



*The workspace reimagined and the future of home office by Anita Bloom.*

Looking in to the future of 2021 trends, we will begin to see homes designed with more purpose and functionality. Now that we have all been working from home, we have seen a rise in makeshift home offices. When designing a home office, it's important to remember that, just because your space is small doesn't mean you have to compromise on comfort, convenience and style.

Furniture plays an important role. Our furniture needs to reflect the quality of all other parts of our life, as we have had to transition so too does furniture. Furniture needs to transition easily from a domestic environment to the workplace. So the desire to feature multi-functional furniture with built-in features and vast options for customization presents a lifestyle solution to working from home.

Both in terms of the physical space that is the house and mind space, suddenly being thrust into working from home requires adjustments on multiple levels. As we inhabit new 'hybrid' spaces, **Decorex Africa** asks some of our leading workspace brands from **100% Design SA** to share some trends and insight into what office furniture solutions people are using within their home workspaces...and what the future of the office workspace will involve..



When it comes to making your home work space more productive, we look at the importance of incorporating biophilic design in to your work area, this has been shown to increase productivity and focus and it is recommended that those working from home curate their workspace to make it more inviting and inspiring. **ERGOform's ARCADE** range was designed exactly for this - THE ARCADE ROOM DIVIDING SYSTEM is an incredibly adaptable way of Zone Dividing office or home spaces, and unlike conventional 'dry walls' doesn't restrict the transfer of natural light from one area to another, and without affecting air flow.  
<https://ergoform.co.za/products/arcade-range/>



The **ARCADE desk** is ideal for Home or Commercial use, the ARCADE Furniture System allows you to reinvent and update existing desk, storage, and office layouts. Elegant, versatile, and scalable; offering outstanding value for both the home and office environment. The options include a freestanding desk, storage and/or display unit, room divider, display units, shelves, lockers, planters and desk tops, all in a variety of dimensions, functions and styles.



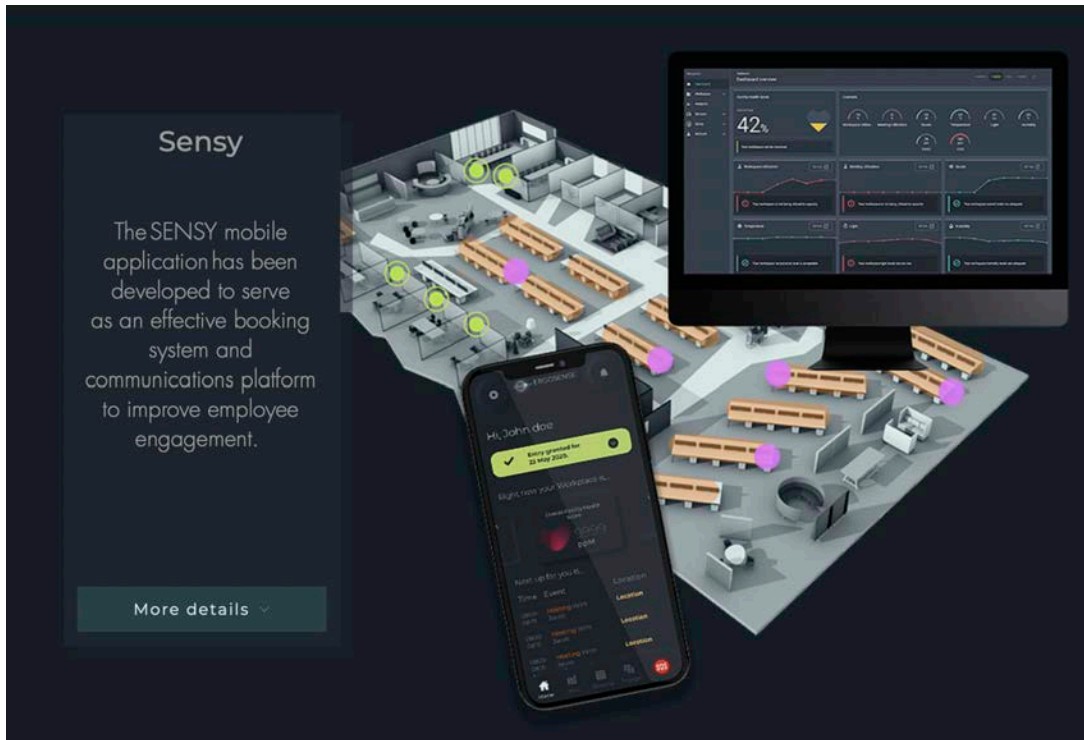
When looking at the future of the workplace, Leon Roodt from Ergoform shared some great insight into two amazing solutions on how to improve the workplace using smart technology, these include Ergosense & Sensy Mobile App.

Improving the workplace using smart technology. This is an ever-increasing competitive business environment, all businesses have the ongoing challenge of reducing operating cost. Facility cost is a significant expense in most businesses, and one that is not currently managed effectively due to lack of information and accurate data.

## Introducing ERGOsense

Advances in technology, employee expectations, and several other factors have been responsible for a worldwide shift to a new and more flexible approach to work policy. In addition, the impact of Covid-19 on the work environment has been fundamental and highlights the importance for businesses to manage utilization of facilities and workspaces effectively, and to provide healthy work environments.

**Ergosense** can help you measure your office environment and occupancy behaviour. Their Bluetooth-enabled systems can measure a variety of environmental elements, such as occupancy, light, air quality, humidity, and noise. Their cloud-based software converts this data into powerful information, enabling companies to make informed decisions on optimizing their work environment and asset utilization. This information can be used to adjust the workplace environment to optimal conditions, leading to improved employee productivity, health, and happiness and reduce facility cost through space optimization.



The second solution is **The SENSY** mobile application. One platform for communication, booking and employee engagement. This app has been developed to serve as effective employee engagement and communications platform to help improve employee/facility symbiosis. The application is downloaded via Google Play store or Apple App store by users, based on authorised user list and is secure password enabled. The functionality provided via the application include:

Booking & Scheduling

Surveys

Services request and suggestions

Notification

Facilities Management

Sos & Emergencies

Covid-19 Screening Questionnaire

### Key Benefits

- Cost saving through reduction in real estate requirement
- Increased productivity through improved emotional and physical wellness of staff

### Key System Features

- A single integrated cloud-based platform
- Cost effective, quick to deploy, easy to use.

As employees are slowly reintegrated into the workplace, we see a transition as companies will begin to use their office space again. Layouts will need to be adapted and workspace redesigned to provide a safe and functional working environment.

The Future will reveal the redefinition of office space. Post-pandemic workspace will see a greater focus on health and wellbeing and a positive shift towards more frequent home working.



Nushka Klopper from **Entrawood Office Furniture Solutions** shares with regards to trends in the home office....

“What I predict is that flexible working hours will become the widespread norm, with minimum mandatory office time worked into the weekly schedule to check in with teams or management. This offers the best of both worlds, acknowledging the need for employees to govern their own schedule and balancing it with the company’s need to create synergy and achieve growth.” says Nushka

This trend means that the home office is going to continue to support employees’ work at home. There are a few things to consider when setting up your home office, such as comfort, privacy and wellness. The aim is to create a dedicated space that maximises convenience and

comfort but minimises distractions and frustrations. A space where your computer and devices are easily powered-up and all your tools are within arm's reach, you have good lighting, a comfortable chair that supports good posture, and a monitor/screen and keyboard that is at an optimum height to reduce body strain.

So with regards to trends in the home office we would like to shine a light on our Maluti height adjustable desk range, which has been designed and manufactured by Entrawood in South Africa.

Let's set you up for success from the comfort of your home, says Nushka, with a height adjustable Maluti desk, which are easy to customise to each user's needs as they adjust from a sitting or standing position throughout the day, helping to support good blood circulation and reduce neck and back strain."

Maluti range by Entrawood.

Brochure link: <https://www.entrawood.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Maluti-height-adjustable-desks-brochure.pdf>

Entrawood website: <https://www.entrawood.co.za/>