



The concept's curved seats can look like both a smile or a frown | Photo source [Studio Hai](#)

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## SCULPTURAL SEATING CONCEPT KEEPS POST-COVID SOCIALISING SAFE

  ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

### The curvy benches combine art, function and nature for attractive social distancing options

**Spotted:** Nature-focused art and design practice Studio Hai have created the NOMO FOMO seats for safe, post-COVID socialising. As vaccination rates increase globally, more and more people are envisioning a return to public events in the near future. NOMO FOMO acknowledges the year-long lack of cultural activities with a name that stands for “No More Fear Of Missing Out”.

Designed as an entry to Atlanta’s BeltLine 2020 Public Art Programme, the concept’s curved seats can look like both a smile or a frown, depending on which direction the half-circle is placed. Incorporating nature into the design adds to the sculptural feel of the seats, and the Studio chose plants that thrive in Atlanta’s humidity and heat.

Made from aluminium frames covered in hard-coated expanded polystyrene, the benches come in two colours and are installed two metres apart, to encourage continued social distancing.

Easing back into the community and out of the home is likely to take time for some people. A number of new designs seek to help make that transition easier by emphasising a continuation of safety. Recent examples we have seen here at Springwise include the [far-UVA light](#) that cleans outdoor air and an AI-powered platform that alerts users to [real-time safety concerns](#) for each area in use, such as office meeting rooms and desk space.

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## **Takeaway:**

With the introduction of augmented reality exhibitions, virtual recycling and interactive installations that also generate power, digital art has expanded in a number of exciting ways. Non fungible tokens seemed like the latest example of this, until the backlash emerged from environmentalists concerned about the volume of resources consumed in creating such items. The controversy is a timely reminder of the breadth and depth of carbon footprints and what an important role innovators have in ensuring that carbon dioxide emissions do not continue.