

Christopher Alexander
Center for Environmental Structure
Established 1967, Berkeley

Models for Herman Miller furniture system, 1987
Paper

Sketch for Herman Miller furniture system, 1987
Gouache and pen on paper

Collection of the Center for Environmental Structure

Design software for Herman Miller furniture system, 1987
Digital screen captures

Collection of Greg Bryant

In the late 1980s Herman Miller, a company known for creating modular furniture, invited Alexander to design a new line of office furniture. A professor at the University of California, Berkeley, and founder of the Center for Environmental Structure, Alexander and his collaborators are recognized for their research on spatial and user patterns, dubbed "pattern languages." They developed a computer program and paper models for Herman Miller, offering both digital and analog platforms that allow office employees to customize their work spaces with warmth, comfort, and color.