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Empowering organisations to lead together Bene launches new PORTS office concept, designed by Pearson Lloyd

The way we work is changing at an unprecedented pace. As recent events have forced offices around the world to rapidly adapt, many have realised that the seemingly unshakeable systems and leadership hierarchies that have been in place for decades are not set in stone. For many businesses, in many industries, there is a pressing need for new ideas and new voices to be heard, and a call for a new workplace vision – one driven by collaboration, openness and flexibility.



PORTS presents a vision for a new workplace driven by collaboration, openness and flexibility.

PORTS answers that call. Launching on Wednesday 8 July by workplace specialist Bene and designed by London-based studio Pearson Lloyd, PORTS is a new office concept developed specifically to accommodate new, more fluid and cooperative styles of leadership.

The PORTS name combines maritime, technological and management references – the idea of the 'port' as a high-performance, international hub for transmitting ideas. By bringing people and ideas together, each PORTS unit functions as a node in a network where information is exchanged, and supports facilitation as the modern form of leadership.



The PORTS office concept is a complete collection of furniture that is already receiving accolades.

Already the winner of the iF Gold Award 2020 and the 'Best of Best' Red Dot Design Award, the PORTS design line spans three product areas: Table, Lounge and Storage. Each of these collections is designed to create multifunctional spaces that can be combined and adapted to suit various ways of working – creative collaboration or private focus, formal meeting or relaxed conversation.



PORTS Table can be adjusted to different heights, for stand-up meetings or desk-based work.

The PORTS office introduces unprecedented agility to the workplace, transforming it from a cluster of rigidly defined spaces to a network of flexible hubs – a model much better suited to meet the needs of modern environments. Unlike the workplace model of executive corner offices, 'status' desks, and oversized swivel chairs, PORTS eliminates the power dynamics often codified in office-furniture design and configuration. Traditional leadership hierarchies are replaced with more dynamic egalitarian environments that suit new management styles, empower diverse voices and allow younger generations to participate in leadership.

"The market for executive offices and furniture is still defined in terms of hierarchy and old concepts of status, without considering the users' needs; the market has not changed for over a century. PORTS offers a new way to define what a workspace looks like and how it functions."

– Tom Lloyd, cofounder of Pearson Lloyd

Combinable, configurable, adaptable

PORTS transforms the office into a multifunctional hub. The three product modules can be arranged to create informal and formal spaces, public zones and pockets of privacy – and easily switch between them as needed. Seating can be adjusted to suit both informal conversation and collaboration and active, focused work; the table can be both a desk and a focal point for teams to generate and share ideas; and semi-transparent room dividers both provide structure and offer a range of functional applications. Whatever the unique needs of the office, there's a PORTS configuration to meet them.

"The private office is slowly disappearing. And managers are becoming more open, collaborative, democratic – and younger. So they need as much time and space as possible to plan how they will fulfil their responsibilities and to think creatively."

– Luke Pearson



Room dividers both provide structure and offer a range of functional applications to support collaboration.

PORTS Lounge

An adjustable seating family for every setting

The Lounge seating family comprises a sofa, a static lounge chair, and a height-adjustable task chair with either high or low back. These can be configured to create comfortable seating areas within the office for informal meetings and relaxation.



New workplace concept PORTS Task Lounge combines adjustable seating with privacy, storage and wireless charging.

When combined with a panel and revolving table, the PORTS Active Chair forms the PORTS Task Lounge, a new workstation concept. With its tilting seat, the Active Chair can spring from passive to engaged at the pull of a tab, and the table can serve as a simple storage surface, or be rotated towards the chair to create space for laptop work. Below the table are a bag rest, power sockets and a leather-topped shelf, fitted with a wireless-charging facility – everything you need to work, freed from the confines of a static desk.



Details within the PORTS range: left, Active Chair's leather tab adjusts the seat angle; right, the Power Tray presents convenient charging ports.

Often, ideas flow more freely away from the formality of the conference table. PORTS Task Lounge modules can be readily arranged to create a new, more relaxed kind of meeting space, naturally conducive to interactions and collaboration.

PORTS Table

Height-adjustable with access to power

Available in square or rectangular versions, in black or clay finishes, and with traditional or comfort edging, the PORTS table has been designed with optimal versatility. An easily operable electronic height-adjustment mechanism integrated into the legs allows the table to transform from standing desk to executive table, personal workstation to meeting centrepiece, at the touch of a button.



Bene's vision for a modern, collaborative office: zones for collaboration and focus.

The table's functionality is enhanced by the PORTS Power Tray, which combines handy storage space with USB ports, power sockets and wireless charging, ensuring the constant availability of the most important office resource in the age of the mobile device – access to electricity.



The PORTS Table in desk mode.

PORTS Storage

Preserve an open atmosphere with functional partitions

Key to the PORTS concept, storage modules serve as semi-transparent partitions that break down the office into distinct work zones, while preserving its open atmosphere. High or low elements can be configured to suit the individual – by incorporating wardrobes, mirrors, refrigerators and more – or to meet the needs of the team – with pinboards, shelves, whiteboards and screens.



Left, PORTS Storage divides open plan space while adding storage and collaboration tools. Right, PORTS designers Pearson Lloyd.

Intelligently deployed as room dividers, PORTS Storage can create areas of privacy or collaboration, helping to define the purpose of the space while containing the tools and equipment necessary to fulfil it.

A legacy of reinvention

PORTS is the latest project from Bene and Pearson Lloyd, whose previous work together includes the brand's now-iconic 2009 PARCS collection – another line designed to nurture communication in the modern workspace.



Tom Lloyd and Luke Pearson of design studio Pearson Lloyd.

Now, a decade later, PORTS takes these ideas to the next level as the building blocks for a modern, infinitely variable workspace, where every member of the team can have their voice heard and play a part in their organisation's success.

"Back in 2009 Bene provided fresh inspiration with its PARCS design line, creating a revolutionary new communication zone in the office. PORTS demonstrates our continuing commitment to innovation, and promises inspiring collaborative work and productive interaction. The three product lines – Table, Lounge and Storage – complement each other, empower contemporary leadership styles, and can be combined for optimal adaptability to the needs of individuals in a modern working environment."

– Michael Fried, Executive Board Member for Sales, Marketing and Innovation, Bene

Notes to editors

PORTS launches worldwide on 8 July 2020 at bene.com.

For more information on PORTS, product images and interviews with Bene or Pearson Lloyd, please contact Rupert Evans-Harding at pearsonlloyd@zetteler.co.uk or on +44 (0)20 3735 5855.

Bene

A specialist in the design and furnishing of office and working environments, Bene defines the office as a living space, and its concepts, products and services turn this philosophy into a reality. The Bene Group is a globally active company with its head office and production facilities in Waidhofen an der Ybbs, Austria. A significant market player in Europe, Bene stands for innovative concepts, inspiring offices and high-quality design, and develops and produces customised solutions for all company sizes – from one-person companies to SMEs and global corporations.

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Pearson Lloyd

Founded in East London in 1997 by Luke Pearson and Tom Lloyd, the design office Pearson Lloyd works with manufacturers, brands and public bodies to identify and build products, spaces and services that respond to the challenges of the day and enhance our experience of the world. Their philosophy of 'Making Design Work' emphasises the studio's passion for the act of making functional, beautiful and efficient solutions that serve equally the needs of their clients, their users and society.

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