

# sedus

## Workcafé



Creating areas that connect people.



# Foreword

We are currently navigating an era marked by profound transformations and cross-pollination within the office environment, where external influences such as those from the living and hospitality sectors, as well as third places, are reshaping spatial design and furnishing choices.

Among the hybridised areas emerging within the office landscape, Workcafés stand out for their significance and prevalence. These flexible and adaptable spaces accommodate a diverse range of individual and group activities, fostering an informal atmosphere that aligns with the evolving needs of contemporary workers.

This publication aims to serve as a guide for companies and professionals considering the implementation of a Workcafé within their office, providing concrete information to facilitate the selection of the most suitable Workcafé typology.

The initial section of this document explains the ongoing changes by drawing upon research that has analysed various café and Workcafé spaces globally. This section is further enhanced by a case study that documents the transformation of a traditional canteen into a dynamic Workcafé, utilising products from the Sedus catalogue.

Finally, the document presents four distinct Workcafé archetypes, highlighting their benefits, distinguishing characteristics, spatial typologies, and typical product configurations based on the Sedus catalogue for each archetype.



# Work has been radically transformed

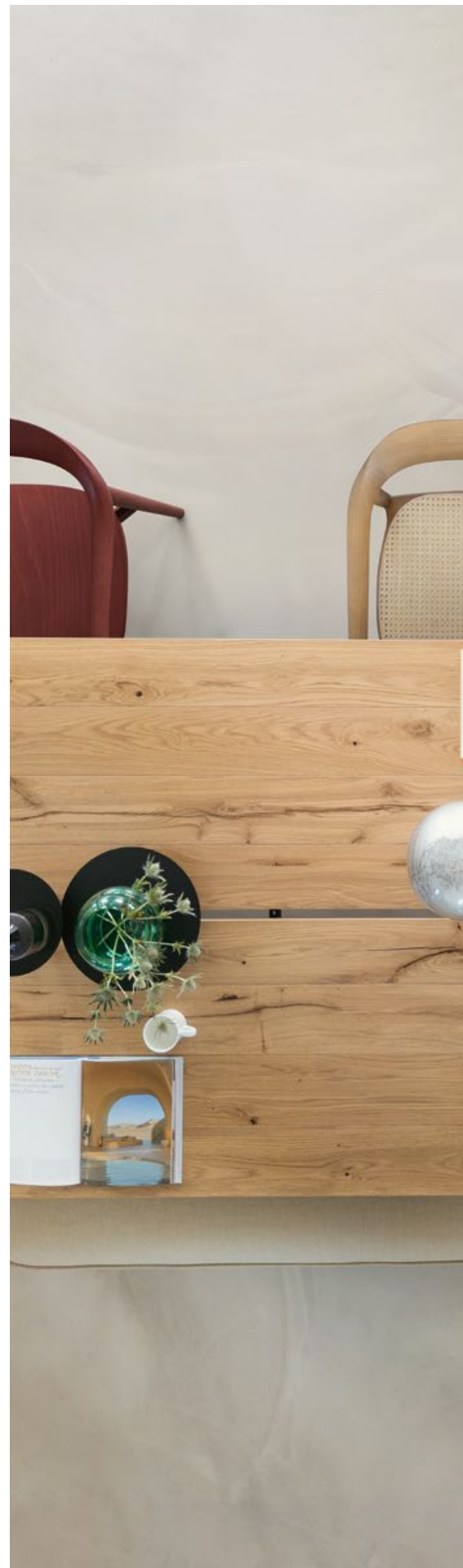
Over the past few years, the modern workplace has undergone a significant transformation, driven by societal shifts and evolving values.

The widespread adoption of hybrid work models has changed the lives of millions of employees, often blurring the lines between professional and personal lives, making it increasingly difficult to define distinct boundaries. This fluidity has also introduced complexities for companies, leading to heightened uncertainty and unpredictability in office management.

Furthermore, the very essence of work expectations has shifted. Employees now prioritise flexibility and control, reflecting a deeper reevaluation of personal and professional priorities with an emphasis on wellbeing, purpose, and a sense of belonging.

The traditional office-centric model has given way to a diverse range of work locations, including urban third spaces and home environments, fundamentally reshaping our perception of the office itself. Concurrently, the temporal aspects of work have been redefined, with a growing integration of personal and professional schedules.

These changes necessitate a re-assessment of office design and functionality to better accommodate the evolving needs of the workforce.





“

In the post-pandemic era, the function of work is undergoing a transformation to give greater importance to individual talents and lifestyle requirements, thereby promoting wellbeing through a more comprehensive merging of personal and professional aspects of life.

”

WORKSCAPE DOJO

# Offices are changing: new models emerge

In response to the evolving work landscape, marked by uncertainty and shifting employee expectations, companies have already begun to proactively transform their office spaces. This paradigm shift moves away from purely functional design approaches towards spaces centred on new behaviours and emerging needs.

While acknowledging the challenges of the current climate and the urge to respond, businesses are embracing this change to provide enticing, contemporary work environments that meet the demands of a modern workforce, thus seizing a key strategic opportunity.

Globally, a consistent trend emerges: the creation of “Hybrid Commons”. These inherently adaptable spaces are meant to cater to diverse employee needs, fostering both productivity and wellbeing. Specifically, companies are prioritising three Hybrid Commons spaces: Hybrid Cafés, designed for social and work activities with a focus on hospitality; Biophilic Oases, incorporating nature to enhance wellbeing; and Commons Arenas, dedicated to events and informal collaboration, emphasising community. This approach underscores the commitment to creating dynamic, flexible workspaces that are in step with the times, with the Hybrid Café being the most evident and widespread transformation of the office.









# The Workcafé: work meets café

The Workcafé is Sedus' formalisation of the Hybrid Café through dedicated products and worksettings.

In essence, the Workcafé is a café-like space strategically integrated within the company office, designed to accommodate a diverse range of work activities while simultaneously providing a haven for breaks, social interaction, and the consumption of food and beverages. This integration marks a significant departure from conventional office layouts, where the coffee area was relegated to a separate space.

Within the Workcafé, the functions of coffee and work are seamlessly intertwined, occurring concurrently or in a fluid, dynamic manner. The coffee area is no longer a mere pit stop for brief respites; it has evolved into a vibrant hub of activity, buzzing with energy throughout the working day.

This integration represents a watershed moment in the history of the office, signifying the deepest interweaving of coffee and work since the inception of the eight-hour workday. This transformation is rooted in the evolution of coffee culture within organisations, a journey that spans decades. Beginning with the introduction of coffee breaks in the 1950s and 1960s, office cafés have gradually transitioned from utilitarian spaces to valued social hubs, capable of fostering a sense of community.



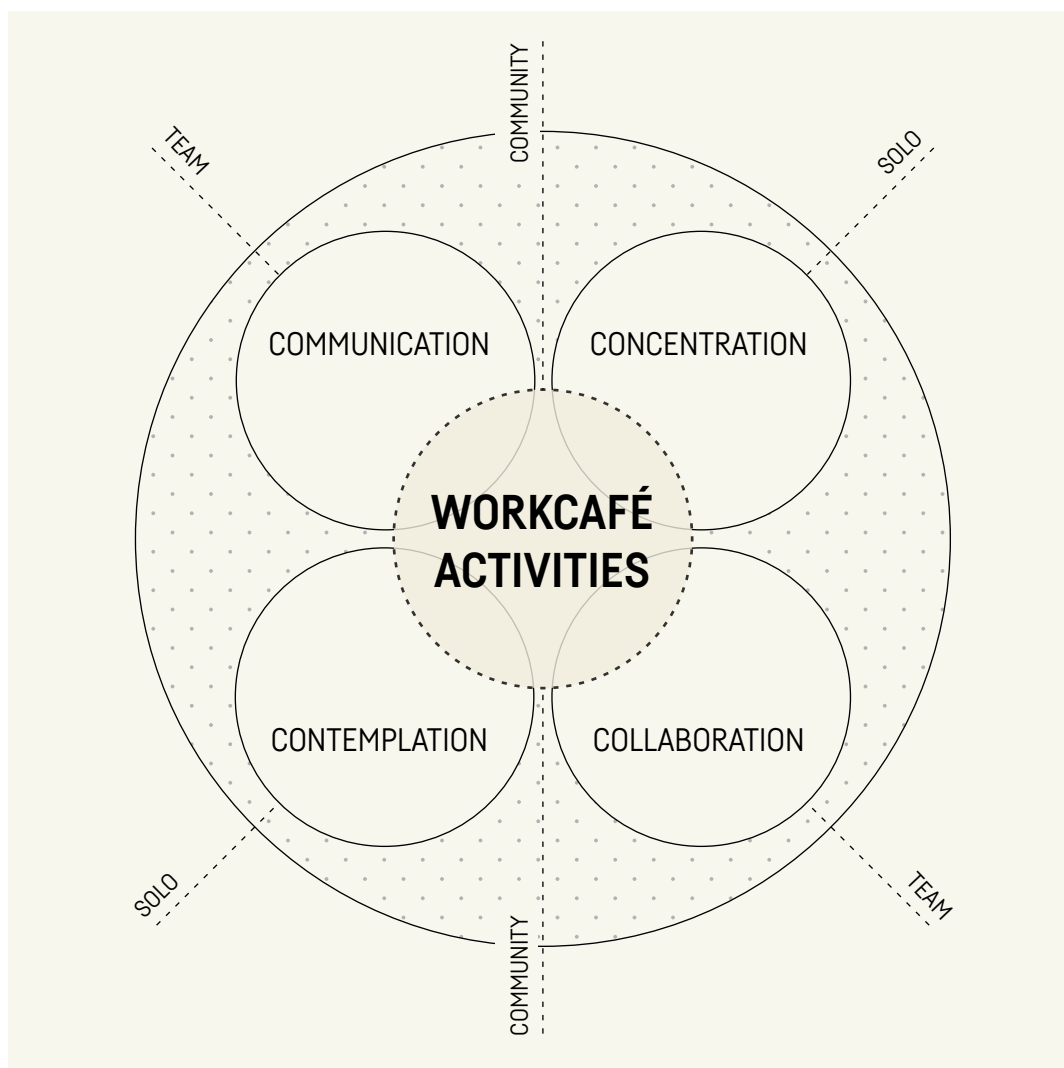
The Workcafé addresses challenges shared by both employers and employees.

The advent of work digitalisation in the late 20th and early 21st centuries fostered greater office flexibility, culminating in the paradigm shift triggered by the pandemic, a shift that the Workcafé so aptly embodies.

The Workcafé offers a multitude of benefits for both employers and employees, fostering a convergence of interests around contemporary challenges and needs. For employees, it provides greater flexibility and an increased sense of agency and control over their work organisation, creating an informal environment akin to third places, enhancing social interaction. Also, it fosters a stronger sense of community in times when in-person interactions may have become more scarce, cultivating an inclusive work environment and a

heightened sense of belonging. Employers, on the other hand, benefit from enhanced ability to manage uncertainty in work organisation, making company values more tangible, fostering employee motivation, and supporting employee wellbeing, ultimately improving work experience and outcomes.

Practically, a well-designed Workcafé provides a flexible work location that facilitates both solo and collaborative activities, allowing for seamless transitions without the need for relocation or reconfiguration. This is achieved through the incorporation of diverse worksettings and furniture types, adaptable to various activities. This adaptability ensures that the Workcafé remains a versatile and dynamic space, capable of meeting the evolving needs of the modern workforce.



The Workcafé welcomes work activities belonging to all the 4Cs.









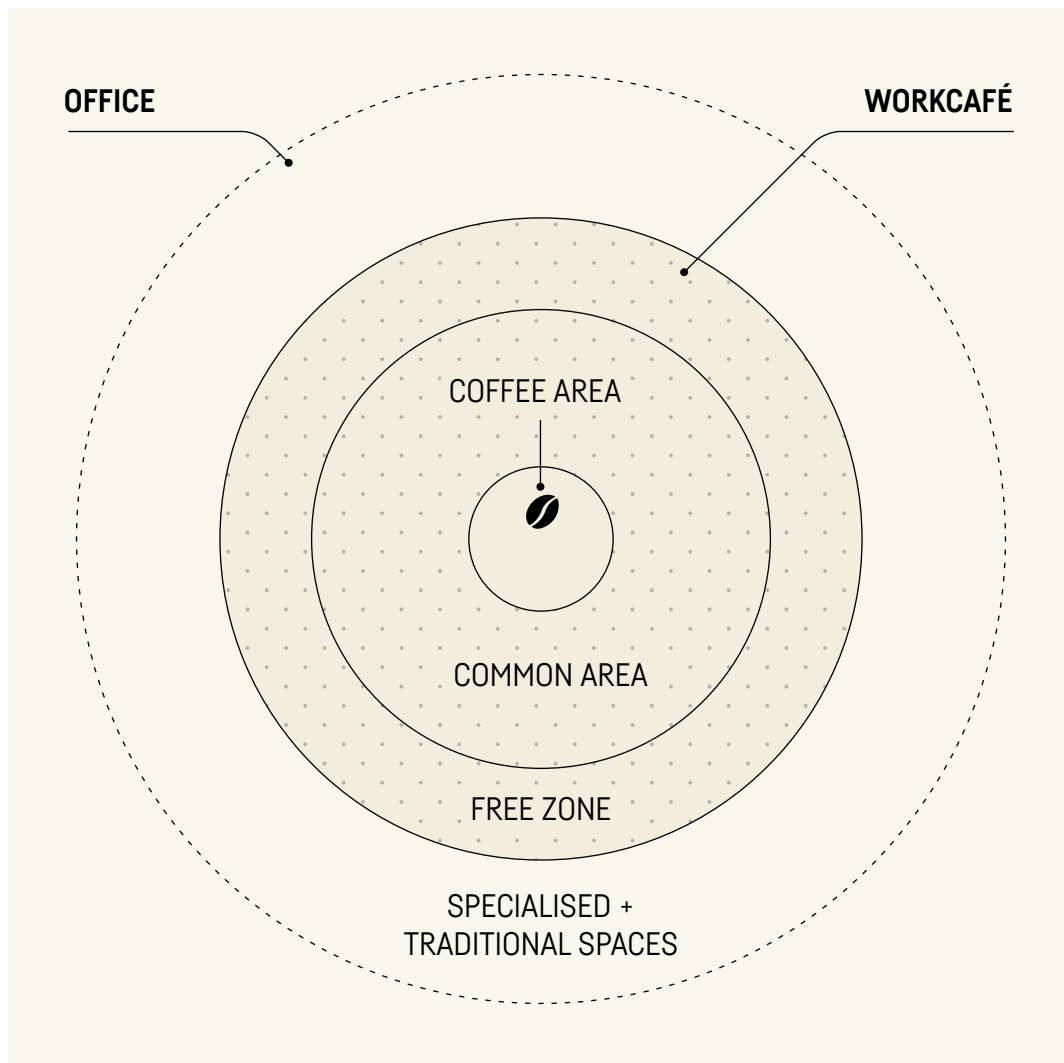


# Characteristics of a Workcafé

To effectively deliver on its promise of a dynamic and adaptable workspace, a Workcafé must be meticulously designed with key characteristics that cater to evolving employee needs.

- It should be strategically positioned at the heart of the office, ensuring easy **recognition** and **accessibility**.
- The environment should be **welcoming**, fostering informal work activities and promoting a sense of **community**.
- It should feel distinct from traditional office or home settings, **drawing inspiration from hospitality and third spaces** to create a unique atmosphere. This distinctiveness can be further enhanced by reflecting **local or company culture**.
- A high **variety of furniture types**, both **soft and hard**, should be employed to enable diverse work configurations.
- **Furniture should be non-prescriptive**, encouraging multiple uses and easy interpretation by workers for various activities. Furthermore, furniture that facilitates **informal postures** contributes to a relaxed atmosphere.
- **Seamless connectivity and technology** are essential, but should be **subtly integrated** to maintain a laid-back feel.





Workcafé layout and relationship of the Workcafé with other office areas.

While each Workcafé is unique, a common layout logic prevails. The Coffee Area, centred around a bar counter, forms the core. Adjacent to this is the Common Area, a social hub for casual interactions. Towards the periphery, the Free Zone is equipped with worksettings that facilitate more private interactions.

Though versatile, Workcafés are not intended for all work activities. Specialised and Traditional Spaces, such as those for deep focus, brainstorming, or formal training, remain separate.

This delineation ensures that the Workcafé maintains its focus on fostering informal collaboration and community, while accommodating the full spectrum of work activities.

# Coffee Bar Area: at the heart of the Workcafé

The Coffee Bar Area is the true heart of any Workcafé and represents the more social part of this office space.

The se:café bar system, composed of a wall module and room divider as well as an island module, helps to create a hub for casual interaction, setting an informal tone for the entire area. These two products offer a wide range of positioning options that can fit different Workcafé sizes and layouts.



The se:café bar wall module and room divider can be equipped with a refreshment station for hot and cold drinks, cooling food, washing up, and storage space for cutlery and crockery.

The se:café bar island comes in different configurations and can be equipped with an attached table to create a longer and more spacious counter.



**se:café bar**

**Click above to view more information**



Possible configurations and details of the se:café bar (wall module and room divider as well as island modules).

















# A Workcafé in action: the Hella case study.

**Turning a cafeteria into a vibrant Workcafé,  
Hella by LT Projects, Kaunas, Lithuania. Year: 2023.**

Hella's project, which features Sedus Workcafé products, exemplifies the conversion of a traditional canteen into a dynamic Workcafé, aligning with the Hybrid Commons concept. The initial goal was to expand seating capacity for at least 150 employees during peak lunch hours, while also creating a versatile social space for continuous daily use. The project focused on enabling employees to adapt the space for focused work, informal meetings, or relaxation.

The redesigned area features distinct zones, including a park-like coffee area, collaborative spaces with larger tables, and private conversation areas with higher-backed and more enclosed furniture. A "fine dining" section accommodates events and can be separated via curtains. The emphasis was on creating a hospitable environment through thoughtful furniture selection, acoustic improvements, and mood-enhancing lighting.

Previously used only during lunch, the space now thrives throughout the day. Notably, the redesign has positively impacted employees' perception of food quality, despite no menu changes. New serving furniture, dishes, and improved presentation have enhanced the dining experience.

This transformation highlights the effectiveness of Hybrid Commons in meeting modern workplace demands. By converting a single-purpose canteen into a multi-functional Workcafé, seating capacity has increased, and a dynamic environment promoting collaboration and socialisation was achieved.



The full case study can be found in Sedus INSIGHTS N° 19.

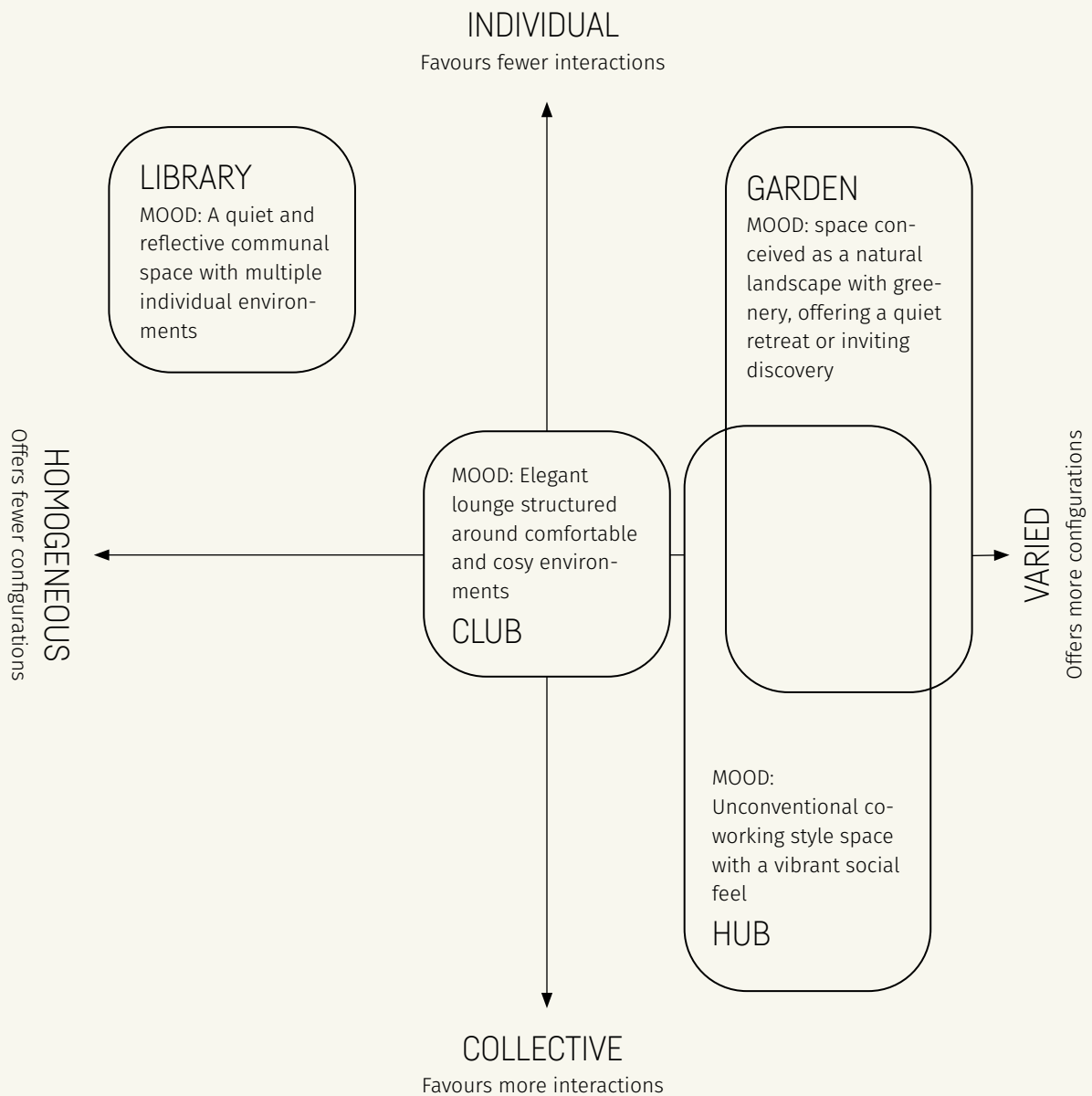
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# WORKCAFÉ ARCHETYPES

## MOODS MATRIX



Workcafés can be differentiated based on the “Archetype” they belong to. An Archetype is an analogy that describes the essence and the “character” of the Workcafé.



# The four Workcafé Archetypes

The research conducted on hybrid third places and work cafés has highlighted several distinct models in spatial organisation and proxemics. These elements can be fundamental in creating effective work cafés within office environments.

The analysis showed that the configuration of space is closely linked to the desired atmosphere, highlighting that different structures, while supporting multiple work modes, are particularly suited to promoting some approaches more effectively. In this context, four work café archetypes have been defined: Hub, Club, Library, and Garden.

The 4 Workcafé archetypes differ in their emphasis on individual or collective interactions, offering environments that can support both homogeneous ways of working and different approaches. All archetypes can accommodate team activities as well as solo activities, but each has unique characteristics that are better suited to specific organisational cultures and operational needs. Some, for example, encourage open collaboration, while others offer quieter spaces for concentrated work or varying degrees of informality and connection with nature, thus responding to different styles and preferences.

Finally, each archetype evokes a particular mood: the Library offers a more reflective communal space, the Club evokes the elegance and warmth of a living room, the Garden offers a natural and peaceful retreat, while the Hub is set up as a lively and social coworking environment.

“For a company, choosing the right Archetype means imagining how people could use the space and envisioning what kind of atmosphere and culture the Workcafé should promote.”

WORKSCAPE DOJO

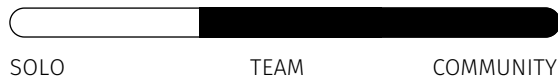


# HUB Workcafé. A place to connect and socialise

## Description

Hubs have an energetic, fresh coworking atmosphere, inspired by hospitality, community, and well-being. The central counter, a key point for interactions, fits into a dynamic setting where versatile spaces foster collaboration, creativity, and spontaneous connections.

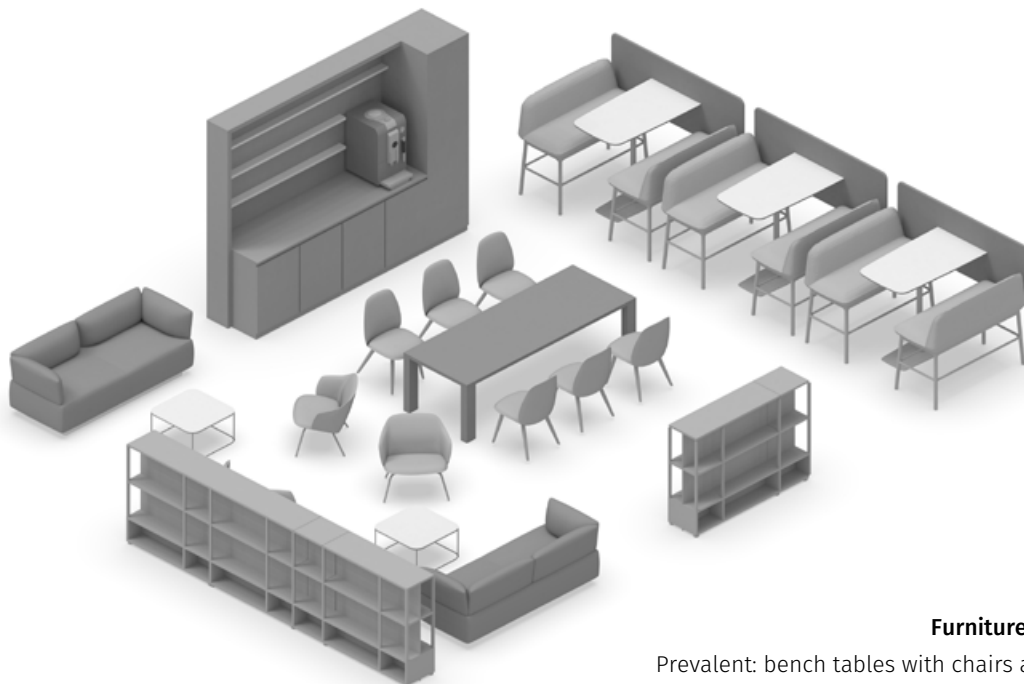
### MOST FAVOURED INTERACTIONS



## Why choose this archetype

- Energetic atmosphere that stimulates networking and innovation.
- Dynamic layout that encourages interactions and collaboration.
- Ductile spaces suitable for various work modes.
- Welcoming, informal environment ideal for employee well-being.
- Flexibility that meets the demands of hybrid work.

## Hub Workcafé · Example Composition



### Furniture and equipment:

Prevalent: bench tables with chairs and stools, round tables with chairs, high tables and high coffee tables with stools; Secondary: sofas and armchairs, free-standing bookcases

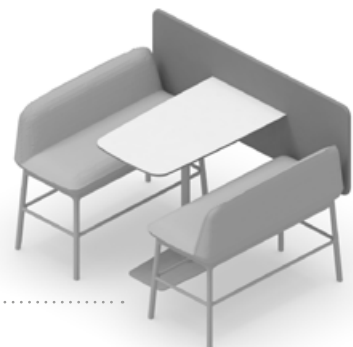


# HUB. Favouring interaction, offering choice



## Areas for informal working

This furniture arrangement is perfect for the Hub's atmosphere because it allows people to work and converse with the support of a table, but in an informal and dynamic environment, even while eating or drinking.



se:café high bench

**Click on the product names to view more information**





Soft corners for solo work and socialising

se:living lounge table square

se:living

se:café soft lounge chair

In a Hub Workcafé it is important to ensure the presence of soft areas equipped with sofas and armchairs that can support moments of relaxed and informal work in a laid-back and comfortable environment.

# HUB PRODUCTS

Selection of products particularly suitable to configure a Hub Workcafé

## 01\_PREP



se:café bar wall module and room divider



se:café bar island



se:café soft stool



se:spot stool

## 02\_SOFT



se:café soft lounge chair



se:café wooden lounge chair



se:living



se:dot

## 03\_HARD



se:café high diner



se:café bench



se:café soft chair



se:café soft stool



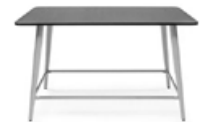
se:mood



se:assist update

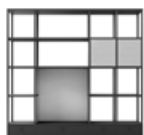


se:flair



mastermind high desk

## 04\_COMP



se:matrix shelving module



se:matrix shelving module light



se:lab mobile elements



se:assist update



se:lounge light



on spot cosy



se:tea



on spot



se:café wooden chair



se:café team table



se:works



se:spot



on spot



on spot cosy



se:lab desk



temptation four

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# CLUB Workcafé. A place to converse and relax

## Description

Clubs provide an elegant, private setting ideal for informal meetings. Inspired by upscale business clubs and hotel lounges, they merge comfort with sophistication. Their furniture ranges from plush sofas to discreet workstations and private spots in a shared area, with a counter set aside for service.

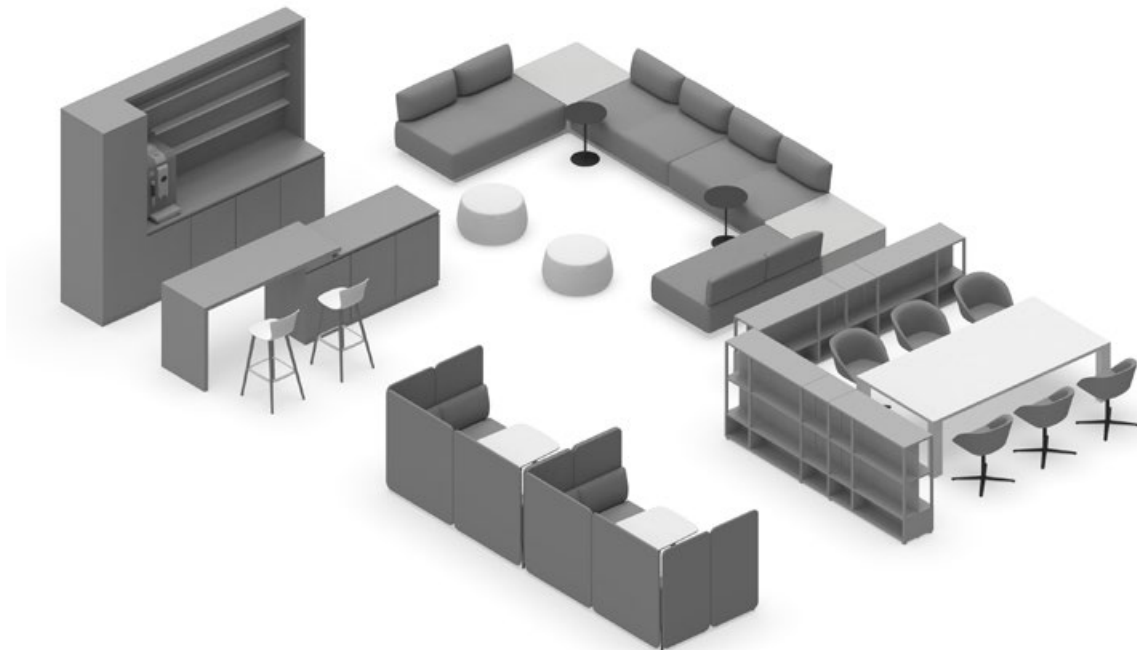
### MOST FAVOURED INTERACTIONS



## Why choose this archetype

- Ensures privacy and intimate settings for relaxed informal meetings.
- Offers an elegant atmosphere reminiscent of a business lounge.
- Features different seating for both team and solo work.
- Combines comfort, relaxation and sophistication.
- Adapts effortlessly to the dynamic needs of modern hybrid work.

## Club Workcafé · Example Composition



### Furniture and equipment:

Prevalent: sofas and armchairs, coffee tables and free-standing bookcases  
Secondary: dining tables and soft seating with armrests

# CLUB. Ensuring comfort and discretion



## Areas for informal discreet meetings

The se:works diner is particularly suited for work and meeting areas that can guarantee a higher degree of privacy in an environment that mixes elegance and efficiency.



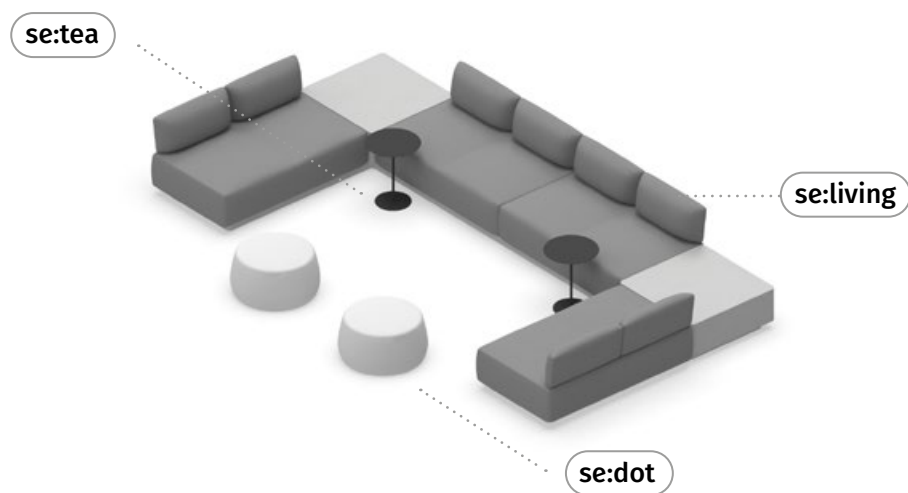
se:works diner

**Click on the product names to view more information**





## Lounge-like areas for casual conversations



Soft seating areas are very important in Club Workcafés: they are designed to host both individual workers and small groups and are equipped with sofas, armchairs, pouffs and coffee tables. These areas allow the creation of a relaxed atmosphere in a sophisticated environment.

# CLUB PRODUCTS

Selection of products particularly suitable to configure a Club Workcafé

## 01\_PREP



se:café bar wall module and room divider



se:café bar island



se:café soft stool



se:spot stool

## 02\_SOFT



se:café soft lounge chair



se:café wooden lounge chair



se:living



se:living armchair



on spot



sweetspot



se:dot

## 03\_HARD



se:café team table



se:café soft chair

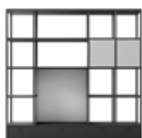


se:assist update



se:café wooden chair

## 04\_COMP



se:matrix shelving module



se:matrix shelving module light



se:assist update



se:lounge



se:lounge light



se:tea



on spot cosy



se:works



mastermind



get together





# LIBRARY Workcafé. A place to enjoy quiet time

## Description

Libraries offer a quiet, intimate space ideal for focused work. Their orderly layout, featuring small square or round tables arranged in parallel rows, is reminiscent of a library mixed with a calm street café. Discreet areas with sofas and armchairs enhance concentration and subtle collaboration.

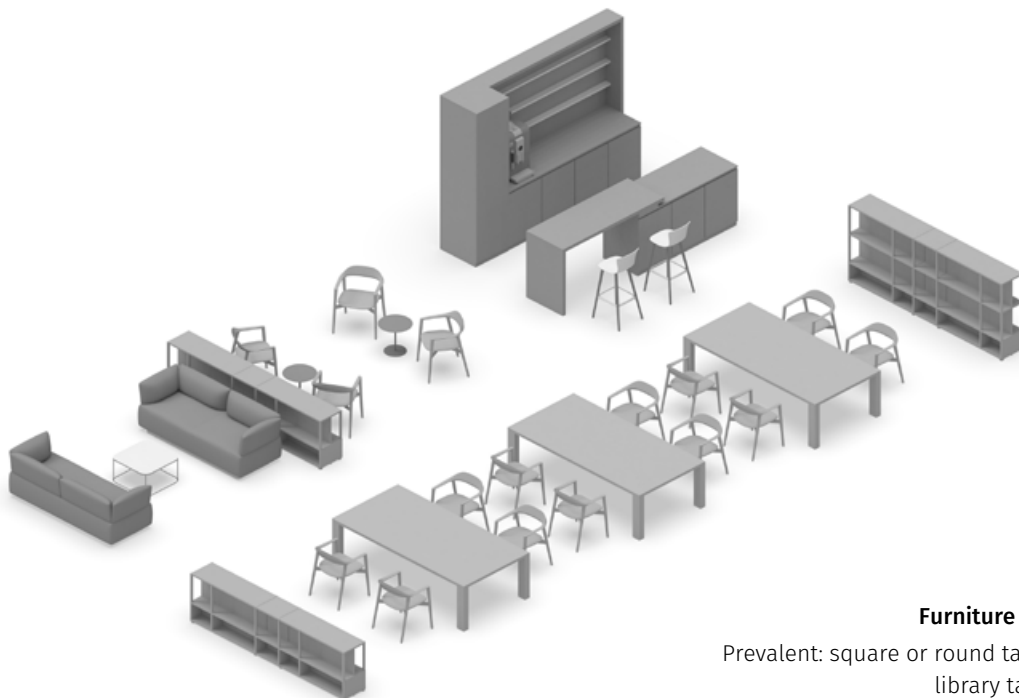
### MOST FAVOURED INTERACTIONS



## Why choose this archetype

- Ideal for concentration and solo tasks.
- Creates a calm, quiet atmosphere reminiscent of libraries.
- Regular layout supports individual and small group tasks.
- Discreet soft areas foster both solitude and small group relaxation.
- Adaptable design meets the demands of hybrid work environments.

## Library Workcafé · Example Composition



### Furniture and equipment:

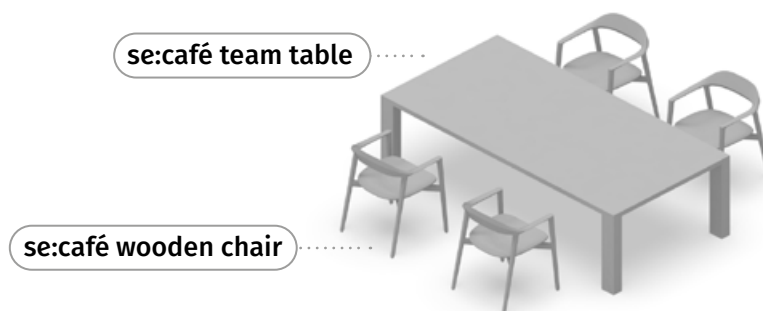
Prevalent: square or round tables with chairs,  
library tables with chairs  
Secondary: sofas, armchairs, coffee tables,  
movable free-standing bookcases

# LIBRARY. Promoting calm and concentration



## Library-like workstations on a shared table

This configuration is inspired by the dimensions and spatial organisations typical of library environments, allowing for more individual and focused work.

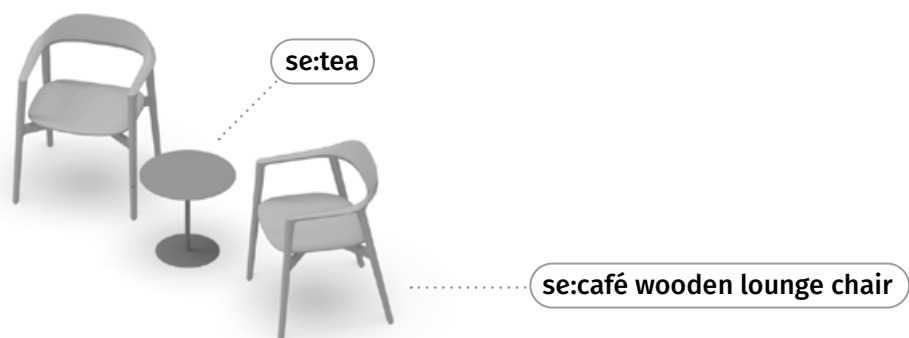


**Click on the product names to view more information**





Quiet informal seating areas for solo work



In a Library Workcafé, configurations based on tables are often complemented by soft and more informal spaces that are particularly suitable for individual activities or for small groups.

# LIBRARY PRODUCTS

Selection of products particularly suitable to configure a Library Workcafé

## 01\_PREP



se:café bar wall module and room divider



se:café bar island



se:café soft stool



se:spot stool

## 02\_SOFT



se:café soft lounge chair



se:café wooden lounge chair



se:dot



se:lounge

## 03\_HARD



se:café high diner



se:café soft chair



se:café soft stool



se:café wooden chair



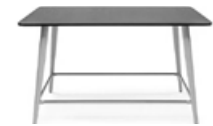
se:mood



se:assist update

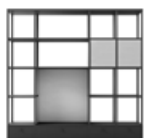


get together



mastermind high desk

## 04\_COMP



se:matrix shelving module



se:matrix shelving module light



se:lab mobile elements



se:assist update



se:lounge light



se:living



on spot cosy



se:flair



se:café team table



se:works



se:lab meet & stand



se:spot



meet table





# GARDEN Workcafé. A place to refresh and rejuvenate

## Description

Gardens are natural retreats inspired by biophilic design, with a relaxed work atmosphere, a serene vibe and an organic, landscape-like layout. Lush greenery, diverse seating, and discreet counters create spaces that invite exploration, well-being, and seamlessly blend indoor and outdoor.

### MOST FAVOURED INTERACTIONS



## Why choose this archetype

- Provides green-inspired work configurations for relaxed work activities.
- Creates a calming retreat that boosts well-being and relaxation.
- Offers an organic layout that invites exploration and creativity.
- Brings abundant greenery indoors for both solo and team tasks.
- Adapts flexibly to the dynamic needs of hybrid work environments.

## Garden Workcafé · Example Composition



### Furniture and equipment:

Prevalent: plants and green walls, outdoor tables with armchairs and sofas with an outdoor ambience.  
Secondary: movable green screens

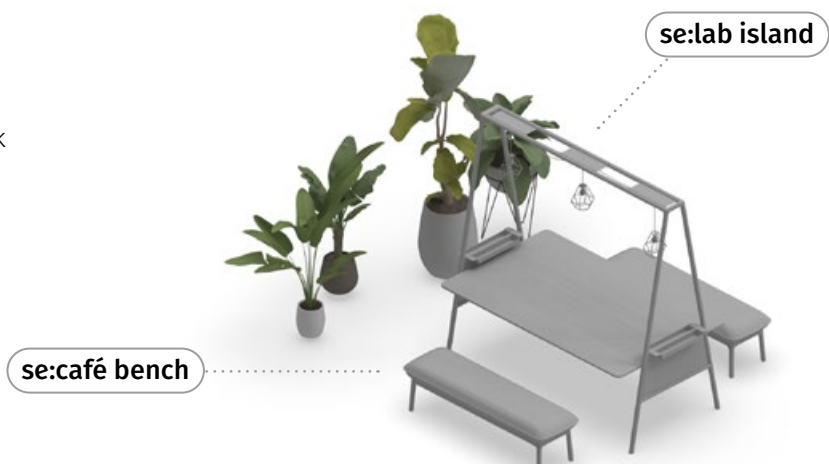


# GARDEN. Enhancing work with a biophilic touch



## Island for active group sessions and casual conversations

The tables of a Garden Workcafé are inspired by an outdoor look and feel to create a serene and laid-back atmosphere that can favour both work and socialisation.



Click on the product names to view more information





## Quiet retreat with soft seating



Garden Workcafés often feature sheltered soft seating areas that offer greater privacy and provide small retreats. The se:matrix system supports an organic division of the space. The structure can be furnished with plants, books, and other objects.

# GARDEN PRODUCTS

Selection of products particularly suitable to configure a Garden Workcafé

## 01\_PREP



se:café bar wall module and room divider



se:café bar island



se:café soft stool



se:spot stool

## 02\_SOFT



se:café wooden lounge chair



se:dot



se:lab sofa



se:lab sofa single

## 03\_HARD



se:café wooden chair



se:café team table



se:works



se:spot stool



se:assist update



se:lab meet & stand



se:lab island



se:spot

## 04\_COMP



se:matrix shelving module light



se:lab mobile elements



se:assist update



se:lab mobile planter





# How can Sedus help you?

Sedus has developed a product collection specifically designed for the Workcafé environment, which complements the existing catalogue to create diverse and distinctive Workcafé spaces.

This range of products and configurations is the result of research that explored third places and office Workcafés across various countries. This research led to the definition of four Archetypes, which serve as a tool to more clearly address the needs of organisations and employees in the era of hybrid work.

To facilitate the practical application of the four Archetypes when designing an office Workcafé, they have been visualised through compositions of various sizes and with different furnishing variations. The Sedus product catalogue was analysed to identify the most suitable products for each mood.

By utilising the four Archetypes, Sedus is committed to supporting its clients in developing a Workcafé implementation strategy that aligns with company needs and addresses current challenges and opportunities.

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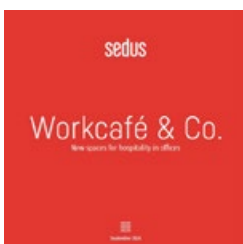
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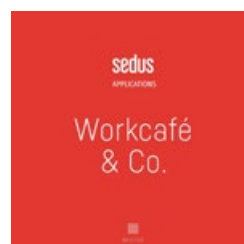


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