

HermanMiller
Civic™ Tables





Round Fenix surface with black painted mobile base and pass-thru power

Meet, Collaborate, Present, Dine, Lounge

Civic is a comprehensive table programme that can be used for a wide variety of settings found at work, in hospitality and at home. It includes tables for meetings, conferences, cafés, lounges, and collaborative workshops – each available in a broad choice of colours, materials, finishes and price points.

Architects and designers can achieve from a single table programme, congruency across all of these applications. Civic's base design lends harmony, elegance and coherence to a space, allowing tables to be specified in numbers even when the environment maybe diverse and eclectic.

Civic is available in a large range of sizes and shapes too, with surfaces that can be oval, soft-square, round or trapezoidal. The aluminium and steel base structure is designed to accommodate surfaces not previously available from Herman Miller – Italian marble and soft-surface Linoleum. Polished or powder-coated aluminium feet can be fitted with levellers or agile castors.

Power demands have also been carefully considered with a multitude of options available to cater to your individual needs, including a centralised platform that also accepts Formwork desk accessories. In addition, cables run through Civic's columns, keeping things clean and tidy.

Meet



“The Civic philosophy is simple. To provide a collection of tables that bring graceful congruency to a broad range of settings.”

Sam Hecht, designer





Soft-square folkstone grey laminate surface with white painted base



Soft-square white laminate surface with white painted base



Collaborate



“The goal is to create an underlying congruency across the open plan, where all furniture might be seen at once, yet work for each environments own terms.”

Kim Colin, designer





Present

*“Civic is essentially one table base that applies for all uses
without compromising function, cost or aesthetic.”*

Kim Colin, designer









Oval black marble polished surface with black painted base and polished aluminium feet







The Embodiment of Work

Duncan Riches in conversation with Kim Colin and Sam Hecht

The Civic table programme is an elegant, comprehensive design that has been created to facilitate harmony in the workplace while also balancing the need for furniture to provide a unique identity for each client. It's a project created with the long-standing relationship between Herman Miller and designers Sam Hecht and Kim Colin. I sat down with the designers to discuss how they created a table system that seeks to generate quiet in a world of almost endless options.

We begin by discussing where the idea for Civic came from. "It has been in the making since Locale, the furniture system we designed for collaborative work, five years ago," says Sam. "Through it, we realised there was a need for tables that could deal with customisation and eclecticism – relevant for unique interiors, but made from the same bones." But the project never took off – perhaps ahead of its time. Herman Miller returned to the idea years later, when the need for a comprehensive table system arose, and Sam and Kim were asked to re-visit their original idea, and in fact, to expand upon it.

Civic is a reaction to the way tables are generally commissioned, where a different table design is made for each workplace application. Kim explains that "In most furniture catalogues there is a different table design for each environment, for the conference room, meetings, the café, and so on. With Civic, it's essentially one table base that applies for all uses without compromising function, cost or variety. The goal is to create an underlying congruency across the open plan,

where all furniture might be seen at once, yet work for each environments own terms." Civic finds a logic of restraint and dignity for materials, form, shape and use. Tables are rational in terms of their ordering and specifying, but they can be eclectic in their material expression. Some parts can be hand-made, some can be mass-produced. Civic tables are comfortable in conversation with all of the types of chairs that Herman Miller produce." Tops can be specified in a range of materials, shaped as either round, soft-square, oval, or trapezoid and at different heights. They accommodate technology when necessary, while others that don't need this capacity share vocabulary but with no unnecessary functionality that can burden budgets.

Customisation options are expansive: Civic introduces new tabletop surfaces into the Herman Miller ecosystem including Fenix and Linoleum, while the base has been engineered to support polished marble tops. "The aluminium alloy base has V-shaped feet that are fastened to the column. This allows for a different finish between column and feet," says Sam. And, the tables can have levellers or castors, bringing agility into a table type that is normally something that can't be moved.

Aside from creating a technically resolved and adaptable design, there is a thread of thinking in the Civic programme that is essentially about creating calm. Kim notes that "in large, more open plan spaces, we are starting to see more visually chaotic environments. We want Civic to

help quiet that down a bit.” This desire to create more visual calm in the workplace is linked to understanding how individuals feel in spaces and about their state of mind when they work. Sam explains, “I think many individuals have asked why their mind has to change going from home or their favourite coffee bar, into work? In other words, why does the furniture have to look like it belongs only to a work condition? When actually, we pretty much work anywhere.” Kim adds “Across the more open floor plate, in all the variety of settings – it’s all considered work. Now, where you enjoy soft spaces in the office, it is understood that you are working. It used to be that where there is a sofa, it would be for taking a break from work or that the café was for a moment away from desk work. But culturally there’s been a shift, so we expect every setting to be comfortable for work and to accommodate it ... it’s all seen as work.” One of the benefits of a long product development period, is that Civic has now been tested and refined so that it easily adapts to this wide variety of environments; for meetings, collaborations, presentations, dining and lounging.

Sam admits that “there is a natural tendency for designers and manufacturers to design for work with the assumption that ‘this is it’, this is the end-solution. Many clients feel increasingly that, ‘I don’t want to work in a fixed solution that is not mine, I don’t want to work in a showroom. I want my own identity and for my staff to work in a culture that I have developed, so why would I want to work in someone else’s culture? This is something that takes courage to acknowledge.”

This type of honesty and willingness to respond to difficult questions, is in my view what allows Sam and Kim to create designs that are culturally so resonant. As Kim says “there are a lot of cultural changes that are effecting the shape of the workplace right now and Civic tries to reflect these”. It is a transparent type of design programme, one that rejects a traditional product hierarchy, echoing the fact that many companies are removing more formal boundaries and are increasingly focused on fostering positive collaborations across the workplace.

Sam acknowledges that serving the needs of the individual, of their company and of the specifier is key to the design of Civic. “We have learnt that we have to be more broad in our approach to possible finishes. The customer needs to really love it and get it in their preferred finish, size, shape, colour and purpose. It’s like the tailoring business essentially, because one company is not the same as another. Civic is about giving space and opportunity, but still making sure that it is decent and at the right price and it is proportionally good.”

We end by discussing what the workplace might look like in the future, and how has developing Civic informed them? Kim responds “If you look at the trajectory of the office, it used to be the corporations that made decisions about how we should work and what to work in. But now the individual is key. It’s actually the workers who are determining how they would like to work and be as happy and performative as they can.”



Dine

“Civic finds a logic of restraint and dignity for materials, form, shape and use. Tables are rational in terms of their ordering and specifying, but they can be eclectic in their material expression.”

Sam Hecht, designer











Lounge

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Kim Colin, designer

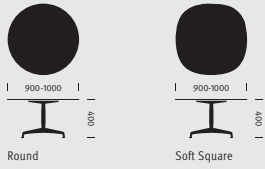




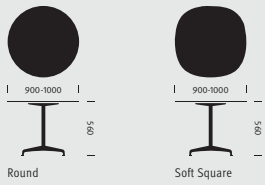
Statement of Line

Civic comes in a variety of height, shape, and base configurations, and can be easily customised to address different needs. Power-solutions are available across all shapes and sizes, along with caster options for agility.

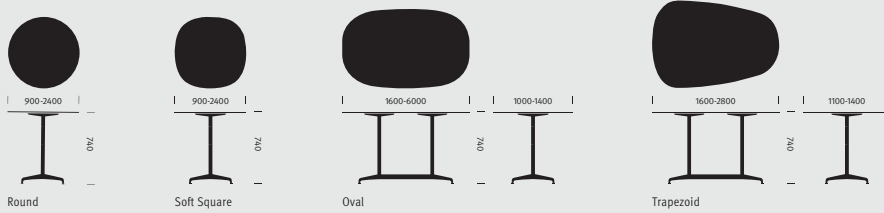
Occasional Tables



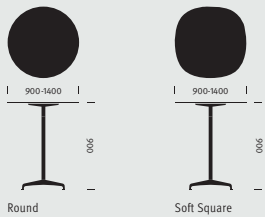
Lounge Tables



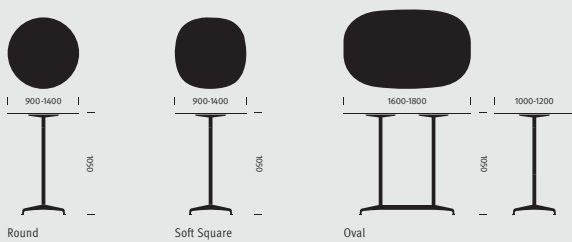
Work Tables



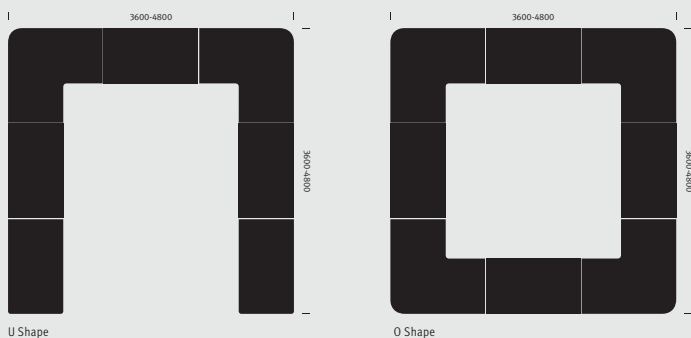
Counter-height Tables



Standing-height Tables
















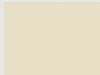








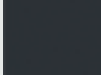

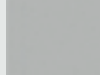








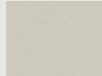

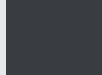





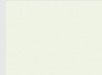
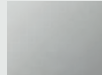
Training and Boardroom Tables



Materials

With tabletops that push the boundaries of finishes, through the introduction of lino, marble and soft-touch surfaces, Civic Tables cover a diversity of styles across many spaces. Please speak to your Herman Miller representative for the most current textile and material offering for Civic Tables.

Civic Tables

Top Melamine								
	Charcoal Ash I4	Natural Walnut RY	Smoked Cherry I3	Havana Cherry OC	Halifax Oak HFK	Napoli Oak OB	White Halifax Oak WFK	Light Ash I2
								
	Graphite G1	Onyx Grey ONG	Fjord FJD	Folkstone Grey 8Q	Denim Blue DEN	Soft White LU	Chalk White X1	
Veneer								
	Walnut open grain OUG	Walnut on Ash EV	Oak open grain OKG	Oak on Ash EU	White American Oak NOK	Maple open grain Z5G	Clear on Ash ET	
Laminate								
	Nero Ingo FX1	Grigio Antrim FX4	Grigio Efeso FX3	Blanco KOS FX2				
Marble								
	Nero Marquina gloss NMG	Nero Marquina matte NMM	White Carrara gloss WCG	White Carrara matte WCM				
Lino								
	Charcoal FL1	Smokey Blue FL4	Ash FL2	Mushroom FX3				
Base Finishes								
	Black BK	Graphite G1	Folkstone Grey 8Q	Chalk White X1				
Foot Finishes								
	Black BK	Graphite G1	Folkstone Grey 8Q	Chalk White X1	Polished Aluminium CD			

Civic Tables

Design

Sam Hecht and Kim Colin

Art direction

Industrial Facility


Photography

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Writer

Duncan Riches

**For more information, please visit [hermanmiller.com](https://www.hermanmiller.com)
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