

METROPOLIS

ARCHITECTURE AND
DESIGN AT ALL SCALES
February 2016

celebrating 35 years

Setting Up Shop

14 CONCEPTS
THAT RETHINK RETAIL

A Tribute to Richard Sapper
Copenhagen's Patient Hotel
Luc Sante on the Other Paris

DEPARTMENTS

CONTRIBUTORS 14

PUBLISHER'S NOTE 17

DIALOGUE 18



METROPOLIS LIVE 22

SPECTRUM 28

IN PRODUCTION
Elodie Blanchard
for HBF Textiles 38

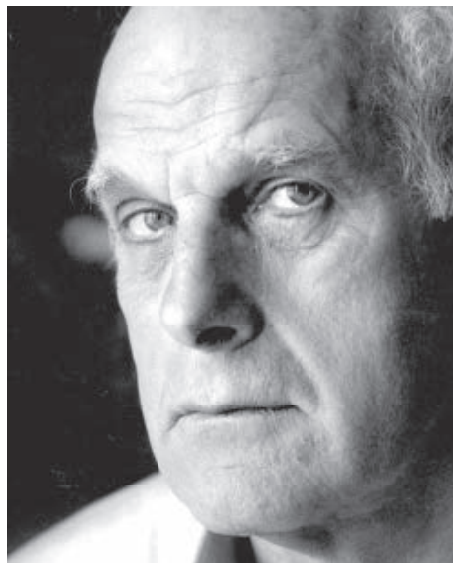
TRIBUTE
Richard Sapper 42

HOSPITALITY
Le Pigalle Hotel In Paris 46

COMMENT
Mark Foster Gage's Ostentatious
Manhattan Skyscraper 110

REVIEWS
Lowline Lab 112

Åzone Futures Market
at the Guggenheim 114



Q&A
Luc Sante on
the Other Paris 116

PRODUCTSPHERE
Hospitality 120

THINK TANK
Flexible Spaces 124

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS 126

BEN KATCHOR
Stoop & Shop 128

On the cover: Last November, Brooklyn designers Snarkitecture partnered with Swedish clothing label COS for a pop-up shop at Austere, the downtown Los Angeles showroom and retail hub. For more, see p. 86.

February 2016. METROPOLIS® (ISSN 0279-4977) is published 11 times a year, monthly, except bimonthly for July/August. Volume 35, Number 7. Subscriptions: 11 issues for \$32.95 U.S.A., \$52.95 Canada, \$69.95 airmail all other countries. Domestic single copies \$9.95; back issues \$14.95. Copyright © 2016 by Bellerophon Publications Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in the U.S.A. Material in this publication may not be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher. Metropolis will not be responsible for the return of any unsolicited manuscripts or photographs. Publishing and editorial office is at 205 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10016. Telephone (212) 627-9977; Fax (212) 627-9968. Periodical postage is paid in New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post International Publications Mail Product (Canadian Distribution) Sales Agreement No. 0981642. Publications Mail Agreement No. 40028983. Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to circulation department or DPGM, 4960-2 Walker Rd., Windsor, ON N9A 6J3. Postmaster: Send address changes to Metropolis, P.O. Box 3106, Langhorne, PA 19047. Subscription department: (800) 344-3046.

TECHNOLOGY

Office Data on the Move

In recent years, the increasingly influential Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas has become an important destination for contract furniture manufacturers, especially if their work is at the intersection of technology and human comfort—as Humanscale’s is. At last year’s show, the ergonomics-focused company made its debut onto the Internet of Things with the release of OfficeIQ, a portable box for sit/stand desks that connects to users’ smart devices and gives them alerts and feedback on their work activity.

Between the 2015 show and this year’s edition, held January 6–9, Humanscale has been hard at work expanding the potential of OfficeIQ. The company has been collaborating with researchers at the University of Pittsburgh to determine what Humanscale vice president of marketing and product management Chris Gibson calls “realistic numbers” on the health benefits of sit/stand workplaces. New benefits to users include alerts on their computer screens and the ability to move around for hot desking. Employers will appreciate the data aggregated by OfficeIQ—in anonymous form, in keeping with Humanscale’s “Don’t Be Creepy” data policy—because “insurance companies could now work with companies and offer benefits based on the patterns in the data,” Gibson says. “In the long term, that could have a big payoff.”

But the biggest announcement Humanscale made at CES was the expansion of OfficeIQ to connected conference rooms. The technology,



Among Humanscale’s releases at CES 2016 are QuickStand Lite (top), a way to integrate sit/stand functionality into existing furniture, and updates to OfficeIQ (right), a smart product that connects to sit/stand desks as well as to smart casters on task and conference chairs.



which Humanscale developed in collaboration with software maker Tome, can now be applied to task- or conference-chair casters. As users wheel their chairs around, a central data hub can collect information on how conference rooms are occupied.

This evolution from connected objects to connected spaces has huge potential, not only for how

companies understand their employees’ behavior but also for how lighting or ventilation can be modulated for energy efficiency. The attendees in Vegas were understandably excited, and Humanscale has announced a pilot program at Premera Blue Cross, the leading health plan in Washington and Alaska.

“Although there is more sophisticated technology

being showcased here, the reason our booth has been so popular is because people see what we are doing as relevant to their lives,” Gibson says. “Considering that we spend 55 percent of our waking hours at work, leveraging technology to address health and wellness in the workplace makes Humanscale stand out from the CES crowd.” —A.R.