

PRESS RELEASE

CUBE_S
Smart in Space

Bene's new CUBE_S workstation programme is an intelligent answer to new work cultures. Thanks to modular components, workstations and storage can be combined in multiple ways within an open-plan office. At the fore are the efficient use of space, flexibility and comfort for employees.



Design: Christian Horner

Change remains one of the most important constants in our modern knowledge-based society. New tasks mean changes not only in workflows, but also in the requirements placed on space efficiency, time management and organisational synergy within a company. One option for satisfying all of these parameters is the open-plan office. *“Open office landscapes have several advantages”,* explains Viennese designer Christian Horner. *“However, classic workplaces and storage furniture do not have an adequate response to the requirements of Smart Working. Solutions are often improvised and adapted on a makeshift basis.”*

Bene's new CUBE_S programme offers an alternative that is both functional and aesthetic. It was developed solely for the requirements in open space, to condense the space needed for people and office materials into a formally minimalist, homogeneous unit. CUBE_S is a modular workstation unit, an efficient and comfort-enhancing combination of storage space and workstation that can be integrated into compact layouts. Usability from both sides and flexible connection options are foremost: The special feature enabling the storage area to be connected on the sides means not only that comfort is maximised, it also gives users the necessary freedom to organise their workplace individually.

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Storage with additional facilities

“The advantage of CUBE_S is that the storage space fulfils several functions at the same time”, explains designer Christian Horner. *“It’s a cabinet, shelf, storage unit and room divider all at once. Viewed from this perspective, CUBE_S is storage furniture for a new generation, providing screening elements and privacy at the same time.”* Integrated compartments and docking options for charging devices within the employee’s reach provides the necessary infrastructure at the workplace. A cable compartment with add-on outlets in the cabinet further promotes organisation. The overall structure allows cabling of the complete configuration with just one power and network connection for several workstations.

Along with the usual storage, CUBE_S consists of variably combinable desk modules, partitioning elements and pinboards. The design is pure and simple. The wealth of details offered by CUBE_S is clear at the first glance: a slim, timelessly elegant profile plus carefully designed shadow gaps make CUBE_S seem light despite its volume. A specially developed colour system that is oriented toward the entire setting instead of just the individual furnishings makes individualisation easy. Along with basic colours in melamine, different decors, veneer surfaces, fabrics, and clear and satinato glass are also available. The handles are made of anodised aluminium.

Like working in a cockpit

The cabinet modules are available in six different heights – from the lowest design at desk height, to lectern height, to complete visual shielding at an element height of 172 centimetres. This enables you to achieve the desired degree of screening without limiting the transparency of the Open Space. While people who stand or walk by still see an open office and its associated advantages of visual communication, there is a protected atmosphere around the workplace that facilitates concentration on what is essential. It’s like sitting in a cockpit. Depending on preferences and the need for communication, storage furniture can also be configured with openings and views. This allows individualised adjustment of transparency to nearby neighbours.

Thanks to its modular layout options, CUBE_S offers a diversified range of applications and can take into account different, individual workstation organisation. Space is optimally structured without having to interfere with the office building’s structure. *“CUBE_S is an architectonically effective element that is also ready for large open spaces”,* says Horner. *“The furniture isn’t just oriented towards existing walls and partitioning elements; it provides the structure itself and can be arranged freely and flexibly within the space.”*

The ideal layout is based on the activities of the employee, because different types of knowledge workers have different needs and requirements for their working environment. CUBE_S can be combined in two different typologies:

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CUBE_S layouts:

Bridge



In the bridge configuration, the modular cabinets create a border to the corridor and adjacent workstations. The continuation of the desk top into the open shelf of the storage element creates additional protected individual work areas and private storage surfaces. This arrangement, which recalls a cockpit, satisfies the demand for privacy and acoustic screening. Telephone calls can be made with relatively little disruption. Drawers instead of pedestals create leg space under the entire desk top. Optional mounted shelves provide additional surfaces that are directly accessible.

Spine



The term spine refers to the linear positioning of the cabinet module. Various workplaces can be docked in as if connected to a backbone. The entire volume of the cabinet module can be used throughout the entire length as storage. Furthermore, this arrangement offers visual shielding and privacy from the corridor or façade. The individual workstations can be arranged in a linear, face-to-face or back-to-back pattern, depending on how the light enters the space and the communication requirements. Depending on the arrangement, this multipliable layout is well suited to either the concentrated, stationary activities of Anchors, or is an ideal refuge for Connectors and Gatherers who are often underway. It provides an easily accessible workplace with wide communicative possibilities.

Efficiency for one, freedom for the other

Thanks to its modular construction, CUBE_S can be adapted easily to different local conditions – from an angular pre-war building to a support-free open-plan office in a new building. With its cost-conscious spatial and functional synergy effects, CUBE_S contributes to increasing the density of stationary workstations whilst preserving quality for employees. *“The reason this furniture saves so much floorspace is because it overlaps work surfaces and storage space”,* says Christian Horner. *“This means that CUBE_S is perfect for all office floor plans including companies that are forced to deal with their available space in an efficient way.”*

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This compaction of workstations frees up office space that can be used for alternative work situations, such as We-Places that offer increased levels of communication. In combination with other furniture lines such as PARCS or DOCKLANDS, CUBE_S contributes to the idea of Smart Working. Or, as designer Christian Horner puts it: *“Work has undergone a profound transformation in recent years, and different activity profiles have emerged. Even with a variety of working methods and workplace typologies, however, the classic workplace will never completely disappear. CUBE_S is a modern response to new modes of work in Open Space.”*

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