

Design for Modularity

Reducing Premature Obsolescence and Extending Product Life Span

Design for Modularity (DfM) is an important product strategy used by Zenith Interiors Pty Ltd with a view to reducing premature obsolescence. DfM seeks to address functional and environmental objectives in a practical and user-friendly way. DfM is a specific design objective within Zenith Interiors' overall approach to Design for Sustainability and eco-innovation.

Modularity, adjustability and reconfigurability are design objectives and product features which directly and indirectly help to extend the product life spans of our furniture. By reducing the risk of premature obsolescence, this contributes to lower churn rates and also a lower rate of furniture disposal which can result in solid waste generation.

Our aim is to design furniture so that modularity, adjustability and reconfigurability can bring functional benefits to end-users and facility managers, as well as the environmental benefits associated with reduced end-of-life waste. Zenith Interiors workstations demonstrate how DfM can be embedded at a practical level.

Desk frames, clamp-on screens and shelves, as well as cable support baskets are all modular and can be easily reconfigured and/or updated by end-users without the use of specialist tools or trades.

The minimal number of components in Zenith Interiors furniture also contributes to a high level of cross-product standardisation and easier reconfiguration, reuse and/or redeployment during a product's first life as well as updating for a second and third life.

We have also aimed to simplify assemblies, eliminate potential weak points and design for misuse and use so that when required specific components can be easily replaced and/or updated because of the targeted approach to modularity. This necessarily integrates with specific Design for Disassembly (DfD) features adopted by Zenith Interiors, and provides end-users with environmental, operational and economic benefits.

In summary Zenith Interiors is committed to DfM as an ongoing strategy that can reduce premature obsolescence and extend product life spans in a practical and cost-effective manner. By designing our furniture as a series of easily accessible 'blocks' or modules, we are creating a product system that reflects a sensible and progressive approach to materials efficiency, durability and overall end-user value.

As part of our ongoing environmental improvement activities, Zenith Interiors is also systematically requiring all external suppliers to address modularity objectives. This will deliver a consistent range of environmentally enhanced furniture products, which meet specific requirements through the Green Building Council of Australia's Green Star Office Interiors rating tool.

Zenith Interiors will continue to refine and implement DfM features in its products as new research, methods and systems are identified and evaluated.

This official company statement on Design for Modularity is supported by product-specific diagrams highlighting DfM features and aspects. These diagrams are available on request.



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