Activity Spaces
The workplace has become more social

Knoll research shows that despite the fact that people can work almost anywhere, they choose to come to the office to connect face-to-face with coworkers and engage in both planned and serendipitous collaboration. A more social and interconnected office is a strategic tool for attracting and retaining the best talent.

Every place is a work place.

Driven by the pursuit of innovation and efficiency, enabled by technology and expected by a new generation, the office has become more collaborative. Work takes place anywhere and everywhere.

Ubiquitous technology enables distributed work outside the primary workspace, whether in a meeting room, café, offsite or even outdoors. With people spending on average half of their working hours away from their individual workspace, organizations are increasing the amount and variety of unassigned activity spaces made available to everyone for both planned and spontaneous interaction. Activity spaces create visual interest and provide opportunity for an organization to express its brand and culture. Weaving them throughout the floorplan allows people to shape their work experience throughout the day to suit their needs and desires.
A variety of spaces for a variety of work

Office planning has evolved to integrate more collaborative workstyles both in primary workspaces and in complementary activity spaces. Activity spaces are “go to” spaces accessible to everyone for everything from focused, individual and small group work to large community gatherings. While there is a spectrum of needs—from casual to formal, impromptu to planned, open to enclosed—research confirms the importance of distinct choices for each type of interaction.

Knoll offers numerous solutions for appropriately scaled activity spaces, offering refuge for one or two, enclave for three or four and team meeting spaces for four to eight. Larger assembly spaces support training and conference activity; and community spaces enable spontaneous and social interaction.

Primary workspaces are often assigned to individuals and optimized for focus, shared or team work. Activity spaces are available to individuals and groups for focus, shared or team work, assembly and social, community activities.
Activity Spaces

- Primary Workspaces
- Refuge (1–2) focus
- Enclave (3–4) share
- Team Meeting (4–8) team
- Assembly (10+) training, conference
- Community (unlimited) social
Refuge
“Get away” space for 1–2 people

Refuge is a small space (about 50 sq ft) that enables focused or confidential work by one or two people. A refuge may be an enclosed room with a video display, wall mounted whiteboard surface and adaptable furniture. A refuge may also be an open area with furniture boundaries or enough space separation for a sense of privacy.

One of the most important elements of successful activity spaces is privacy, which may be provided by walls and a door, by storage or furniture screens, by space separation or even by a set of headphones.

Clockwise, from left: D’Urso swivel chair and low table with Interpole display; Womb chair and ottoman with FilzFelt Pig floor mat; Antenna Workspaces desk with Sapper™ monitor arm and ReGeneration by Knoll® work chair; MultiGeneration stacking chair and Propeller® half round table with Sapper monitor arm.
Enclave

“Get together” spaces for groups of 3–4 people

Enclave spaces are small open or enclosed spaces (about 100 sq ft) available for collaborative seclusion by a group of three or four people. Enclaves are usually equipped with a desk height or lower table, whiteboards and a video display.

Enclaves are most successful when they combine ready access to technology with furnishings that provide a sense of boundary for shared work.

Knoll research confirms that technology—connectivity, display and adaptability—is the most important attraction of activity spaces that work.

Clockwise, from left: k. lounge inside radius curved bench with back and stools, Dividends Horizon® X base table with round top, Interpole screen and Toboggan pull up table; Antenna Workspaces media enclave with end panel and Sapper monitor arm and MultiGeneration hybrid chairs; ReGeneration work chair, Reff Profiles height adjustable sliding table with soft rectangle top and credenza with cushion, wall mount Sapper monitor arm; Sprite stacking chair and Dividends Horizon X-base table with round top; Pfister lounge chair and Saarinen coffee and side table
Team Meeting

“Breakout” work areas for 4–8 people

Team meeting spaces allow the whole team to come to the table. Typically medium-size work rooms for four to eight people, team meeting spaces may be in the open plan or fully enclosed, with a larger table or clustered tables, mobile and wall mounted whiteboards and flexible seating options. Lounge and standing height tables as an alternative to desk-height tables can lend variety to the team experience, as well.

The most productive team meeting spaces include multiple display surfaces, convenient access to power, a shared screen and substantial enclosure to permit undisturbed collaboration.

Proximity to the primary work area is critical to the success of team meeting and other activity spaces.

Clockwise, from left: Reff Profiles credenza, table with 4x4 legs and bookcase, Moment™ side chair and Scribe™ mobile markerboard; Dividends Horizon conference table and markerboard tile-to-floor panels with Generation work chairs; Intergpole screen, Architecture & Associés sofa and lounge chair, KnollExtra Power Cube, Risom lounge chair and stool.
Assembly

“Planned interaction” for groups of 10 or more

Assembly spaces are dedicated areas for planned interactions and collaborative work. Usually large and enclosed group spaces (400+ sq ft), assembly areas are equipped with multiple display surfaces (tackable, whiteboard and video), credenzas for storage and tables for refreshments.

Conference rooms, sized for groups of ten or more, are typically formal meeting spaces for presentations. Furnishings include a very large, fixed table with power, data and communications.

Training rooms—flexible spaces for multiple activities from education to informal presentations—typically include freely reconfigurable tables and agile chairs.

Lecture spaces, whether enclosed or open, are multi-use spaces equipped with flexible furnishings, accommodating large group presentations as well as social events.

Successful activity spaces are scaled appropriately for the task or activity.

Assembly spaces are sized for large groups, but are not well-suited to smaller meetings.

Clockwise, from left: Multi-Generation stacking chair; Propeller conference table and credenza with Life® chair; Scribe mobile markerboard; Propeller training table and ReGeneration work chair; Propeller training table and credenza; Generation by Knoll work chair and LSM conference table
Community

“Unplanned interaction” areas open to all

Community areas encourage casual, personal connections and participation with the broader organizational culture. Commons and cafés are large, multipurpose spaces for social events or unplanned interactions. And on a smaller scale, ad hoc spaces such as informal seating areas with small tables, lounge furniture groupings and standing height counters with stools welcome a similar sense of spontaneous, flexible use.

Access to wireless networks and food and drink draw people into community spaces, along with open sight lines and access to natural light.

A casual feel attracts users to community spaces and other activity spaces.

Clockwise, from left: MultiGeneration stacking chair with Dividends Horizon X base table with round and rounded square tops; Anchor locker, k. lounge and Toboggan bench; Reff Profiles standing height L-leg table, Gigi barstool; 1966 Dining table and armless chair, Olivares Aluminum counter-height chair, Interpole display; Antenna Workspaces table, Sprite chair, Stromborg table, Spark chair.
Activity Spaces

Activity spaces are “go to” spaces accessible to everyone for everything from focused, individual and small group work, to large community gatherings. Knoll offers numerous solutions for appropriately scaled activity spaces, offering refuge for one or two, enclaves for three or four, team meeting spaces for four to eight people, and larger assembly and community spaces. All improve workplace efficiency and productivity, encourage collaboration and provide organizations the opportunity to express their culture and brand.

Today’s office contains individual primary workspaces and non-assigned activity spaces that are held in common and occupied as needed. Together they create a total work environment that supports both individual work and group interactions, offering employees choice and control over their work setting.

Knoll research has shown that technology, proximity and privacy are the most important attributes that draw people to activity spaces, followed by appropriate size and casual feel. The mix of these characteristics is critical to successful collaborative spaces.