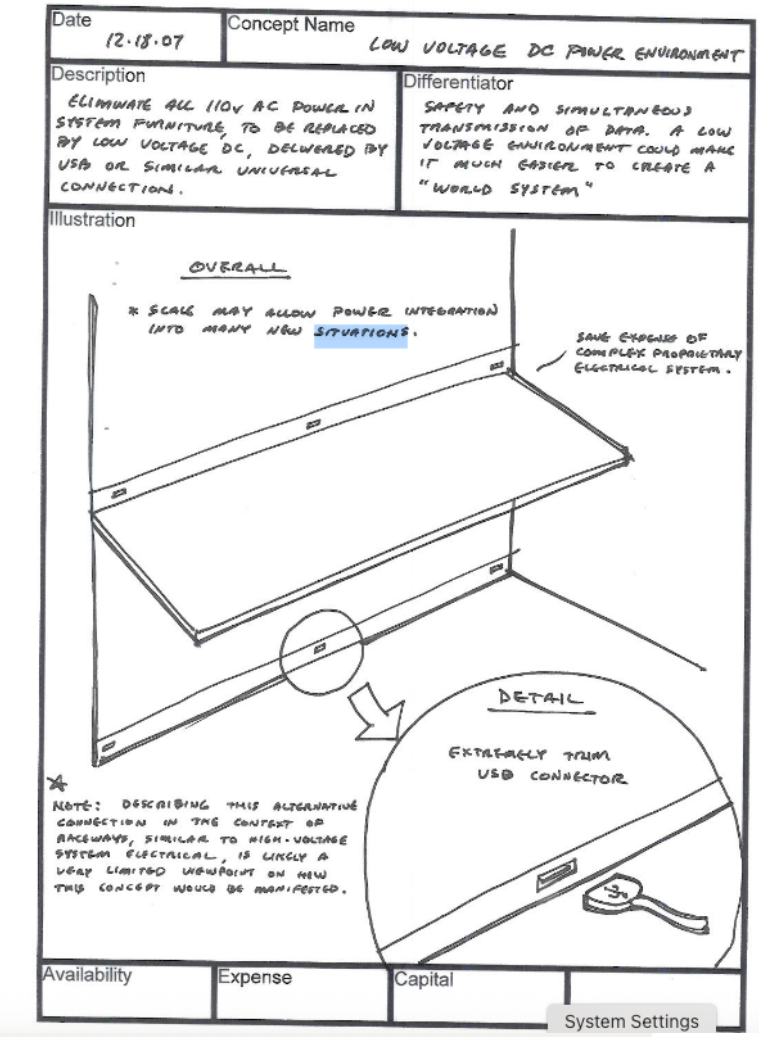
From the Archives:
A Simpler, Smarter Electrical Future

By Randy Storch / Ideon Consulting

In 2007, we were developing concepts to deliver low-voltage DC power directly to the desktop—long before USB-C, PoE, or DC microgrids became mainstream.



Sketch of a DC-powered Workstation - 2007

🔌 HITT Contracting is building DC-powered floors—and it's exactly the kind of vision we had at Convia nearly 20 years ago.

At **Realcomm** last week, **Brett Hitt** of **HITT Contracting** shared that their new headquarters will include several **DC-only floors**, delivering low-voltage power **directly to employees' desks**.

Why? Because nearly every device we use—laptops, monitors, phones—runs on **DC**. So why keep converting from AC?

That announcement struck a chord with me.

In **2007**, I was part of **Convia**, a division of **Herman Miller** focused on developing solutions at the intersection of **furniture, architecture, and building systems**. One of our boldest initiatives was to design a low-voltage DC power environment that could **eliminate 110V AC** from system furniture entirely.

We envisioned:

- A future where **devices plugged directly into USB-style DC ports**, eliminating the need for bulky charging bricks
- **Reconfigurable power** that didn't require electricians—just plug-and-play flexibility
- **Dematerialized wiring**: light, safe, and embedded in furniture or modular systems
- Seamless integration with **solar and DC microgrids**, avoiding inefficient AC conversions
- And eventually, **combined power + data delivery**, anticipating standards like USB-C and Power over Ethernet

We even created early design prototypes showing **ultra-thin USB connectors**, simplified power distribution models, and scalable infrastructure that could evolve with workplace needs.

At the time, only data centers distributed DC, and the technology was too expensive for broader commercial deployment.

But the logic was sound—and now it's becoming reality.

Today, builders like **HITT Contracting** and innovators like **Sinclair Digital** are picking up where we left off.

We weren't wrong. We were just early.