



# Best of NeoCon 2022

## ENTRY RULES

Best of NeoCon 2022  
Submission Platform  
Opens March 1

Final Submission  
deadline is May 19  
@ 11:59 p.m. EDT

Onsite judging is  
June 10 - 11

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Please download, digitally circulate, and/or print this information for all parties involved in completing your entry or entries. Then, visit the [Best of NeoCon Submission Platform](#) to enter.

**Acoustics  
and Privacy**

Acoustic Solutions  
 Panels / Partitions / Screens / Space Dividers  
 Work Pods

**Flooring**

Carpet: Area Rugs  
 Carpet: Broadloom  
 Carpet: Modular  
 Hard Surface Flooring: Natural Materials  
 Hard Surface Flooring: Vinyl / LVT  
 Specialty Flooring

**Furniture**

<p>Benching          Case Goods          Collections for Collaboration          Conference Room Furniture          Education Solutions          Enhancements to Furniture Systems          Furniture Systems          Lounge Furniture Collections          Seating: Benches          Seating: Conference          Seating: Ergonomic Desk/Task          Seating: Guest          Seating: Modular</p>	<p>Seating: Sofas &amp; Lounge          Seating: Stacking          Seating: Stools          Tables: Café          Tables: Communal          Tables: Conference          Tables: Height-Adjustable          Tables: Occasional          Tables: Task          Storage          Work from Home Solutions          Workplace Accessories</p>
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**Healthcare**

Healthcare: Flooring  
 Healthcare: Guest & Lounge Seating  
 Healthcare: Patient Seating  
 Healthcare: Storage and Accessories  
 Healthcare: Textiles

**Interior Products  
and Solutions**

Architectural Products  
 Demountable Walls  
 Signage & Wayfinding  
 Surfacing Materials & Finishes  
 Wall Treatments

**Lighting**

Lighting: Decorative  
 Lighting: Task

**Outdoor**

Outdoor: Fabrics  
 Outdoor: Shade  
 Outdoor Furniture: Seating  
 Outdoor Furniture: Tables

**Technology**

Technology: Accessories & Support Devices  
 Technology: Integrated Solutions

**Textiles**

Textiles: Performance & Specialty  
 Textiles: Upholstery

*The Competition anticipates one Gold Award and one Silver Award in each category. There are also cross-category awards for Innovation and Sustainability and one Best of Competition Award. All products in all categories will be considered for the cross-category and Best of Competition awards - an entrant cannot submit an entry directly for these awards.*

**The Best of NeoCon 2022** honors new products introduced to the U.S. market since June of 2021. There are 54 product categories. The competition is presented by NeoCon and managed by Eileen McMorrow.

## **Eligibility**

Manufacturers who are tenants of theMART and exhibitors of NeoCon, June 13-15, 2022, are eligible to enter new products introduced since June 2021. These new products must not have been entered into the Best of NeoCon competition in October 2021.

Each entry must be the work or property of the Competition entrant (manufacturer) or submitted by a firm authorized to represent the manufacturer (such as an industrial designer). If a public relations firm or representative is completing the entry form, there is section to provide contact details. Competition management will contact PR with any questions before reaching the entrant company. The Competition entrant will provide full company contact details including names of product managers, designers, presenters, and their cell phone numbers to connect during judging.

By entering the Competition, the entrant warrants that the submitted images are the property of the submitter; that the images do not infringe on the copyrights, trademarks, moral rights, rights of privacy/publicity, or intellectual property rights of any person or entity; that no other party has any right, title, claim, or interest in the images; and agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc., and its parents, members, managers, trustees, affiliates, subsidiaries, employees, and agents harmless from any and all claims, damages, injuries, costs, and expenses related to entrant's submissions. Employees of NeoCon, the Competition manager, Competition partners/vendors and each of their affiliates, subsidiaries, and agents, as well as their immediate family members (spouse, parent, child, sibling, and their respective spouses, regardless of where they live) or persons living in the same households of such individuals, whether related or not, are not eligible to enter. Entrants must be at least 18 years of age as of the date of entry. COMPETITION IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.

## **NeoCon Privacy Policy**

By entering the Best of NeoCon, manufacturers will automatically receive information about the Best of NeoCon by mail, email, or phone. This information may come from MMPI, NeoCon, or companies affiliated with NeoCon. Entry will be used as described in the Entry Rules and in [MMPI's Privacy Policy](#). You will be asked to agree the [Terms of Service](#).

## **Judging**

Jurors are interior designers, architects, and corporate, institutional, government, and healthcare facilities executives. Entries will be pre-judged/screened digitally two weeks before the in-person judging dates on Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11, prior to the opening day of NeoCon, Monday, June 13. All decisions are final.

## Entry Submission

The [Best of NeoCon](https://bestofneocon.secure-platform.com/a) Submission Platform is run on OpenWater:  
<https://bestofneocon.secure-platform.com/a>

## Entry Fees & Deadlines

- Three entry submission dates and entry fees are offered.
- Payment is via credit card.
- Non-U.S.-based companies may pay by ACH/bank direct deposit.
- There are no refunds for paid fees after judging has been completed.

<b><u>Entry Type</u></b>	<b><u>Fee</u></b>	<b><u>Date @ 11:59 p.m. EDT</u></b>
Early	\$700.00	March 1 through April 14
Regular	\$800.00	April 15 through May 5
Late	\$900.00	May 6 through May 19

## Product Introduction

Contract/commercial furniture and furnishings manufacturers may enter products in the competition that are new to the U.S. market since June 2021 and have not been entered into the Best of NeoCon competition in October 2021.

NO PROTOTYPES are permitted. Products should have SKU numbers and be available to ship by November 1, 2022. Entrants must be official NeoCon 2022 tenants/exhibitors via theMART Floors 1, 3, 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, and the 7th Floor Expo Hall.

A general Product Description of 200 words maximum is required and not scored.

## Number of Entries per Manufacturer: Unlimited

Each manufacturer/brand may enter as many products into the competition in as many categories as they wish. Any product may be entered in one or more categories as the product fits, and products that cross categories may be entered into different categories, where they will be evaluated by different teams of jurors. There are 54 product categories.

If a product is entered into an additional category, an additional entry fee must be paid, and an additional digital entry must be completed. An entrant can duplicate an existing entry and use the drop-down menu to select the category.

## Category Assignment

Each product is reviewed online by the Competition management team. If the reviewers deem a product is better suited to another category, an email will be sent to the entrant explaining why or requesting a call to review the product's merits so we can define the best category for judging. The review team also may determine if it should be entered in more than one category.

Sometimes after the jury receives the presentation, they determine that it belongs in a different category. If so, the entry will be redirected to the team for that category, and the other jury will come to the showroom or booth to review the product.

## **Multiple Category Entries**

If a manufacturer wishes to enter the same product into more than one category, the entry steps are duplicated for that category entry, perhaps with new text about why it can also be judged in a second or third category. There is a fee for each entry in each category.

For any product entered in more than one category, it is likely that it will be judged by independent jury teams. In-person judging is conducted according to the showroom's floor-based time schedule. A first team to arrive will tell you which category they are judging. A second team usually will follow for the additional category. Please be certain the product presenter remains in the showroom/booth until all categories entered are judged.

## **Marketing & Promotional Benefits**

A Digital Guide to all Entrants and Winners will be showcased on the NeoCon website, and a link to it will be emailed to the NeoCon database. Listings will be:

- Alphabetical by manufacturer with product name, category, showroom/booth location.
- By category with manufacturer and product name, category, showroom/booth location.

### **All Entrants will receive:**

- Entrant visibility by category on the NeoCon website through April 2023.
- Entrant signage for display at showroom/booth during NeoCon
- Entrant promotion (with entry opt-in) on NeoCon social media channels.
- (Entrant social media handles will be requested with entry registration.)

### **All Winners will receive:**

- Winner promotion on Best of NeoCon/NeoCon website by category and designated award through May 2023.
- Winner promotion on Best of NeoCon/NeoCon social media.
- Winner promotion via Best of NeoCon/NeoCon press release and media efforts.
- Winner signage package for display at showroom/booth during NeoCon
- Winner digital asset package for winner's promotional use.

## Jury & Judging Schedule

The jurors will review all entries in their assigned categories digitally before arriving at the showroom or booth. They will view the images and video (if provided), and record comments and questions before, during, and after the product presentation. Those juror comments will be made available to winners in the two weeks after the close of NeoCon.

The manufacturer will have the opportunity to present information in-person to the jury teams, composed of interior designers, architects, and facilities managers, in theMART showroom or booth.

### IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The jurors will conduct in-person evaluations (estimating 325 products) over two days and eight floors of theMART to announce winners at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 13.

Judging will be conducted BY FLOOR at designated times for each floor. Each NeoCon floor will have a dedicated time slot. Please review judging times by floor (see timetable below) and arrange for designated product presenters to be in the showroom/booth to present the product when the jury arrives. **The competition is not able to grant "pre-scheduled" judging times.**

Manufacturers will have 7 to 15 minutes to present their products to the jury, based on the product category or the complexity of the product. Please designate the ideal presenter and train an alternate person in the event of an emergency or travel delays. We advise making presenter travel arrangements BEFORE completing the entry form. (This may require scheduling air travel and hotel rooms for arrival up to three days before NeoCon officially begins.)

**Failure to follow all entry rules may disqualify entries.**

*The order of floor judging is determined by theMART. All times are CDT.*

### **Judging will be on Friday, June 10, and Saturday, June 11.**

#### **Friday, June 10**

Floor 10, 11 (1100 through 1191), 14, 15	8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Floor 6, 11 (1194 through 11-136)	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Floor 3	1:30 p.m. - 5:30p.m.

#### **Saturday, June 11**

7th floor Booths 7-1004 to 7-6123 (Northside)	8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
7th floor Booths 7-7030 to 7-10138 (Southside)	10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Jury Category Scoring & Deliberation	12:30 p.m. - 2:30p.m.
Finalists for Best of Competition reviewed	3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Product Finalists (usually four to six) for the Best of Competition are selected from the Gold Award winners. They are reviewed by all jury members from all teams. If a product is a finalist, product presenters and marketing managers, whose cell phone numbers are on the entry form, will be called and asked to return to the showroom or booth to present to the entire jury.

## Best of Competition Process

Any jury team can nominate a Best of Competition Product Finalist, though some teams may not think any of the products they reviewed are Best of Competition-winning products. A jury member makes the case for other teams to evaluate their Best of Competition nominated product. Once all cases are made and the collective jury agrees, finalist manufacturers are called.

**The manufacturer will receive a phone call ONLY IF a product is a Best of Competition Finalist.**

Between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, we will call the cell phone numbers of the two to three people listed as presenters for the product until we reach one. Only one of them needs to return to the showroom/booth to meet the entire jury who will receive finalists' product presentations to determine the overall Best of Competition. We move as a group in theMART from showroom to showroom until all finalist presentations are completed.

The jury gathers and a democratic run-off vote is held to determine The Best of Competition. The jurors and competition director are sworn to secrecy until we announce the winners at The Best of NeoCon Awards Event



## Entry Criteria: Questions for Juror Evaluation

The jurors for your product will review all entries in their assigned categories digitally before arriving at the showroom or booth. They will review the answers to the criteria questions; view the images; and video (if provided); and record comments and questions before, during, and after the product presentation. Jurors proceed to scoring after they evaluate all product entries in the category.

The scale is weighted 1-10 for all scoring; 1 is the lowest and 10 is the highest.  
Juror comments will be available to winners two weeks after the close of NeoCon.

### Criteria/Questions/ Word Count

#### **Aesthetics & Innovation / 175**

Describe how this product makes an aesthetic contribution and adds to the beauty and comfort of any commercial interior. Does it possess innovative or unique qualities?

#### **Built Environment Solution, Durability, Functionality & Quality / 350**

Explain the product's unique contribution to the built environment and where it is most likely to be specified. What problem does it solve? How is it better than existing solutions? Address the product's quality standards, expected durability, and any performance warranty.

#### **Industry Certifications & Standards**

What industry certifications or industry standards does the product hold or meet?

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • ADA                                    | • Green Seal                                   |
| • BIFMA Compliant                        | • HHI - Healthier Hospitals Initiative         |
| • BIFMA LEVEL                            | • HPD Open Standard                            |
| • Clean Air/Clean Air Gold               | • Indoor Advantage/Indoor Advantage Gold (SCS) |
| • Cradle to Cradle                       | • LEED (contributes points)                    |
| • Declare (Intl Living Future Institute) | • Martindale                                   |
| • FEMB Level                             | • MAS Certified Green                          |
| • FloorScore (SCS)                       | • Red List Free                                |
| • FSC Chain of Custody                   | • Wyzenbeek                                    |
| • GBI/Green Globes                       | • Other (List in next field)                   |
| • Greenguard/Greenguard Gold             | • N/A  |

#### **Additional Industry Certifications & Standards /100**

Please provide any additional industry certifications or industry standards the product may have that are not listed with the previous question:

#### **Environmental Sustainability / 275**

Does the product have a sustainable manufacturing process or use recyclable or biodegradable components? Does it qualify for industry environmental certifications, standards, or labels, other than those indicated in the previous question? Please list all that apply.

**List Pricing in U.S. \$:** List a price or price range; figures only please.

## Product Images for Jurors, Gallery of Entrants, Social Media & Promotions

Entrants will upload product images (minimum 3, maximum 7) to be viewed by the jurors when evaluating the entry and for potential promotional usage on NeoCon social media channels. If the product image is under embargo, they will be able to indicate in the Image Permissions at the end.

### Image 1 for Judging Use & Social Media

- Dimensions: MUST be 1080 x 1080 pixels (tile size for the Entrant Product Gallery)
- File type: JPG
- Image Name: *Category\_MfgName\_ProductName\_Credit*

### Images 2-7 for Judging Use

- Dimensions: 1080 pixels wide by 608 pixels to 1350 pixels high.
- File type: JPG
- Image Name: *Category\_MfgName\_ProductName\_Credit*

### Image for Instagram Stories

One product image for potential promotion on NeoCon Instagram stories.

- Dimensions: 1080 x 1350 pixels
- File type: JPG
- Image Name: *Category\_MfgName\_ProductName\_Stories\_Credit*

### Instagram Story Swipe Up Link

- Please provide the URL you would like your Instagram Story to swipe up to.

### Images for Winners' Presentation/Hero Shots

Provide three product images for the large-format winners' presentation and for promotion on [neocon.com](http://neocon.com)

**Critical note: The dimensions for the next three images are larger than the previous images. Please resize accordingly.**

- Dimensions: (minimum): 1920 pixels wide by 1200 pixels tall
- File type: JPG
- Image Name: *Category\_MfgName\_ProductName\_Credit*

**NOTE:** Image placeholders or the company logo may be used before final images are uploaded. Payment can be completed, and an entrant can still replace the images before May 19th. If a manufacturer cannot comply with the images' upload and entry completion date by May 19th, then the entry should be withdrawn from the competition by the manufacturer.

## Image Permissions

Entrants will be asked to authorize image permissions as follows:

- Yes. Pre-Event. Entrant authorizes permission for images to be used for promotion pre-event.
- Yes. Post-Event. Entrant authorizes permission for images to be used for promotion post-event.
- No. Entrant DOES NOT AUTHORIZE permission for images to be used for promotion pre-event or post-event.

## Video

Video of products, vertical format preferred, is an option that will be used as part of the judging process. Video must be product focused. Refrain from uploading video about the manufacturer/company or management.

- Length (maximum): 3 minutes
- File type: MPEG, MPG, MP4, OGG, MOV, FLV
- Video Name: Category\_MfgName\_ProductName\_Video

Vertical videos are more likely to be used for Best of NeoCon social media promotions.

Entrants will be asked to indicate if they authorize permission for video to be used for promotion: pre-event, post-event, or not at all.

## Company Logo

Entrant will upload the company logo as a Vector logo in file types AI, EPS, PDF or SVG.

## Best of NeoCon 2022 Table of Important Dates

Submission platform opens	Tuesday, March 1, 2022
Early deadline@ \$700 per entry	Thursday, April 14@ 11:59 p.m. EDT
Regular Entry@ \$800 per entry	Thursday, May 5@ 11:59 p.m. EDT
Final Entry@ \$900 per entry	Thursday, May 19 @ 11:59 p.m. EDT
Last day for image upload	Thursday, May 19
Virtual judging begins	Thursday, May 26
First day of judging in theMART	Friday, June 10
Second day judging	Saturday, June 11; completed by 2:00p.m.
Finalist judging After 3:30 p.m. up to 5:30 p.m.	If a product is a FINALIST for Best of Competition, the marketing contact names/showroom presenters will receive a phone call, and all jurors go to finalists' showrooms for a presentation.
Awards Event	Monday, June 13

## Payment & Receipt

Payment is made digitally via [Best of NeoCon Submission Platform](#) at the end of the entry process after images and video are uploaded. You also may use placeholder text and images or the company logo and click through fields with placeholder text to pay before the entry information is complete. Note there are three deadlines with increasing fees, so it is prudent to pay early. The entrant has control over the entry and may log in and out of the system to complete an entry at any time before May 19 @ 11:59 p.m. EDT.

**Payment is via credit card for domestic U.S.-based companies. Non-U.S. companies will have the option to pay by direct debit from a checking account via ACH.**

- Invoicing is NOT available.
- After the credit card check-out occurs, a receipt will be auto-e-mailed.
- ACH payment is available for non-U.S. based companies that do not wish to use a non-U.S. bank-issued credit card. After the ACH payment is processed, a receipt will be auto-e-mailed.
- Entry fees are **not refundable** after judging takes place.

## Awards/Recognition/Prizes

The Competition anticipates one Gold Award and one Silver Award in each category. However, the Jury reserves the right to not issue a Gold or Silver Award in categories where products score significantly lower than overall scores indicated for winning products. In categories with few entries, the jury reserves the right to give Gold only, or Silver only, or no award.

There are also Innovation Awards, Sustainability Awards, and one Best of Competition Award. The Innovation Awards and Sustainability Awards are determined from a consideration of all products in all categories by each team. An entrant cannot submit an entry directly for these awards.

The number of awards can range from one to four per category; in most cases, there is one Gold Award and one Silver Award. However, ONE product will receive both the Gold Award in its category and the overall Best of Competition Award. Some products will also receive an Innovation Award or a Sustainability Award.

Competition coordinators and jurors reserve the right to reassign a product entry to a more appropriate category.

The criteria used to judge the competition entrants is based on the information submitted by each manufacturer on the digital entry form regarding product qualities. The manufacturer will have the opportunity to present that information and more in-person to the jury in theMART showroom or booth.

The criteria are collectively scored on a scale of 1 (being the lowest) and 10 (being the highest).

The Best of NeoCon assigns and distributes awards that are recognition-based, not monetary prizes. There is no retail value to the awards. Representation of the awards consists of a physical award and showroom/booth winner signage.

## Awards Promotional Elements

- The June 13th Awards Presentation
- A showcase on the NeoCon website
- Promotion on Best of NeoCon social media channels
- A post in the Gallery of Winners on the submission platform
- A digital asset package for winner's promotional use (digital asset packages will be electronically distributed to winners within hours of the June 13th Awards Presentation event).

## Awards Presentation Event

The Best of NeoCon will announce the award winners by category on Monday, June 13, the opening morning of NeoCon at a location inside theMART. NeoCon will invite company executives to attend the Awards presentation where winners will be notified for the first time and receive the physical award and signage for their showrooms/booths. **Please provide executive contact details on the entry form for further information.**

## Winners' List

Winners will be listed by manufacturer, product name, and category on the NeoCon website on June 13, after the winners have been verified and notified.

## Presented by NeoCon®

[NeoCon](#) is the world's leading platform and most important event of the year for the commercial design industry. NeoCon has served as the world's leading platform and most important event of the year for the commercial design industry since 1969. A launch pad for innovation—NeoCon offers ideas and introductions that shape the built environment today and into the future. In 2022, NeoCon will be held June 13-15. The three-day event serves as the annual gathering place for the commercial design world's manufacturers, dealers, architects, designers, end-users, design organizations, and media. With over one million square feet of exhibition space, the show launches thousands of new products and covers a spectrum of vertical markets including Workplace, Healthcare, Hospitality, Retail, Education, Public Space and Government, providing unparalleled access to the latest and most innovative solutions in commercial design. The industry's major manufacturers as well as hot emerging companies showcase products and services in categories including Furniture, Fabrics, Flooring, Interior Building Products, Interior Finishes and Technology. The exhibition is complemented by CEU programming and keynote presentations that offer expertise and insight into relevant topics as well as the future of commercial design.

NeoCon/Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.  
222 Merchandise Mart Plaza, Suite 470  
Chicago, IL 60654.

**Please do not contact theMART**, the managers and producers of NeoCon, for anything related to the Best of NeoCon Competition.

**Competition questions will be answered by the Best of NeoCon Team, directed by Eileen McMorrow:**

**First:** Email Best of NeoCon Team @ [bestofneocon@themart.com](mailto:bestofneocon@themart.com)

**Second:** Call Best of NeoCon Team @ 973.509.7277