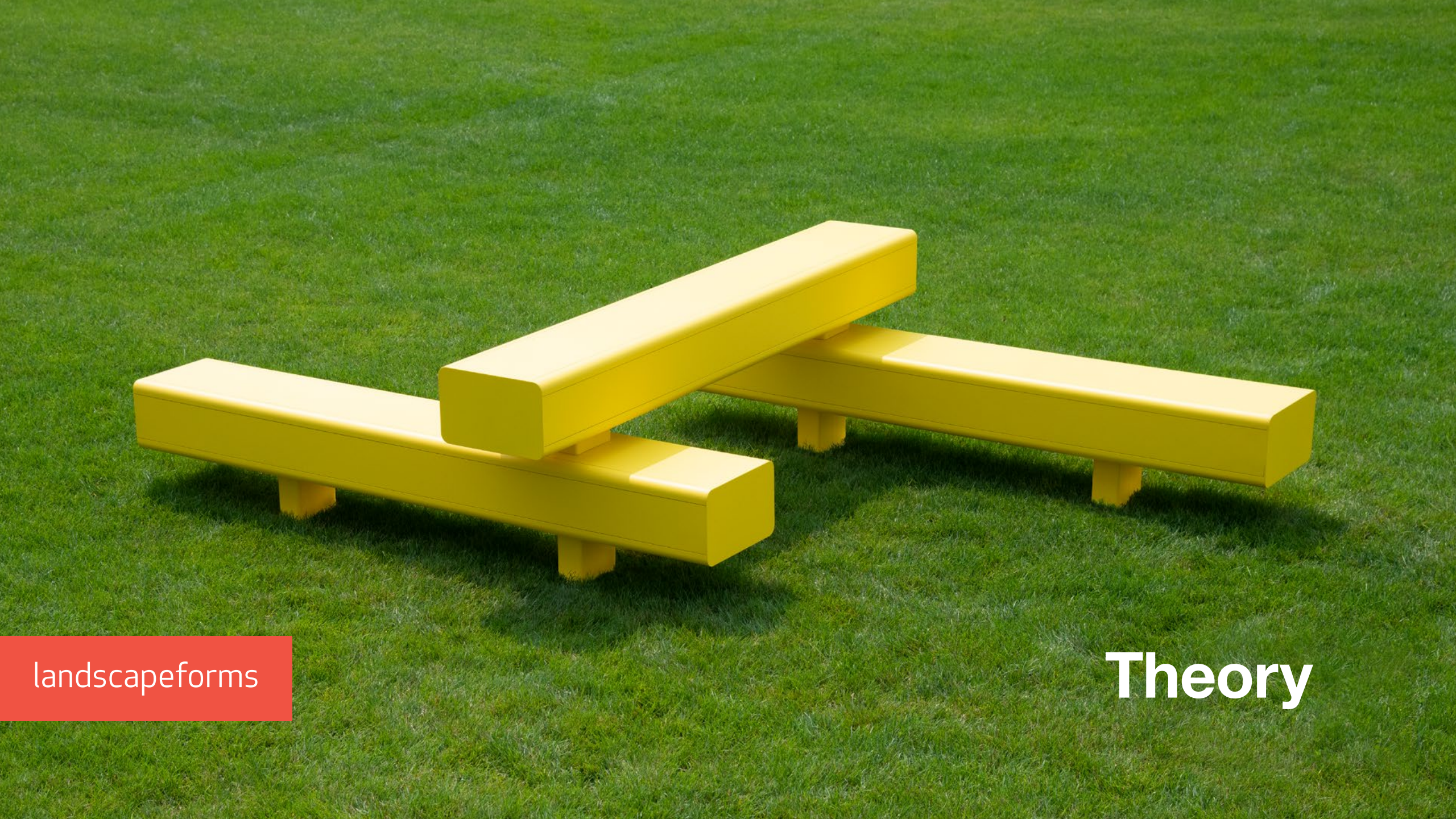
landscapeforms
Theory

“Our entire human-made world often feels like a series of built rules. Because of this, I think people appreciate things that are more open to unique, personal interpretation—it invites a sense of playfulness, creativity, and discovery. Theory was created to present this spectrum of design in the outdoor environment, functioning intuitively yet also inviting new possibilities for choice.”
—Scott Klinker, Designer

Scaling with Transit and Beyond

Theory is designed to easily scale as transit systems grow and evolve, with shelters and surfaces being both modular and adaptable. It is also designed to be aesthetically scalable, defining urban centers with open-ended and engaging sculptural appeal – for journeys that are as creatively inspired as they are practical and intuitive.

The Interplay Between the Rational and the Abstract

A “theory” bridges the worlds of the rational and the abstract. Which is why Theory inspires intriguing connections across this duality—merging the utilitarian with the artful, the rational with the emotional, and balancing the simplicity of prescription with the freedom of interpretation.

Designed by Scott Klinker, Theory achieves this balance by envisioning public transit through the traveler’s experience, creating purposeful, personal environments for him or her to choose and enjoy. Using open-ended, abstract design to encourage personal interpretation, Theory humanizes the traveler’s journey while bringing beauty to the streetscape as a standalone sculptural element.

All Begins with a Beam

Theory centers around the idea of ‘the beam’, building out from this simple structural component a selection of transit site elements that are aesthetically compatible yet each uniquely expressive in functional and visual impact. Based on a single bent vertical beam, the Theory shelter is refined, visually light and clear in its purpose. Working together with the shelter, the Theory thin and thick beams provide different places for people—a contrast of furnishings that express clearly defined purpose with artful, abstract installations that sculpturally define space and increase the site’s affordances. The Theory cube accompanies stacked beams to offer another functional surface or serve as a solo seat.

Shelter: A Simple Yet Sophisticated Symbol of Transit

With clean lines and reserved beauty, the Theory shelter brings a distinctly contemporary design language to the public transit space without straying too far from the familiar forms of its predecessors. On each structure, an angled aluminum beam raises two shelter panels to create an airy and uncluttered interior. At the apex of each vertical beam, a powerful LED casts a pool of light downward to reinforce senses of comfort and security. Theory shelters are scalable, up to a maximum of four contiguous connected shelters.

Beams and Cube: Connecting the Expected with the Unexpected

Theory's two horizontal beam systems best represent its unique duality of rational and artistic design. Encompassing features that communicate a specific use and features that are freely open to interpretation, Theory opens up new ways for people to choose how they experience their surroundings.

The thin beam system within Theory acts most like a conventional bench but opens the door to specifically customized function. The bench can be configured with different accessories including double and single backs, wide and thin arms, and an attached side table.

Theory's thick beam system juxtaposes the more traditional transit elements to create non-prescriptive settings that feel more like installations of public art. Thick beams can intersect and stack up to three high in asymmetric configurations, freely becoming a place to sit, stand, lean, lay, set up a laptop or have a quick meal on the go.

The Theory cube joins the system as a strong supporting element. Like a visual punctuation mark, it can define space, signal a transition between transit zones and the surrounding landscape, or serve as a seat for those seeking personal space.

Theory in Practice

Theory is rooted in possibilities – a system of complementary components intended to inspire unique interpretations among its users and to elevate the creativity and individuality of its designers' visions. To jumpstart this creative process and help inspire new interactions between people, transit and outdoor space, the following are six simple examples to illustrate how Theory's bench and shelter systems can work together.

Materials

Vivid Series - Powdercoated Metal (Fine Texture)

Clay

Lemon

Mango

Chili

Loll Apple Red

Loll Leaf Green

Moss

Forest

Loll Navy Blue

Neutral Series - Powdercoated Metal

Silver Metallic

Mercury Metallic

Steel Metallic

Bronze Metallic

Titanium Metallic

Gloss Black

Gloss White

Architectural Series - Powdercoated Metal (Fine Texture)

Fog

Obsidian

Matte Black

Terra

Nutmeg

Onyx

Sage

Blue Ash

Dusk

Statement of Line

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