

## **GROW Nest: Designed for Every Learner, Built for Every Space**

### **Innovation in the Marketplace**

The Grow Nest from MiEN Environments is a breakthrough in educational furniture, designed to address the evolving needs of modern active learning environments. It's not just another chair or desk! Grow embodies empathy, equity, while acknowledging the diversity of learners and the variety of teaching methodologies."This patent pending product exemplifies innovation by integrating flexibility, comfort, and functionality into a single, dynamic piece of furniture. The Grow Nest is engineered to accommodate various learning styles and activities, fostering an inclusive and engaging atmosphere for students. Its design allows for easy reconfiguration, promoting collaborative learning and individual focus within the same space.

### **Improved Characteristics and Techniques**

The Grow Nest incorporates several characteristics and techniques that are either improved upon or new to the market:

1. **Biophilic Design Integration:** The incorporation of artificial grass materials in the Grow Nest is a nod to biophilic design principles, which emphasize the connection between humans and nature. This element not only enhances the aesthetic appeal but also contributes to the well-being of students by bringing elements of the natural world into the learning environment.
2. **Modularity and Flexibility:** The Grow Nest can be easily rearranged with additional products from the Grow collection or intermingled with other furniture to create different seating arrangements, from small group discussions to individual study pods. This adaptability is crucial in modern educational settings where the needs and activities can change rapidly.
3. **Patent Pending:** The Grow Nest is a testament to innovative design and engineering, boasting a patent-pending status for its unique construction of materials and design utility. This recognition highlights the product's groundbreaking approach to educational furniture, combining ergonomic support, sensory features, and modular flexibility. The thoughtful integration of biophilic design elements set the Grow Nest apart, ensuring it meets diverse learning needs with unparalleled functionality and comfort. Additionally, the GROW Nest offers versatile functionality with its ability to rock gently for a soothing, nest-like experience or be flipped over for use as a regular seated ottoman, adapting seamlessly to various teaching and learning scenarios.
4. **Sustainability:** Built using environmentally friendly materials and processes, the Grow Nest aligns with the growing demand for sustainable products in the educational sector.
5. **Aesthetic Appeal:** With its contemporary design the Grow Nest enhances the visual appeal of learning spaces, creating an inviting and stimulating environment for students.

### **Incorporation of New Technologies**

The Grow Nest leverages emerging technologies to enhance its functionality and user experience:

1. **Advanced Materials:** The use of advanced materials makes the Grow Nest durable yet easy to move and reconfigure. These materials also contribute to the product's ergonomic design, providing superior comfort and support.
2. **Innovative Manufacturing Techniques:** Employing cutting-edge manufacturing techniques ensures high precision and quality in every unit.
3. **Optimal use of materials :** Each of the Grow Nest pieces are designed to optimize the use of the materials and minimize the need for additional processing. The design of the pattern reduces the use of seams to create the overall shape.

### **Advantage to the Learning Environment**

The Grow Nest provides several advantages to the learning environment:

1. **Outdoor Utilization:** The Grow Nest is designed to be versatile and can be utilized both indoors and outdoors. Its weather-resistant materials and durable construction make it ideal for outdoor learning environments, providing a seamless transition between indoor and outdoor educational activities. This flexibility encourages outdoor learning, which has been shown to improve student engagement and well-being.
2. **Supporting Neurodiverse Learners:** The Grow Nest incorporates biophilic design principles, utilizing artificial grass materials to create a soothing tactile experience. This feature is especially beneficial for neurodiverse learners, offering a sensory input that can help reduce anxiety and improve focus. The deep pressure touch points integrated into the design provide additional sensory feedback, promoting self-regulation and comfort for students with sensory processing needs. These elements make the Grow Nest a valuable tool in creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment.
3. **Versatility and Active Learning:** The Grow Nest's design allows for a variety of configurations, supporting both individual study and group collaboration. This flexibility is key to fostering active learning environments where students can easily transition between different modes of engagement. The ability to reconfigure the Grow Nest quickly and efficiently ensures that the furniture adapts to the changing needs of the classroom, promoting dynamic and interactive teaching methods. Additionally, the rocking feature of the Grow Nest adds an element of movement that can help students stay engaged and focused, providing a subtle form of kinesthetic learning.
4. **Enhanced Collaboration:** Its modularity and flexibility promote collaborative learning by allowing students to easily form groups and work together on projects. This fosters a sense of community and enhances peer-to-peer learning.
5. **Adaptability to Pedagogical Needs:** The ability to quickly reconfigure the Grow Nest supports various teaching methods, from traditional lectures to active learning strategies, ensuring that the learning environment can adapt to different instructional approaches.

6. **Aesthetic and Psychological Benefits:** An inviting and visually appealing learning environment positively impacts students' mood and motivation, contributing to a more conducive atmosphere for learning and creativity.

In summary, the GROW Nest by MiEN Environments stands out as an innovative product that addresses the contemporary needs of educational spaces, leveraging new technologies and improved design techniques to enhance the learning experience and environment.

**Durability and Longevity:** Artificial turf is known for its durability and long lifespan, making it a sustainable choice for educational furniture. It withstands heavy use and wear, reducing the need for frequent replacements and minimizing waste.

**Recyclability:** The artificial turf in the Grow Nest is made from recyclable materials. At the end of its life cycle, the turf can be recycled into new products, supporting a circular economy and reducing landfill waste.

## **Contribution to Energy Savings**

**Production of the Product** The Grow Nest is manufactured in the USA using advanced, energy-efficient production techniques. These processes minimize energy consumption during manufacturing, contributing to a reduced carbon footprint. The use of locally sourced materials also reduces transportation energy costs, further enhancing the product's overall energy efficiency.

### **Usage of the Product**

The design of the Grow Nest promotes energy savings:

1. **Flexible Space Utilization:** The modular and adaptable nature of the Grow Nest allows for efficient use of classroom space. By reducing the need for multiple pieces of furniture, schools can optimize their heating, cooling, and lighting needs, leading to lower energy consumption.

### **Outcome of the Product**

The Grow Nest's impact on energy usage extends to the overall efficiency of learning environments:

1. **Reduced Need for Additional Furniture:** The versatility of the Grow Nest means fewer pieces of furniture are needed to achieve the same functionality, reducing the energy required for production, transport, and maintenance of extra items.
2. **Encouragement of Outdoor Learning:** By being suitable for both indoor and outdoor use, the Grow Nest encourages outdoor learning activities. Utilizing natural daylight and reducing reliance on indoor lighting and climate control systems can significantly lower energy usage.

## **Direct Cost Savings to Operations, Maintenance, and Other Areas**

The Grow Nest offers direct cost savings in operational expenses:

1. **Multi-functionality:** Its ability to serve multiple purposes reduces the need for purchasing different types of furniture, leading to direct savings on procurement costs.
2. **Ease of Movement:** The lightweight and modular design of the Grow Nest makes it easy to move and reconfigure. This ease of movement simplifies the process for operations staff to clean and maintain buildings, reducing labor costs and the time required for these tasks.

### **Maintenance**

The Grow Nest is designed for durability and ease of maintenance, offering significant cost savings:

1. **Durable Materials:** The use of high-quality, durable materials ensures that the Grow Nest has a long lifespan, reducing the frequency and cost of replacements.
2. **Easy Cleaning:** The materials used in the Grow Nest are easy to clean and maintain, which reduces labor costs and the need for specialized cleaning products.

### **Other Areas**

1. **Health and Wellness Benefits:** The calming effects provided by the biophilic design and deep pressure touch points can lead to improved student well-being and reduced absenteeism, indirectly saving costs related to healthcare and improving overall productivity.

In summary, the Grow Nest by MiEN Environments not only contributes to energy savings through its production, usage, and impact on the learning environment but also provides direct cost savings in operations, maintenance, and other areas. Its innovative design and sustainable features make it a cost-effective and energy-efficient solution for modern educational spaces.

## **Overall Performance: Grow Nest and Dr. David Thornburg's Archetypal Learning Spaces**

Dr. David Thornburg's archetypal learning spaces—Campfires, Caves, and Watering Holes—offer a framework for designing versatile and effective educational environments. The Grow Nest from MiEN Environments aligns seamlessly with these concepts, supporting diverse learning activities and needs.

### **Campfires**

**Campfires** are spaces where learners gather to hear from an expert or engage in storytelling, sharing knowledge in a communal setting. The Grow Nest supports this archetype through its modular design, which can be arranged to create a focal point for group discussions, presentations, or storytelling sessions. Its comfortable seating and ergonomic design ensure that students can engage attentively for extended periods. The ability to reconfigure the Grow Nest and its companion Grow products into

semi-circular or circular arrangements fosters an inclusive atmosphere where every participant feels involved.

### **Caves**

**Caves** are quiet, individual spaces where learners can retreat for focused work, reflection, or personal study. The Grow Nest's design includes deep pressure touch points and calming tactile features, such as artificial grass, which cater to the sensory needs of neurodiverse students, helping them to concentrate and relax. Its rocking capability allows for subtle movement, which can be soothing and help maintain focus. By providing a personal, enclosed space, the GROW Nest serves as an ideal "cave" for students needing a break from the communal environment to work independently or recharge.

### **Watering Holes**

**Watering Holes** are informal spaces where learners can engage in spontaneous discussions and peer-to-peer learning. The flexibility of the Grow Nest makes it perfect for creating these dynamic, collaborative spaces. Its design enables quick transitions between different learning setups, facilitating impromptu group work and conversations. The ability to use the Grow Nest both indoors and outdoors further enhances its utility as a watering hole, allowing learners to gather in various settings and engage in diverse learning experiences.

The Grow Nest by MiEN Environments stands out as an extraordinary and high-performing piece of educational furniture, designed to revolutionize the learning experience. This innovative product integrates numerous features that support diverse teaching and learning styles, particularly benefitting neurodiverse learners through its thoughtful design.

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