

Workplaces

MARCH 2016 | THE LATEST IDEAS, PRODUCTS AND PLACES • \$9

[WORKPLACE RESEARCH SPECIAL]

Steelcase's Giant Study - Engagement and the Global Workplace
Collaboration works at Gensler's LA Hub / The Backlash Against
Collaboration / Flos and Designing the Collaborative Workplace /
How is Furniture Designed to Help Work? / It's a Job, It's a Class,
It's Collaboration / Meet the Master of Workplace Joy / Home
Offices are not Defined by a Single Room / Unpredictability in the
Office Causes Stress / The Latest Workplace Products
And Much More...



Workplaces

BoF Workplaces 

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everything that is happening in the industry. From
trends that affect your bottom line, to new products
that will help your customers work better, to stories that
will help you run a better, more informed company.

ROB KIRKBRIDE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**PRIDE
IN YOUR
WORK!**

by Jamie Cosley

WE ALL HAVE THAT ONE CO-WORKER THAT SURPRISES
EVERYONE AND OUT PERFORMS THE REST OF THE OFFICE.

WHEN IT COMES TO REACHING THE FOOD TRUCK FIRST!!



**18**

Gensler is a huge company with 5,000 people working in 46 offices in 16 countries.

5. WPM CARTOON

13. SNAPSHOT

Engagement and the Global Workplace - Research from Steelcase

18. COLLABORATION WORKS AT GENSLER'S LA HUB

Gensler is a huge company with 5,000 people working in 46 offices in 16 countries. But it is important the workforce stays connected, especially in those local offices. That's why Gensler chose to relocate to what is called the Jewel Box, a glass building found in the center of the City National Plaza. City National Plaza is a twin tower skyscraper complex — originally built for Bank of America.

34. STEELCASE ISSUES MASSIVE WORKPLACE TREND REPORT

Steelcase found that one in three workers are disengaged in the office and 37 percent of those are highly disengaged. It is an office epidemic that is sapping productivity and happiness in the office, according to the report, "Engagement and the Global Workplace."

52. THE BACKLASH [AGAINST COLLABORATION]

Typically, it is assumed collaboration leads to better intrapersonal work relationships, better culture and perhaps more innovation from one person's idea sparking another's.

52

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60. FLOS AND DESIGNING THE COLLABORATIVE WORKPLACE

Walking through the door at FLOS, you are immediately greeted with a light and open space. You see the company's logo illuminated by an orange glowing light. Inside, the mood is calm and welcoming. An animated black line drawing travels across the white walls from floor to ceiling. There is a sense that interesting and creative things happen here. You start to think that FLOS is the kind of place where you would want to work.

70. HOW IS FURNITURE DESIGNED TO HELP WORK? READ THIS.

"We look for designers that have some of the same attributes as ourselves — curious, passionate, explor-

ing new materials and processes, understanding what new technologies will mean for work, willing to take risk and try the new but also able to see the brand language and are open for real collaboration with our team."

80. IT'S A JOB, IT'S A CLASS, IT'S COLLABORATION

Galvanize is a network of communities that bring together company founders, students and folks looking to level up their career.

86. MEET THE MASTER OF WORKPLACE JOY

Joy is not some shameless mantra or even a clever marketing technique.

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**80**

Galvanize is a network of communities that bring together company founders, students and folks looking to level up their career.

90. HOME OFFICES ARE NOT DEFINED BY A SINGLE ROOM

Even in residential, the space dedicated for traditional work tasks is now much more integrated: “Activity-based planning” is invading the home, too.

94. PRODUCT MATTERS

A selection of easily attainable products that caught our attention this month.

104. UNPREDICTABILITY IN THE OFFICE CAUSES STRESS

Office workers and people working in engineering and academia reported unpredictability (26 percent) causes the highest level of stress.

106. WORKPLACE DESIGN: WHERE CREATIVITY AND BUSINESS DRIVERS COLLIDE

Take a look inside our process of designing your office. Spoiler alert: there’s a lot more to it than design.

108. TED MOUDIS ASSOCIATES RELEASES 2016 WORKPLACE REPORT

The report encompasses more than 2.5 million square feet of workspace built over the past two years — including data from workplaces across four sectors throughout the U.S.

114. ENDMATTER

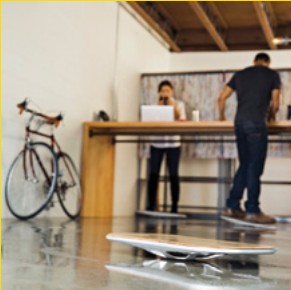
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ProductMatter

A selection of easily attainable products that caught our attention this month.



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NIGHTINGALE IC2 CHAIR

There are very few office chairs that cause office envy — a seat so comfortable and cool that your workplace neighbors end up coveting your chair. Some look cool, but a few hours working in them, and your sore butt overrides the eyeball test. Others feel good to work from, but they are so ugly you are embarrassed to pull them up to your desk. Nightingale's iC2 Chair makes you feel good and look good, a rare combination.

Sure, you can pick up a mesh work chair from a big box retailer that prom-



Nightingale

Nightingale iC2 Chair

Amazon \$799





Have a product you want us to review, or would like to see reviewed? *Let us know!*

Email:

reviews@bellow.press

ises comfort, but rarely delivers, for a few hundred bucks. But if you work at a desk for long stretches and don't want to skimp on quality, design or comfort, there are products like the Nightingale iC2 that will serve you for the long haul — literally.

The Canadian company is known for relentlessly testing its products to make sure they last. The iC2 also proves Nightingale can make a chair that is beautiful as well. Like a good automobile, the Nightingale iC2 has all the features you'd want, from a polished aluminum base, to soft leather to a headrest that supports you when you want to kick back in the office. Pick one up from a number of online retailers, including amazon.com for about \$799.

BAI BUBBLES SPARKLING BEVERAGE

My grandfather used to faithfully wake up early so he could fill his Stanley thermos with strong, black coffee. Sure, coffee has come a long way since he sipped on Taster's Choice from the plastic cup that screwed onto the top of his thermos. But for office dwellers who want to move away from the highly caffeinated cups of joe that can cause energy to spike and dwindle, there are other healthy options.

Bai Bubbles gives those with a thirst the best of both worlds: A small jolt of caffeine (about the same as a cup of green tea) and good stuff like 15 milligrams of vitamin C. The drink has five calories, 1 gram of sugar per can and uses no artificial sweeteners. The drink is Kosher, gluten free, non-GMO and has no artificial colors or preservatives.

The drinks, which come in a variety pack that includes the ridiculously named Bolivia Black Cherry, Jamaica Blood Orange, Peru Pineapple and Gimbi Pink Grapefruit, taste pretty good, but not great. The cherry and pineapple are quite tasty with a refreshing, natural flavor. Bai falls short when it comes to its citrus flavors. The blood orange and grapefruit are simply too overpowering. Though I enjoy grapefruit juice and flavor, I find Bai's grapefruit reminds me of the peel, not the fruit on the inside. They aren't cheap either. A Bai Bubbles 12-pack costs about \$18 at a variety of online retailers or nearly \$2 a can in stores.



Bai
Bubbles Sparkling
Beverage

Street \$2





FLUIDSTANCE LEVEL

I remember the first car I purchased with heated seats that came standard. “What a dumb idea,” I said. I dismissed my heated seats as an unnecessary farkle, a frippery used to market cars but not valuable as part of the driving experience. I felt that way until the first cold snap of the season when I flipped the switch, and my seat magically warmed.

I remember feeling the same about the Fluidstance Level — a balance board designed to promote movement while using a sit-stand desk. It seemed like a novelty rather than an office necessity. That is until I actually used one. The Fluidstance Level is one of the most important office accessories on the market for several reasons. It actually does promote movement when standing, and it also prompts the user to want to stand more during the day. It is one of the few office products that is actually fun to use.

It is a simple product — a board of bamboo or maple about the shape of a skateboard and just slightly larger than a deck of cards with a metal framework underneath that comes to a peak on which the user balances. It is easy to use and takes just a few minutes to find a comfortable position on it while standing. After a few days use, I actually felt the impact of the Level on my legs. Most importantly, it gets me to want to use my height adjustable desk. Trust me: A few minutes on a Fluidstance Level, and you will understand why this product belongs under every sit-stand desk sold. Available from fluidstance.com starting at \$289.



Fluidstance

Level

Street \$289





STM LINEAR BAG

Who likes dragging around more than necessary when heading to work? The STM Linear Bag is a great option for those who want to keep their iPads safe and secure without the extra “baggage” that comes with trying to store your tablet in a bag designed for a laptop. It’s also great option for those who like to travel light, but still have the additional functions found in a larger case.

The STM Linear Bag is tough as nails and can take a pounding while protecting your iPad. I’ve used mine on hundreds of commutes and dozens of flights, and it still looks like new. The strap is easily adjustable and beyond the iPad, which slips easily into the case, the bag also holds a small book or folded magazine, plane ticket and a few pens and business cards. It is nicely designed. Founded in 1998 just outside Sydney, Australia, in the famous suburb of Bondi Beach, STM tries to do just one thing: come up with a more comfortable, secure and stylish means of transporting your digital gear. The company makes a variety of laptop bags, packs, fitted tablet and phone cases.

If anything, I wish my STM Linear Bag was slightly larger — somewhere between a laptop case and an iPad sleeve. I find myself stuffing my keyboard into the bag with little room to spare. For the macho-conscious man, the STM Linear might be a bit dainty for your liking. My wife has teased me about my man purse on occasion. Available at stmbags.com for \$54.95.



STM
Linear Bag
Street \$NA
👍👍👍👍



TRAVALO LIMITED TRAVEL SIZED REFILLABLE PERFUME SPRAY DISPENSER



The use of perfume and cologne at work is a controversial subject that we won't debate here, but for those who want to keep their scent fresh without lugging around the 15-pound glass bottle they tend to come in, the Travalo spray dispenser is a fairly good option. Simply pull the spray head off your perfume bottle and insert the stem into the Travalo bottle. Push it down as if spraying the perfume, and it fills the small vial. The small bottle, which is diminutive enough to carry onto a flight under TSA liquid rules, has a spray head and cap that keeps the perfume in place — mostly.

The Travalo is an ingenious little device, but doesn't seem built to last for long. So far, the Travalo tested for this report hasn't leaked, but other reviewers report problems with the plastic vial and stopper that holds the liquid in place. The spray head itself provides more of a squirt than a fine mist spray.

The size is perfect, holding .17 ounces of perfume, just enough for a long trip or to keep in the drawer of your desk. If it were a bit more robustly built, the Travalo spray dispenser would be perfect. Available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for \$9. [3.3½](#)

ProductMatter | **FUN PRODUCT OF THE MONTH**

KITCHEN SINK DESIGN PAPER CLIP HOLDER

Why buy the Kitchen Sink Design Paper Clip Holder when paper clips are perfectly accessible from the flimsy box that they came in? Because the box doesn't give the impression of paper clips cascading from the faucet like water. Some might rightfully question the need for a paper clip holder in the shape of a lilliputian sink.

Let's face it, we can all use a little fun at work. The Kitchen Sink Design Paper Clip Holder is a novelty, to be sure. Unfortunately, the need for paper clips seems to be waning. I find the Kitchen Sink Paper Clip Holder is more sculptural than practical. Still, it's a fun little product to have on your desk (and a must for plumbers and plumbing fixture companies). It's \$6.99 at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

