



**2026 Best of NeoCon Winners Announced**  
*Expanded Program Reveals Design Breakthroughs in Sustainability,  
Innovation, Business Impact, and Lighting*

**(CHICAGO, IL – June 8, 2026)** From next-generation workplace solutions and sustainable materials to breakthrough lighting innovations and integrated technologies, the winners of the 36th annual [Best of NeoCon Awards](#) reflect a commitment to intentional, human-centered design. Revealed this morning at The Mart as part of [NeoCon 2026](#), the awards recognize products that exemplify excellence in design, performance, innovation, and user experience within the built environment.

Since 1990, the Best of NeoCon Awards has served as a definitive benchmark for commercial design excellence, commending solutions that advance how people work, learn, heal, connect, and experience space. This year's edition received **274** entries from **97** NeoCon exhibitors. A total of **71** products were awarded across **42** categories, including expanded lighting classifications introduced in conjunction with the debut of [Illuminate at NeoCon](#). Honors were awarded for Gold, Silver, Innovation, Sustainability, and Business Impact, with the competition's highest distinction—**Best of Competition**—presented to **KI** for **Cognetic Technology**.

A multidisciplinary jury of approximately 45 leading architects, designers, facility managers, end-users, and industry decision-makers—including leaders from **CannonDesign**, **Gensler**, **HDR**, **HKS**, **HOK**, **Marmon Mok**, **Northwestern Mutual**, **Shepley Bulfinch**, **State Farm**, and **Walgreens**—convened on-site at The Mart this past weekend to evaluate submissions throughout the NeoCon show floors. An additional panel of business journalists and facility management professionals determined the Business Impact Awards. See the full jury list [here](#).

“The breadth of this year’s nominees demonstrates how dynamically NeoCon exhibitors are designing for the human experience and responding to real-world challenges with solutions that thoughtfully balance aesthetics and performance,” says Eileen McMorrow, Director of Best of NeoCon. “From meaningful advancements in workplace, healthcare, hospitality, education, and lighting, the ingenuity and innovation celebrated by the competition are always exciting to see. In particular, the introduction of *Illuminate* brought a new layer of energy and brilliance to NeoCon, showcasing how vital lighting is to human wellness and the architectural narrative. Collectively, the winners represent a commitment to creating more responsive, resilient, well-being-driven, and people-first spaces.”

The Best of Competition-winning **Cognetic Technology** by **KI** stood out for its intuitive, human-centered design. The patented innovation was developed to fundamentally rethink how the body interacts with seating. The gravity-powered, multi-axis motion system continuously

responds to subtle natural body movement, supporting posture variability, fluid movement, and effortless balance without requiring constant conscious adjustment. Unlike conventional seating systems built around levers, tilt mechanisms, and static positioning, Cognetic Technology, invented by Aaron DeJule, creates an intuitive, frictionless, more responsive seated experience. Jurors praised the solution for its ability to encourage natural movement and adapt seamlessly to the user, noting that it “moves with your body and how you want to move,” creating a more dynamic and comfortable sitting experience. “We are very excited to see this technology get specified on projects,” the jury added. Best of Competition finalists included **HALCON Furniture’s VESPER**, **Impact Acoustic’s Truchet**, **Model No.’s Onda**, **Mohawk Group’s Hero Rubber** made with Nike Grind, **Andreu World’s Fusion Conference Table**, and **WVH’s ALMA Collection**.

One of the most notable developments in this year’s competition is the expansion of lighting categories coinciding with the launch of ***Illuminate at NeoCon***. The show-within-a-show exhibition and newly established classifications elevate the visibility of lighting manufacturers, reinforcing the critical role lighting plays in shaping the built environment. Among the manufacturers recognized with Best of NeoCon awards for lighting solutions were **Arktura**, **Axis Lighting**, **Baresque**, **BIOS Lighting**, **BuzziSpace**, **Focal Point**, **JLC-Tech**, **Koncept**, and **RBW**—demonstrating advancements in performance, control integration, energy efficiency, and visual impact.

Pushing the boundaries of technical execution, manufacturers including **Armstrong World Industries**, **Bernhardt Design**, **BIOS Lighting**, **Boss Design**, **DARRAN**, **HALCON Furniture**, **Haskell Education**, **KI**, **Levitask**, and **Prostoria USA** earned **Innovation Awards** for products introducing breakthrough technologies, novel applications, and inventive approaches to contemporary design challenges.

Spotlighting achievements in circular design, responsible material sourcing, manufacturing innovation, and environmental stewardship, **Sustainability Awards** were presented to products from **Andreu World**, **Boss Design**, **CF Stinson**, **Davis Furniture**, **Flora Materials**, **Impact Acoustic**, **Mohawk Group**, **Model No.**, **Okamura**, and **RESEAT**.

Now in its fourth year, the **Business Impact Awards** recognized solutions that drive measurable organizational outcomes—from workflow efficiency and space optimization to user experience, wellness, and cost savings. Judged by a panel of business journalists from ***The Chicago Sun-Times***, ***Crain’s Chicago Business***, ***Forbes, Inc.***, ***Architectural Record***, ***Dezeen***, and ***Wirecutter***, alongside facility management professionals from **Northwestern Mutual** and **State Farm**, the products were reviewed through the lens of real-world performance and the bottom line, as well as long-term business value. This year, 26 finalists were selected, with ten products ultimately earning Business Impact Awards. The 2026 recipients were **AIS’ Reshape**; **Armstrong World Industries’** Templok Energy Saving Ceilings; **BIOS Lighting’s** BIOS SkyView Tile; **BuzziSpace’s** BuzziTent Light; **Cisco’s** AI Powered Plug-n-Play Rooms, Cisco Spaces, and Workspace Designer; **DARRAN’s** Limousine; **Haskell Education’s**

Pathmaker Table Series; **Haworth's** Haworth Gallerie; **Momentum's** Mirage with SpinFix; and **Silen's** Silen Space Gen 2.

Competition-wide, the most-awarded companies were **KI** (7), **Andreu World** (6), **Davis Furniture** (6), **HALCON Furniture** (4), **Haworth** (5), and **Keilhauer** (4), each earning recognition in multiple categories.

Back for the second year, the **People's Choice Awards** invites the broader design community to weigh in on their favorite Best of NeoCon-winning products. Voting is open through Tuesday, June 9, at 5:00 p.m. CDT. Show attendees can cast votes on-site by scanning QR codes displayed alongside participating products, while those not attending can vote online through the [Winners' Gallery](#). Voters may submit one vote per product. NeoCon will reveal the five People's Choice winners on Wednesday, June 10, during the BIFMA Breakfast and on the show's official social media channels.

View the full list of 2026 winners at [neocon.com/awards/best-of-neocon](https://neocon.com/awards/best-of-neocon).

For more showroom, exhibitor, and general NeoCon news, images, and real-time information, follow NeoCon on: [Instagram](#) (@NeoCon\_Shows), [LinkedIn](#) (@NeoCon-Shows), and [Facebook](#) (@NeoConShows).

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**About NeoCon:** NeoCon is the world's leading platform and most important event for the commercial interiors industry, held each year at The Mart in Chicago. Since launching in 1969, NeoCon has served as the annual gathering place for the commercial design world's manufacturers, dealers, architects, designers, end-users, design organizations, and media. The three-day event showcases game-changing products and services from more than 400 leading and emerging companies—providing unparalleled access to the latest and most innovative solutions. A robust educational program of keynote presentations and CEU sessions offers world-class expertise and insight into today's most relevant topics as well as the future of commercial design. [www.neocon.com](https://www.neocon.com)

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**About Best of NeoCon:** Best of NeoCon is the official awards program honoring outstanding new products from exhibiting companies across a wide range of verticals. Best of NeoCon features entrants in 46 product categories evaluated on-site by a diverse jury of leading architects, designers, specifiers, and facility managers with expertise spanning the commercial, healthcare, education, and hospitality sectors. Entries are considered for Gold, Silver, Innovation, and Sustainability awards, plus the singular honor of Best of Competition. Entrants may also opt in to be considered for the Business Impact Award, which recognizes exceptional

solutions through a business-oriented lens. Finalists are reviewed on-site by a dedicated jury of business media professionals. [www.neocon.com/awards/best-of-neocon](http://www.neocon.com/awards/best-of-neocon)

**About The Mart:** The Mart is the largest privately held commercial building in the United States: It encompasses 4.2 million gross square feet, spans two city blocks, rises 25 stories, and is visited by an average of 30,000 people each business day (or nearly 10 million people annually).

The Mart serves as the home to Chicago's most creative and technologically innovative companies, including Motorola Mobility, PayPal, Avant, and MATTER, as well as Fortune 500 companies Conagra Brands, Allstate, Medline Industries, Beam Suntory, IPG, and Grainger. It is also the largest and most important center for design in North America, with more than 250 premier design showrooms offering the latest resources for both residential and commercial markets.

**Media Kit:**

Access the official show press kit [here](#).

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