



Why Is Hybrid Collaboration Challenging and How Can You Make It Better?

Work has changed more in the past five years than it has in generations, and workspaces must evolve, too. One of the major changes is how much we're all working and meeting through screens. Steelcase research shows that people spend more time collaborating in virtual meetings than in-person. In fact, 56% of meetings have at least one remote participant.



The Challenges of Hybrid Collaboration

Hybrid collaboration is hard because it has to serve both in-office and remote participants.

The main challenges include:

- **Inequitable environments:** Remote participants find it difficult to see and hear everyone in the office.
- **Difficulty connecting:** Non-verbal communication involving eye contact, body

language, and mood is tough to interpret through a screen.

- **Low engagement:** Communication barriers for in-person and remote participants can hinder the exchange of ideas.

Traditional meeting spaces are not designed for today's hybrid meetings. These spaces usually have a rectangular table with a

screen positioned in front of a short wall. People holding hybrid collaboration meetings in these spaces try to improvise by pushing their chairs away from the table. But this seating arrangement means some people can't use the table or their device, and some may be out of the line of sight for remote participants.



3 Key Concepts for Optimizing Hybrid Collaboration

Organizations are wondering: How can you create seamless hybrid collaboration experiences that generate the same energy and brainstorming momentum that result from in-person collaboration?

The short answer: The key is providing the right spaces, technology, and furniture to address these challenges.

This means facilitating equity, engagement, and ease for each person, whether they're joining in-person or remotely.

- **Equity:** Hybrid collaboration should be designed to close the gap between in-person and remote participants. For example, this means all participants can see each other and microphones are positioned for the best audio experience.

- **Engagement:** Space and technology should foster engagement for all participants.
- **Ease:** People should be able to transition effortlessly across multiple interfaces, displays, and experiences.



Solutions

Blending furniture, technology, and environment in a way that prioritizes equity, engagement, and ease means that hybrid collaboration becomes an intuitive and positive experience.

Ocular™ is a table designed specifically for hybrid collaboration. Its unique curved shape creates a more inclusive and collaborative experience, allowing everyone in the room to see one another and encouraging eye-to-eye contact between in-person and remote colleagues.

Ocular was co-designed and developed with Microsoft for the Microsoft Teams Front Row experience, and the conference tables are designed to support Microsoft Teams Rooms, Zoom Rooms, and other video-enabled meeting rooms. The combination of the table and technology configurations means both remote and in-person participants feel included.

The range of Ocular solutions is designed to fit different aspects of collaborative meetings – brainstorming, information sharing, and providing feedback.

Ocular Coupe3 is perfect for smaller brainstorming sessions that include up to three participants. The huddle configuration helps facilitate idea exchange.



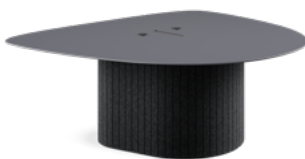
Ocular Arc4 offers a unique shape that provides both in-person and remote participants a clear view of one another. It's optimized for small conference rooms and supports four seated participants.



Ocular Arc10 is optimized for large conference rooms and supports strategic brainstorming sessions for ten seated participants.



Ocular Coupe5 supports up to five participants, which works well for hybrid meetings in small conference rooms.



Ocular Arc7 works well in medium-sized conference rooms and is perfect for informative and evaluative sessions for seven seated participants.



The Pay-Off

Traditional spaces must be reworked to support hybrid collaboration. When the environment is right, all people feel included. They are more inclined to engage by turning their cameras on, listening actively, and speaking up to share their ideas and ask questions. Solutions like Ocular can help you bring together the virtual and physical worlds to support a seamless hybrid collaboration experience, leading to the kind of creativity that's necessary to drive growth and innovation.

