

BACK TO THE OFFICE



2

WORKING IN SYNERGY



hushoffice

mikomax smart office.



RETURN TO THE OFFICE AND WHAT NOW?

2020 might be titled „Art and Adaptation” in the history books. We’ve long seen the wisdom and skill in thinking and acting flexibly. But only now do we completely appreciate its value. At the turn of the year, every company went remote, regardless of how prepared they were to shift. Flexibility allowed us to move forward through volatility, instead of waiting out the storm, missing an opportunity to learn. While some are transitioning to home offices permanently, most companies are back to the office or planning their soon return.

NEW NORMAL

Managing teams and projects remotely, we face the unique challenge of dispersed work — i.e., „mixed mode.” Some of our people are working from the office, some from home, and some abroad.



88%
of employees want to come back to the office

56%
of these employees want the freedom to work remotely, at least once a week

The U.S. Work from Home Survey 2020 from Gensler Research Institute reveals 88% of the workforce wants to get back to the office. 60% of these respondents want the ability to work from home at least one day a week, ongoing.

What does this mean for us?

“Work from home” will remain a facet of modern work. It is inscribed into our culture, its advantages and disadvantages aspects we must all reckon with.

How do we overlook a dispersed team? How do we collaborate effectively and nurture relationships, with a segment of us always remote?

The environment needs to be calm and comfortable for starters. Mute the phone, close the window, and shield your focus, asking housemates for 30 minutes of quiet. When working from home, a separate room suffices. In the office, acoustic cabins are ideal.



”Just like in times of isolation, videoconferencing comes to our rescue. In our ebook, “Back to the office – the new reality without an expiry date,” we outlined 10 tips for successful videoconferences, for practical advice on how to hold such meetings. Prerequisite is the creation of a space suited for videoconferences — the topic of this ebook (part 2).”

WHEN THE INTERNET AND LAP-TOP ALONE ARE NOT ENOUGH

Today’s office environment is complicated by restrictions regarding health and safety policies, social distancing, and a general feeling of — more or less — anxiety. It is further complicated by the reality of two overlapping matrices: the virtual work matrix and the stationary work matrix. In some organizations, a segment of employees are already working from home permanently. In others, all employees work on-site in shifts, alternating between the home and the office. Across all companies, people want choice.



Before the pandemic, working on-site was standard, and working from home was the once or twice weekly “perk.” COVID-19 forced us to roll out impromptu operations with everybody suddenly remote. We made makeshift offices in our small, often shared flats and houses, to hold videoconferences in poor acoustics. “Loud” and “boomy” became the norm — and forget unplanned cameos from housemates, spouses, children, and pets. In one phrase, we did our best, but our “best” wasn’t very good across the board. Because most of us don’t have fully equipped home offices, we had to settle for “unprofessional.” Returning to the office soon, we have the opportunity to re-establish the professional quality of a successful videoconference. And to safeguard this quality by investing in solutions that maintain it, like reliable WiFi and good acoustics. By safeguarding our videoconferences, we move forward with total confidence we’ll have connection and momentum through each era regardless of how geographically disjointed our teams may be.

MORE SPACE WITH THE SAME SQUARE FOOTAGE?

We're tasked with reconciling two needs through spatial design. We have to increase room around each employee and create new, comfortable spots for successful videoconferencing. But buildings aren't elastic. While the former need is clear-cut and relatively easy to implement (see part 1 of this ebook series: Back to the office – the new reality without an expiry date), the latter can only be fulfilled with resourcefulness. Regardless of their size, conference rooms introduce high costs. This, in addition to the incomparable inconvenience of renovations that disrupt functionality for weeks. Permanent structures are also inflexible by every measure – we can't easily adjust a conference room's size, move it around to create new layouts, or take it with us through relocations. Many of us don't have the footage for conference rooms, either.

The flexible solution is the work pod.



MEETINGS 2.0

Hushoffice is a complete line of fully mobile acoustic cabins — Hush pods. Each pod gives focus and comfort to work in the open floor plan. With the repercussions of the pandemic, the pod's role in how we work has grown. Pods are no longer a “nice-to-have” amenity, giving the employee supplementary peace and well-being. Pods are essential office equipment, delivering fundamental peace and well-being. In stressful times, peace and well-being are vital in continuing our pursuit, constructively and creatively. Mobile, modular cabins and work pods are the flexible way to achieve both of our post-COVID needs aforementioned — the need to maintain safe space between each employee and the need for new comfortable spots meant for videoconferences. Cabins and pods divide an office into safe, comfortable workspaces. They also deliver all-important functionality, like USB ports, power modules, and adjustable ventilation and lighting. Their compactness and flexibility equal space-optimization and long-term cost savings.

While conference rooms are a liability, cabins and pods are an asset; they represent a smart one-time investment into an adaptable fix. Hush pod acoustics benefit three distinct parties in the post-COVID videoconference. First, we have the meeting conductor, soothed into focus by ambiance. No sharp noise penetrates Hush's sound engineering, distracting our meeting leader as they corral and sustain the attention of an entire “virtual” team. Second, we have our videoconference attendees. Because the Hush pod repels office noise, attendee focus is never broken by office racket. Third, we have our colleagues working in the office. Because Hush blocks sound both ways, these teammates outside of Hush hold concentration on their own work.



Hush pod acoustics benefit three distinct parties in the post-COVID videoconference:



1 Meeting conductor is soothed into focus by ambiance. No sharp noise penetrates Hush's sound engineering, distracting our meeting leader as they corral and sustain the attention of an entire “virtual” team.

2 Videoconference attendees tune in, attentively. Because Hush pods repel office noise, attendee focus is never broken by office racket

3 Colleagues working in the office enjoy quiet. Because Hush blocks noise both ways, these teammates outside of Hush hold concentration on their own work.

SPOTS FOR MEETINGS

In the post-COVID environment, each team should have its own micro-office or designated „zone.” This is something we illustrated in part 1 of this ebook series. Micro-offices limit the risk of germ transmission by the apparent measure of separating people. They also give teams spaces to meet and lounge freely. HushMeet work pods are a flexible way to outfit each micro-office, bringing space-division, comfort, and functionality in a contemporary design. HushMeet is available in various sizes to accommodate specific needs and comply with developing safety, health, and security recommendations and procedures.

The hushMeet.L cab can be ordered empty (with no equipment or furniture) for teams to outfit it, fulfilling their wants completely. It is flexible by design. Furnish it as a meeting room by bringing in a conference table and large TV for content sharing. If by Q2 of next year, your team needs a quiet space to chill out, or a hub for informal meetings, replace the conference table with comfortable seating or other choice pieces.



Recommended solutions.



hushMeet.S



hushMeet



hushMeet.open



hushMeet.L



MIXED MEETING PLACES

– STATIONARY + VIRTUAL

As illustrated, we don't need a lot of „footage” to give employees comfortable videoconferencing spots. Hush pods provide all essential support within meters. HushPhone — the solo pod for phone calls and videoconferences — takes up one square meter exactly. Adjustable lighting, ventilation, and music equals total control over one's environment. HushPhone is a quiet respite, yes, but it also lends a special sense of autonomy over one's space. No one outside the pod hears a peep of your conversation or meeting within. You focus only on communication, freed of worry about bothering others.

HushTwin is one „size” up from hushPhone, remarkable for its compact function within two square meters. It's a pod made by two connected but independent workspaces, each with its own sofa, desk, lighting, and ventilation. HushTwin is perfect for teams in small offices where every inch matters.

Similar functionality is provided by hushWork. Instead of a table (as with hushPhone and hushTwin), hushWork comes with a height-adjustable desk to comfortably alternate postures. It's another fully appointed acoustic pod with all the features needed to work, from an electrical module to an internet socket (RJ 45). It also has ample room for your own ergonomic chair or leaning stool.

Recommended solutions.



hushPhone



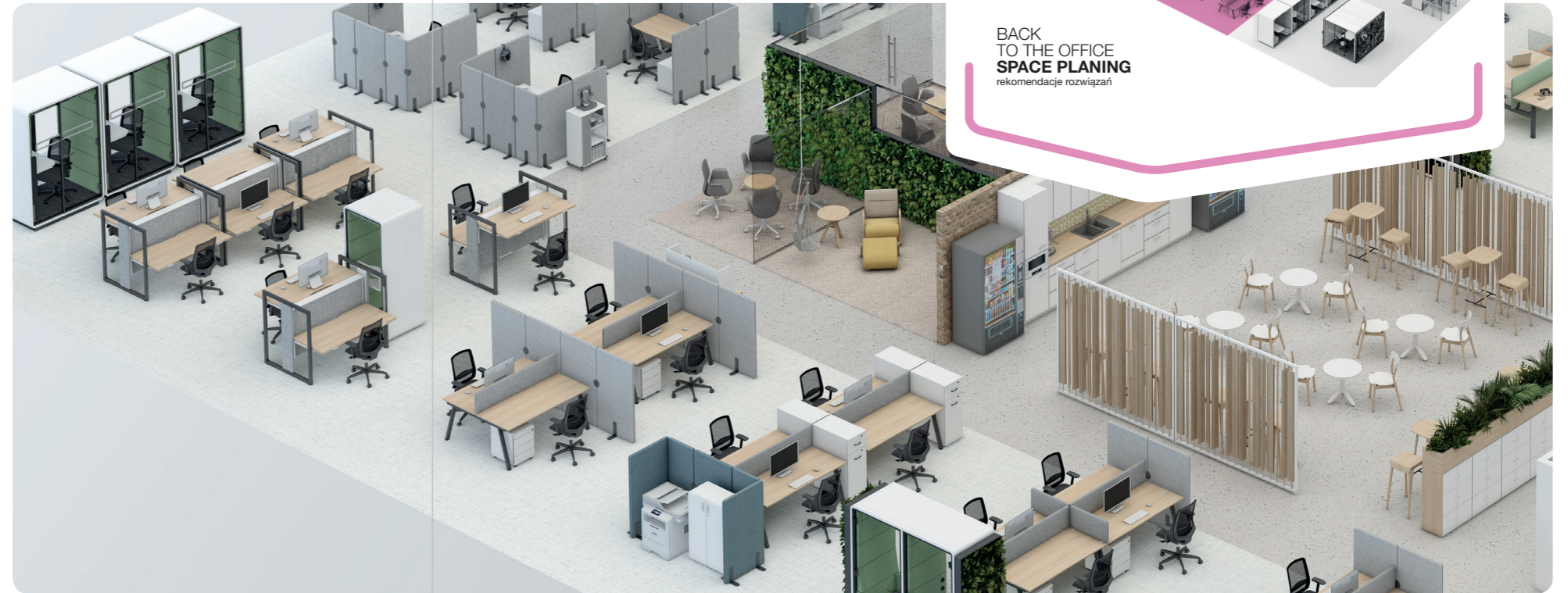
hushPhone



hushTwin



hushWork



BACK TO PEOPLE? TAKE IT EASY.

88% of employees want to go back to the office because this era has given us a true appreciation for it. We miss our colleagues and face-to-face meetings. We miss our height-adjustable desks and ergonomic chairs. The office is quieter than home, and we miss its security. We long for team project work in creative spaces and big meetings in informal meeting pods. Today, we cherish the anchoring comfort of our workspace, the heartening effect of “water cooler” chitchat, and a simple promise: deep concentration awaits.

Among us were those who braved the pandemic alone, too. We learned that specific tasks need energy from the environment, while others need silence. If we needed energy, we cracked the window. If silence, we isolated ourselves in side-offices. This control allowed us to not only do better work but to enjoy it more wholeheartedly. Thus, returning to the office, many of us have a new request. We want spaces vitalized by energy and spaces lulled by silence. We do our best work — from a state of real enjoyment — when we can switch between spaces organically.

By bringing in Hushoffice acoustic cabins, we create an environment of comfort and security. One that allows employees to “switch between spaces.” We give each employee control over their workspace down to the acoustics, lighting, music, and ventilation. We also reduce noise overall, improving everyone’s experience. The stress point of keyboard clicks, printer whines, and colleague chatter is alleviated. This, at a time when we can’t and won’t afford to derail focus or degrade well-being. Instead, our office will support our focus and well-being, physically and emotionally. Our pursuit can be stronger than ever.

YOUR HUSH, YOUR PEACE

See you at the office!

If you have questions about the information in the report, please contact us:

export.sales@mikomax.pl

YOUR HUSH YOUR PEACE

BACK TO THE OFFICE
ANNEX TO THE 2020 REPORT



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