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Burgess Works - Meet-U

Burgess Furniture have been manufacturing furniture for the hospitality and leisure sector for the past 50 years, having won a Queens Award to export and being one of the largest privately owned UK manufacturers in this sector.

In 2009, we were invited to design a meeting room table system as a key element of their planned move towards the corporate sector and the launch of a new venture - **Burgess Works**.

The brief was very detailed, identifying a specific area of the market in terms of price, quality, style and application. It also established technical parameters based on Burgess's in-house skills and processes, thereby identifying extruded aluminium a natural choice.

With our experience of desk systems, we were interested in the aspect of the brief that described the table as a system. We understood this to mean greater commercial opportunity for Burgess if **'systems capability'** was considered in design terms from the beginning. This gave rise to inherent features that will allow the table to be planned into different configurations and its assembly offers scope to build derivations of the main table to form a broad range of table widths, depths and heights.

Our approach always seeks to leverage any tooling and tooled components to the maximum. So with this in mind, we designed the system to be deployed 'tool-free' and to include other elements such as bridge tops and links. Essentially the same construction, link tops form a quadrant, square or triangular corner to join two tables at 90 degrees. Whilst bridges are tables without legs and connect to the side or end of another table to extend it and link with others to form long and wide installations.

Attachment is made possible by an integral corner plate concealed within the frame. When rotated it exposes one or two connecting points at each corner. This allows bridging to be used on two adjacent sides of a table simultaneously.



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The side rails are designed to be both stiff and minimal having worked closely with Burgess design team to apply FEA (finite element analysis) to ensure the design of the components and assemblies would meet the BS/EN and BIFA test requirements. The rails feature a flash line detail on the outside face to present the top as 'floating' as well as to create a deep shadow to conceal the corner bridge plate assembly. This is a crucial design 'signature', as it adds to the tables light appearance. A channel on the underside of the side rail is used to conceal fixings but is also used to secure a plastic moulded clip that is used to either link two tables together, support cables as a form of cable 'tidy'. The same clip is used to support the steel modesty panel.

Application

MeetU is designed for the corporate environment from boardroom to training, reception to conference and dining.

The system approach of linking and bridging means that there are different ways to plan configurations and keep them in place. This can be done either by using single freestanding tables and linking them with the linking clip. Alternatively link tops or bridge tops can be used providing additional table area without additional legs.

From few components a broad inventory of sizes is possible and with the use of quadrant, triangular and square link tops a range of planning shapes can be built including 'C's', 'H's' and 'O's'.

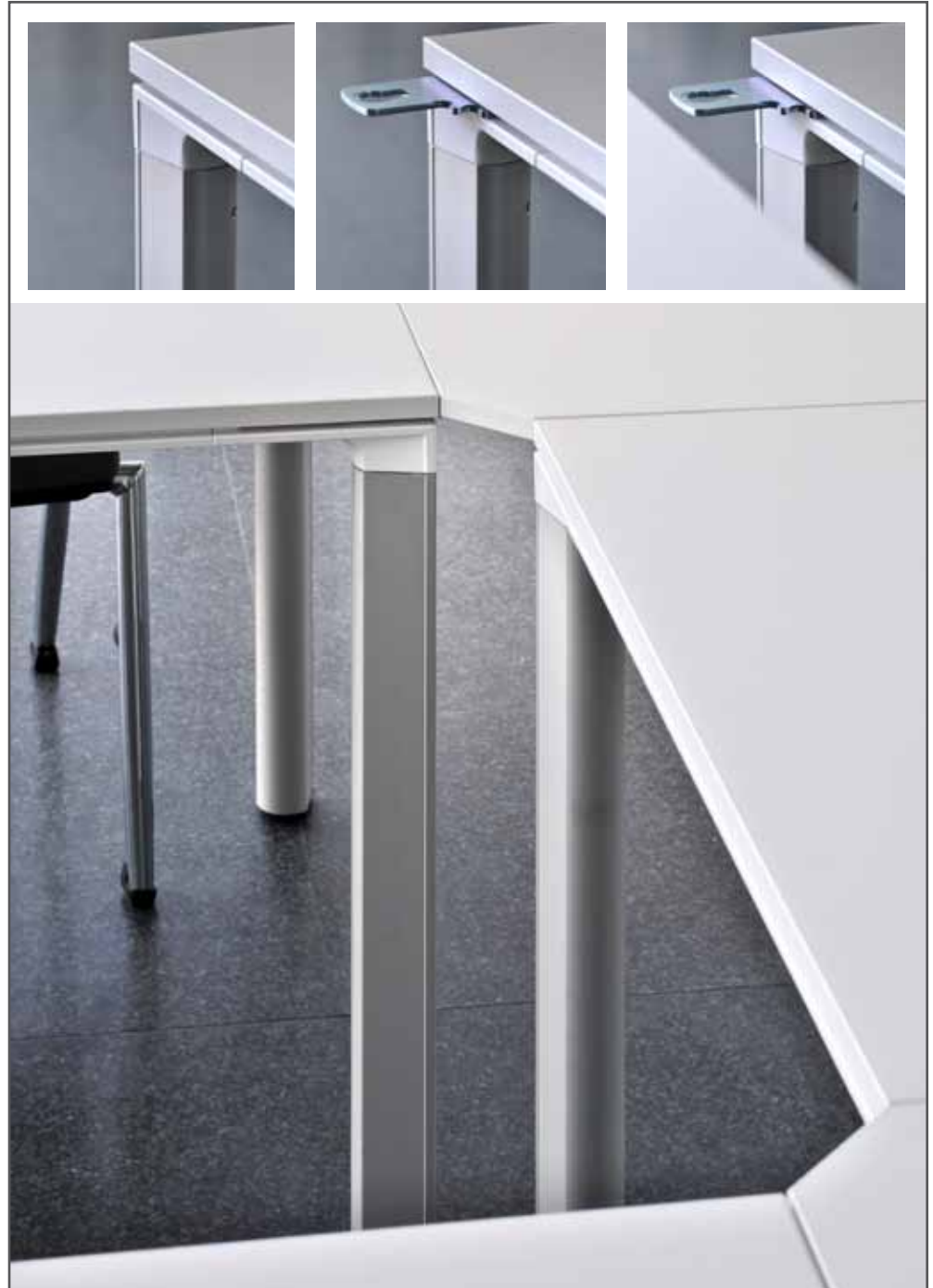
Colour and finishes

There are three plain and three wood-grain MFCs available as top finishes, as well as HP laminate subject to cost.

Then a white gloss, textured graphite and light grey paint finishes on all frame components as well as satin anodising available on legs only when the top frame colour is matched to the MFC i.e. White, light grey or graphite.

This provides a total of 26 combinations of colour/finish.

Meet-U has been short-listed for an FX award 2011





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