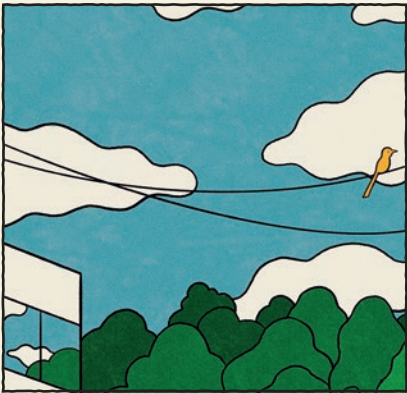


ACTIU

# Lifefriendly Spaces



What if we think of spaces  
*for living?*

In recent years, our Strategic Plan has been focused on **automation, digitalisation, circularity and the certification of products and processes in terms of sustainability**. Today we can proudly say that we have completed the initial phase of these challenges, leaving behind the initial challenges and opening the doors to a new era. These advances already allow us to operate more efficiently and sustainably, aligned with the demands and expectations of the societies to come.

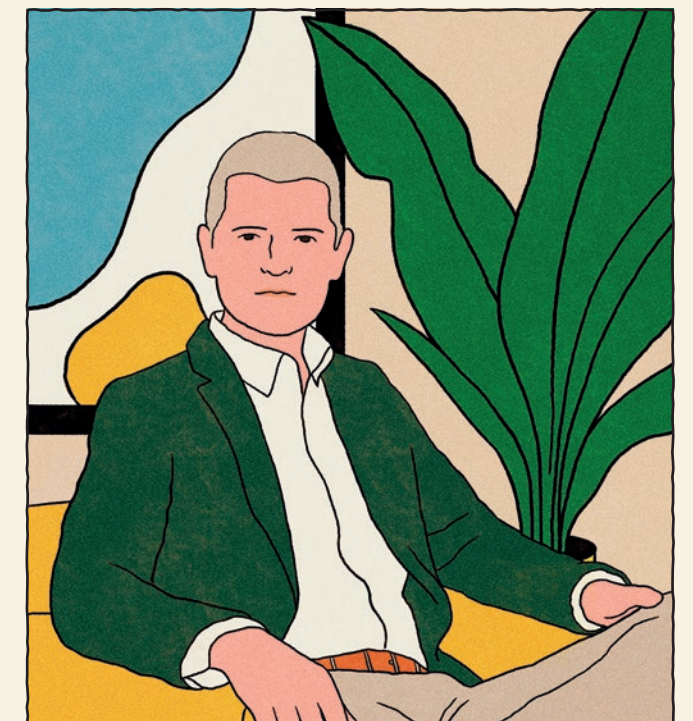
The next step is, as a truly robust industry, to commit to creating products that improve spaces and spaces that improve lives. It is about making us participants, within society, **to take care of both the well-being of people and the planet we inhabit from different perspectives and attending to current demands such as universal accessibility, regenerative systems or the promotion of health and well-being.**

At Actiu, we have created a renewed roadmap to face this promise: **'Life Friendly Spaces'**. All of us who form part of Actiu assume this model of business culture as part of our identity and mission. Employees, clients, suppliers and collaborators must move forward united with a common goal: to improve people's lives; recognising technology as a tool that facilitates the way we live and work, with a holistic approach to sustainability and with an inclusive and diverse vision in our relationships.

This commitment not only responds to today's needs, but continues the foundations of a legacy of responsibility, efficiency and respect for the environment and future generations. It is the evolution of our corporate culture, which will be reflected in every project we take on.

We will continue to **explore new markets and expand into emerging sectors** such as education and healthcare, offering innovative solutions that respond to the needs of a society that is increasingly collaborative, humanised and aware of its environment.

At Actiu, we firmly believe that **the future is not to be expected**, it is to be built. And we do it with responsibility, with passion and with the certainty that this new strategy is the key to the success of a company that wants to transcend and contribute the greatest possible value to society from its own business project.



Joaquín Bergal | CEO of ACTIU

# Welcome to Lifefriendly spaces

*Beyond Working*

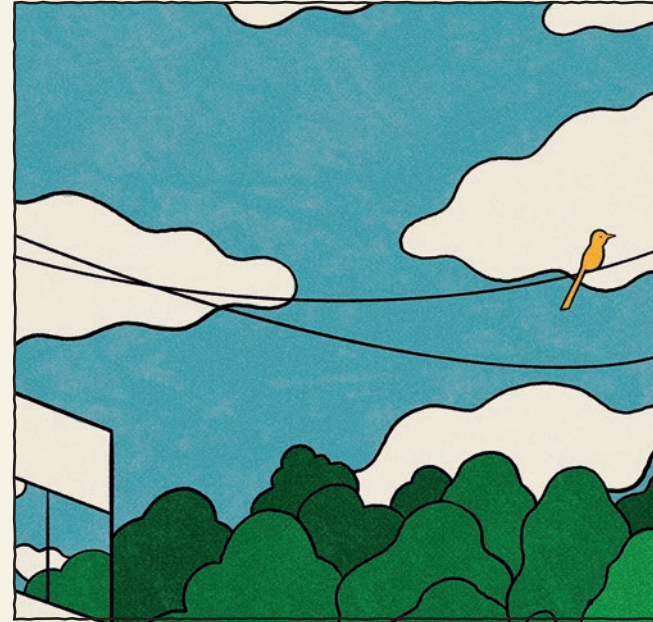
At ACTIU we have been designing and manufacturing furniture for over 50 years, and for 10 years we have been doing so following our own Cool Working methodology: an analysis method (developed together with the Institute of Biomechanics of Valencia) to create high-performance workspaces, focused on a satisfactory user experience with the aim of boosting productivity and well-being.

After the success of the projects implemented under this philosophy, **we believe that the time has come to go further, putting all our experience at the service of a design centred on life:** a commitment of our company to follow a regenerative and inclusive framework capable of renewing the planet and people.

Designing and manufacturing furniture that contributes to creating spaces that we call Lifefriendly Spaces is the challenge we set ourselves to continue building the ACTIU of the future. A business strategy to take our commitment to well-being and sustainability even further and, above all, to new countries and sectors.



# Lifefriendly Spaces: an agenda to *bring the future closer*



As a society, we have an appointment with the well-being of people and the planet. As a company, we have created *our own agenda to achieve this.*



Lifefriendly Spaces is a model of corporate culture. An approach that establishes a legacy of responsibility, efficiency and respect for the environment and future generations. A commitment assumed by all the teams that make up ACTIU (workers, suppliers, etc.) positioning the industry and design as an agent capable of transforming the environment and improving people's lives through spaces together with our collaborators.

# An internal paradigm shift to *achieve* change

Our agenda to design the *spaces of the future* to be more life-friendly involves addressing a series of *internal commitments* that affect all areas of our company:

## **Industry:**

As manufacturers we have the opportunity and responsibility to leave a better legacy by creating safe, healthy and sustainable products. Designing and manufacturing products based on knowledge drawn from a strong understanding of production processes, innovation and materials. Knowing that there can only be an industry that is sustainable and digitised.

## **Sustainability:**

The entire product life cycle through precise traceability based on circular economy practices, durable materials, efficient logistics and regenerative processes. By 2023 we have calculated the Carbon Footprint of more than 80% of our products.

## **Flexibility and Adaptability:**

Designing flexible, agile and dynamic spaces with different sectors and markets in mind, taking into account their habits.

## **Design**

We think about the end of life of the product, being able to disassemble, repair and recycle our furniture in components.

## **Technology and Connection:**

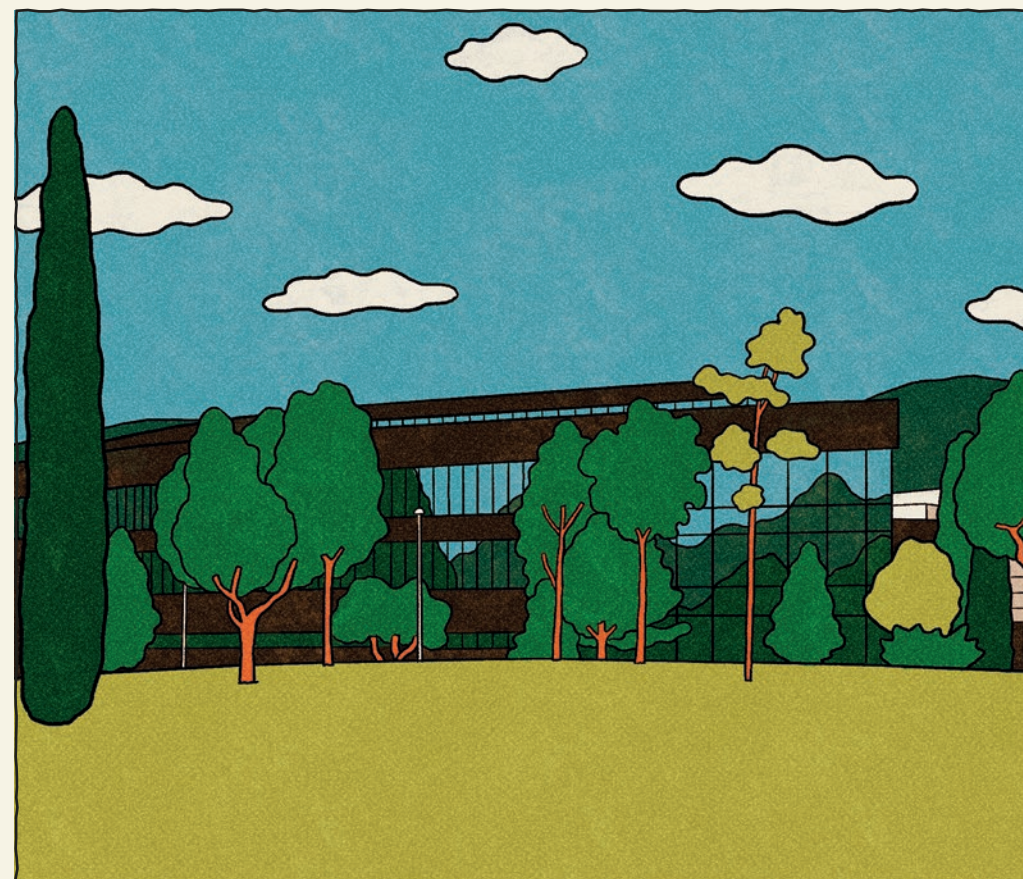
Integrating technologies that enhance the user experience, promoting connectivity and accessibility.

## **Well-being and Health:**

Ensure that our furniture brings physical, mental and emotional wellbeing to users, incorporating ergonomics into furniture that promotes health.

## **Inclusion and diversity:**

Ensuring that products are inclusive and accessible to all, respecting diversity and promoting equal opportunities.



# What if instead of inhabiting spaces, *we started to live them?*



**// 01** Spaces where *we prefer to get in rather than to get out of them.*

**// 02** Spaces that *care about the environment*

**// 03** Spaces that *move with you*

**// 04** Spaces where *you feel like meeting up*

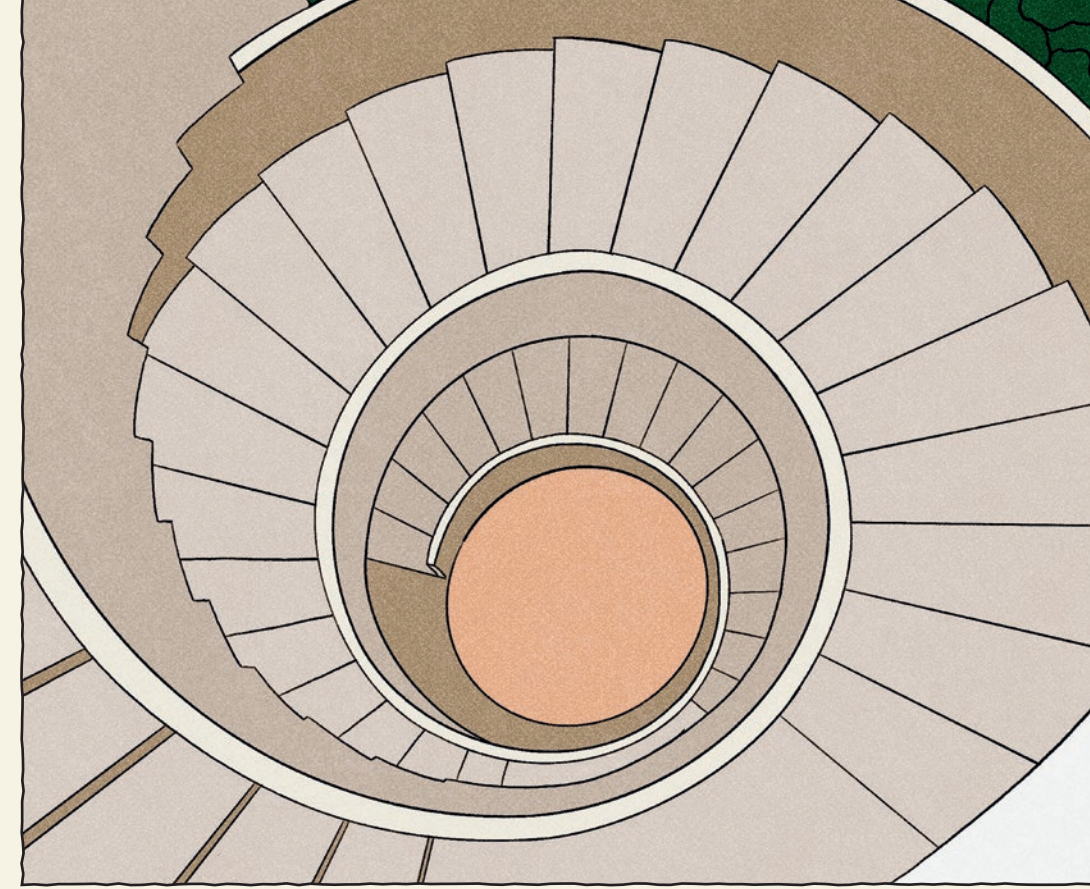
**// 05** Spaces where *we can all fit together*

**// 06** Spaces that *respect your own space*

**// 07** Spaces in which to *flourish*

**// 08** *More human spaces thanks to technology*

# 01. Spaces where *we* *prefer to get in rather* than to get out of them



The experience  
that has allowed  
us to create  
*Lifefriendly* spaces!



At ACTIU we make no secret of our pride at being the first industrial company in the world to achieve **Well v. 2 and Leed Platinum certification**. We are especially excited that, thanks to our wellbeing and sustainability policies, our company headquarters in Castalla has been officially awarded as the healthiest in Spain, the second in Europe and the fifth in the world.

The aim is always to go further. These awards have never been a goal to us, but a mean to give back to our land and its people and collaborators what they have been giving us for so many years, **because for more than 50 years**, the obsession of Vicent Berbegal, our founder, has been to **leave a legacy to improve the well-being** and conditions of his neighbours and customers.

Living in a building that takes into account the quality of air, natural light and comfort has allowed us **to use our space as a place of experimentation to design products** with people's needs in mind. In this way we have created more sustainable and healthier solutions, **which are able to provide those who use our furniture with Leed and Well credits**.

The next step is to collaborate with the Neuroarchitecture **Laboratory of the Polytechnic University of Valencia**, to create products and spaces **that provide wellbeing based on evidence and objective data**. Neuroarchitecture is a discipline that combines principles of neuroscience and architecture to understand how spaces affect our brain and, therefore, our behaviour, emotions and well-being.

# 02.

## Spaces that care for the environment



### What if we design to care for the environment around us?

We believe that the fact that all our products are produced in-house implies a greater responsibility when it comes to making decisions about the processes. **At ACTIU we believe that it is not only necessary to be sustainable in the production processes, but also from the very origin**, in the selection of the materials with which we begin to shape an idea that will result in a specific product, with its corresponding impact on people and the planet. Caring for the environment means trying to minimise this impact, paying attention to the materials we work with, their textures, their composition and their compounds, as demonstrated by the **LEVEL certification** recently awarded by the European system for the evaluation and certification of environmentally friendly and socially responsible office furniture and installations.

Moreover, the very design and characteristics of our solutions make it possible to create sustainable spaces that respect the environment in which they are implemented, thanks to their modularity and flexibility, transforming a single space into a multifunctional area.



#### **Plastic**

We use recycled plastic and recycling in large percentages.

#### **Steel**

The steel we use is 100% sustainable and lightweight, minimizing CO2 emissions during transport and processing. All the steel we purchase has a guarantee of origin with 17% recycled content.

#### **Aluminum**

All the aluminum we purchase has a guarantee of origin with 92% recycled content.

#### **Particleboard**

We are pioneers in incorporating 0% formaldehyde melamine in our products as a standard practice. Both the melamine and wood we use are PEFC and FSC Chain of Custody certified, demonstrating our commitment to green purchasing standards. The boards we use contain 30% recycled/recovered melamine.

#### **Textile**

More than 80% of the fabrics used in our upholstery are certified with the Oeko-tex Standard 100 label, which guarantees they contain no harmful substances for people.

#### **Cardboard (Packaging)**

In our packaging, we use only 100% recycled cardboard.

#### **Carbon Footprint 14064-1**

##### **Scope 3**

Together with AENOR, we have verified the calculation of our CO2 equivalent emissions (base year 2022) from our industrial process.

#### **Carbon Footprint**

We have calculated the product carbon footprint for over 80% of our products.

Actiu certificada con este estándar internacional LEVEL RSC y medioambiente

# 03.

## Spaces that *move with you*



### Productivity and mobility in the *use of space...*

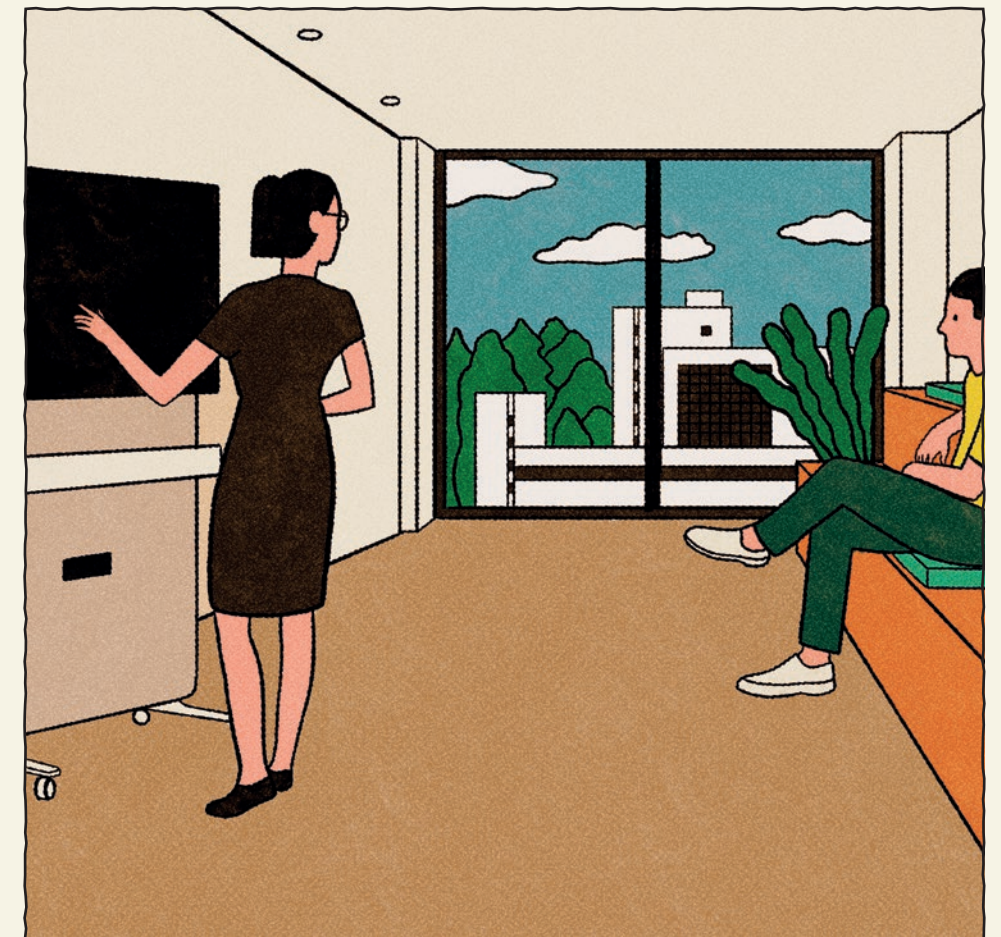
The desking tables, such as Talent, give the user the freedom to work standing or sitting throughout the day, in the classroom, in the Executive office or in the home office. With castors, it becomes a tool to easily convert any space into a training or meeting room.



### Autonomy in use. *Flexibility, Productivity, Agility*

A space that is compatible with life should allow each person to live it as they prefer: under this premise, at ACTIU we want to **favour the autonomy and freedom of each user** by integrating versatility and flexibility into each of our programmes and our spaces.

The furniture designed to be able to 'hack' the space allows each person or each company to personalise their environment through adaptable furniture, configuring offices, classrooms or coworking spaces according to their specific needs throughout the day.



### Space as a *transformation tool*

It is a tool for transformation and change of culture in any environment. The new educational, corporate, health, hotel, etc. models require establishing a new dialogue with the environment, through spaces that accompany the processes of change by means of more flexible, experiential and participative models.

# 04.

## Spaces in the that you *want to meet*

If houses are now like offices....  
If coffee shops are now like offices....  
If hotels are now like offices...  
If airports are now like offices...  
*What do offices have to be like now?*



Lifefriendly Spaces

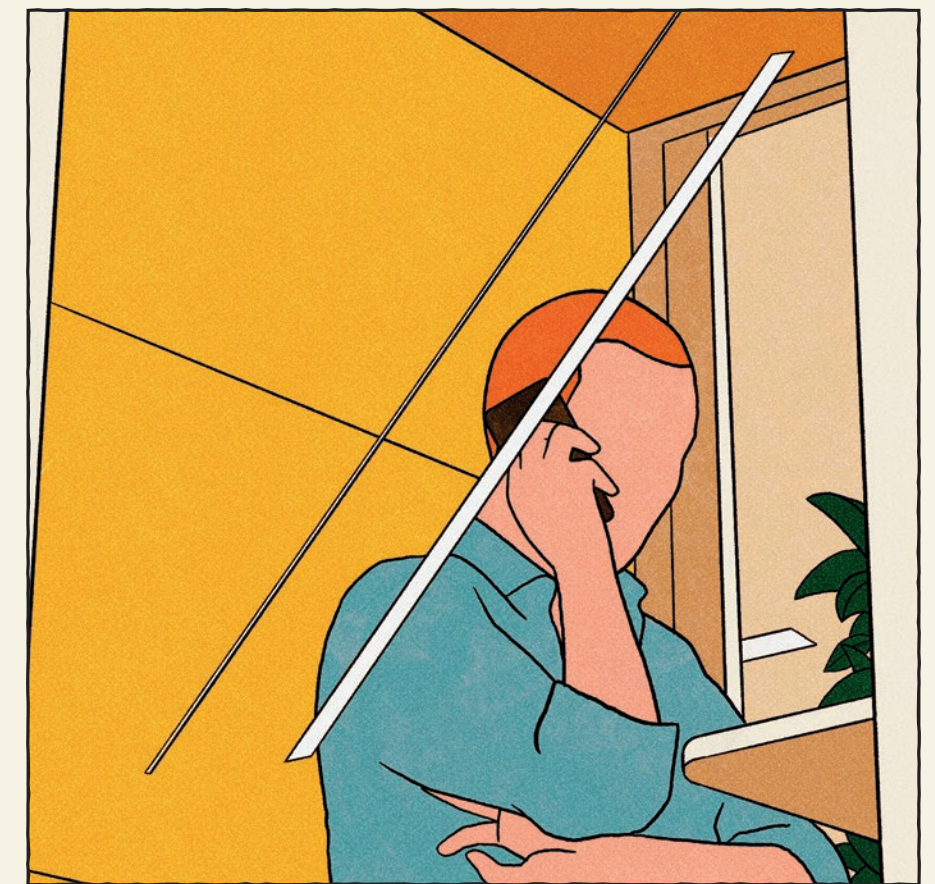


At ACTIU we believe that spaces should be able to facilitate shared experiences **and encourage interaction between the people** who inhabit them. Our experience tells us that it is in unscheduled encounters that the most valuable ideas are produced. And although creativity cannot be summoned in a meeting, we can make it flow better in spaces oriented to socialisation, such as a cafeteria, a play area or an informal soft-seating space. For some years now, our furniture has been evolving at the pace of these spaces, with versatile and comfortable proposals that manage to generate relaxed environments to promote comfort and relaxation.

- > For some years now, our furniture has been evolving at the pace of these spaces, with versatile and comfortable proposals that manage to generate relaxed environments to promote comfort, socialisation and creativity.
- > Did you know that spaces that facilitate a high level of interaction boost creativity by 30% and the transfer of knowledge, crucial for innovation?

# 05.

## Spaces *where we can all fit in*



We are going to work  
so that the spaces  
of the future have  
*everyone present*

(Spaces and products that are more usable, more comfortable, safer and more accessible to all)

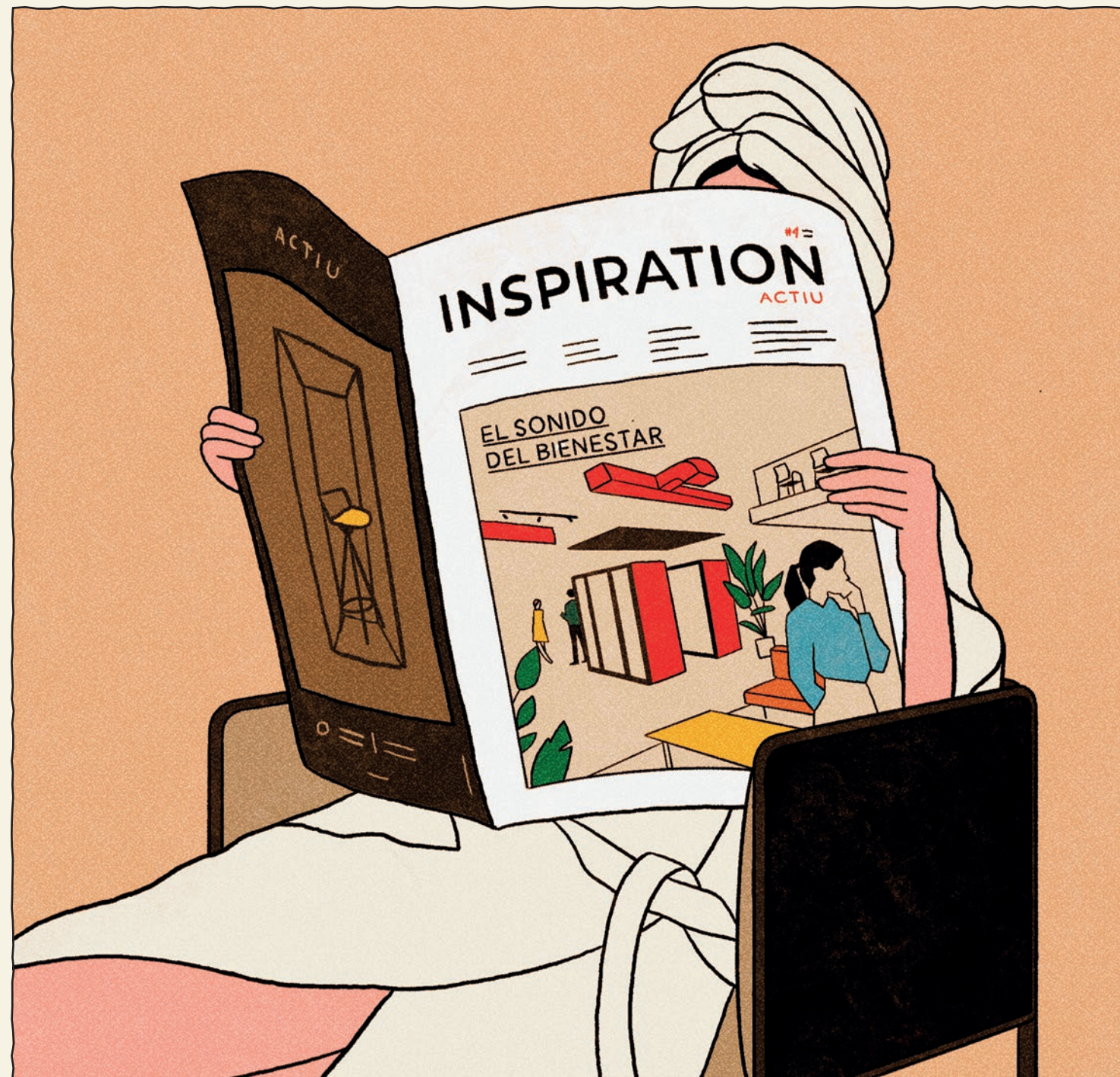
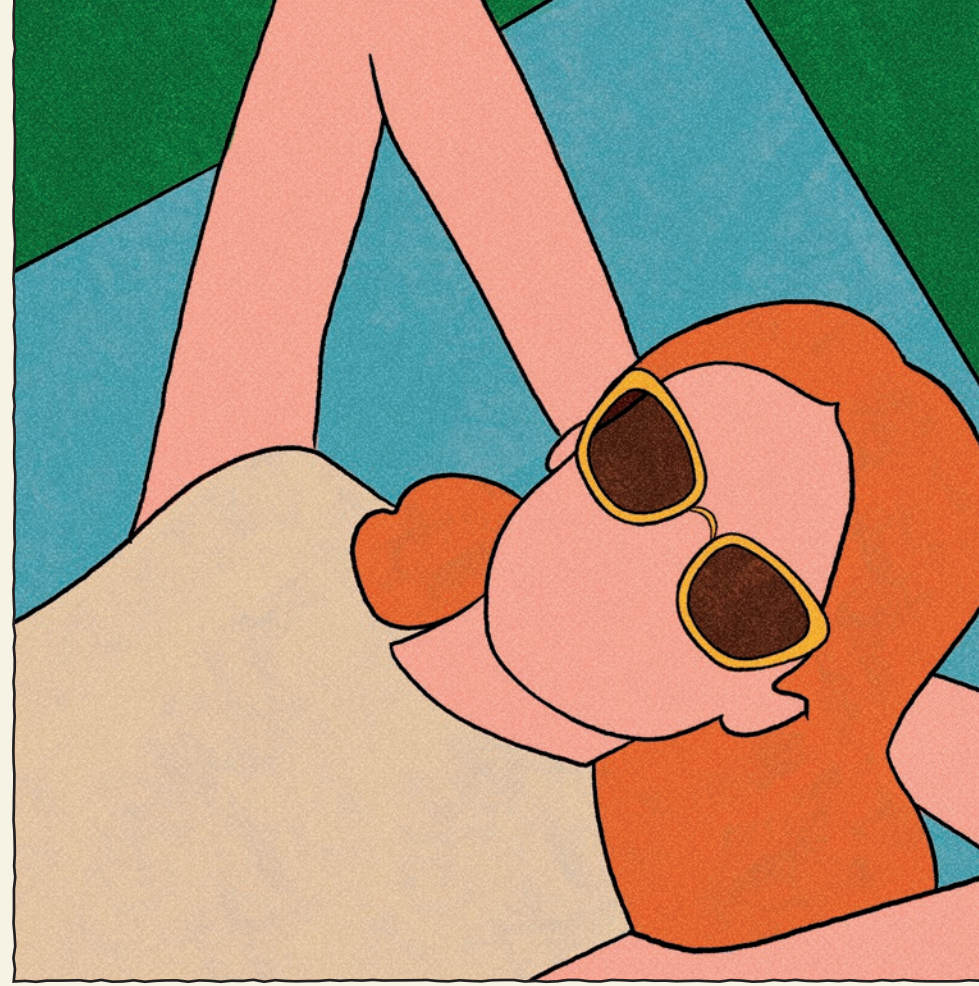
As a society, we have been slow to understand that not all disabilities are detectable to the naked eye, but **as our awareness of the importance of diversity, inclusion and equity** in the workplace grows, we are understanding the need to create spaces that are not only physically accessible, but also optimised for neurodiverse people.

Including sound-absorbent textures or using neutral colour palettes can be tools that allow designers to take into account the needs that certain people may have with regard to the lighting of a space or its acoustic conditions.

- > If an estimated 15-20% of the world's population is neurodivergent, a space cannot be lifefriendly without being neurofriendly first.
- > Shouldn't we try to prevent spaces from causing stress and other ailments that can lead to mental health problems (declared by the WHO to be the major societal problem by 2030)?
- > The challenge of inclusive spaces will also have to address the need to address the variety of age, gender, cultural, physical, mental or emotional needs of each person in a team.

# 06.

## Spaces that respect *your own space*



Excessive noise exposure has been shown to be directly linked to health problems such as sleep disturbance, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, as well as complications in learning and cognition.

Noise in different spaces, such as corporate, educational, hotel and transit areas such as airports, plays a fundamental role in people's well-being.

The creative and collaborative nature of new ways of working has given rise in recent years to much more open and flexible offices, where acoustics are one of the main challenges: **achieving environments with different 'degrees of privacy' in the same space is essential to provide well-being to its users.**

- > Some companies are pioneers in integrating meditation and mindfulness rooms in their offices: **quiet, relaxing spaces** where employees can take a break to unwind from daily stress.
- > Recent studies show that each time concentration is lost due to a distraction, it takes about 23 minutes to refocus attention on the task at hand.
- > Furniture can become an ally against acoustic pollution by incorporating **acoustic materials**, both in the form of separating panels and integrated into the product itself.
- > **67% of companies incorporate private areas in open spaces.** However, there are not always enough square metres to create islands of concentration. The purpose of acoustic booths is to create these islands of privacy in offices and open spaces, favouring concentration or isolation for tasks that require it, both individually and for small meetings.

07.

# Spaces in which to flourish



What if talent sprouts when we know how to *cultivate* it?

At ACTIU we are convinced that, for a space to be compatible with life, it must welcome life. That is why it is essential to design them according to the premises of biohabitability: a philosophy that, from the field of interior design and architecture, seeks to make the most of natural elements in spaces. It's not just about adding plants to the office, but about integrating nature in a way that stimulates the senses, promotes calm and improves productivity. Offices that embrace biohabitability include a number of natural features, such as plenty of natural light, good ventilation, vegetation and the use of natural, toxin-free materials. These elements work together to create living ecosystems that promote connection with nature, and therefore also health, emotions and creativity.

- > Studies indicate that 47% of offices have no access to natural light and 55% lack plants.
- > Biophilic design is essential to create spaces in which we can live, interact, rest and work, with the benefits of a connection to nature.

08.

# More human spaces thanks to technology



Let's make room for technologies that allow us to be *more connected*



Artificial intelligence, mixed reality and the sensorisation of spaces (IoT) are emerging technologies that will bring unquestionable advances, but also challenges that furniture and space designers can face with enthusiasm.

We must take advantage of the opportunities offered by technology to make spaces more human, optimising the efficiency of collaboration, modifying and creating new ways of interacting and creating immersive experiences capable of giving new uses to spaces.

In addition, spaces that fearlessly embrace technology will be able to take care of the health of those who live in them, for example through data analysis and real-time information.

> **So far, so close**

The new reality of Hybrid Living in which human capital has become globalised requires facilitating hybrid connections between the digital and the physical to promote effective collaboration.

# This is not the end of the story.



There is no future stage that does not pose challenges, but at ACTIU we face the coming years full of enthusiasm and optimism, committed to our own agenda that will help us to create the Lifefriendly spaces outlined in this publication.

This is just a first step, but it is the first step on a strategic path that will lead us to be the company we want to be in the future. We are convinced that starting with the transformation of our own business is the most honest way to bring about a change in our environment to make it more pleasant, more sustainable and more inclusive.

## Lifefriendly Spaces.

### We support the UN SDGs

Actiu supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Actiu has been working on various goals, such as promoting industry, innovation, and infrastructure (9), responsible production and consumption (12), supporting decent work and economic growth (8), working on people's health and well-being (3), committing to climate improvement and leaving a better world than the one we have (13), and advocating for partnerships to achieve the goals ahead (17).



### CERTIFICATIONS

For years, ACTIU has complied with all management, quality, and sustainability requirements, both in its products and in the business and industrial fields, to bring added value to the projects it undertakes. Below are the certifications we have up to 2024 and those we are working to obtain as soon as possible.



This has only just begun....

Designing  
spaces worth  
*living our lives in*

Find out more:  
[www.actiu.com/lifefriendlyspaces](http://www.actiu.com/lifefriendlyspaces)





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