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ALLSTEEL INTRODUCES THE RELATE FAMILY OF SEATING

New Relate™ Collection is Easy to Apply, Easy to Maintain, and Most Important, Easy on the User

Muscatine, IA – *March, 2006* – It’s finally time to build a new relationship with your office chair. Does it... truly support your back? Really keep you comfortable all day? Can you easily adjust it as you move from task to task? Do you know where all the knobs and levers are – or what they even do? Is it a great looking design that relates to today’s work environments? If not, look no further than the new Relate™ family of seating from Allsteel. Highlighted by its comfortable, intuitive ergonomic features, this newest family of personal preference seating from Allsteel offers performance and aesthetics across an entire suite of products – from task chairs and stools to conference seating and guest chairs.

Designed by Marcus Koepke, who also created Allsteel’s award-winning #19® and Sum™ chairs, Relate integrates several new proprietary technologies into one adaptive, ergonomic system.

“With Relate, our goal was three-fold,” explained Koepke. “We wanted to create truly relevant innovation in ergonomic seating. We then aspired to project that innovation across an entire collection of chairs so that the benefits could be experienced everywhere

work is accomplished, and finally, to design the product with an aesthetic that complements and contributes to today's work environments. We were able to accomplish all of these goals with Relate."

Active Ergonomics

The primary breakthrough of Relate is its Body Adaptive Control™ system, which integrates the two most important ergonomic features of the chair. The result delivers a remarkably comfortable and responsive seating experience.

The Body Adaptive Control system is a combination of Relate's optimally located pivoting back working with the chair's synchro tilt mechanism to better support the user's body. The synchro tilt senses the user's weight and tensions the control automatically, encouraging the body to 'open up.' The pivoting back supports the spine in a variety of positions to then encourage movement. The difference with Relate is the placement of the pivot.

"Our research showed that most chair backs don't support the spine's natural position," said Tom Niergarth, Allsteel Vice President, Seating. "By optimally locating the pivot point, the Relate chair back is able to remain in constant contact with the spine. This pivoting feature not only allows more contact, it supports the back, distributes pressure and adjusts to each person as they move from tasking to reclining or anywhere in between."

All of which results in distributing back pressure more evenly and allowing for proper spine curvature. That, in turn, leads to less muscle fatigue and more comfort as well as contributing to increased productivity.

And the best part? If the user so desires, this system can be adjusted immediately with Allsteel's new Quick Tension™ lever. It's easy to reach and even easier to adjust – without any cumbersome or hidden knobs or controls situated in awkward positions. The Quick Tension lever lets users instantly find any of five different resistance levels.

To make sure that everyone in the office can benefit from Relate's advanced ergonomics, the collection has been designed to support a broad range of body types – 90 percent of the full anthropometric measurements, to be exact, from the 5th percentile female to the 95th percentile male, so more staff will be more comfortable, over more hours of the day. No matter what size or shape someone is, what their individual work posture may be, or how many different positions they work in, Relate will allow them to adjust their support for an optimum ergonomic posture.

It's All in the Family

Think Relate's ergonomic features are simple to understand? Facility managers, architects and designers will appreciate the following benefit even more – a simplified selection process. Because Relate is a comprehensive family of chairs, it gives the flexibility to outfit almost every part of the office with one coordinated collection. “Each chair complements each other, and you get the added convenience of consistent finishes, one supplier, and one extensive 24/7, 300-pound warranty,” noted Niergarth.

“We wanted to create a line that meets the full range of seating needs for almost every possible function in the office. This includes work stations, private offices, project rooms, conference rooms, teaming areas, training rooms and standing height stations,” according to Koepke. “This is possible because the Relate family includes high- and mid-back work chairs, high- and mid-back conference chairs, mid-back stools, and guest seating.”

Each chair features a slender silhouette with a number of design options including three back selections: mesh, plastic, or upholstered. Relate is also designed to perform. Its aluminum castings and structural moldings will stay beautiful and functional while the chair's high wear areas are easy to maintain or replace – substantially increasing the chair's useful life. Relate has replaceable seat and back upholstery, arm pads, and overall back assemblies. “A single stain or tear doesn't ruin the whole chair,” said Niergarth. “The seat, back and arm pads can simply be replaced in minutes, by anyone, with a standard screwdriver.”

Relate is an environmentally responsible option, as it's 88 percent recyclable. In addition, every Relate chair meets or exceeds BIFMA and EN1335 performance and ergonomic standards.

And while Relate works hard – and makes working hard easier on the end user – its aesthetics make a statement, as well. “We wanted this line to be architectural, almost rectilinear with more of a European influence,” noted Koepke. “The end result is an attractive new seating family that gives you both active and adaptive ergonomic controls in a single, coordinated collection that is easy-to-use, easy-to-maintain, and durably-engineered.”

For more information about the Relate family of seating, or other workplace solutions from Allsteel, visit the company's web site at www.allsteeloffice.com.

Allsteel Inc. designs, builds and delivers workplace furniture solutions with advanced functionality and lifetime durability. The company has Resource Centers in Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

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