Orgatec 2026, Cologne

October 2026

JSA Consultancy Services



A REVIEW

The Show

This year's Orgatec at Cologne's Kölnmesse was a happy mixture of tradition and novelty. The familiar elements included plenty of industry stalwarts – exhibitors and attendees – and the venue itself – massive, impressive and welcoming. In the lead-up to the show, much of the industry talk had been of doom and gloom – hardly surprising in light of so much economic and political turmoil, hybrid working and technological revolution. In fact, Orgatec adapted very successfully to the pressures, and most exhibitors and visitors seemed to agree that the time and money spent had been well worthwhile.

The weather played fair, and it was mainly dry, cool and beautifully autumnal. Apart from many late and cancelled trains, the logistics worked well and the city provided its usual fine mixture of excellent accommodation and refreshment facilities.

Exhibitors showed their wares in five massive halls – rather fewer than usual – as well as in the nearby Design Post centre. Most of the stands were very well designed and attractive, and many were very large and had undoubtedly required substantial investment.



Kölnmesse North Entrance

Words and photos - John Sacks

©John Sacks 2026
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the copyright owner, or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act, 1988.

Published by: JSA Consultancy Services
5a Wilmington Square, London, WC1X0EX, England
Tel: +44(0)2076881928 E:info@jsacs.com W:www.jsacs.com

Table of Contents

The Show 02
The Trends 06

Exhibitors were broadly grouped by region, with most of the German companies together, and then elsewhere, groups from Nordic countries, Iberia, Central and Eastern Europe, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Türkiye was well represented with impressive exhibition stands from the Istanbul-based high-design company, Koleksiyon, and Burotime, from the Anatolian city of Konya.

More exhibitors came from Asia than any other region, and of those, most were from China. One hall was devoted exclusively to Chinese exhibitors and, sadly, appeared to attract the fewest visitors.



Burotime from Konya, Türkiye



Alpha 3 from Koleksiyon of Istanbul

North American manufacturers had a relatively modest presence at the show, with the notable exceptions of Humanscale, and two Haworth-owned companies, BuzziSpace and Hushoffice. From Poland, Balma showed the sculptural Barel bench system by Piotr Kuchciński, while Akaba of Gipuzkoa, Spain, presented its Balea collection. The German company Brunner dressed everything in black and attracted big crowds with its familiar mixture of beautifully designed products, copious refreshments and frenetic networking.



The Barel bench system by Piotr Kuchciński for balma of Poland



BuzziHug Focus micro-workstation from the Haworth Group



The Balea collection from Akaba of Gipuzkoa, Spain


Brunner hospitality

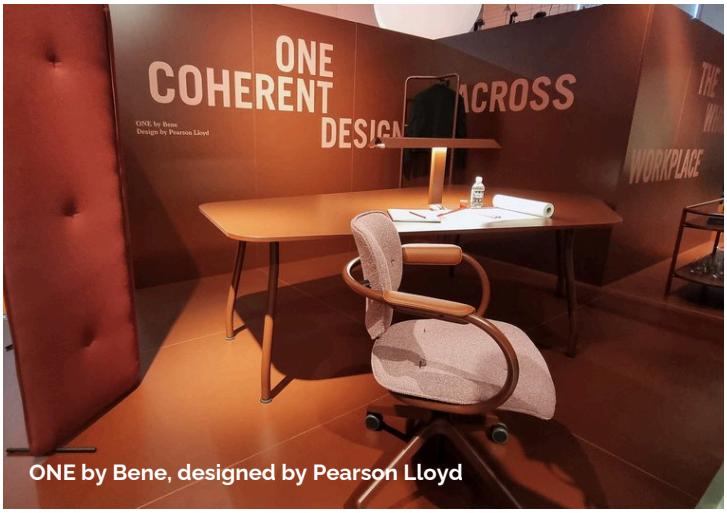
The Trends

The most obvious themes centred on creating comfortable and visually harmonious environments, with much attention given to acoustics, soft furnishings and the choice of attractive colour schemes. Sustainability was less prominent as a separate theme, perhaps because environmental considerations are increasingly regarded in Europe as part of normal product development.

Bene from Austria showed their new ONE collection, designed by Pearson Lloyd.

Pods were everywhere, from the specialist manufacturers such as Framery from Finland, Silen, silentlab and Dancoo, and from many other manufacturers offering them as one element of their wider ranges. Some pods, such as VetroSpace from Finland, incorporated sophisticated lighting and air purifying and cooling systems.

Beautifully designed soft seating abounded, much of it from the largest companies. Expansive, curved, organic shapes were particularly popular, perhaps appealing more to the eye than to ergonomic comfort. Noti of Poland showed a fine example, designed by Piotr Kuchciński and Maja Ganszyniec.



ONE by Bene, designed by Pearson Lloyd



VetroSpace birchwood meeting pod with exceptional cooling ventilation


Framery pods from Finland

Taking the room-within-a-room idea back to its architectural roots, Kettal, from near Barcelona, presented the Eames Pavilion System, developed with the Eames Office and drawing on Charles and Ray Eames' pioneering architectural ideas.


From Piotr Kuchciński and Maja Ganszyniec for Noti of Poland

The German company VS presented their Serie lounge office collection. Other lounge highlights included Actiu's Meetia by Ramon Esteve, Lucie Koldová's Dafna for LD Seating of the Czech Republic, and sectional seating from Karl Andersson of Huskvarna, Sweden.



Actiu's Meetia designed by Ramon Esteve – the elegance of industrial style



Dafna by Lucie Koldová from LD Seating, Czech Republic



Sectional seating from Karl Andersson of Huskvarna, Sweden



VS Serie Lounge Office

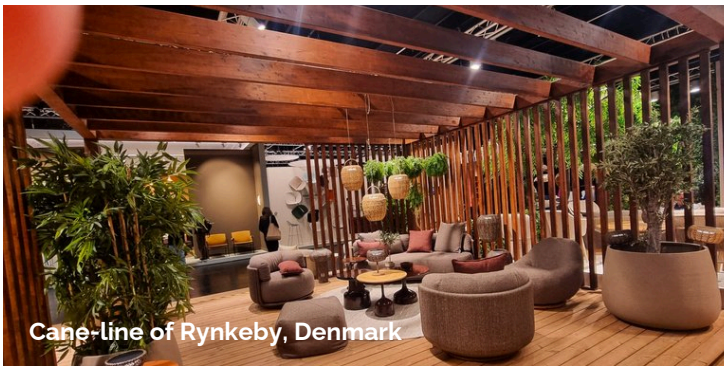
In line with office furniture trends since the Covid years, the emphasis on traditional workstation and storage products continued to decline. There was plenty of thought given to the way to separate office spaces for different types of use, often with attractive pieces to keep meeting and collaborative areas segregated from quiet areas to facilitate concentration. Good examples were the Bimos space divider from Interstuhl and the Narbutas unit sofa system.

The distinction between indoor and outdoor furniture continues to blur, with companies such as Extremis from Belgium displaying furniture suitable for working on terraces, balconies and in gardens that can also be brought indoors. Planting and biophilic design were well represented, such as by Cane-line from Rynkeby in Denmark.



Space divider from Bimos by Interstuhl


Narbutas unit sofa system


Cane-line of Rynkeby, Denmark


Keiseki indoor/outdoor from Extremis, designer Dirk Wynants


Cane-line biophilia

Bestuhl from Korea showed their U90 nesting chair, while Thonet presented Marco Dessi's 521 swivel chairs.

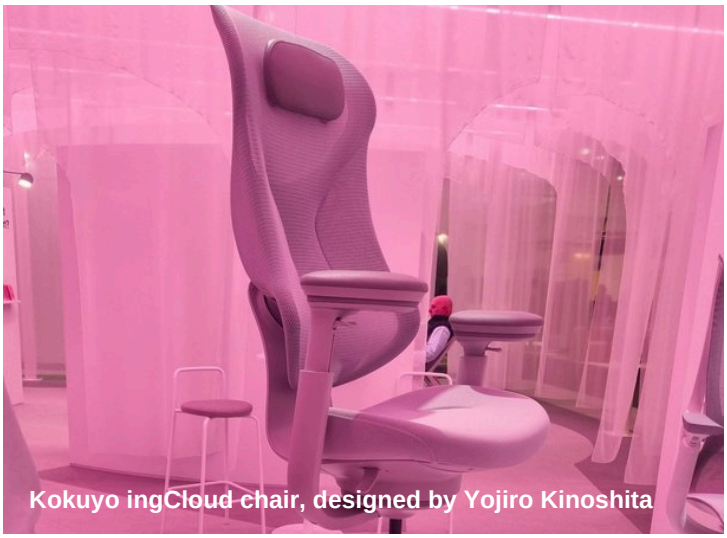
Task chairs were as popular as ever, sometimes with designs influenced by the demand for gaming chairs. Features included multi-faceted adjustability of almost every aspect of the products, as well as foot rests and even battery-powered lumbar massagers. Kokuyo's new frameless and very comfortable ingCloud chair, designed by Yojiro Kinoshita, made its European debut at the show. Away from seating, Herstera of Barcelona showed how planting can bring the outdoors into the office.


Bestuhl U90 nesting chair


Herstera of Barcelona


Thonet 521 swivel chair by Marco Dessi


From Libernovo, Shenzhen, China – ideal for relaxed gaming

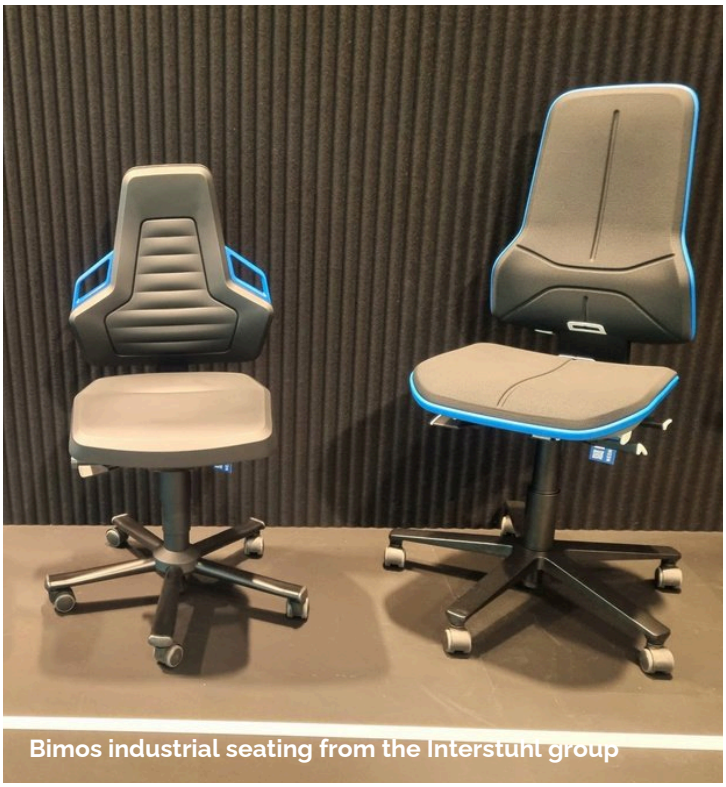

Kokuyo ingCloud chair, designed by Yojiro Kinoshita

The very large Interstuhl group stand featured their Bimos industrial seating division. Meeting furniture also stood out, including Nowy Styl's Fiesco chairs by Oscar Buffon and the Brace range from Sweden's Kinnarps.

Despite occupying fewer halls and appearing to have somewhat lower visitor numbers, the show was vibrant, and was felt to be of real value, especially for some of the newer, smaller companies which usually have to fight for attention amongst the industry giants. My prediction is that Orgatec 2028 will be at least as successful.



Fiesco meeting chairs from Oscar Buffon for Nowy Styl



Bimos industrial seating from the Interstuhl group



Brace meeting furniture from Sweden's Kinnarps

John Sacks

London, November 2026

JSA Consultancy Services

"Advising office furniture businesses around the world"