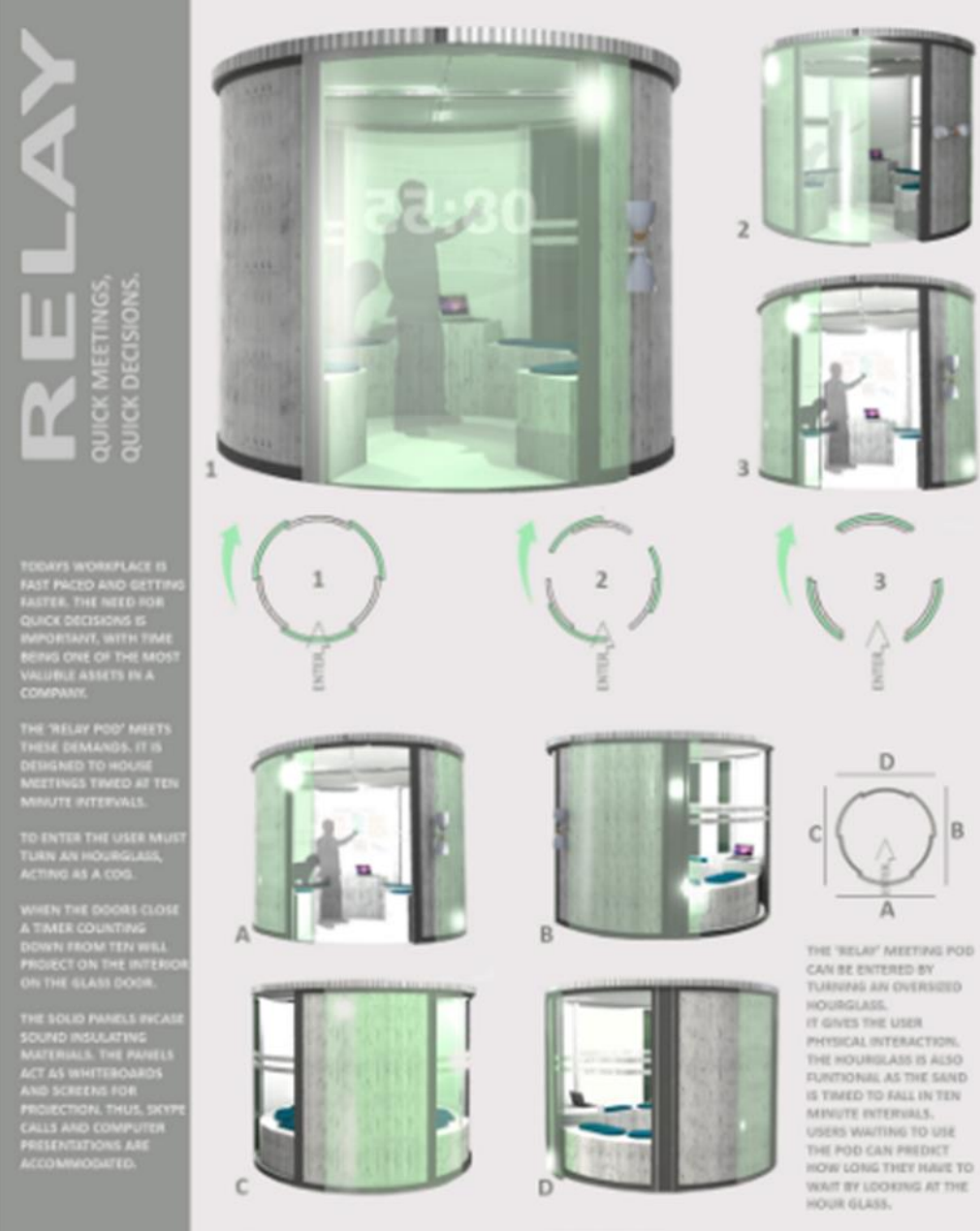
Joint Winner 2015

Eoin and David looked at current social issues to overcome a serious problem in Ireland in 2015. Hospital overcrowding results in a poor experience, long waiting times, lack of information and communication. Overcrowding has become a serious issue and six hour waiting times have become the norm and it's come to the point where people will forgo a hospital visit to avoid the inconvenience of the whole experience.

The CairPod aims to tackle this issue by relieving pressure on hospitals and even GP's in cities and towns. The idea is that Cair Centres consisting of multiple CairPods could be setup in vacant spaces such as closed down shops throughout towns around the country.

The CairPod is specifically targeted at minor ailments and injuries that traditionally necessitate hospital visits, and also routine check-ups required everyday by the general public. The CairPod can facilitate the basic healthcare treatment needs of people such as allergies, skin conditions, coughs and colds, injections, wound and dressing care and ultrasound, to name a few.

The judges commented it is an altogether different submission, which also recognises a real and pressing issue. Effective and appropriate access to the relevant and increasingly diverse health care services, especially within an aging population, is a problem that requires different solutions. The thinking and resolution of **CairPod +** certainly presents a real opportunity that merits further research, discussions and engagement with health care professionals, which is what the jurors would encourage the authors to pursue. The CairPod system is a product whose value is realised in the long-term, especially through multiple use. This submission exploits this potential and recognises the architectural and manufacturing quality of Air 3 and appropriates this with product extensions and customisations, entirely appropriate to the values of Air 3.



‘Relay’ - Jennifer O’Keeffe, CIT

Joint Winner

Jennifer recognised the fast changing workplace that we are surrounded by. The need for quick decisions is important, with time being one of the most valuable assets in a company. The 'Relay Pod' meets these demand. It is designed to house meetings timed at ten minute intervals.

Jennifer has rethought how the interior of an existing Orangebox can be utilised for maximum benefit.

Michael Clarke MD of W2W spoke about her design “What struck me was the simplicity of the idea expounded by Jennifer; an idea which responded directly to a pervading business issue. In addition her use of the ‘hourglass’ communicates the functional principle so effectively”

Gerard Taylour of Orangebox said ““Relay”, Is a clever and precise solution, that results from the recognition of a real and pressing issue within all organisations - how to encourage collaboration and the sharing of ideas and experience, effectively. We are all creatures of habit and it’s all too easy to lapse into the syndrome of using meetings in an indulgent way, with everyone maybe taking part but certainly not for 100% of the time. We all indulge in checking e-mails, texting or reading other material. **Relay** recognizes this and offers a practicable solution that’s delivered with a ‘light touch’ creative design value.

The hourglass and not slick technology is used as a clever and engaging way to achieve user engagement and help modify behavior. Making a difficult cultural change - a little easier, through the injection of humor and clever design. The jurors believed this precise design idea would be valued within many organizations using Air 3.”



TRUSTED INTERIOR SOLUTIONS

Walls to Workstations Ltd

Casement House, Baldonnell Business Park, Baldonnell, Dublin. 22

T +(353 1) 6420050 , F: +(353 1) 6420055

E: info@w2w.ie , W: www.w2w.ie