

Press Release

Kinnarps Next Office – activity-based work environments (ABW)

Tomorrow's work environments are here

Some companies and organisations have already discovered the positive effects of creating activity-based work environments. Instead of personal workplaces, they have opted for flexible and functional environments based on the individual, the situation and the need. Kinnarps would now like more customers to become aware of tomorrow's work ambience and is thus introducing the concept of Next Office – ABW on the European market: a future-based concept with many advantages.

Our work environments are changing. Today's technology allows us to work anywhere and at any time. The need for personal workplaces is declining, while there is an increasing need for numerous flexible, functional and stimulating environments which support various activities. To create an activity-based work environment is a wise investment with many advantages.

Today many employees work at a distance for considerable parts of their working week. As a result, fully half the personal workstations in certain work environments stand empty, and it's hard to assure the efficient use of space. The usual way of calculating areas in a work environment has been to focus on square metres per workplace. In activity-based workplaces, however, the organisation focuses on square meters for each employee who is actually present instead. By creating a work environment which can be quickly adapted to more or fewer employees, natural flexibility is achieved.

Activity-based work environments also bring ergonomic benefits. Flexible workplaces which are functional and adapted to various types of activities assure employees a completely different level of mobility and less static stress. That produces synergy effects in the form of lower costs due to absence from work as well as a more motivated and productive workforce.

"An activity-based approach also produces a more creative work ambience," points out Henrik Axell, concept developer for activity-based work environments within Kinnarps. To set up a workplace designed for different activities and spontaneous meetings is an excellent way of promoting a climate of creativity. The Kinnarps Next Office – ABW concept creates a work environment with mobility, flexibility and creativity at the centre. We believe that this will be a necessity in the work environments of the future."

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About Kinnarps

Kinnarps creates furniture and interior design solutions which have a positive influence on us human beings thanks to traditional craftsmanship, design and integrated ergonomics – irrespective of why, how and where we work, learn and meet. Kinnarps is a western Swedish company founded in 1942 by Jarl and Evy Andersson. It has always had a strong tradition of innovative and creative design. Thus the company mainly manufactured furniture to order for architects from the very outset. Today Kinnarps is a global furniture group which offers innovative and inspiring integrated solutions. By assuring complete control of the entire chain, from raw materials and production to delivery and installation, Kinnarps offers products and concepts of high quality and low ecological impact. Kinnarps' wide range is produced for public environments with a focus on offices, schools and healthcare institutions – thus ensuring not only high flexibility but also a wide choice and cost-effectiveness for customers. Kinnarps develops its products – which have won numerous design awards – in close collaboration with internationally renowned designers. The Kinnarps portfolio comprises the Kinnarps, Drabert and Martin Stoll product brands. But Kinnarps also offers an extensive complementary range – from its subsidiaries Materia, Skandiform and NC Nordic Care as well as from several high-profile partners. Kinnarps is Europe's leading supplier of furnishing solutions and is represented in about forty countries. The company has about 2,700 employees and recorded turnover of SEK 4.2 billion in 2010/2011. The Group pursues progressive and far-reaching activities aimed at improving the environment, and satisfies the requirements of the leading green labels. Kinnarps is also certified to ISO 9001 and 14001.

Read more on www.kinnarps.com