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#ORGATEC

ORGATEC PERSPECTIVES: curated special showcases of workspace and contract design

Around seven months before ORGATEC 2026 opens, the organisers have provided the first insights into the new exhibition formats for the forthcoming edition of the trade fair. Under the banner of ORGATEC PERSPECTIVES, the leading international trade fair for workspace and contract solutions will present two curated special showcases that respond to key future topics for contemporary work environments and other spaces used for professional purposes, bringing them to life in spatial and design concepts. ORGATEC will be hosted in Cologne from 27 to 30 October 2026.

While the hall layout planning is well under way and the large number of confirmed appearances by international companies keeps on growing, the content formats for ORGATEC 2026 continue to take shape. "From rooms to relationships: designing spaces in an ever-changing world" has been chosen as the trade fair's central theme as it focuses its attention on people and how they connect with others in work environments and contract interiors against a backdrop of ongoing change. Design is set to assume an even bigger role at the forthcoming event: "This year's edition of ORGATEC will look beyond functional structures and instead highlight spaces that foster genuine connections and can adapt flexibly to evolving requirements. We want to strengthen our focus on the interactions and contact between people in the space and show how design needs to be adaptable enough to meet the needs of a constantly transforming world," says Maik Fischer, ORGATEC's director.

ORGATEC PERSPECTIVES: workspaces and contract interiors reimaged

Two special showcases staged under the joint title ORGATEC PERSPECTIVES will translate the trade fair's central theme into tangible approaches for designing future work environments and contract-furnished interiors. They will be closely linked to the structure of ORGATEC's exhibition segments for workspace and contract solutions.

- CLOSER: Interaction and sensory perception in contract design (hall 4.2)

Curated by Berlin-based Studio Hanne Willmann, the special showcase in the contract solutions segment is titled CLOSER. It will explore how contract design can encourage individuals to connect with themselves and with others. Its multisensory approach will link functionality with the sensory experience of space. A fusion of architecture, materials, light, sound, taste and room scents will create an ambience that fosters exchanges of ideas and brings perception to the fore. The concept is based on four key pillars: an open, nest-like architecture, multisensory experiential spaces, material innovations presented in cooperation with leading manufacturers and reconceptualised formats - ranging from a bar and cinema to a light installation that reflects emotions and encompassing a space for meditative



ORGATEC
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retreat.

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- „**WORK-PLAY**“: **Play as a catalyst for the imagination (hall 7)**

In the Workspace Solutions segment, London-based design studio Pearson Lloyd presents an immersive installation that challenges the modern assumption that work and play belong to separate worlds. For much of history, play has been understood not as distraction, but as the condition in which ideas emerge. Yet many contemporary workplaces still reflect systems designed to manage repetition and control rather than creativity. WORK-PLAY proposes an alternative. An adaptable spatial environment continuously shifts throughout the day. Visitors are invited to participate individually and collectively, exploring how movement and shared activity shape the way ideas emerge. The installation becomes a living environment where play is understood not as escape from work, but as a catalyst for imagination and new forms of collaboration.

Alongside the inspiration provided by the trade fair's content, ORGATEC 2026 will also offer new services that support exhibitors with designing their trade fair appearances and promote collaboration within the industry.

New cooperation format: Mix & Match @ ORGATEC

ORGATEC is launching a matchmaking format for the first time with Mix & Match. Its collaborative framework opens up new opportunities for exhibitors to enhance their trade fair stands by presenting carefully selected complementary products and services from suitable partners. Exhibitors can use a central platform on www.orgatec.com/for-exhibitors/plan-trade-fair-presence/mix-and-match/ to describe their needs, which will enable the organisers to pair them with potential partners. The goal behind the new collaborative approach is to foster product cooperations in areas such as materials, lighting, acoustics or audiovisual technology. The matched products will complement the exhibitors' portfolios and allow visitors to view holistically designed interiors. The ORGATEC team will be responsible for pairing and introducing potential partners, while the participating companies will plan the collaboration in direct contact with each other. In this way, the event aims to strengthen cooperation within the industry and support exhibitors in presenting their products as part of coherent and holistic trade fair showcases.

Online registrations for ORGATEC 2026 are still open at: www.orgatec.com/for-exhibitors/become-an-exhibitor/.

Koelnmesse - Global Inspiration for Living, Contract and Public Spaces

Koelnmesse is the world's top trade fair organiser for the areas of Living, Contract and Public Spaces. Leading international trade fairs such as ORGATEC, interzum, FSB, aquanale and spoga+gafa come together at the Cologne trade fair location to form renowned and established industry meeting points. This strong portfolio is further enhanced by imm cologne and idd cologne, both of which are also held in Cologne. These fairs comprehensively represent the interior and design segment, the furniture and interior construction industries' supplying sections, the kitchen world, all topics for the modern working world, garden lifestyle as well as modern work environments, the garden lifestyle, public spaces, sports and leisure facilities,

along with saunas, pools and wellness centres.

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Beyond that, Koelnmesse is strategically expanding its portfolio in international growth markets. The imm brand family includes imm india and IFFINA+ powered by imm cologne in Indonesia. The ORGATEC brand has established a global footprint with ORGATEC Tokyo, ORGATEC India, and ORGATEC WORKSPACE Saudi Arabia. The international presence of the interzum brand extends to interzum guangzhou, interzum bogota, interzum jakarta, and the interzum forum italy. The FSB brand is also internationally active, with the FSB Sports Show Riyadh and the FSB Forum Italy in Bergamo. Furthermore, the portfolio features La Feria De Diseño Medellín powered by idd cologne in Colombia

Further information: www.orgatec.com/trade-fair/portfolio-worldwide/

The next events:

interzum guangzhou - Asia's Most Comprehensive Woodworking and Upholstery Machinery, Furniture Production and Interior Décor Trade Fair, Guangzhou 28.03. - 31.03.2026

interzum bogota - International Trade Fair for Technology and Components for Furniture Manufacturing and Wood Processing, Bogotá 12.05. - 15.05.2026

ORGATEC TOKYO - SHIFT DESIGN - The Leading International Trade Fair in Asia for the Modern Workspaces, Tokyo 02.06. - 04.06.2026

interzum forum italy - The Networking Event in Italy for Suppliers of the Furniture Industry and Interior Design, Bergamo 04.06. - 05.06.2026

Note for editorial offices:

ORGATEC photos are available in our image database on the Internet at www.orgatec.com/imagetdatabase in the "Press" section.

Press information is available at: www.orgatec.com/press/press-releases/press-releases-of-orgatec/

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