

# BALANCING COLLABORATION & PRIVACY

HOW THE RIGHT SPACE DIVIDERS, ACOUSTIC PRODUCTS, AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS  
INCREASE MORALE AND PRODUCTIVITY IN MODERN OFFICES



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# BALANCING COLLABORATION & PRIVACY

## How the Right Space Dividers, Acoustic Products, and Communication Tools Increase Morale and Productivity in Modern Offices

There's been an ongoing debate between those who favor open, more collaborative office spaces and those who value private, more space-divided environments. This never-ending back-and-forth begs the question: which environment is better for your office space and your employees?

Science doesn't help settle the debate. While some modern trends have offices leaning towards open spaces, new research reveals that open floor plans can make employees less productive<sup>1</sup>, less collaborative<sup>2</sup>, and more likely to take sick days.<sup>3</sup> On the other hand, open office concepts come with the added benefits of flexible workspaces, improved employee management, and being more aesthetically pleasing.<sup>4</sup>

### Finding a Balance with the Right Products

What employee surveys and research tell us is that every employee is different, and they all work best in different environments. It's not possible to please everyone, but there is a balance that can be struck. By implementing space division products that create both private and collaborative areas, office designers can create a space that caters to most, if not every employee, regardless of their preferences.

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## SEPARATE. DON'T ISOLATE.

There is a key difference between separation and isolation in the office. One can be a healthy and productive way for employees to operate; the other is damaging to productivity and employee wellness. Research on the topic of private workstations has one key takeaway: employees are twice as productive when their visual privacy is protected,<sup>1</sup> hinting towards a necessity for space division products. On the other side of the equation, employees, when surveyed, have made it clear they are not happy trapped in isolated offices or cubicles.<sup>5</sup>

The ideal compromise is space division products that offer enough visual privacy without instilling a sense of isolation. There are two major productivity and wellness benefits of workspaces that are separated, rather than isolated:

1. Employees within their workspace feel less constricted and closed off.
2. Coworkers have partial visibility of one another, which lets each person know when they can and cannot interrupt a person who is working.



Ghent Recommends

## SPACE DIVISION PRODUCTS



### Desk to Floor Partition

- Adjustable height
- Assembly and install in less than 10 minutes
- Multiple surface options
- Functional whiteboard included



### Floor Partitions

- Create a “third space” without permanent walls
- Easy to change and rearrange
- Can link multiple units together at any angle
- Lightweight and easy to move



### Stroll T Base Partitions

- Separate workstations without creating isolated environments
- Omnidirectional casters keep the partition stable from any direction
- Easy to move around and dock with a simple floor connector
- Comes with glassboard, tackable fabric, or combination glassboard/fabric for each side







## USE MOBILE COMMUNICATION AIDS

As referenced earlier, workplace studies illuminate a pervasive feeling among employees—that too many walls in the workplace create a sense of division. That universal truth, combined with the competing fact that productivity increases when privacy measures are in place, creates a challenging paradox for many businesses. How do you give employees the privacy they want while encouraging a level of engagement and collaboration they need to thrive?

A solution to this paradox that has risen in recent years and continues to gain traction is the introduction of mobile whiteboards into the workplace.

Mobile whiteboards strike the balance that organizations are looking for. They can be used to section-off and create temporary or semi-permanent meeting areas, all while doubling as interactive writing surfaces for collaboration. These temporary common spaces can be set up nearly anywhere, moved at will, and set aside when not in use. They can operate as brainstorming areas, presentation areas for clients, and so much more. It's this engagement that makes employees more productive while eliminating the feeling of isolation brought on by closed-off workspaces.



Ghent Recommends

## MOBILE COLLABORATION SURFACES



### Nexus Partitions

- Create visual separation of areas for brainstorming or other uses
- Double-sided magnetic whiteboards
- Angled foot design allows units to be grouped for more coordinated collaboration space
- Casters make the partition easy to move at any time



### Pointe Mobile Glassboard

- Configurable, mobile divider featuring a double-sided glass writing surface
- 15-degree angle at base for unobstructed clearance
- Daisy-chain multiple units together with built-in connectors
- Choose from several popular powder-coat frame options or match to a specific color



### Prest Mobile Whiteboards

- Choose glass, fabric, or porcelain whiteboard surface options
- Wood frame and matte black steel construction create an eye-catching combination
- Locking casters allow for simple movement and stability while in use
- Multiple color options to match any office aesthetic



### Stroll Mobile Glassboard

- Create or complement any space with four different styles and sizes available
- Magnetic or non-magnetic writing surfaces available
- Heavy-duty casters make movement easy across any surface and lock into place when in use
- Multiple color options to match any office aesthetic





## CONTROL SOUND WITH ACOUSTIC PRODUCTS

There is a direct association between decreases in performance and productivity and the level of noise in an office.<sup>6</sup> Even audible levels of speech within an office decrease a person's ability to read, write, and perform arithmetic tasks.<sup>7</sup> When combined with the amount of time it takes to return to peak performance after a distraction—as long as 23 minutes according to some studies<sup>8</sup>—any noise disruption in an employee's day can be a detriment to their productivity.

Controlling noise in an office environment is vital, but you don't have to isolate employees in private offices or lines of cubicles to prevent them from being distracted by common office noises. There are acoustic solutions that act as both noise-limiting tools and aesthetic decorations.

### Essential Qualities of Space Division Products

**Mobility:** non-permanent space dividers are the most versatile and simple way to create and divide office spaces, no matter their intended use. Mobile partitions also offer the benefit of visual privacy without the permanence of walls, doors, or solo-occupancy cubicles.

**Ease of Use:** whether they are being used for presentation, brainstorming, or anything else, invest in products that encourage employees to use them in their day-to-day routine.

**Versatility:** every product has a purpose; some have many. Space division products that double as communication tools are the best of both worlds. They bring both the benefits of privacy and collaboration to office environments.

**Cleanability:** modern offices are embracing cleanliness and wellness. High quality products need to be easy to clean and disinfect after use without degrading the materials over time.

**Matching Aesthetic:** every office is different in terms of color, style, etc. Space division products offer a large variety of customization in terms of their colors, fabrics, writing surfaces, and overall style. Choose a product that matches your company's brand and your office décor.



## Ghent Recommends

# ACOUSTIC CONTROL SOLUTIONS



### Acoustic Desktop Surrounds

- Creates privacy from unwanted distractions without isolating employees or discouraging collaboration
- Absorbs disruptive noises that distract workers and limit productivity
- Simple installation and setup make the barriers easy to move around and store when not in use
- Easy to clean without harming the surface



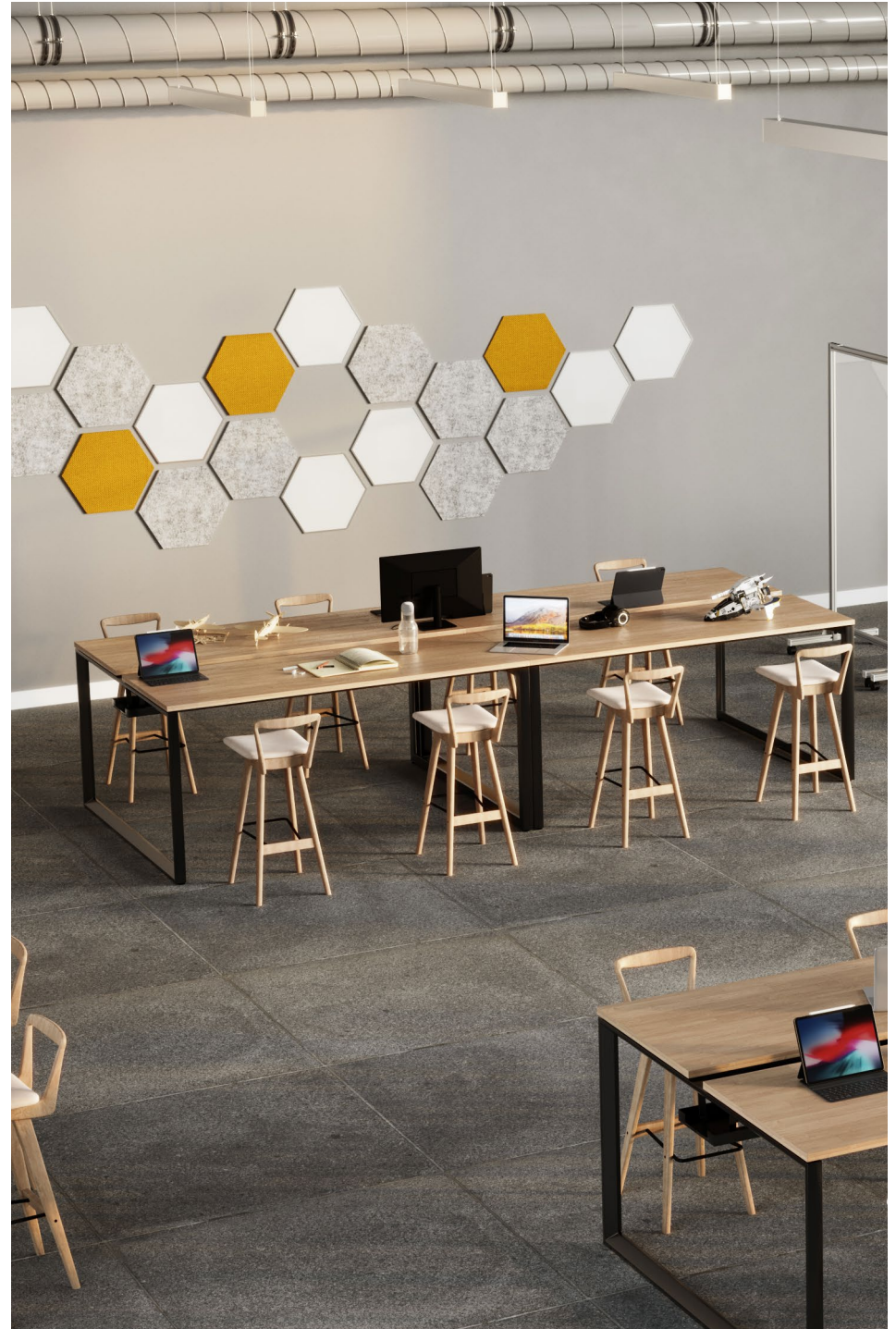
### Reed Acoustic Partition

- Double-sided sound absorption minimizes noise and creates privacy between workspaces and busy areas in an open office
- Panels swivel 360 degrees to create a fully closed or partially open room partition
- Unique crescent-shaped base allows multiple units to be placed in arch and snake-like patterns
- Seven color options and adjustable heights offer greater customization & matching to any office aesthetic



### Hex Whiteboards and Bulletin Boards

- Choose between four surface options: LINK Powder-Coated Steel, Glass, Acoustic Panel, and Wrapped Fabric
- Reconfigure and interchange Hexes to create different designs and orientations
- Wrapped Fabric surface is tackable and acoustically rated to reduce sound in noisy offices
- Use as a whiteboard, bulletin board, or any other type of communication tool







## INCREASING WORKPLACE SAFETY FOR RETURNING EMPLOYEES

Safety is a concern for many returning workers, with 54% of U.S. employees saying they are worried about exposure to COVID-19 at their job.<sup>9</sup> As the inevitable return to the office happens, it's essential to incorporate products into employee workspaces to help them feel safer and more confident in getting back to their normal routines. Space division products not only help keep employees focused on their work, they also act as barriers that protect against the transmission of illnesses.

Easy to clean and disinfect, space division products will help your employees feel more confident and safer returning to their work environment.

Read more in our previous white paper:

**RETURNING TO THE OFFICE**  
How Whiteboards Fit into the  
New Wave of Office

## WHY GHENT?

For more than 40 years, we've been crafting and serving our customers' needs with innovative and customizable products, exceptional customer service, and on-time, hassle-free delivery. As a premium supplier of visual communication tools, Ghent is your one-stop shop for blended solutions to enhance your office, conference room, workspace, or classroom.

**Quality:** with over 95 percent of our products made in the USA, we know what quality looks like. Our products feature durable materials and surfaces that are resistant to scratches, stains, ghosting, and wear. We outlast the competition and back our products with up to 50-year warranties.

**Customization:** every whiteboard, glassboard and bulletin board that leaves our dock is made to order by men and women who understand the importance of quality craftsmanship. We feature near endless customization options that include size, shape, color, materials, fonts, images, and so much more.

**Easy to Use and Clean:** our products are manufactured to make writing on them a breeze. They are also easily cleaned and disinfected. Surfaces and materials are specifically chosen to adhere to BIFMA's guidelines for performance as it relates to typical cleaners, disinfectants, and methods for cleaning and maintenance.

**Secure Shipping:** we ship our products on time and guarantee that they arrive damage free. We have taken the time to master all the complexities that go into shipping and have developed custom packaging specifically molded to protect our products, which is why we have the lowest damage rates in the industry.

**Incredible Customer Service:** as a team of passionate and qualified individuals, we work to follow through on our promises, from marketing and customer service to production to shipping. We are confident that you will find the perfect visual communication tool that is perfectly customized to meet your needs.

From our people to your people, you can count on us.



**GET IN TOUCH WITH GHENT TODAY!**

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