

MANIFESTO

THE TREASURE OF FEELING SAFE IN ONE'S WORKSPACE.

The ultimate goal of every living creature is survival. As humans' instincts are no exception, we behave in a way that ensures our survival. This goes hand in hand with striving for security.

Imagine you enter a new place, such as a restaurant, and you can choose a seat.

Which one would you select?

Due to humans' evolutionary behaviour, even people from the Stone Age would have made the same choice: The seat with the back to the wall, giving an overview of the whole place. This behaviour derives from the fact that us humans cannot see what is happening behind us. Our field of vision is only 180°, which concludes that the back is the most vulnerable part of the body.

Therefore, we want to realize a focused and safe space for working in public. These four principles are the foundation for a safe and enriching workplace:

BACK SHELTER

Concentrating in public becomes easier when we have a wall behind our back. Since we become nervous, when we see movement out of the corner of our eyes, having a structure surrounding us from behind and both sides avoids this.

DIRECTING PEOPLE'S ATTENTION

Being in public means being seen by people. We can direct their attention by using the materials wisely. They will not focus on the person working when they get distracted by the workspace itself.

OPEN PARTS

Public space can promote our work. The great diversity of the environment, from busy streets to quiet nature is a huge advantage. Therefore, the front and the top of the workspace must be open. Light enters the workspace, and also prevents feeling enclosed or loosing orientation. Even encounters are possible but feel much safer, as people have to approach from the front.

PORTABLE

Working in the public sector gives us great freedom, as we can work anywhere. The workspace has to be mobile and light. That gives us the possibility to spontaneously change the location.

This is a call to consider our evolutionary behaviour when designing a workspace. We increase our productivity by creating a workplace that allows our brains to focus less on our safety and more on the work we are doing.

Let's create the treasure of a safe workplace!