



Herman Miller's Intersect™ Portfolio: Frequently Asked Questions

What is Intersect?

The Intersect portfolio is a concise offering of flexible, freestanding products designed specifically to help people work together and exchange ideas more effectively. It is intended for use outside workstations, in shared spaces where more work is being done.

Is Herman Miller shifting its focus from office systems and workstations to freestanding products?

No, it's more of a sharing of focus. People will always need the right workstation tools when involved with solitary tasks, but an interesting new trend is developing in the workplace. Research shows that a higher proportion of square footage is being allocated to multipurpose group spaces where people can work together. However, collaborative efforts can be impeded by work tools and environments designed mainly to support individual tasks and work processes. In other words, effective collaboration requires the right furniture.

Why is the office furniture industry suddenly emphasizing collaborative workspaces?

Actually, this trend has been developing for some time now. In order to enhance innovation, communication, and productivity, many organizations are implementing work processes where employees must collaborate and interact. Yet in the current market, customers often have to select from multiple product lines to furnish group areas. These products lack design consistency and aren't made to work together or integrate with other products.

How does the Intersect portfolio address this issue?

Intersect meets the need in the marketplace for a collection of mobile, freestanding furniture products created to work together as well as integrate with other products. Until now, collaborative products usually have been specialized, supporting only certain kinds of group work. Few of these existing lines have been able to support a wide variety of interactive work processes. By offering a complete, cohesive solution for the changing office landscape, Herman Miller continues its longstanding commitment to serve all of its customers' product needs.

What products are included in the Intersect portfolio?

Intersect elements are divided into four distinct categories:

- **Display:** Products that allow note-taking as well as the display of ideas and information;
- **Tables:** Several table types in different sizes and shapes with different capabilities;
- **Seating:** Stacking and lounge seating designed for flexibility, comfort, and efficiency;
- **Boundary:** Including four- or six-panel telescoping screens to divide space, create standing privacy, and to add vertical work space.

The Intersect portfolio primarily consists of new designs, although a few familiar Herman Miller products, notably Caper™ chairs and Kiva® collection telescoping screens, also are offered as part of the line.

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**Who designed the products included in the Intersect portfolio?**

Mark Goetz designed the Idea Exchange Center; Jeff Weber designed the Mobile Easel and Foldaway Tables, as well as Caper chairs; Kyle Swen and Danny Peter created the Work Island; the Kotatsu Work Table was designed by Ayako Takase and Cutter Hutton; David Pessa created Celeste Lounge Seating; and the telescoping screens were designed by Eric Chan.

Where and why do people typically collaborate?

Generally speaking workers collaborate almost anywhere, from large conference rooms and reception areas to break rooms and even the coffee shop up the street. Spontaneous, informal meetings often “break out” in open areas between workstations. Reasons run the gamut from initiating a quick brainstorming session to updating a coworker on new project developments. The exchange of ideas may be unplanned, yet these spur-of-the-moment encounters often lead to inspired breakthroughs in knowledge and strategy.

Where and how does Intersect support a collaborative work environment?

Generally, Intersect is used in open areas in close proximity to individual workstations. This allows organizations to put that square footage to work as effective meeting spaces. But Intersect also can be used in a number of other ways to support the many ways people collaborate—not only in offices, but also in hospitals, schools, hotels, and other facilities.

Is it necessary to purchase the complete Intersect portfolio to reap its full benefits?

No. Each Intersect element is freestanding and has its own functions to support particular aspects of collaborative work. However, Intersect components are most valuable when used together. They integrate with systems furniture, without being an extension of any one system. There’s a consistent selection of colors and surface materials for all products in the offering.

It’s also important to note that the Intersect product line will adapt over time to evolving uses and future trends.

Last but not least, the products are competitively priced and cost effective, and perhaps most importantly, they are made with Herman Miller quality.