



Herman Miller Introduces Formwork™ modular desktop storage.



Designed for Herman Miller by Sam Hecht and Kim Colin, Formwork modular desk accessories help people bring order to their papers, tools, and artefacts. The new release extends Herman Miller's offering beyond furniture into complementary tools and accessories that serve individual needs and preferences, enhancing both home and work life. Formwork's shapes and sizes were rigorously considered to relate an intuitive sense of utility – it can be stacked and combined in any way the user sees fit. In varying permutations it allows some items to be kept out of view, while others remain within reach. The simple yet sophisticated forms, material production, and colour palette indicate a level of thoughtfulness rarely brought to desktop goods.

Formwork is made from ABS Plastic with a non-slip Silicone Base. The collection pieces include Pencil, Small and Large Trays, Small and Large Boxes, Tissue Box, Media Stand, and Paper Tray. As the forms are pluralistic and stackable, their range of use is far broader than in the office. Formwork can be used in the home, the workshop and many other places too.



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Background

Formwork was first commissioned in 2012 as an affirmation that the things we have around us are now a mixture of the analogue and the digital. Hecht and Colin approached the project by examining the items that were populating our lives and our desks, rather than where these items were found. Most research and documentation in these areas are photographs from a distance which merely present visual complexity and disorder. By looking more closely at the actual items on the desk themselves, it became clear that the modern desk is an amalgamation not just the office, but also the kitchen, the workshop and the bathroom. Not only were there stationary items, but fruit, sugar packets, spoons and mugs; tissue boxes, ear buds and plasters; tapes, glues and staplers.

Because of the sheer breadth of these items to be stored and used, the simplest of forms – the box – was chosen. The box sizes relate to the dimensions of these commonly found items. For instance pen cups share the same diameter as the internal roll of masking tape; boxes share the same size as tissue boxes; and paper trays share the sizes of assorted papers and magazines. Hecht and Colin promoted the idea of a collection of simple boxes that could be arranged horizontally or stacked vertically – each accessory multi-dimensional in where they could be used and what they could contain, allowing for a hierarchy of usefulness. Several of the accessories have cantilevered surfaces that act as a tray to help with this type of hierarchical organization – instead of digging for a USB stick, it can stay at a higher level.

About Herman Miller

Herman Miller's inspiring designs, inventive technologies and strategic services help people do great things and organisations to perform at their best. The company's award-winning products and services generated approximately \$1.8 billion in revenue in fiscal 2013. A past recipient of the Smithsonian Institution's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Award, Herman Miller designs can be found in the permanent collections of museums worldwide. Innovative business practices and a commitment to social responsibility have also helped establish Herman Miller as a recognised global leader. In 2012, Herman Miller again received the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's top rating in its annual Corporate Equality Index and was named among the 50 Best U.S. Manufacturers by Industry Week. Herman Miller is included in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index and trades on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol MLHR.