

# OFFICE SHELL

an **innovative workstation**  
for open-plan offices



**dizzconcept**

[www.dizzconcept.com](http://www.dizzconcept.com)



**lead designer** Darko Špiljarić

**development team** Zrinka Nedeljković  
Tvrko Kapetanović  
Dražen Rozmajer  
Alenka Kostanjević - Špiljarić  
Dea Špiljarić

The **Office Shell** is an innovative workstation concept which allows users to focus while keeping the advantages of the open-plan office.

A system of **sliding doors** allows for both easy integration and separation to and from the rest of the office environment.

The Office Shell creates a **work microenvironment**, enabling privacy, sound damping and temperature control, as well as offering an assortment of furniture and electronic equipment depending on the individual needs of the workplace.

It also provides the user an additional layer of **protection** against various **bacterial and viral infections**.





The Office Shell provides additional **protection** against **viruses and bacteria**,

and helps to **reduce stress** in a **green environment**.

A study by Bernstein & Turban (2018) concluded that, contrary to popular belief, the amount of face-to-face interaction decreased by 70% in open space offices. The researchers found that the lack of spatial boundaries in open space offices tends to make people socially withdraw from officemates instead of encouraging face-to-face collaboration.

Research from Ipsos and the Workspace Futures Team of Steelcase (2014) carried out on a sample of 10,000 employees from Europe, North America and Asia has shown that 85% of employees are having difficulties focusing in such work environment.

Approximately 95% claimed that they consider privacy in the workplace important for their ability to focus, yet only 41% claimed they had managed to achieve that privacy. According to the same study, a typical employee loses about 86 min daily due to interruptions that come with working in close proximity to a large number of other people and no possibility of privacy. Employees in this situation are exposed to higher levels of stress and aren't as motivated which companies are paying a high cost for, and are therefore searching for solutions.



The concept of Office Shell was recognized by the Leap in Time Institute - a research center at the Technische Universität Darmstadt. Headed by Prof. Dr. Ruth Stock-Homburg, this institute focuses their research on exploring the future of work.

Among other things, they research innovative new office furniture solutions and organizes an exhibition called "Five Working Worlds" at the world's leading Office Furniture fair, Orgatec 2020 which will be held in October in Koln. The Office Shell was selected to be exhibited as a part of one of the aforementioned topics - "Smart Living & Working".

The following will demonstrate how Office Shell fits each of the seven Comfurnacy criteria under which office furniture is evaluated.



## Futurability

Despite the downsides, it remains clear that the number of open plan offices will continue to be the go-to solution for workspace arrangements. Due to urban real estate prices rising, maximizing the use of the minimal amount of space will become even more relevant. Therefore, solutions that allow privacy without leaving the primary workplace while using minimal space and natural resources will become increasingly sought-after in the future.

OFFICE SHELL offers just that – a workspace concept that occupies little space and enables unobstructed working in open space offices. Office Shell enables the employees to achieve the right balance between working in privacy and working together which, Workspace Futures Team of researchers claim, is critical for any organization. It allows greater control of when they want to collaborate and work in private.



## Functionality / usability

OFFICE SHELL is suitable for use in new or existing offices and it can be combined with conventional office furniture. Assembling or disassembling a unit takes less than 20 minutes. Therefore it is suitable for short-term rentals - for project purposes or the like. Time-sharing is possible within a larger company or in co-working buildings. With the help of appropriate software, reservations are made, and the members of the co-operative team are made aware of the time during which the employee wishes not to be interrupted..





## Inovativeness

Taking up less than 4 m<sup>2</sup> , it is the perfect solution for areas where it is not possible or practical to provide individual offices to each employee.

Designed so that employees don't have to leave their primary workspace to obtain privacy, Office Shell allows for more flexibility than a typical booth system that completely isolates the employee from their environment.

The advantages of being close to their co-workers are available at any time, but when privacy and quiet are required, they are available by simply operating the sliding barrier system.



## Customer excitement

The resulting employee satisfaction can be a deciding factor when choosing one's employer.

According to a study titled the Global Impact of Biophilic Design in the Workplace (2015) biophilic design patterns such natural materials, colors of the nature and having plants in the workspace have an impact on employees health and well-being by offering them contact with nature.



## Sustainability

The Office Shell concept was designed with sustainability and the principles of biophilic design in mind. Only natural, minimally processed and above all, recyclable materials are used.

It's ability to provide privacy and isolation required for an employee's ability to do focused work eliminates the need to design buildings with one-person offices that take up a lot of space. This will, in turn, lead to significant savings of resources related to large spaces, leaving additional space for green surfaces on the plots used for office buildings. A smaller volume also results in less energy spent on heating and air conditioning.



## Recreation / life balance

Companies are starting to recognize that in order for an individual to reach maximum potential, they have to achieve a healthy work-private life balance.

As the lines between work and home life are blurring, the trend of creating workspaces that are a home-away-from-home has emerged. Employers are realising the importance of inviting and comfortable spaces within the office. Office Shell offers a „Refuge“ , which is recognized as one of the aforementioned biophilic design patterns.

It refers to a place where an individual can „withdraw from environmental conditions or the main flow of activity“. Refuge conditions offer improved concentration, attention and perception of safety, as well as reduce fatigue. (Grahn & Stigsdotter, 2010; Wang & Taylor, 2006; Petherick, 2000; Ulrich et al., 1993).

Working in inadequate office arrangements reduces the efficiency of employees and often leads to non-fulfillment of planned obligations within regular working hours. That often leads to working overtime or having to continue work at home, which takes away time from their private life. OFFICE SHELL helps reduce the time required to complete the task and therefore has a beneficial effect on the quality of the individual`s private life.



## Technical integration

The OFFICE SHELL is an ideal platform for integration of modern technical solutions. The basic model allows for individual adjustments of the work environment.

A common problem in office spaces at large is the inability to set the temperature so it satisfies every employee. In its closed state, Office Shell makes it possible to fine-tune the ambient temperature ( $\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) based on the employee's individual needs; adjustment can be done by utilizing miniature heaters and ice-pack equipped fans.

Light intensity and colour can be adjusted individually inside each shell to meet the employee's current requirements.

