



< Back



2 October, 2019  
-  
Product

## A MACHINE FOR LIVING AND WORKING

Writer: Sandra Tan

Whether a home office or combined studio living space, our domestic environments are rapidly adapting to the mobile way we work today. Across the design industry, product and interior designers as well as architects, are exploring ways to better integrate and enable productivity in the places we live.

Launching a new dedicated workplace precinct, DENFAIR 2019 became a hub for the latest ideas in this arena. The Speaker Series, curated by DENFAIR editor Sandra Tan, featured the diverse expertise of designers and exhibitors focused on creative solutions to adaptive working.

Alex Hopkins, Brad Wray and Adam Goodrum share their thoughts on the topic in an insightful panel led by guest moderator Angela Ferguson of Futurespace.

Catch the highlights of their discussion below, and watch the full video [here](#).

### ANGELA FERGUSON- Futurespace

"For a few years now, the workplace has become more domestic, in terms of not only the aesthetic, but also its level of formality and amenity. We're seeing workplaces now that look more like high end residential interiors, with really well-equipped kitchens and catering spaces. The best workplaces today include a lot of opportunities for us to socialise with our work families, and our work wives and husbands. Workplaces are providing really contemplative spaces that people are able to use like they use their homes. But what we want to talk about is the opposite: how residential design is being informed by the workplace."

### BRAD WRAY- Branch Studio Architects

"I think the idea of the den has come up in a lot of our residential projects over the last three or four years, and even eating into some of the education projects that we do as well. Oscar Niemeyer designed a series of portable schools in the 50s and 60s in Brazil, and basically completely open plan. The classrooms were disconnected and connected by mid height level walls. And that's something that we look at in terms of the den, it's a space within a space that hugs you, I suppose. And it's about thinking about architectural spaces in sections, a space which comes to down to receive you. When you thinking about something like a library, thinking about the diversity of space: some people like to be out in the open, and other people like to curl themselves up in a bit of a nest. We often talk about these ideas as narratives in our work, and refer to it as being 'curated flexibility'."

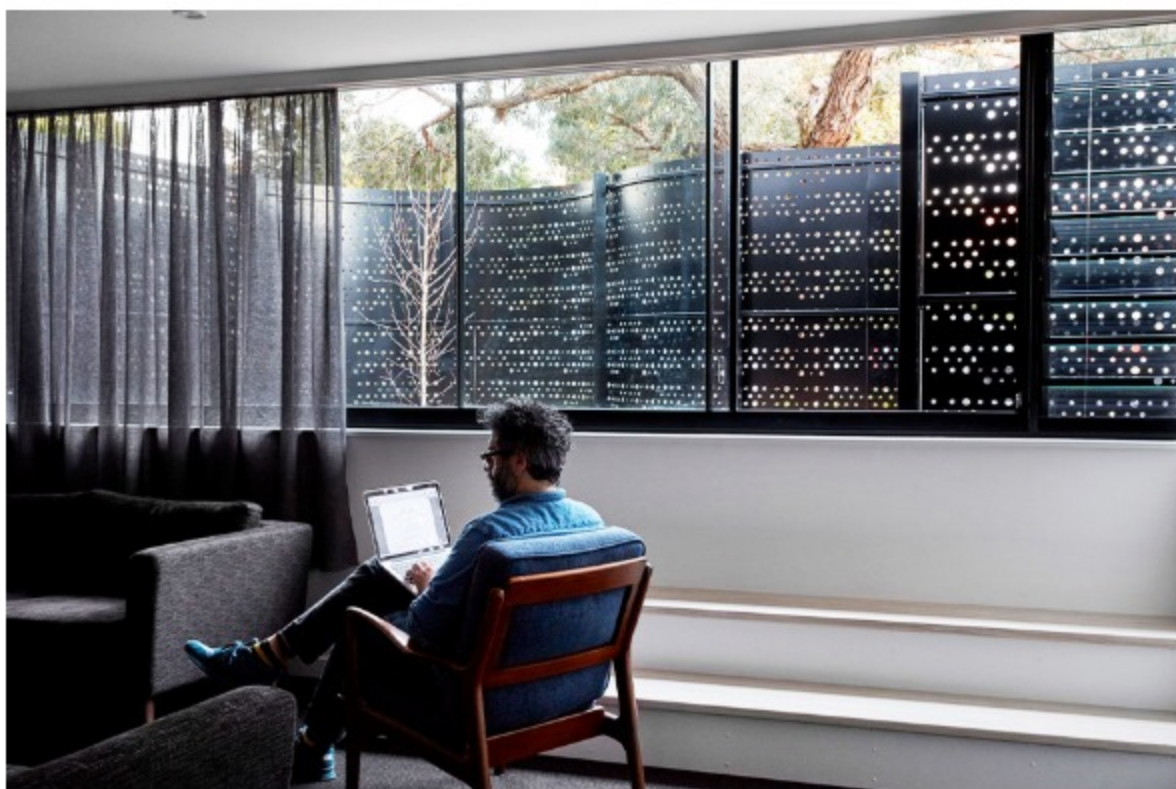
### ALEX HOPKINS- Studio Tate

"When thinking about working from home, it can be professionals - like all of us, who might have businesses, or doing some work for the businesses that you're with at home - and we do have clients in that instance. But we also find a lot of our private residential clients have adolescent children who are doing some pretty serious study at home. It's very competitive, high school these days, getting a certain score to get into the course you want to do. The students are really having to focus and get that work done in a concentrated way. So we go through a really thorough briefing process with all of our clients - whether commercial or private residential - to really understand their requirements."

### ADAM GOODRUM- Industrial Designer

"It's not like I've ever designed a home office desk, or anything like that. But I think for me, in moving forward with different typologies, one thing I'd very much like to address would be storage. At home, when Ollie, my little boy, has stuff all over the table and we're about to have dinner, if there was a drawer that we could pull out to put everything away, that would be useful. And I think particularly with phones, we seem to all be trying to grab the charger. So to incorporate induction charging is important. And the other consideration, which is a bigger one, is the acoustics and noise. That's a really challenging one."

Watch the full video of HOME WORK: Machine for Living and Working [here](#).



### Archive

2016  
2017  
2018  
2019

February  
March  
April  
May  
July  
August  
September  
October

Smart Casual: Design for Mixing Business and Leisure  
A Machine For Living and Working