

Just to list a few..

But FODU does have benefits.

FODU members pay their rent on time.

FODU members don't need a "humble list".

FODU members experience no mental itching.

FODU members waste less time on YouTube.

FODU members don't wake up at 11:00 A.M.

FODU members enjoy leisure-time.

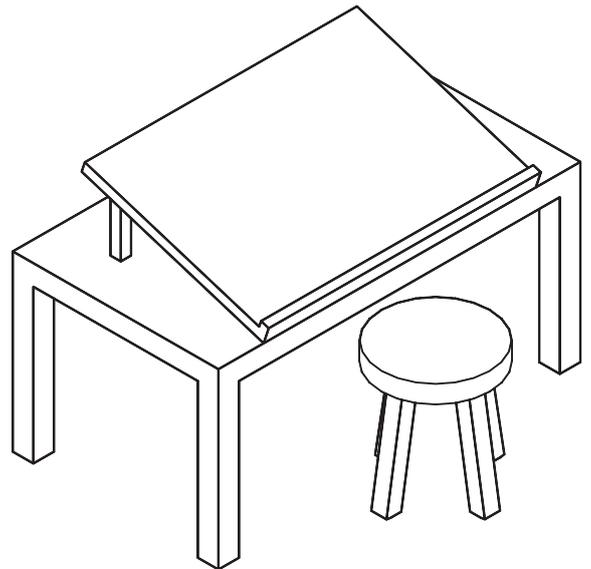
FODU has great benefits

and FODU has a great history.

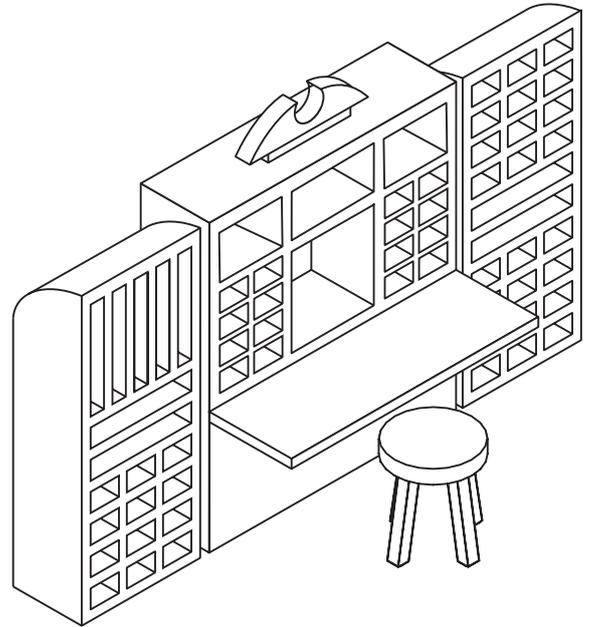
IN THE MIDDLE AGES

Early desk users are found in monasteries, copying sacred words in a super fancy handwriting.

A table with a sloping table-top improves the fancyness.

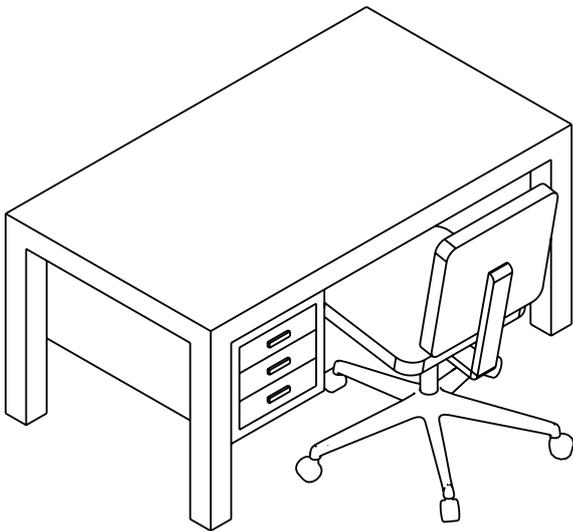


IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY



Most businesses employ just one clerk, responsible for all paperwork.

The American entrepreneur William S. Wooton expands the desk with so-called pigeon-holes, making it easier to keep the desk organized: the Wooton desk.

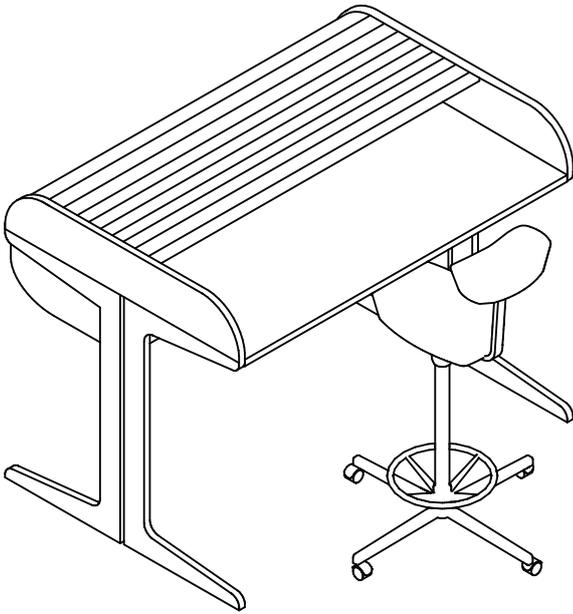


IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY

In the early 20th century businesses are scaling up and so is their bookkeeping. Up to forty clerks work in one room called "the office".

The efficiency desk is introduced by the Metal Office Furniture Company. It has a flat desktop and limited storage space, forcing the clerks to stay organized and finish their work before going home. The office is a machine.

MID-20TH CENTURY



Halfway through the 20th century, corporate culture is becoming more democratic and less hierarchic.

The office is not a factory; it's a landscape.

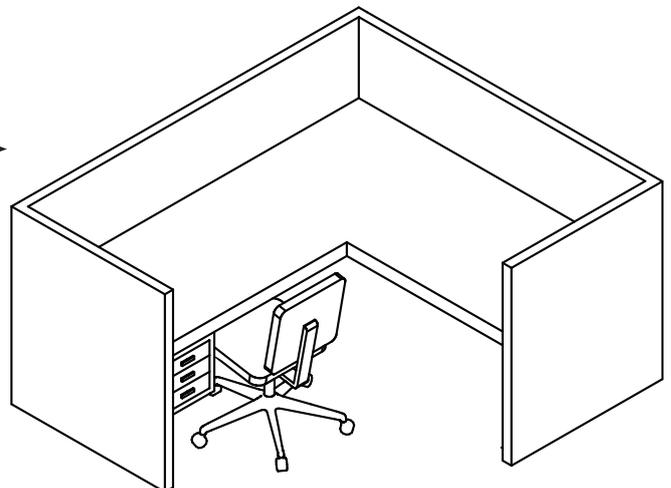
or even better: Bürolandschaft

In 1964 Herman Miller introduces the "action office", a design by Robert Probst.

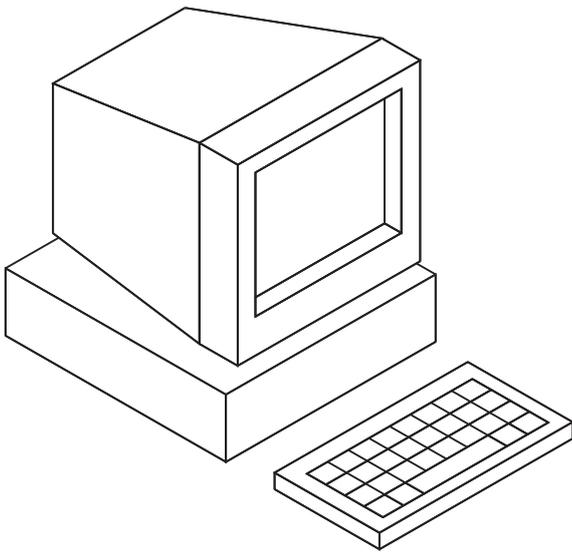
IN THE 70's

Robert Probst designs a second version of the "action office" in 1967. Individual workspaces are divided by partitions in order to improve privacy and concentration.

The cubicle is born.

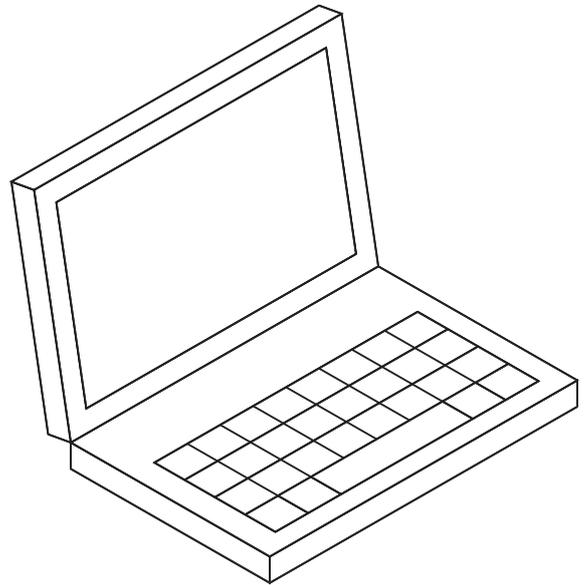


IN THE 80's



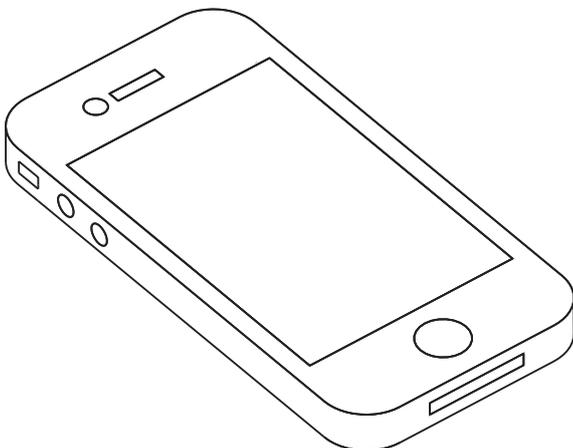
The computer conquers the office during the 80's. This miraculous machine types better than a typewriter, calculates better than a calculator and files better than any filing system.

IN THE 90's



In the 90's, the laptop is introduced. It's a computer that needs no desk. When people start using the internet, the home office is born.

IN THE EARLY 21ST CENTURY



In the early 21st century, computers are small enough to fit into a pocket and wireless internet becomes available. People are working while they are waiting for the bus or sunbathing on the beach.

REVOLUTIONARY BODIES

Apartment buildings, shopping malls and skyscrapers are popping up like daisies; e-mail, video-footage, and currency are sent with the speed of light. Planes, drones, helicopters and rockets are rushing through the airspace. Planet earth is a whirlpool of movement and change and at the eye of the storm we find a human body.

A human body is seated behind a table.

The fingers make miniscule movements.

A computer is placed upon the table.

The eyes are open; focused on the screen.

The rest of the body does not move.

Their ancestors were running after swine or plowing the fields but those people, the people of the FODU, have found a way to earn a living by sitting on a chair.

Those motionless people probably don't look like revolutionaries but they are certainly breaking a trend in the history of mankind.

KILLER CHAIRS

But rather than celebrating this great milestone, it's time to ring the alarm bells. There's a killer in the office and he has murdered thousands already.

Mr. Office Chair was first regarded as a suspect in the fifties when scientists discovered bus drivers in London were twice as likely to have heart attacks as their bus conductor colleagues. Since then, numerous studies have confirmed the murderous identity of Mr. office chair.

His name is Mr. Office Chair; that good-natured, air-suspended thing supporting your butt on a daily base without any complaints.

When sitting down on a chair, the body gets into a passive state and enzymes that help to break down fat drop with 90%

People with sitting jobs have twice the rate of cardiovascular disease as people with standing jobs.

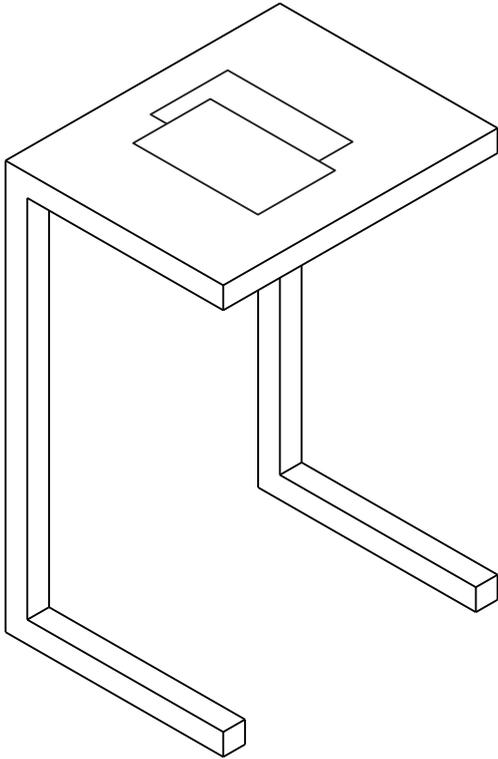
Even if they exercise...

Some designers and engineers have tried to re-design the desk in order to sustain its existence.

Scientific research has signed the death warrant of seated work. Is this the end of the FODU history?

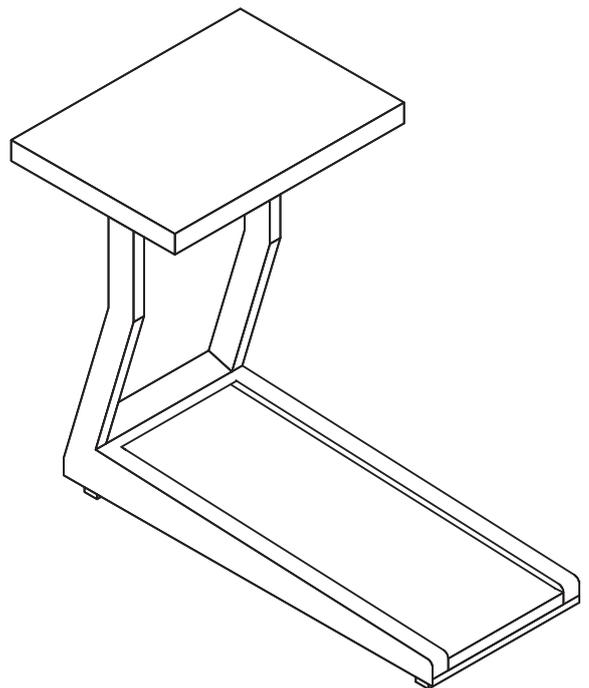
THE STANDING DESK

The standing desk just eliminates the office chair. The tabletop is placed at chest-level enabling working in an upright position.



THE TREADMILL DESK

Combining the standing desk with a treadmill allows the body to stay in motion while working behind a desk.



Both designs improve the ergonomic quality of the desk but it seems the designs lack courage to step away from the concept of the desk as table.

While designers struggle with the future of the desk, computer-users adopted a modern definition of the word "desktop" roughly twenty years ago.

People used the desk for bookkeeping,
copying manuscripts and writing letters.

But you can do exactly the same and much
more with any computer.

The desk is a screen.

The desk is not a table anymore.

The screen of your smartphone.

You can hold it in your hand.

But this is not the end.

And work wherever you want.

A PROPHECY

It's not a table.

It's not a laptop.

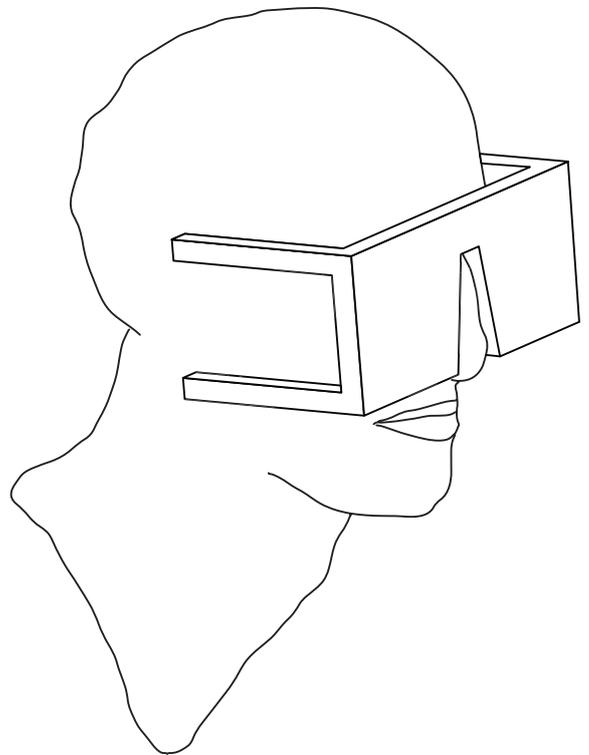
It's not a screen in your hand.

But it's there, close to your eyes.

It has no beginning; it has no end.

It's a space,

Just toggle the switch.



There's no mouse and no touch-screen and there is no keyboard.

Check your inbox by clicking your tongue.

Play a song by whistling the melody.

Write code by biting your fingernails.

Make a call by touching your ear.

Download apps by jumping in the air.

Mute the speakers by crossing your fingers.

Who needs an office?

Offices are for pussies!

Let's meet on the beach tomorrow!

Remove spam by picking your nose.

Save a file by holding your breath.

Browse through files by blinking your eye.

Send a message by waving your arms.

Sell your stocks by kicking a tree.

Who needs a table?

Tables are for pussies!

About PROOFFLab Magazine

PROOFFLab Magazine is a new professional magazine that aims to define the future working culture. Every first day month a visionair is invited to share his or her vision on the new working landscape through an essay in text and images. Based on their writings referential articles and projects are published daily.

About this month's contributor

Jan Pieter Kaptein is a slightly hypochondriac designer, writer and entrepreneur, graduated in 2013 from the illustrious Design Academy Eindhoven with a series of costumes promoting the use of alter egos as a survival strategy and educational form of recreation. Jan Pieter is using absurd humour as a problem-solving tool and draws inspiration from his own extensive meditations on personal experiences.