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FURNITURE

Desk Set

By
REBECCA ASCHER-WALSH

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For more than a decade, the design world has pursued a persistent goal: coming out with a desk chair to rival the popularity of Herman Miller's 1994 Aeron chair. Recent models incorporate features like brakes that activate when the user's center of gravity shifts and wheels that can handle different types of office terrain. At the same time, some high-end designers are moving away from chairs with dozens of visible controls, making simpler-looking seats that can work in a home office or be pulled up to a dining table.

This comes during an upswing in the office-furniture market, following a dip between 2000 and 2003, according to the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers' Association. Last year, sales of office furniture by U.S. manufacturers totaled \$10.8 billion, compared with \$8.5 billion in 2003.

Below, three new desk chairs.



Kartell Spoon

Antonio Citterio's design hides the adjustable mechanism inside the chair; \$643 (on advance order) at unicahome.com.

The Trey Chair

The seat can be lifted off to create a low rocking chair and the base used as a computer table or stool; \$299 at treychair.com.

Vitra Worknest

This chair by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec is designed to adjust automatically to the sitter's weight. \$2,200, details at Vitra.com.