

Designing the *Laptop Lounge Chair*: A Product for the Workplace of Tomorrow

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced unprecedented numbers of office workers on all continents to transform their homes into their offices. What lessons can be learned from this grand experiment, in the name of office furniture design?

The office is in a volatile phase where many forms of work and office types fight for market shares. Communication technology has matured to a level where we are no longer bound to the physical space of the office and is currently put to the test by the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Although the digitization process has progressed for many years, it has been argued that the physical office still is a necessity for the vast majority of office workers to conduct office work. Office furniture suffers from the same lack of momentum, as the legacy of the desktop computer is still standard in contemporary furniture design, although essentially all modern office tasks are conducted on laptops. Meanwhile, the situation of the pandemic has forced office workers to get creative and make use of the possibilities that their homes provide for conducting office work. Can the virus act as a catalyst for changes long overdue?

Imagine a workplace where your productivity is not measured by the hours endured sitting at your desk in your open plan office, with the prying eyes of your boss hovering over your shoulder. A workplace where you are in control over where you choose to conduct your work, taking you from being a washed out office rat to being a successful and valuable employee. A workplace where the days spent at the physical office are efficiently planned, with serial

meetings that actually increase productivity and improve the communication between your coworkers and yourself.

Gathered data reads that this could be the reality of the modern office worker. The future office ecosystem introduces new needs, wants and wishes on the furniture in which we are productive. In this case they are met by the product concept developed in this project, namely, the *Laptop Lounge Chair*.

The *Laptop Lounge Chair* was designed based on user tests and research on the ergonomics of sitting. It caters to the needs of the office worker who uses the laptop as it was first intended: in the lap. It allows the user to follow bodily instincts and impulses instead of remaining static. The *Laptop Lounge Chair* should not be seen as an ergonomic chair, but a chair designed with ergonomics in mind and as a part of the office ecosystem of tomorrow.

by Arvid Wendel & Cristian Andreescu



*Subject: Technical Design (MMKM10)
Division: Division of Product Development,
Department of Design Sciences,
Faculty of Engineering LTH, Lund University
Supervisor: Amitava Halder
Examiner: Axel Nordin*