

Köln Bon

We really shouldn't complain about fatigue or feeling 'a bit broken' after being in Cologne for three days - especially when we've just heard all about TTSP's Beatriz Gonzales and MCM's Laura Bellamy's amazing Kilimanjaro experience. On the other hand, Beatriz and Laura probably weren't in a slightly dodgy kebab restaurant at 5am having drunk their own bodyweight of Kölsch! It's not the halls and the stands that get you at Orgatec - it's the burning the candle and both ends.



Humanscale

Whilst almost everyone commented on how much smaller Orgatec 2014 was than previous editions, official figures from the show reveal that there were actually more exhibitors this year than there were in 2012 - albeit an extremely small increase. There were still five cavernous halls to work your way through, with the 2014 show covering exactly the same area as in 2012. In other words folks, this year's Orgatec was not, as many people suggested, smaller.

And here are a few more interesting (relatively!) facts about this year's event: With more than 50,000 visitors from more than 120 countries - including estimates for the final day of the fair - ORGATEC 2014 indicated a slight increase in visitor figures on 2012. This is due to the growth in international visitors

(up 7%). The trade fair recorded a significant, double-digit increase above all in visitors from the Middle East, North America, North and South Africa and China. Visitor figures from within Europe were also up, particularly visitors from Turkey, Italy and Spain. The 624 suppliers from 41 countries with 66% of those from abroad underlined ORGATEC's international importance.

ORGATEC 2014 hosted 624 companies from 41 countries (2012: 622 companies from 35 countries) on 105,000 sq m (2012: 105,000 sq m) of exhibition space. Of the 624 companies present, 207 exhibitors and five additionally represented companies (2012: 225 companies and 31 additionally represented companies) were German and 409 exhibitors and three additionally represented companies

(2012: 359 companies and seven additionally represented companies) came from abroad, meaning 66% of the exhibitors (2012: 59%) were international companies.

Then we come the elephants (not) in the room - in other words the furniture 'big boys' who were conspicuous by their absence. From a visitor perspective, we would of course rather have the likes of Bene, Kusch, Herman Miller, Steelcase, Knoll et al on board - and it is true that the 2014 show was missing a bit of a Miller mega-launch, but that doesn't mean that there weren't plenty of positives to walk (well, crawl in some cases) away with.

For a start, the modern Orgatec is infinitely easier to navigate. In fact - and we're going to take this as a positive - the majority of the major stands were in the same position within



Hitch Mylius



Deberenn



Thonet



Brunner

▶ the same halls. No need for maps and apps then.

So let's start with our own virtual tour of Orgatec – and concentrate on the brands who were exhibiting in Cologne rather than those who weren't.

The Number 1 destination for most Orgatec visitors is of course Vitra. Once again the company presented an enviable number of new products, including the Grand Executive office armchair by Antonio Citterio, the Super Fold Table by Jasper Morrison and the Alcove Plume Contract sofa.

Following the success in 2011 of the Prouvé RAW crossover project between Vitra and G-Star RAW, the partnership has now continued with the development of a second limited series: the Prouvé Raw Office Edition. This second crossover collection revives a series of furniture and lighting originally designed by Jean Prouvé in the 1940s for the offices of major French industrial companies. Love it.

We also really liked the two new Konstantin Grcic designed products – the innovative Hack system and the funky Allstar chair. For more on these, turn to page 50 for the full Konstantin profile.

So what did the major German players have for us this year? Well, there was certainly no shrinking or shirking from the likes of Brunner, K+N, Interstuhl, Dauphin, Sedus and Wilkhahn.

TANGRAMis5 is Interstuhl's first soiree into soft seating – and mighty impressive it is too, offering an intelligent, innovative and highly efficient solution for office, lounge and waiting areas. The design concept of Swiss designer Andreas Krob goes back to the shape of the square. This is divided into four modules – not at right-angles, but rotated by 15°. This generates asymmetrical seating elements which in turn generate a huge number of surprising combination possibilities. Added to this is a trapezoid stool, a table, also trapezoid, where people can take refreshments and work on their notebooks, and a translucent or acoustic screen. There is also choice of accessories – including, incredibly, cushions that even men will like as they carry power and data! Meanwhile, BUDDYis3 is a smart new visitor and conference chair that also caught our eye.

Wilkhahn showed traditional office chairs, new conference seating or classic folding tables to look at, to touch and (above all) to try

out. By sitting on ON, visitors could play the legendary video and computer game 'PONG', controlling the bat by moving their behinds. Stand-up, the company's new dynamic piece of furniture, invited people to get their backs, legs, behinds and stomach in shape.

Stand-Up is Wilkhahn's innovative new product that brings a fun approach to the serious side of (working) life. When people perch on the one-legged standing-sitting hybrid, Stand-Up gains two more legs and encourages them to swing their hips and let their thoughts take flight. Stand-Up has been designed like a roly-poly toy – even from a vertical, up to a 50° angle and with a gentle push, Stand-Up swings back and rights itself again. In addition to health-driven aspects of dynamic motion, Stand-Up also fosters informal meet-ups, group dynamics and creativity. And it puts a smile on the face.

Another product that definitely rocked was the elegant Justus Kolberg designed Sola conference chair – with its clever rocking motion and good looks.

Under the motto 'The Social Office', K+N revealed a range of new concepts in Cologne. MOVE.ME is a light, flexible and ▶



Vitra



Howe

► versatile furnishing programme for seminar and conference rooms, lecture theatres and canteens. Chairs, workstations, lecterns and screens can be transported easily and stored when not required. The lightweight, steel wire construction gives MOVE.ME a light and elegant look and, of course, facilitates moving it around.

The company's workstation range NET.WORK.PLACE now includes the Phonebox for one or two people. Thanks to its acoustically effective design, occupants can make phone calls in peace without distracting colleagues. One of the new elements in the range is the sofa bench, which offers new combination possibilities and makes the range appear even more 'homely' with armrests, contrasting piped seams and plumper cushions.

Heading down to Hall 8, we find the trio of the Dauphin HumanDesign Group, Sedus and Brunner – and all three stands are mobbed! We particularly like the latest additions to the Martin Ballendat designed Perillo seating collection from DHDG, while Sedus' on spot seating and mastermind table system also impressed.

Speaking of being impressed, we were, as we always seem to be, really taken by Brunner's offering. The company presented more than 40 new products and series extensions, including the novel standing aid dress, the modular lounge system banc and the flexible conference table programme fina flex conference. Our real stand-out (and a possible Best of Show) was the jehs+laub designed ray. This hi-tech cantilever chair features an extremely elegant and strong look and no-little ingenuity. The die-cast aluminium armrests are mounted to the steel frame and the plastic seat shell without any visible connection, and the transition from frame to seat shell is just as seamless.

Palma Kunkel Architecture and Design Office, working in collaboration with Viasit's in-house design team, has created Organic Office, an entirely new soft seating concept, which received its global launch at Orgatec.

Organic Office comprises five elements that can be contained within a space of 3.75 square metres, can be used individually, grouped together in an infinite number of configurations to suit any requirement and moved around at will by the users.

The smaller elements can be used for sitting, as tables or work surfaces, again individually or with other elements. The elements feature soft rounded edges, diagonal seams, state-of-the-art materials and finishes to deliver a real visual impact wherever they are located.

There is even an app that enables architects, designers, specifiers and end users to plan and configure Organic Office individually and, we are told, it will also soon be possible to generate CAD data from the app for interior design purposes.

Wiesner Hager's nooi is a sleek and elegant new multipurpose chair range designed around one shapely shell form. Setting up the chairs in different scenarios is incredibly easy thanks to an ingenious linking design from the neunzig° design studio.

The skill mobile table system, meanwhile, can be effortlessly adapted to rapidly changing communication scenarios. A wide variety of table formats ensures there is always the perfect solution for a broad range of applications – from an O-shape for conferences to a U-shape for seminars and a 'block' for workshops. The range, designed by the incredibly energetic ►



Elite



Ophelis

▶ Andreas Krob, also comprises elegant and stylish conference tables for static meeting rooms.

Look out for profiles of both neunzig° design and Andreas in the very near future.

With basicflow werner works has developed a space-structuring shelf system that creates versatile rooms for contemporary office environments. In addition to providing storage, the basicflow range features straight and curved elements for designing and structuring rooms. The open shelf structure can also be partly closed with sliding blinds made of felt. Cabinets therefore become essential elements of the overall architectural concept.

With cockpit2.0, based on the successful cockpit range, werner works has also developed a modular system that offers contemporary solutions for reception areas. The new system fulfils all the criteria of a functional workplace and in addition makes a high-quality and aesthetic overall impression.

The round counter elements of the cockpit2.0 range feature a solid, curved front panel on the visitor side. When several elements are combined, they create circular segments

that can be partially supplemented with added counter elements. On the user side the counter can be organised individually.

Heading back across the Messe to the only ‘old’ hall still in use here – Hall 10.2 – we know we’ll always find one or two lovely brands. We’re immediately taken by the new Giulio Marelli introductions, designed by Jérôme Gauthier, which include beautifully sleek, light seating creations. We also find a couple of companies who are always worth a visit here in the shape of BuzziSpace, Arper (three brand new products, Kinesit and Catifa Sensit – designed by Lievore Altherr Molina – and the Fattorini+Rizzini+Partners designed Cross table, all impressed) and Walter Knoll. It’s nice to get away from the office for a little while, as it were.

Back in the new boulevard, we find our old friends from Humanscale who, along with Haworth, are flying the Stars and Stripes here in Cologne.

Ideal for the active workspace, Humanscale’s QuickStand desktop sit-stand solution allows users to alternate between sitting and standing postures throughout the day.

QuickStand attaches to the back of any fixed-height work surface, offering the ability for users to integrate sit/stand into their environments without purchasing new furniture. Contributing to a clean aesthetic, it features a sophisticated cable harness that includes a power cord, a DVI cable and two USB cables. This allows you to simply plug in a computer (laptop or desktop) and go. Built with a sturdy design, the QuickStand desktop sit-stand solution does not move as you type.

We have to confess that we were so enthused by this concept (the Humanscale Mojitos might have helped!) that we inadvertently started demoing it to a couple of London designers – much to the amusement of Humanscale’s watching salesguys!

Haworth really showed off their softer side in Cologne. Taking the space left by Bene, across from Vitra, the US giant revealed plenty of European chic with Patricia Urquiola’s Openest, the Harbor Work Lounge and (a particular favourite) Windowseat all turning our heads.

Skipping back across the pond, we turn our attention to those fine businesses flying the ▶



Abstracta



Alea



Interstuhl

► flag for Britain. Bisley showcased an innovative ‘living stand’ at this year’s Orgatec. The strategically edited stand was a microcosm of current and future working trends. In line with this approach Bisley invited all visitors to use its Touchdown Bench to work from and catch up on emails. The fantastic design aesthetic of the stand was slate grey, providing a neutral background to products in white, slate and vibrant mandarin, garnet and mimosa.

The company demonstrated its breadth and range of products, beyond pure storage solutions, through its successful venture into complete furniture solutions with Be by Bisley, as well as the launch of Bisley@Home, which included an innovative and stylish modular furniture system designed predominantly for the home office.

The Senator Group showcased its latest innovative designs on an equally innovative and impressive stand.

Working with PearsonLloyd, the Group has developed two key pieces under its Senator brand. The Ad-Lib Scholar has been designed to perfectly complement educational and training environments. Scholar features an orbital tray, which is larger than the usual laptop size, offering a comfortable and strong work area. An innovative swivel action allows

the tray to be tucked away when not in use. With the option of castors for ease of movement and a plastic back with flexible membrane for comfort, Scholar also features a storage basket in its base that can accommodate bags and laptop cases as well as a useful cup holder. Scholar is available in a static or swivel model to support a variety of working styles.

The new Ad-Lib Work Lounge multi-purpose chair has been developed particularly to facilitate collaborative working. This generous fully upholstered chair, complete with upholstered headrest, is available on glides or castors to suit a multitude of environments. An adjustable fold down worksurface makes it ideal for breakout sessions and group working.

The Group also presented furniture from its Allermuir brand, with new pieces including Sunda tables and the Quincy chair. Sunda 1 is a collection of plectrum shaped tables in different heights and tabletop sizes, which can be layered and clustered to create a unique configuration. Sunda 2 is a range of circular tables, which nestle to provide a multilevel centrepiece, finished in a reformed oak veneer, which can be clear lacquered or stained in a number of vibrant colors.

Quincy can be used as a dining or meeting chair, offering elegant pared down

construction, a seamless shell and solid hardwood legs. Proving that good design can be sustainable, Quincy is made from fully recyclable materials enabling a sound environmental specification.

Orgatec marked the start of an exciting new period for Elite Office Furniture. In addition to the new seating portfolio launched earlier in the year, Goole’s finest showcased newly developed collaborative working booths, Retreat and HangOut.

The booths have been designed to offer aesthetic appeal combined with practical third space collaboration benefits. Both booths are available as single or double stand-alone units, or can be enclosed as a pair incorporating both an integrated media panel and meeting table offering video conferencing facilities for formal meetings. Furthermore, Elite’s lovely ice cream and sweets gave us a much-needed mid-afternoon sugar hit!

Camira elevated its ‘style with substance’ proposition at Orgatec on an impressive stand designed by creative consultant Angela Gidden MBE under the ‘Inspiration with Freedom’ theme.

Reflecting the changing office landscape, the stand featured a preview of the Landscape Collection, the launch of Main Line Flax, and a ►



Wiesner Hager



Allermuir

► celebration of 40 years' textile manufacture and innovation.

The Landscape Collection is influenced by the changing flexible workplace, where modular furniture systems are increasingly used to travel through and define open workspace environments. The collection comprises five ranges designed by Camira's Hayley Barrett – Balance, Chance, Compose, Contact and Synergy – influenced by the contemporary dynamic plaids used in fashion houses and on couture runways.

It was great to see our old muckers from aircharge at the show – their wireless charging solutions allowing our phones to get their own mid-afternoon boost.

Last but by no means least from the UK, it was an extremely pleasant surprise to find Hitch Mylius at the show. The highlight of the company's presence at was the launch of hm78, the 'Shika' work chair, by Milan-based Japanese designer Kazuko Okamoto. The geometric nature of the chair enables interesting and versatile arrangements to be formed for group or individual activities, meetings and seminars. Shika allows mobile working on a very human scale. It is easily manoeuvred and nested into groups or clusters for collaborative working, or used individually for private

work or study. Shika, Japanese for deer, hints at the anthropomorphic stance of this highly functional work chair, displaying Okamoto's characteristically playful approach to furniture design.

Other products on display included Stefan Schöning's hm213 beam seating, Magnus Long's hm106 'quiet bench' for public area seating and a number of Simon Pengelly's ever-popular designs, together with the launch of a compact tub chair hm22.

Of course, we're as happy to promote British design as we are British manufacturing – especially when we're talking to our old mate David Fox, who had a number of new products on show for Turkish manufacturer Deberenn.

Pana is an impressive new seating development. 'We wanted something that was going to be a statement piece, something that would raise the level of the Deberenn brand in the eyes of the A&D community!' David tells us. 'Obviously I'm the designer and highly biased, but I feel that we have achieved this; aesthetically it has a feel of the past, an identity that people can relate to, but technically it works very well. Yes it's a statement piece, however we have laboured over the ergonomics of the product to provide a comforting sit.'

The collection is manufactured from tubular steel and solid rod, the seat is injected PU foam, which can be upholstered in a range of contract fabrics and leathers.

The Positiva collection is a family of products that includes a sofa, swivel armchair, high backs and a booth type hood that offers an acoustically tranquil space, to work privately or to meet.

Deberenn has constantly invested in new machinery to enhance its manufacturing capability, one of these investments being a CNC wood cutting machine. 'The brief was to design a table product purely using this process, the inspiration came from a creature from the sea, waving its tentacles about, then closing in on itself,' David reveals. Aesthetically, the C-Anemone table is a focal point of any reception or meeting space, but the spokes have a dual function, you can place books, brochures or A4 folder in there, or with the aid of an upholstered seat, it turns into a breakout stool''

Pana, Positiva and the C-Anemone tables will also be available in the UK as part of the Techo portfolio of products.

Speaking of British, it was great to see that the tradition of our own furniture industry migrating on mass to Cologne for the week doesn't show any sign of diminishing – despite ►



Senator

▶ many saying they weren't going to be at the show this year, both The Corkonian and Papa Joes on the Alter Markt can boast hugely bloated takings thanks to British visitors.

We even found a few specifier friends from the UK – although those heady days of 50 specifiers being flown out by an exhibitor appear to be long gone.

Back at the show, we loved Alea's smart stand concept. Whilst the company has a standard programme of furniture ranges, of course, recent collaborations with architects and designers from around the world has enabled the company to deliver some amazing projects – and it used Orgatec as a platform to showcase designs based on these bespoke product developments, including major collaborations with Bayer Pharmaceutical (a Gensler project with 3,000 workstations now installed), Adnoc, DDB and IMG, to name a few.

Thonet's colourful and versatile display included the introduction of a number of exciting new products. Randolph Schott's new S 95 conference chair is characterised by its flowing ergonomic form and the crisp details that provide the chair with a visual lightness and cool elegance. The A 1700 'Evolution' table

programme now features improved leg design versions (individual legs and T-leg) and the possibility of individualisation through the use of inlays. Furthermore, eight additional colours are now available for the popular S 160, S 170 and S 180 chair families.

Howe has re-envisioned another classic Arne Jacobsen shell chair for this year's Orgatec. The Munkegaard chair, also known as the Mosquito chair, takes the original Munkegaard design and, with the addition of Howe's cutting-edge expertise, the company has brought an already bold and collectable Arne Jacobsen design into the 21st century, making it far greener and more durable, but without altering the distinctive looks.

We also liked the new MN1 executive meeting and conference chair, designed by Morten Nikolajsen.

FAMO produced one of our favourite Orgatec 2014 stands – and not just because of the lovely Portuguese wine and tapas! A veritable oasis in the furniture desert, the serene, beautifully enclosed stand made us feel like we'd moved out of the Messe, while providing a perfect stage for the company's impressive product portfolio, including the eye-catching XE system.

Furniko unveiled its latest executive collection, which has been meticulously designed around every detail of our work life, in Cologne. Astero combines understated nostalgic aesthetics with unique signature detailing to create contemporary designs that are sensitive to the environment.

With modern functionality and refined simplicity, Astero serves to create dynamic executive settings where creativity and productivity can flourish. Collaborative working can also be promoted by combining work, meeting and storage elements. Integrated under desk returns, pedestals and credenzas provide users with the opportunity to maximise the workspace layout whilst discreetly housing IT equipment and essential cable management.

ophelis showed a number of intriguing new innovations designed to make a contribution to an attractive work environment and turn the office into a functional village.

Till Grosch has designed new key elements for the ophelis docks range. Corner, diagonal, and armrest modules expand the range of configuration options. Various chairs and stools are used as mobile furniture that make it possible to create open or semi-open suites of ▶



Wilkhahn



Camira

► furniture in an even more flexible way, while the new Highbench functions as a meeting point and a standing workplace.

Elsewhere, paravento divides rooms, serves as a screen, and creates personal retreats and wardrobes and rooms for phone calls. This makes it possible to define personal retreats in open spaces where individual employees or teams can work and communicate while being acoustically and visually shielded from other parts of the office.

We liked Bloss, Bond and the quirky Toro on the Mobic+ stand, Abstracta's Domo table and wall systems and special new Arctic Jubilee editions, while Scandinavian Business Seating, Tecno and Unifor all delivered their usual high quality displays.

Finally, we should say a huge thank you to our friends at Colebrook Bosson Saunders for inviting us along to the massive Thursday night 'Brit Bash'. How massive was it? Well, let's just say that it was after said party that we found ourselves in that aforementioned kebab restaurant at silly o'clock!

So that's another three days (and nights) in Cologne completed. We leave slightly broken – and absolutely confident that we'll be back in two years' time ●

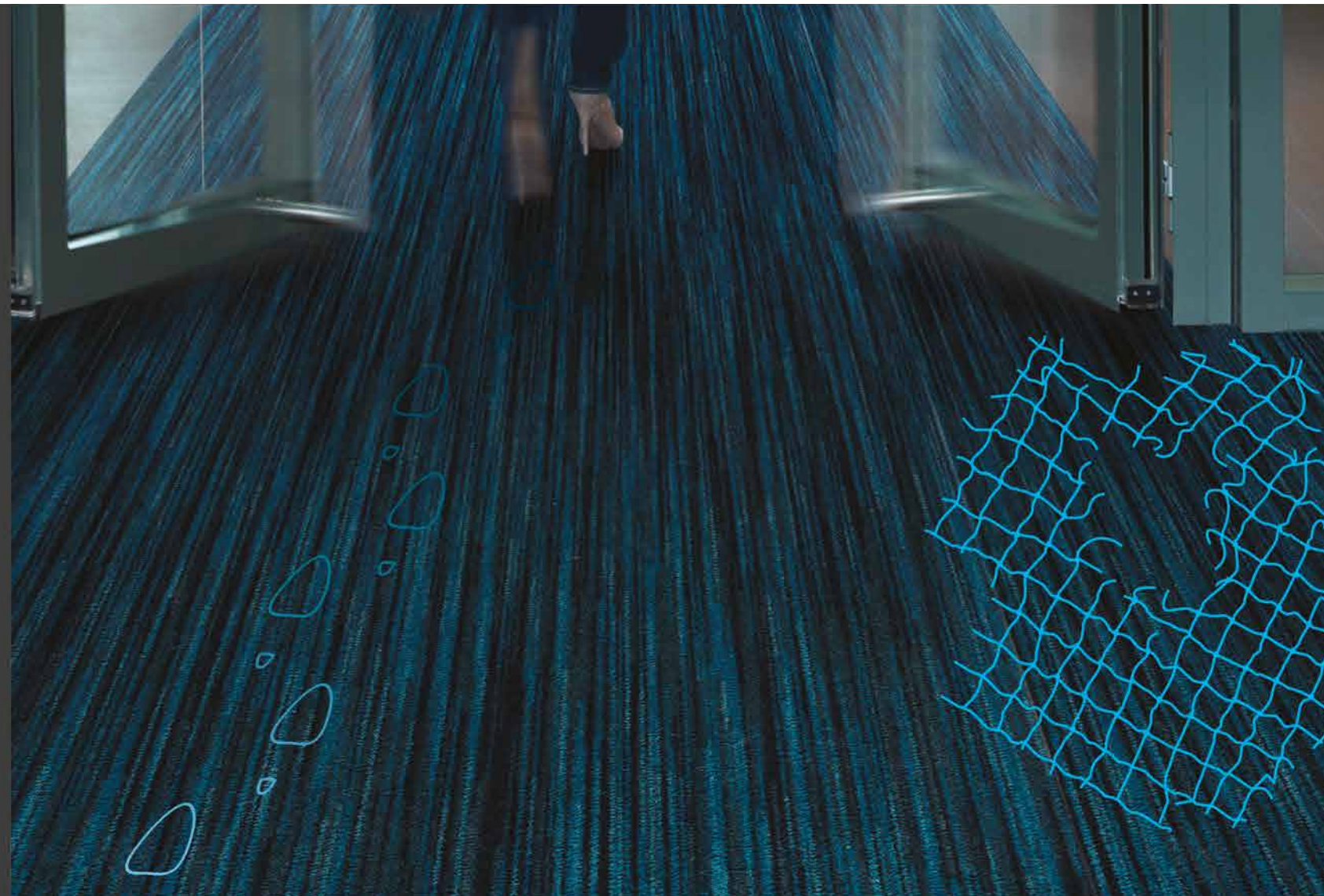


Bisley

Creating Better Environments

Sustainability is about the things you can't see

A Forbo floor is always beautiful and stylish to look at. A floor that's comfortable to live, work and relax on. But looks aren't everything; often it's the things you can't see that really matter.



There's more to Forbo's Coral entrance flooring than stopping 94% of dirt and moisture

From old carpet fluff to abandoned fishing nets, many of our Coral collections are made from **ECONYL®** – a high quality yarn made from **100% regenerated polyamide**. The primary backing of Coral Welcome is made from **recycled PET bottles** and achieves a **BREEAM A/A+** rating in all sectors. We offer both rigid and textile entrance flooring products that can **reduce cleaning costs by up to 65%**.

From entrances to exits and everywhere in between, Forbo Flooring can contribute towards sustainable building schemes such as BREEAM, Ska or LEED. To find out how Forbo can help you create a better flooring environment visit:

www.forbo-flooring.co.uk/cbe