imagine a place®

The role of technology in furniture design

In our interview with the head of research at ThinkLab, we asked about the pros and cons of technology integration with furniture and architecture. “It comes down to flexibility. We need to be making decisions that support the ability to adapt and change with the times. Rather than focusing on integration, we should instead focus on accommodation.”

This means that we are decoupling the physical technologies from the actual furniture, but they become a key factor in our design.

Here are the three key ways that technology is shaping our furniture:

1. **Technology is changing human behavior**
   It is impacting the way we see and hear each other, our postures, our surface and storage requirements, our lighting requirements and even the nature of our face to face meetings. These changes to the way we carry out our days and use the space around us are playing a major role in how our furniture is designed.

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2 **Technology is going to evolve at a faster pace than you will want to replace your furniture**
As technology evolves and mobilizes our work, it's critical that the furniture isn't holding you back from adapting with the times.

This means that smart furniture is designed to have multiple lives. We are developing more furniture that is meant to move on the fly and can scale from small intimate spaces of focus to larger group meeting spaces.

3 **Furniture is the physical experience**
We spend so much of our time interacting with screens and devices. This makes our physical/ analog experiences so much more precious and vital to our overall wellbeing. It's critical that furniture supports how we use technology, but it should offer a physical experience of its own -- that could be comfort, relief, biophilia, warmth, stimulation or energy.