



YAA

okamura

# YAA

YAA — its name comes from the Japanese greeting “やあ (Yaa),” a light, friendly word exchanged when people casually meet each other.

It’s the kind of greeting you say when you bump into someone in the hallway or start a conversation naturally—simple, spontaneous, and full of warmth. A word that instantly softens distance and opens the door to connection.

To a colleague. A junior. A senior. Someone from another department. Even to the president.

“YAA, how are you?”

“YAA, got a minute?”

“YAA, what do you think of this idea?”

Scenes where people reach out across titles and roles, engaging freely and naturally.

YAA was born from the wish to create such moments in the office—where spontaneous greetings and lively exchanges flow effortlessly through the space.





## Blending and connecting as we work

What kind of environment encourages that?

An open, wall-free layout may be one approach.

Yet too much openness can sometimes feel unsettling or make conversations harder to start. In contrast, a gentle sense of enclosure can offer psychological comfort, helping people feel more at ease to talk—or to think calmly on their own.

YAA softly defines space to create comfortable distance and natural encounters, bringing people and places together. It is Blending Furniture—furniture designed to connect individuals and areas, space and to weave human interaction naturally into the workplace.

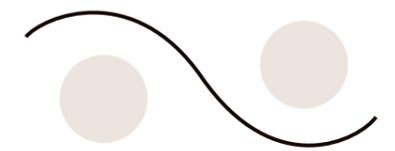
### Conventional partitioning

Partitioning exists to separate people and areas.



### YAA as Blending Furniture

It gently blends here and there, fostering a comfortable sense of togetherness among people at work.





# YAA, Creating just the right sense of distance

Not too close, not too far. Not too open, not too shut.  
The gentle curves of YAA furniture add a blank canvass  
to space to promote a relaxed style of working and en-  
courage communication.





# YAA, Encountering someone at random.

Calling out to someone you unexpectedly passed. Receiving hints for ideas from them as you chat while standing. YAA creates organic pathways not unlike a forest path or park to naturally enhance people's mobility and support their interaction.

## YAA, Creating an open space where you belong.

A perfect place where you feel like you belong, one conducive to doing work on your own and at your own pace, as well as a place where the vibes and voices of those around you are well within reach. The ideal recipe for everyone to freely call out to each other and casually strike up a bit of conversation.



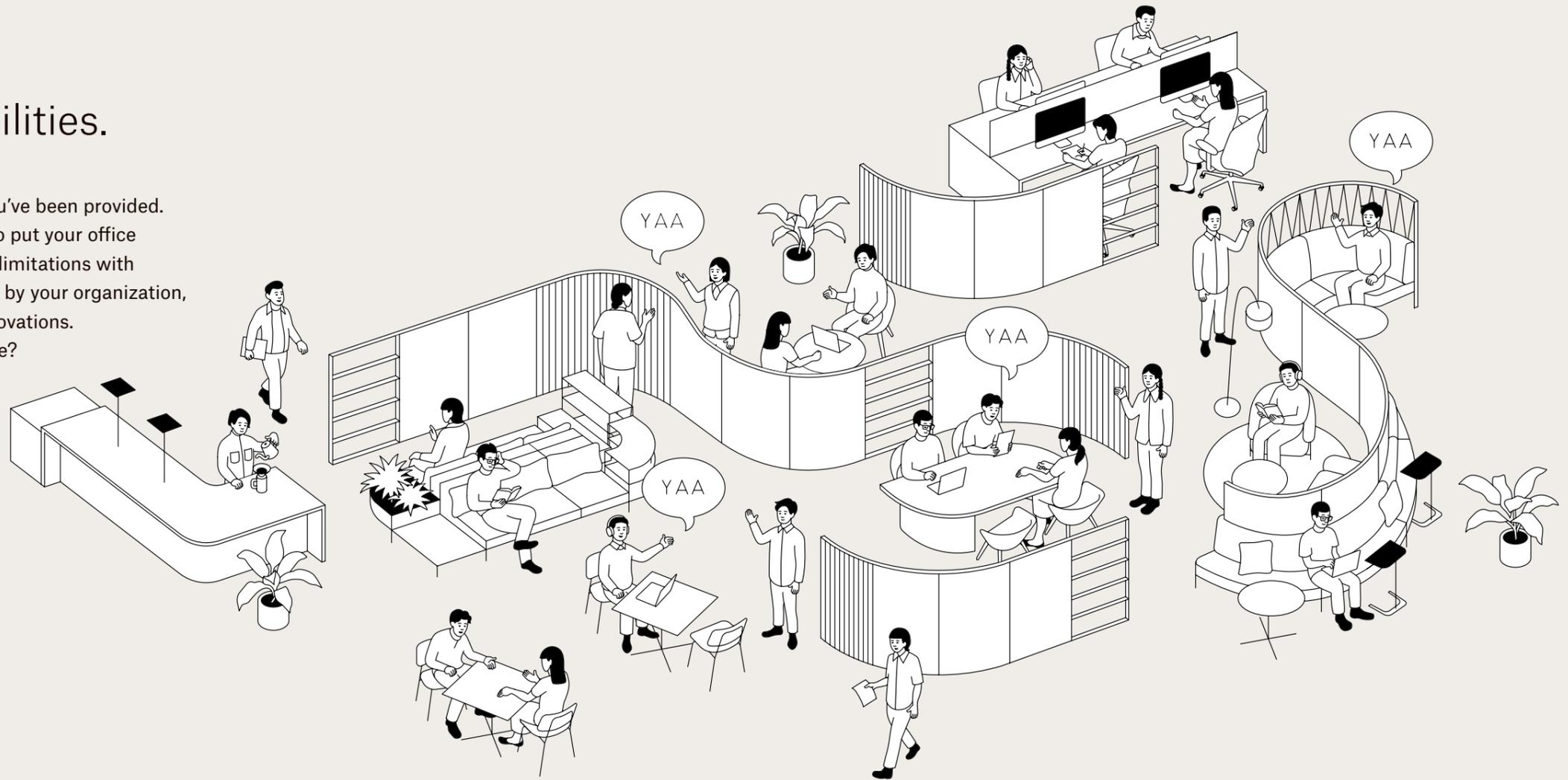


## YAA, Scenes of blending

Blending spaces and people, not separating them. YAA carves out an unprecedented office landscape with its gentle curves. In the rhythmical space that results, people gather and exchange words second-naturally. A change in scenes means a change in both the office's atmosphere and the mentality of the people there.

# Nearly limitless possibilities.

Let your ideas run free on the blank canvass you've been provided. Combine YAA furniture in any way you see fit to put your office space together. Realize your ideal resolution to limitations with office shape or dimensions, or challenges faced by your organization, with no need for wall construction or major renovations. What kind of "YAA" will be born from your office?



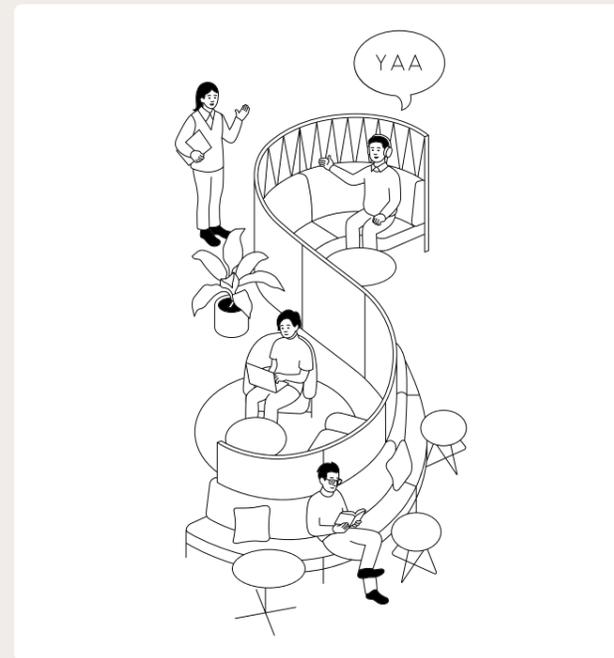
### Whether you are working on your own or as a team

This YAA unified cubicles with differing heights. The result is a location whose high enclosures are conducive to making progress on individual work without surrounding distractions. Moreover, the lower areas make it easier to call out to others from either inside or within, and create natural communication within the team.



### Where conversations spark and flow effortlessly.

This YAA was pieced together using a variety of sofas and chairs. Consult with others about work, pick up where you left off after a meeting, or even engage in small talk to clear your head. The moderate partitioning creates a relaxed atmosphere, resulting in a forum for interaction where it is easy for people to come together.



### Designed for everyone to unwind — whether together or alone.

This YAA is a combination of round panels. The S-shape forming a gentle curve allows people to work at a relaxed pace while also getting a feel of the vibe around them. Value your own time while simultaneously maintaining the bonds with your peers as well.



### Encourages people to exchange ideas freely.

This YAA softly partitions the space using an L-shape. It puts an environment in place that moderately softens the gaze of others and makes it possible to concentrate on meetings, yet brings out a casual atmosphere without the rigidity of a fully-closed meeting room.

# DETAILS



## Beauty in every detail.

With their simplicity and efficiency, YAA designs are founded on high-precision working and finishing that extend to the finest detail. This uncompromised attention to detail makes the beauty of the furniture's curves stand out and gives it a soft yet refined appearance that is a step above from conventional partitioning.



## Gentle boundaries.

Lines of sight drift softly to the other side to add depth and rhythm to the space. Louvers can be installed in the space where appropriate. These lend a feeling of both peace of mind and openness to the space and create an environment conducive to calling out to others from within or outside it. Choose from a wood grain type with a natural, relaxed texture, a neutral coating type, or a cord type that gives off a light, gentle impression.



## Rhythm in form and space.

Curves provide fluidity and flexibility. Straight lines give off an intellectual vibe and inspire feelings of security. Combine both types of lines in any direction to add rhythm and scope to your space.

# COLOR & MATERIAL & FINISH

YAA's colors have been designed to provide a high-quality background that elevates the people who work in the office, its main players, as well as the office's interior. This is evident in the selection of relaxed tones that blend in effortlessly with the space. Here, we highlight three out of the total of six color types offered based a combination of frame and material, and feature interior materials that are easily paired with those colors. Please use these as hints for getting a feel of the office's atmosphere or for creating a comfortable environment.

YAA Color Combinations

Paint Color	Fabric Color
	
	
	
	
	
	

## Light Greige × Beige

This combination fosters a highly intimate, relaxed atmosphere. Materials well paired with these colors include soft colors and textures such as limestone, oak, Japanese paper, and carpet. When mirror surface material that reflects light is added as an accent, the gentle, cafe dining-like impression originally given off gets a touch of sophistication.



## Grayish Red × Brown

This combination is suitable for spaces where time is spent amid soft illumination rather than a large amount of light let in from the outside. The result is a favorable harmony with materials that have character, such as brick, brass, walnut, and natural stone, as well as with warm-toned indirect lighting, creating the impression of a lounge offering quiet concentration and relaxation.



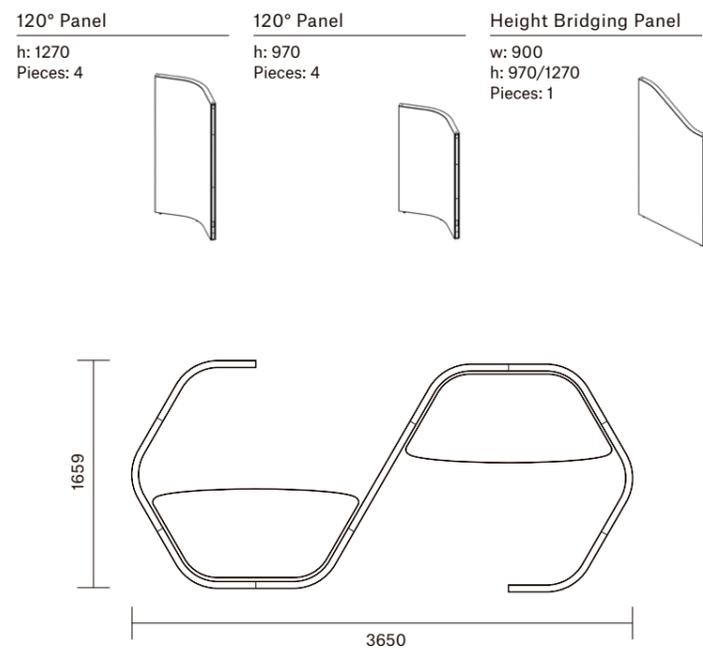
## Grayish Green × Light Greige

This combination goes well with a clean space in which ample natural light shines through from the windows. Pair blacks together with the likes of light wood, stainless steel, and green-toned stone materials for a perfectly refined overall impression. Placing monotone or simple, sophisticated furniture in the space gives it a bright, high-quality finish.



# DESIGN for SUSTAINABILITY

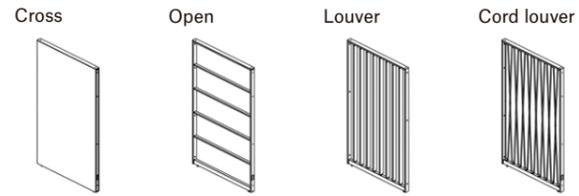
With YAA, layouts and uses can be modified even after the furniture has been once assembled. This flexible system also links to greater value in the form of the ability to continue using the furniture for a long time. Reducing waste and rebuilding. Curbing the environmental footprint. Staying in close alignment with rapidly-changing workstyles. YAA combines simple design and high versatility to bring such sustainable options to offices.



Panel

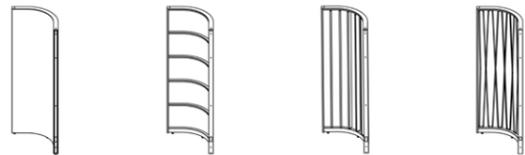
Straight

w: 400, 450, 600, 700, 800, 900, 1000, 1100, 1200  
h: 970, 1270, 1570, 1870



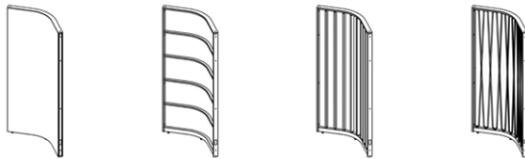
90°

h: 970, 1270, 1570, 1870



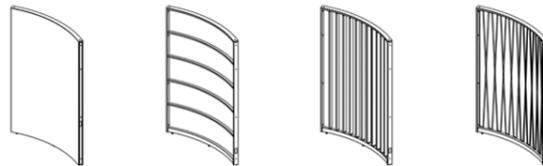
120°

h: 970, 1270, 1570, 1870



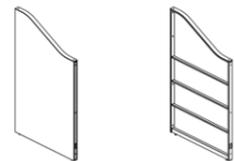
Round

h: 970, 1270, 1570, 1870



Height Bridge

w: 600/900  
h: 970/1270, 1270/1570, 1570/1870



Options

Stable footing/Both sides  
Stable footing/One (right) side  
Stable footing/One (left) side



Whiteboard  
Ø 850



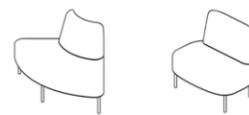
Sofa

600W 900W 1200W



For 90° external radius

For 90° booth



For 120° external radius

For 120° booth

120° tabletop



For round external radius

For round internal radius



Table

For 90° booth for one

For 90° booth for two



For 120° booth for one

For 120° booth for two



Color

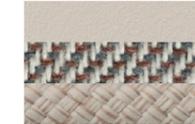
Panel

Coating

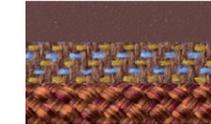
Fabric

Cord

Light Greige / Beige



Grayish Red / Brown



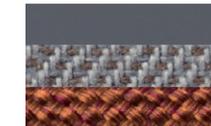
Grayish Green / Light Greige



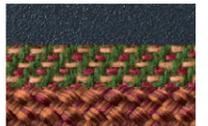
Greige / Pale Gray



Dark Gray / Light Gray



Black / Yellow Green



Sofa

Fabric

Beige



Brown



Light Greige



Pale Gray



Light Gray



Yellow Green



Table

Tabletop

White



Light Greige



Dark Gray



Prize Wood Light



Prize Wood Natural



Prize Wood Medium



Prize Wood Dark



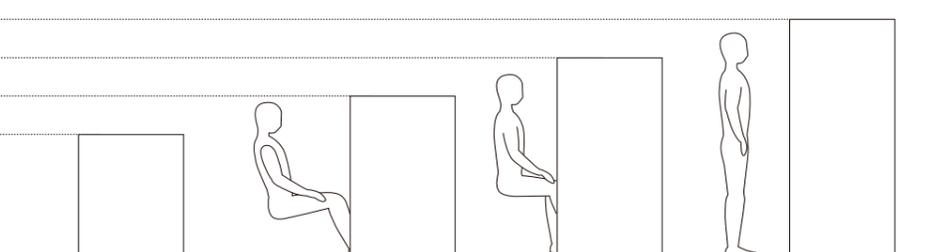
Panel Module

1870

1570

1270

970



Relaxed position

Seated position

Standing position

# CREATOR'S VOICE

"Oh, so this is how it can be used." "I see — that's another way to think about it."  
Here, we ask the creators at the forefront of office design to discuss the potential hidden within YAA furniture from their perspective.

## CREATOR'S VOICE 1

Furniture born from the blend of creators and users —continuously evolving through their connection.

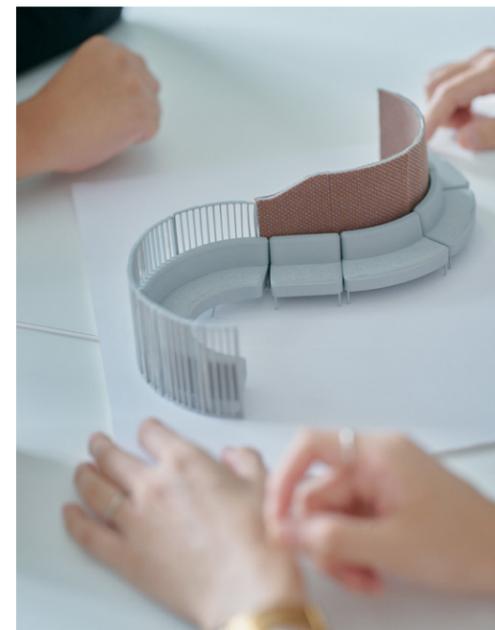
What kind of ideas gave way to the birth of YAA as a new form of furniture called "Blending Furniture"? We asked four individuals who served as development project members—Kenta Saito, Takahiro Suzuki, and Riho Hirose from Okamura, along with Ms. Noriko Kitamura, interior designer at Athena Inc. who supervised development as an external advisor—to share the background of the birth of YAA.

### How did YAA come into being?

**Suzuki:** As reporting in person for work is no longer a given, the value of the office itself had been called into question once more. This time, particular emphasis was placed on office interaction, which caused a trend toward open spaces to start taking root. Amid those circumstances, I was transferred to an office within Okamura that was designed to be relatively open. While the office was generally open and pleasant, I couldn't shake the feeling that "with just a little more effort, it would be even easier to work here." So, together with Saito here, I started thinking about what we could do to improve things.

### What process did YAA's design go through to come together?

**Saito:** As the development team discussed this and that, we settled on the direction of maintaining sight of the importance of open spaces while simultaneously attempting to create places where people could encounter and talk to each other and design elements that made it easy for them to align their lines of sight. Partitioning up to that point was meant to hide things.



Instead of that approach, we asked Hirose, who serves as Product Designer, if she could look into the possibility of whether we could softly partition spaces or blend people's movements using pathways.

**Hirose:** "What kind of places are conducive to the gathering of people?" While asking myself this question, I got to work. As I was doing so, I arrived at the idea that if there was a space similar to a recess with a widened opening, we could potentially create a place that comfortably welcomes people who work together without turning anyone away. Next, I proceeded to consider what kind of partition design would blend in with the existing office. Based on the importance of curves, I devised three types of R panels, and also readied three types of panels with an airy feel to avoid any feelings of being cooped up. We used top caps and end covers on these infinitely thin panels that connected seamlessly as if they flowed together. I think that because we employed a simple design with no baseboard, the panels became something that blended in diverse office spaces and enhanced the surrounding furniture.

**Suzuki:** We also talked about wanting to make the panels as low as possible and to create a flow of people without obstructing their field of view, didn't we? I think the contradiction of "wanting to partition space but not wanting to split it up" led to distinctive characteristics not present in existing partitioning, like parts with low heights or soft R-like shapes.

**Ms. Kitamura, what was your impression when you first saw YAA in your capacity as an advisor?**

**Kitamura:** I was asked to give input on the project from the perspective of an interior designer. I never imagined, though, that the new product Okamura was considering was partitioning. I think you can agree that it's a category that rarely gets any atten-

tion these days. But that's exactly why I thought it would work. It excited me to see everyone challenging the yet-to-be realized potential of offices rather than catering to widely-acknowledged needs.

Offices in recent years require a diverse variety of work settings (due to the adoption of Activity-Based Working, or ABW). Consequently, various pieces of furniture are placed throughout them. Because desks, cafe tables, sofas, and various other forms of furniture coexist in the same space, that space tends to become cluttered. Harmonizing those elements as a cohesive space is the job of an interior designer. When I first saw YAA, I felt that zoning it appropriately would cause a sense of unity to naturally come about.

**Hirose:** Ms. Kitamura offered quite a few eye-opening perspectives through her advice. Being able to hear opinions and receive advice from someone in her position during the development process was, to me, both fresh and of great value.

**Kitamura:** Remember how we were hiding the frame



screws with resin covers at first? I told you right off that bat, "I don't think that's necessary." The use of different materials would compromise the sense of unity, plus I had a hunch that since Okamura had the technical prowess to refine the details, black screws would have a clean look even if they were exposed.

**Lastly, how would you like companies and interior designers to use YAA?**

**Saito:** My hope is that people who work together also blend together to communicate more, giving the office a good kind of "noisiness" in the process. My belief is that deep communication comes about as an extension of casual interaction. I want YAA to serve as the foundation for that. It might also have appeal from the standpoint of environmental consideration, as YAA can be used to scale down partition walls in the office. Partition walls need to be dismantled and disposed of when attempting to change layouts. In comparison, YAA is reconfigurable, which makes it flexible and sustainable.

**Suzuki:** In the end, we want interior designers to enjoy themselves when they create layouts. Since there are no restrictions on how YAA has to be used, my hope is that designers arrange layouts as they please and experience more new discoveries and surprises as they do.

**Kitamura:** I definitely second that. If interior designers give us feedback on what they want more of, YAA will keep evolving. Ideally, YAA creators and users will blend as well.

**Okamura Product Development Team**



**Kenta Saito**  
Product Planning



**Takahiro Suzuki**  
Product Development



**Riho Hirose**  
Product Design



**Noriko Kitamura, Athena Inc.**

Worked as Representative of SL&A Japan, a design firm specializing in workplaces, for seventeen years. Subsequently established Athena in 2025. Athena offers design and strategy consulting services closely aligned with corporate culture and growth strategy that transform workplaces into a driving force for management.

## CREATOR'S VOICE 2

Spaces that go beyond efficiency create room for the human spirit to breathe.

Yumika Yoshida, Design Director at FLOOAT, focuses on interior design for offices, commercial spaces, and residences. Ms. Yoshida works on enhancing the “comfort quality” by ensuring exquisite quality down to the finest details, starting with space and including the likes of furniture selection and styling. We asked her about the novelty and appeal of YAA.

**With work styles becoming increasingly diverse, what kind of office designs are frequently sought by companies?**

All companies are consistently after “communication.” Part of that is because communication has become thin due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before that, however, a desire to invigorate internal interaction, including information-sharing within organizations, had remained constant. In recent years, the trend of promoting remote work has also shifted little by little. Today, the desire to bring employees back to the office is quite prevalent. In my estimation, companies are of the mind to keep their employees from becoming isolated as much as possible and have them find ideas in an environment with human connection.

**As someone who has devised offices where communication flourishes, what impression do you have of YAA?**

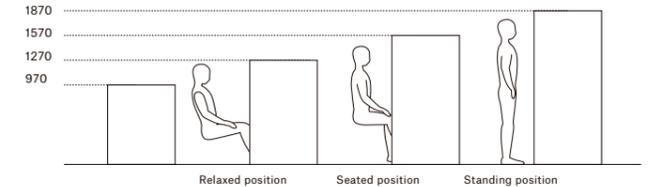
As the development team discussed this and that, we settled on the direction of maintaining sight of the importance of open spaces while simultaneously attempting to create places where people could encounter and talk to each other and design elements



The Mitsui & Co. Real Estate Ltd. Head Office designed by Yoshida. Furniture that does not wear out has been carefully chosen.

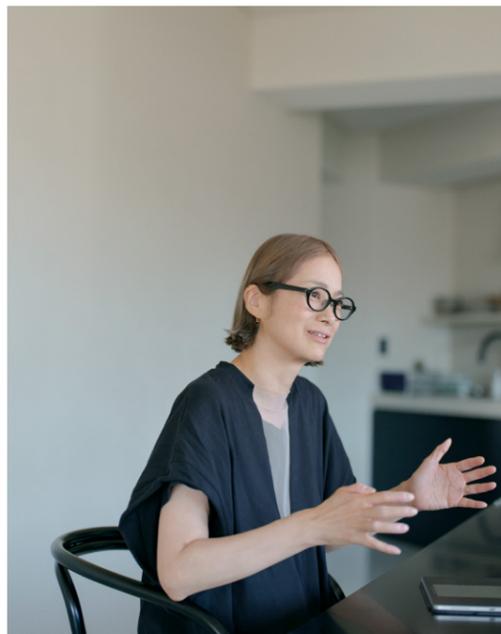
that made it easy for them to align their lines of sight. YAA creates a reassuring atmosphere with its moderate partitioning while simultaneously making it possible to create an atmosphere whose members can be individually connected with. It's hard to start talking to someone who works in a closed, cockpit-like space. In comparison, I think YAA is structured in a way that makes it easy to do so from either the inside or the outside. When designing office spaces, I am constantly mindful to avoid placing things that will become worn out as time goes on. An office may look attractive at first. However, once you place furniture that is prone to deterioration there, areas that have gradually worn out start to become noticeable. In turn, more and more people treat the office without care, which causes the quality of the space overall to decline. For that reason, I avoid placing such things in my regular work environment as well. However, because YAA has been crafted with care, I imagine it retains its quality for years. I can sense the attention that has gone into the details, like the edge details and coating texture.

**As someone who has devised offices where communication flourishes, what impression do you have of YAA?**



YAA offers four selectable height levels between 1,870 and 970 mm to match working posture.

Height differences are considerably important in creating a sense of depth in a space. Office layouts have an unavoidable tendency to become homogeneous. In particular, when there is a continuous series of objects with the same height, it becomes difficult to get a sense of the scope of the space. For that reason, the extent to which rhythm and variation are created through height differences becomes a key factor. YAA offers four freely selectable heights. Moreover, because it is not intended for use on a stand-alone basis, it is also well-suited to creating height differences with other pieces of furniture. In particular, given that desks, which are the most commonly used pieces of furniture in an office, have fixed heights to a certain degree, I think that when considering what furniture to place at heights between 1,800 and 720 mm that





lmm, a professional design magazine published by FLOOAT. Focuses on both domestic and international design, particularly that involving product and interior design.

won't obstruct fields of view while using those desks as the base, a well-balanced sense of depth and interesting space will unfold as a result.

Another appealing aspect of YAA is how it enables you to create "gaps" in space. Conventional partitions are used solely for partitioning purposes. Placing them with some separation tends to compromise their sense of interconnectedness. With YAA, however, its unique curves create a sense of continuity that generates a sense of unity in the space when it is laid out with gaps in between. I'd say the presence of gaps increases pathways for people and creates an atmosphere that is more conducive to casual conversation. In offices that need to be tightly laid out in order to boost space efficiency, deliberately creating a blank canvass lends greater abundance to the space. That aspect is what makes YAA interesting.

#### **What kind of office space would you personally create using YAA?**

I would recommend using YAA to create meeting spaces right in the center of the office. I like how you can easily bring together various types of meeting spaces made with combinations of sofas and high tables all in one place. While it also depends on the office size, being able to put together about four different scenes seems like an ideal way to use the volume afforded by the space. I think incorporating YAA right in the center of the space with flat work areas spreading out around it would create height elevation and make the layout iconic. In our regular office design endeavors as well, we are mindful to eliminate

dead ends and create flow by incorporating various functions and multiple pathways into large clusters of space such as meeting rooms. As YAA also makes it possible to create lounges and meeting spaces in a single location, I felt like it was developed from the same perspective. If I were to use YAA as I see fit, I'd try placing it with just the open frame and no panels. In my opinion, bringing forth communication and separating people are contradictory on a fundamental level. Still, for the sake of peace of mind, I think I would want some form of separation. Given that, I have a feeling that a light frame might be enough to serve as such a partition.

#### **What role do you think YAA will play in future offices and office design?**

I believe YAA will play the role of furniture that creates blank canvasses inside offices. Blank canvasses and gaps in offices are a source of comfort and ease of movement. After all, spaces that are efficient and nothing else make the people who occupy those spaces feel stifled, wouldn't you say? The blank canvasses afforded by incorporating elements such as YAA's height differences and curves -- in other words, elements that are not necessarily efficient -- are what will truly add abundance to space and give people mental leeway. That, I feel, will lead to a more comfortable working environment.



**Yoshida Yumika**

Design Director at FLOOAT. Handles diverse projects both within and outside Japan, including shops and residences, with a particular focus on offices. Creates high-quality, comfortable spaces closely aligned with day-to-day life. Also involved in the publication of lmm, an independent design journal originating from Japan. Main work endeavors include the 2023 "Mitsui & Co. Real Estate Ltd. Head Office" project.

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