Technologies for the Hybrid Workspace

A modular and scalable audio and visual system for the fast paced, ever changing workplace.
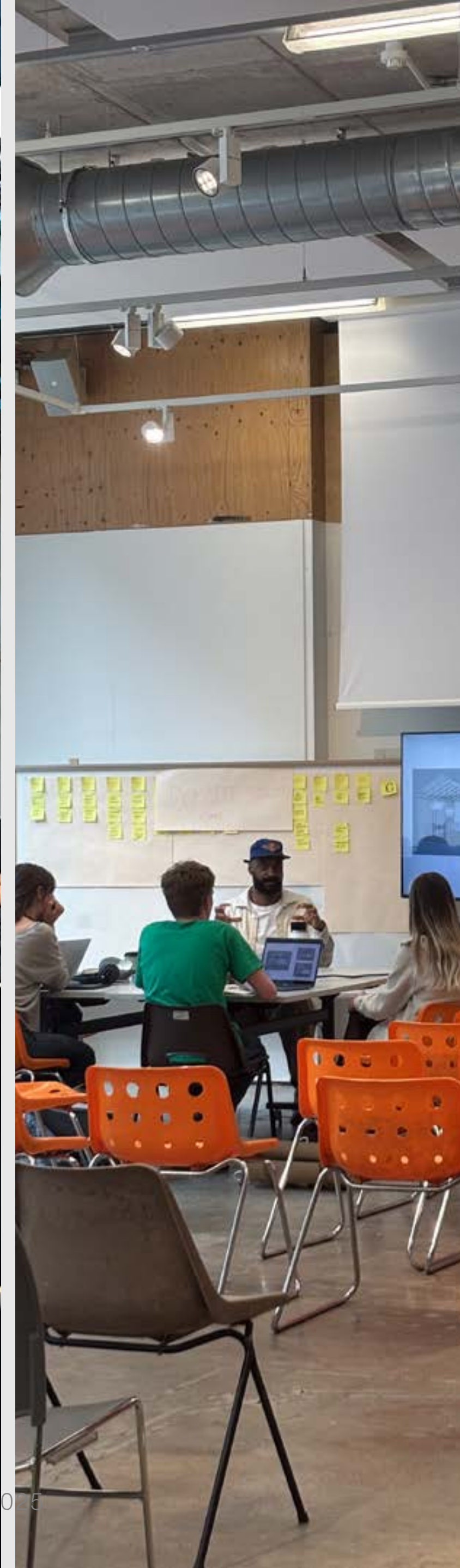Configuring static office technologies for the adaptable workspace.

The Hybrid Office

Multi Use Workspace

As offices become more flexible for employees, the core values of the workspace are shifting away from rigid, traditional models. With increased flexibility, workspaces now support a variety of activities and are used in more dynamic and multi functional ways.

Re-framed Brief

How might we transform underutilized office spaces into dynamic, hybrid spaces that foster social and professional activity?

For The Social Workspace

Distinguishing Value

For many employees, the office is no longer the central hub for work, as remote work has become a well-established norm. Evolving work habits and systems now support this shift, making it harder to justify the office purely as a place for productivity. Instead, many people view the office as a social space, a contrast to the solitary nature of working from home, which underscores the office's unique, differentiating value.

Social Demand

Workspaces are becoming more socially oriented, and hybrid offices reflect this shift. Many after-hours activities held in offices are professional social events, bringing new and unique demands for how space is designed and used.

Adaptable Systems

Workspace Trends

The rise of working from home has changed the dynamics of the physical workplace, with less consistent use of space driving the need for more flexible systems. Office furniture reflects this shift, becoming more mobile, adaptable, and less tailored to fixed, task-specific functions.

Out of Date

As offices increasingly support versatile uses of space, rigid systems that don't align with these evolving demands are becoming incompatible with modern workplace habits.

Dynamic Technology

System Update

Many workplace systems have adapted to emerging trends, with furniture and technology evolving to meet new demands. However, a bottleneck remains: hybrid social spaces have a unique set of technological requirements that are still largely unmet.

Audio Visual Demands

For the most part, office audiovisual technology remains rigid and static, falling short of meeting the diverse needs of non-traditional or social workplace activities.

Design Goals

Scalability

The core issue with current office audiovisual technology is its lack of scalability. Most existing systems are designed for a fixed group size and struggle to adapt effectively to smaller or larger interactions, limiting their flexibility in multi use, hybrid environments.

Compact & Lightweight

Since hybrid spaces evolve quickly and frequently, solutions should avoid being clunky or static. Instead, they need to be lightweight, mobile, and easy to reconfigure to suit changing needs.

Seamless & Convenient

Most social audio solutions are overly complex and time-consuming for the average user to set up. In rapidly changing hybrid spaces, this is not practical. Any viable solution must be both physically and technically easy to set up, allowing users to adapt the system quickly and intuitively.

Loud

While some existing solutions address parts of these challenges, none effectively meet the volume and sound coverage requirements of social spaces.
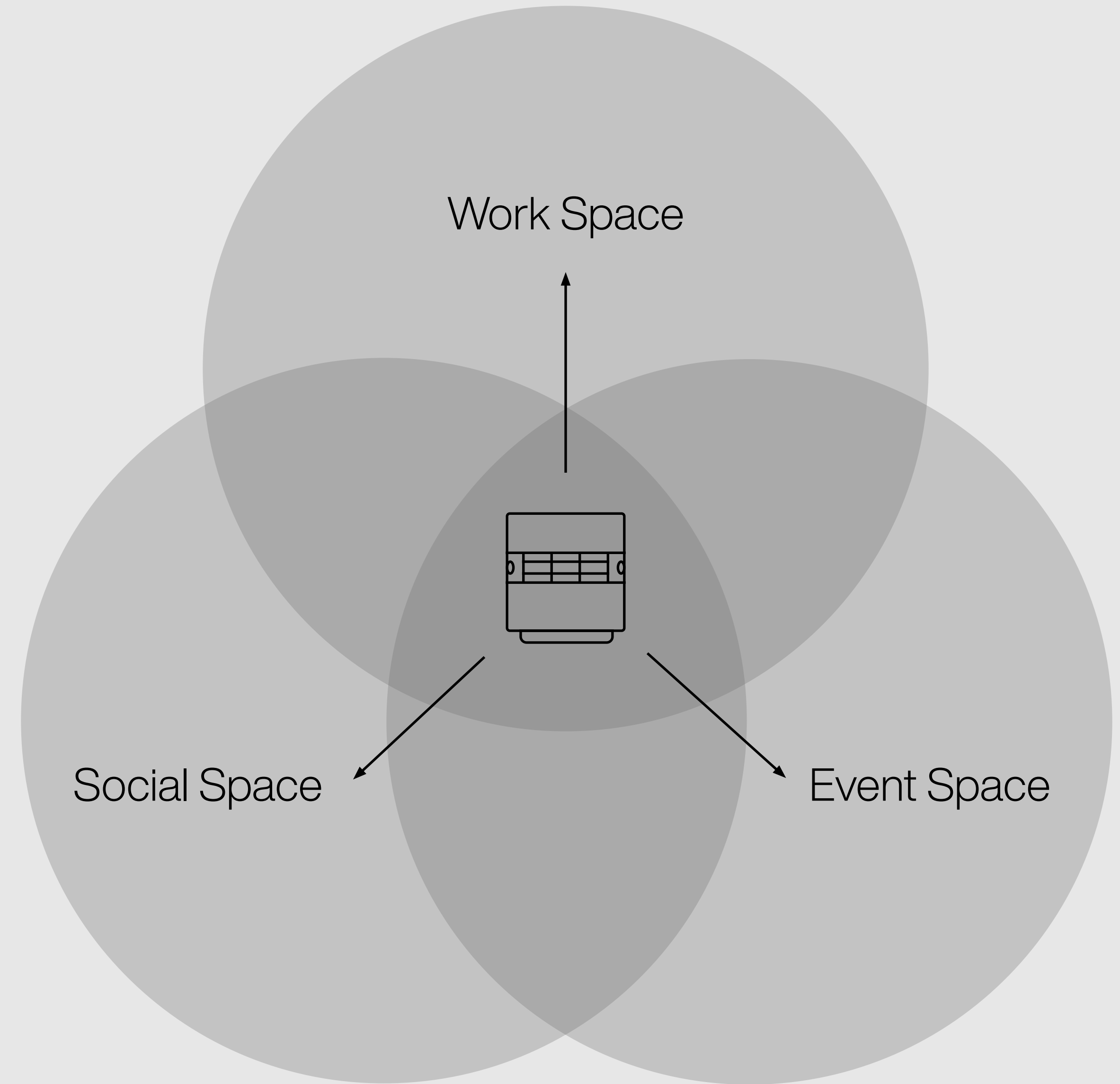
Product Reach

Existing Between Spaces

Solutions tailored to individual spaces (whether workspaces, social areas, or event environments) do exist. However, what's missing is a unified solution that can function effectively across all three simultaneously. In hybrid and flexible environments, this kind of versatility is essential.`

A Hybrid Scope

The scope of any solution must be broad, as hybrid spaces require systems that can function seamlessly across multiple contexts (workspace, social space, and event space) simultaneously.

Work Space

Social Space

Event Space

The Orbit System

Summary

The Evolving Role of the Office

As remote work reshapes workplace habits, the office is no longer viewed solely as a productivity hub. Instead, it has become a social and collaborative space that complements the solitary nature of working from home. This shift demands more versatile, mobile, and user-friendly systems, especially in how space and technology are used

Technology Bottlenecks in Hybrid Spaces

While furniture and workflows have adapted to changing needs, audiovisual technology has lagged behind. Existing solutions are often rigid, complex, and designed for fixed group sizes. Most importantly, they fail to scale across the full spectrum of hybrid space functions: workspace, social space, and event space. The future requires a single, adaptable solution that is easy to set up and can fluidly operate across all three environments.

Midrange Unit

All Purpose Core

This core unit functions as the central component of the Orbit system, designed to support the broadest range of hybrid space scenarios.

A Flexible Framework

It serves as a flexible foundation around which the rest of the system can be built and customized.

Sub-woofer Unit

Extra Kick

The Sub-woofer Unit is an extension of the Midrange Unit, designed to enhance the system by providing additional depth and volume.

Full Range Sound

When paired with the Midrange Unit, the Orbit system becomes a full-range audio solution, capable of delivering both high and low frequencies.

Projector Unit

System Utility

This unit adds visual functionality to the Orbit system, supporting a wide range of visual needs across both workspace and event space scenarios.

Quick Visuals

The Projector Unit is designed as a quick and easy way to display visuals and facilitate communication, leaning more toward workplace functionality than entertainment use.

Modular Setup

Variable Solutions

Making the design modular, rather than an all-in-one solution, was key to addressing the need for scalability. Components can be added or removed as needed, allowing the system to adapt to specific situational requirements.
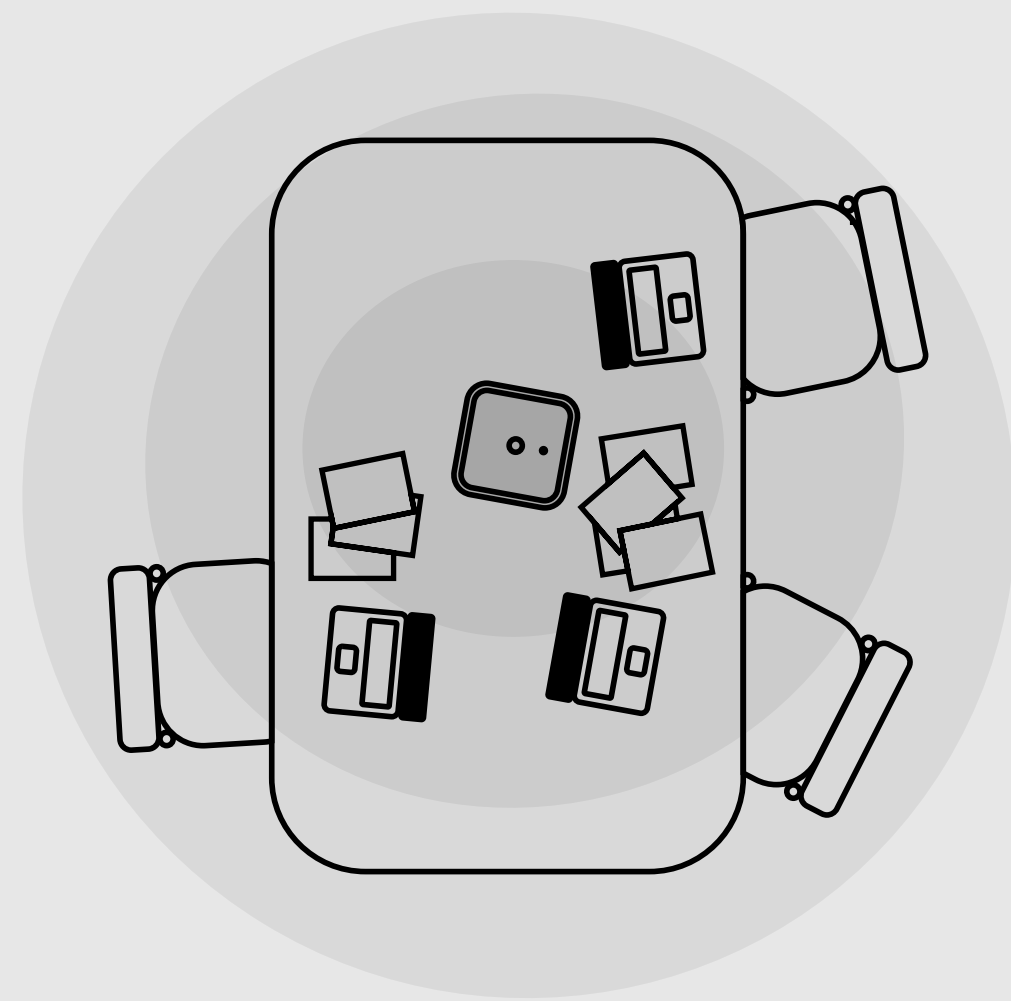
Modular Reasoning

When scaling all-in-one solutions to accommodate a wider variety of events, the system often becomes clunky, burdened by unnecessary components that aren't relevant to every scenario. In contrast, modular solutions offer greater adaptability, allowing the system to expand or contract seamlessly based on specific needs.
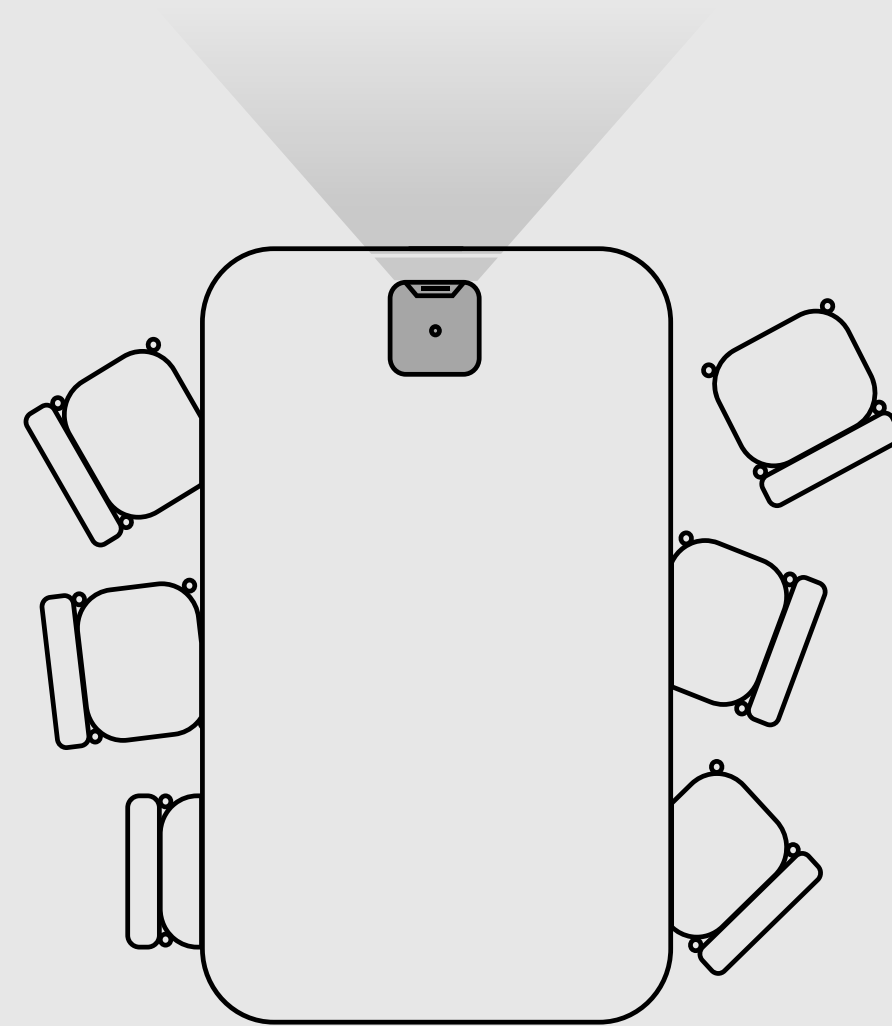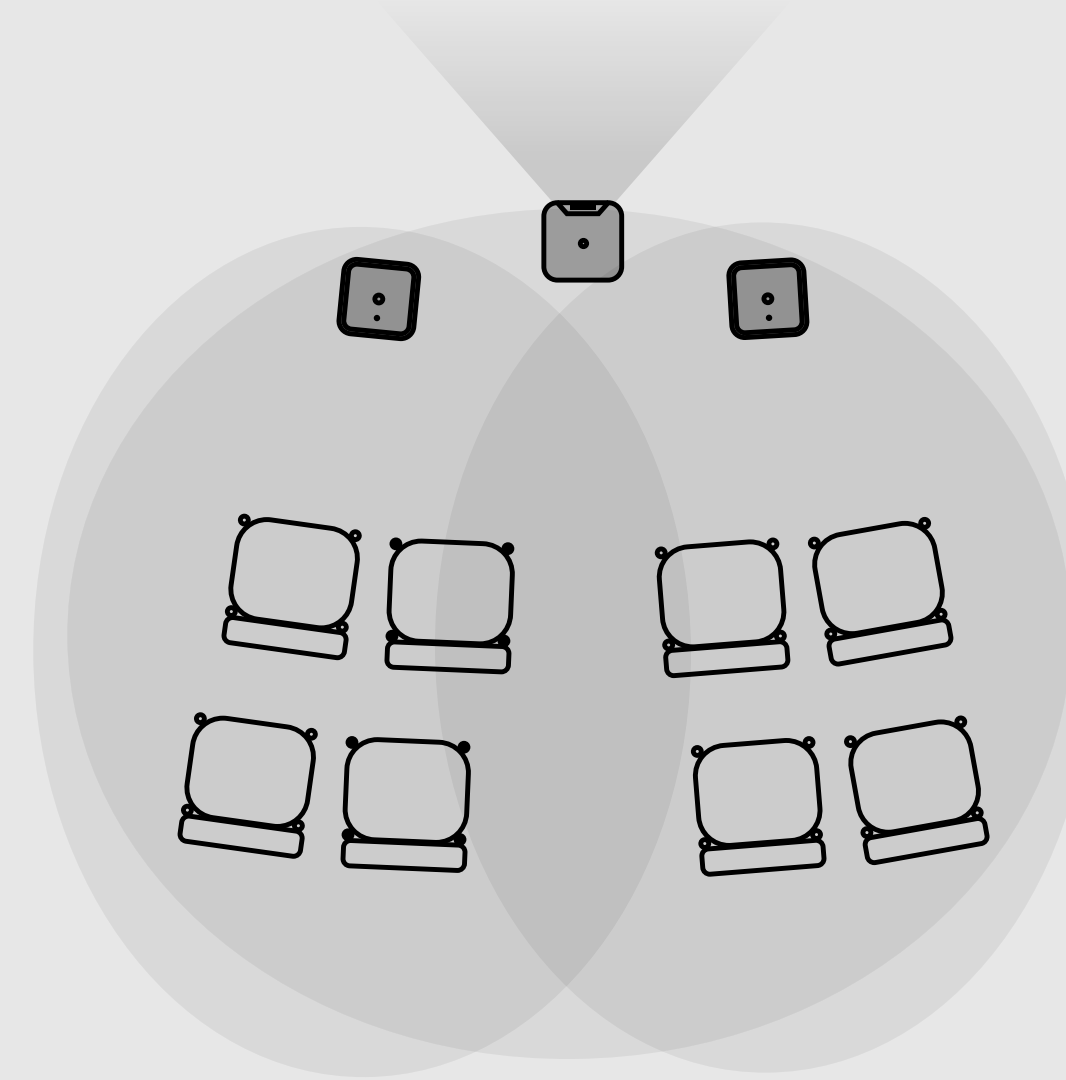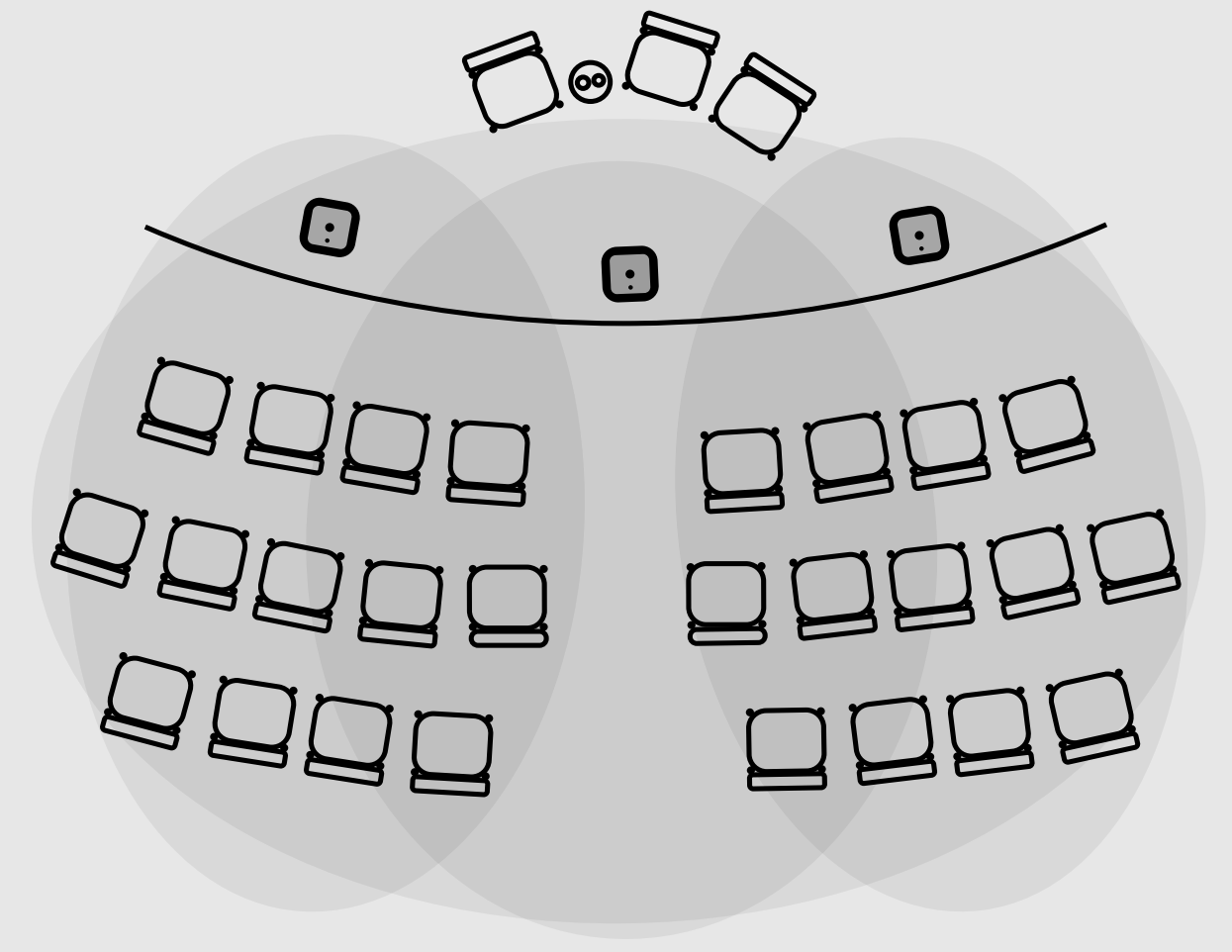
Scalable Configuration

Co-working

Presentations

Entertainment

Lectures

2-3 People

5-10 People

10-20 People

20-30 People

Quick Connection

Power & Data Transfer

Contacts on the top and bottom surfaces enable seamless connectivity between units, allowing for quick and intuitive modular assembly and disassembly

Seamless Connection

This system offers a simple, streamlined method for connecting components, eliminating the need for numerous ports and cables to achieve a cohesive setup.

Omni-directional

Spatial Audio

The system delivers 360° omni-directional audio, made possible by its SLS-printed internal structure.

Reactive Audio

Microphones positioned at the corners of the unit measure audio feedback in the space, allowing the system to automatically calibrate sound for optimal performance regardless of placement.

Compact Package

Value for Space

The compact SLS-printed structure allows the system to house six internal drivers(four tweeters and two midrange) within a streamlined form factor.

No Compromise

The SLS-printed internal structure ensures that volume and loudness are not compromised, even as the overall size of the unit is reduced.

Product Feel

Flexible Colorways

The color and material finish are designed to help the Orbit system blend seamlessly into a variety of environments, while still maintaining a distinct product identity.

No Fabric Just Veneer

A key part of the CMF decision-making process was the intentional exclusion of fabrics and soft-touch materials. This was done to clearly distinguish the Orbit system from home speakers and reinforce its identity as a product designed for event and professional environments.