

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A  
(Rule 14a-101)  
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT  
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the registrant  [X]

Filed by a party other than the registrant  [ ]

[X] Preliminary proxy statement

[ ] Confidential, for use of the Commission only (as permitted by  
Rule 14a-b(e) (2))

[ ] Definitive proxy statement

[ ] Definitive additional materials

[ ] Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

HERMAN MILLER, INC.  
(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)

HERMAN MILLER, INC.  
(Name of persons(s) filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of filing fee (Check the appropriate box):

[X] No fee required

[ ] Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i) (4) and 0-11

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed  
pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: \_\_\_\_\_
- (5) Total fee paid: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Fee previously paid with preliminary materials.

[ ] Check boxy if any part of fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule  
0-11(a) (2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid  
previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or  
the form or schedule and date of its filing.

- (1) Amount previously paid: \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Form, schedule, or registration statement no.: \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) Filing party: \_\_\_\_\_
- (4) Date filed: \_\_\_\_\_

[LOGO]

HERMAN MILLER, INC.

NOTICE OF 1997 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
and PROXY STATEMENT

August \_\_\_\_, 1997

Dear Shareholder:

Herman Miller, Inc.'s fiscal year ended May 31, 1997. Enclosed you will find this year's Annual Report and a proxy card to vote your shares. Also, let us know if you expect to attend the annual Shareholders Meeting scheduled for October 1, 1997, by mailing a reservation card or by contacting Robbie Kroll at 616-654-3305.

We will be meeting at a new location this year. The Shareholders Meeting will take place at the Zeeland High School Performing Arts Center, 3333 - 96th Avenue, Zeeland, Michigan. (A map is enclosed.) Chairman of the Board David Nelson will convene the business meeting promptly at 4 p.m. EDT. Please allow time for parking and registration. After the business meeting, we will serve hors d'oeuvres and light refreshments to all who indicate on the reservation card that they will be staying.

The Annual Report discusses our performance for fiscal 1997 and presents some of the reasons behind a great year at Herman Miller. If you have any questions for us or for other senior managers, please write them on the enclosed card and return it to us. If there isn't time at the meeting to answer all the questions we receive, a member of our team or one of us will mail you a response. We will also take questions during the meeting.

During the business meeting, we will elect five directors to the Board of Directors, vote to increase the authorized common stock, ratify Arthur Andersen LLP as our independent public accountants, and transact any other business as may come before the meeting.

We hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Volkema  
President and Chief Executive Officer

David L. Nelson  
Chairman of the Board of Directors

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT.  
PLEASE COMPLETE, SIGN, DATE  
AND PROMPTLY RETURN YOUR PROXY  
CARD IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The annual meeting of the shareholders of Herman Miller, Inc. (the "Company"), will be held at the Zeeland High School Performing Arts Center, 3333 - - 96th Avenue, Zeeland, Michigan, on Wednesday, the 1st of October, 1997, at 4 p.m. (E.D.T.) for the following purposes:

1. To elect four directors, each for a term of three years, and one director for a term of one year.
2. To consider and vote upon a proposal to amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation to increase the authorized common stock from 60,000,000 shares to 120,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.20 par value.
3. To consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of Arthur Andersen LLP as independent public accountants for the Company for the fiscal year ending May 30, 1998.
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on August 4, 1997, will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

Whether or not you expect to be present at this meeting, you are urged to sign the enclosed proxy and return it promptly in the enclosed envelope. If you do attend the meeting and wish to vote in person, you may do so even though you have submitted a proxy.

By order of the Board of Directors  
James N. DeBoer, Jr., Secretary of the Board  
August \_\_\_\_, 1997

HERMAN MILLER, INC.

855 East Main Avenue  
P.O. Box 302  
Zeeland, Michigan 49464-0302

PROXY STATEMENT DATED AUGUST \_\_\_\_, 1997

This Proxy Statement is furnished to the shareholders of Herman Miller, Inc. (the "Company"), in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be used at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. This meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, at 4 p.m. (E.D.T.) at the Zeeland High School Performing Arts Center, 3333 - 96th Avenue, Zeeland, Michigan.

#### SOLICITATION OF PROXIES

Each shareholder, as an owner of the Company, is entitled to vote on matters scheduled to come before the Annual Meeting. The use of proxies allows a shareholder of the Company to be represented at the Annual Meeting if he or she is unable to attend the meeting in person. The proxy card accompanying this Proxy Statement is to be used for such purpose.

If the proxy card is properly executed and returned to the Company, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted at the Annual Meeting of Shareholders and at any adjournment of that meeting. Where shareholders specify a choice, the proxy will be voted as specified. If no choice is specified, the shares represented by the proxy will be voted for the election of all nominees named in the proxy and for the proposals described in this Proxy Statement.

A proxy may be revoked prior to its exercise by (1) delivering a written notice of revocation to the Secretary of the Company, (2) executing a proxy at a later date, or (3) attending the meeting and voting in person. However, attendance at the meeting does not automatically serve to revoke a proxy.

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has nominated James R. Carreker, C. William Pollard, Ruth A. Reister, and Richard H. Ruch, for election to serve as members whose terms expire at the 2000 annual meeting. Each of the nominees previously has been elected as a director by the Company's shareholders, except for Mr. Carreker who was elected by the Board in January 1997. Dr. Charles Ray will retire at the annual meeting in accordance with the Company's bylaws requiring a director to retire at the annual meeting following his seventieth birthday. The Board of Directors has nominated Dorothy A. Terrell for election as a director for a one-year term to expire at the 1998 annual meeting, to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Ray's retirement.

The latter portion of this Proxy Statement contains more information about the nominees. Unless otherwise directed by a shareholder's proxy, the persons named as proxy voters in the accompanying proxy will vote for the nominees named above. If any of the nominees become unavailable, which is not anticipated, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, may designate substitute nominees, in which event the enclosed proxy will be voted for such substituted nominees. Proxies cannot be voted for a greater number of persons than the number of nominees named.

A plurality of the votes cast at the meeting is required to elect the nominees as directors of the Company. Accordingly, the four individuals who receive the largest number of votes cast at the meeting will be elected as directors. Shares not voted at the meeting, whether by abstention, broker nonvote, or otherwise, will not be treated as votes cast at the meeting. The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the election of all persons nominated by the Board.

The Company's Board of Directors has proposed that the first paragraph of Article III of the Company's Articles of Incorporation (the "Articles") be amended to read as follows:

The total number of shares of all classes of stock which the Corporation shall have the authority to issue is one hundred thirty million (130,000,000) shares, of which one hundred twenty million (120,000,000) shares shall be common stock of the par value of \$.20 per share and ten million shares (10,000,000) shares shall be series preferred stock, without par value.

This amendment would increase the Company's authorized common stock from 60,000,000 shares to 120,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.20 par value. The purpose of the amendment is to provide additional shares of common stock for future issuance. As of August 4, 1997, there were 46,114,043 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and 3,279,068 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the Company's Stock Compensation Plans and Employee Stock Purchase Plan. As a result, as of August 4, 1997, only 10,606,889 shares of common stock remain available for future issuance. The Company has no series preferred stock issued or outstanding and the proposed amendment to the Articles would not effect the 10,000,000 shares of presently authorized series preferred stock.

The Board of Directors believes it desirable to increase the authorized number of shares of common stock in order to provide the Company with adequate flexibility in corporate planning and strategies. The availability of additional common stock for issuance could be used in connection with a number of purposes, including corporate financing, future acquisitions, and other corporate purposes such as the issuance of stock dividends and stock options. There are currently no agreements or understandings regarding the issuance of any of the additional shares of common stock that would be available if this proposal is approved. Such additional authorized shares may be issued for such purposes and for such consideration as the Board of Directors may determine without further shareholder approval, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of any stock exchange on which the Company's securities may be listed.

The additional shares of Common Stock for which authorization is sought would be part of the existing class of common stock, and, to the extent issued, would have the same rights and privileges as the shares of common stock presently outstanding. Ownership of shares of the Company's common stock confers no preemptive rights.

The increase in the authorized but unissued shares of common stock which would result from adoption of the proposed amendment could have a potential anti-takeover effect with respect to the Company, although management is not presenting the proposal for that reason and does not presently anticipate using the increased authorized shares for such a purpose. The potential anti-takeover effect of the proposed amendment arises because it would enable the Company to issue additional shares of common stock up to the total authorized number with the effect that the shareholdings and related voting rights of then existing shareholders would be diluted to an extent proportionate to the number of additional shares issued.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company is required for approval of the proposed amendment. Unless otherwise directed by a shareholder's proxy, the persons named as proxy voters in the accompanying proxy will vote FOR the amendment.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote "FOR" the approval of the proposed amendment to the Company's Articles of Incorporation to increase the number of shares of authorized common stock.

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#### RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Board of Directors has appointed Arthur Andersen LLP as independent public accountants for the Company for the fiscal year ending May 30, 1998. Representatives of Arthur Andersen LLP will be present at the annual meeting of shareholders and available to respond to appropriate questions. The Arthur Andersen LLP representatives will have the opportunity to make a statement if they so desire.

Although the submission of this matter for approval by shareholders is not

legally required, the Board of Directors believes that such submission follows sound corporate business practice and is in the best interests of the shareholders. If the shareholders do not approve the selection of Arthur Andersen LLP, the selection of such firm as independent public accountants for the Company will be reconsidered by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors recommends a vote FOR the ratification of the appointment of Arthur Andersen LLP as the Company's independent public accountants.

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#### VOTING SECURITIES AND PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS

On August 4, 1997, the Company had 46,114,043 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, par value \$.20 per share. Shareholders are entitled to one vote for each share of common stock registered in their names at the close of business on August 4, 1997, the record date fixed by the Board of Directors. Votes cast at the meeting and submitted by proxy will be tabulated by the Company's transfer agent. As of August 4, 1997, no person was known by management to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the Company's common stock.

#### DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER INFORMATION

Security Ownership of Management. The following table shows, as of August 4, 1997, the number of shares beneficially owned by each of the Named Executives identified in the executive compensation tables of this Proxy Statement and by all directors and executive officers as a group. Except as described in the notes following the table, the following persons have sole voting and dispositive power as to all of their respective shares.

Named Executive	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)	Percent of Class(3)
Michael A. Volkema	338,607	.72%
Andrew C. McGregor	124,264	.27%
Christopher A. Norman	90,751	.19%
Brian C. Walker	68,408	.15%
Gary S. Miller	122,868	.26%
All executive officers and directors as a group (22 persons)	1,561,229 (2)	3.33%

- (1) Includes the following numbers of shares with respect to which the Named Executives have the right to acquire beneficial ownership under stock options exercisable in 60 days: Mr. Volkema - 80,000; Mr. McGregor - 86,000; Mr. Norman - 65,200; Mr. Walker - 44,000; and Mr. Miller - 98,478. Includes the following number of shares which are restricted and subject to certain conditions: Mr. Volkema - 157,188; Mr. McGregor - 31,650; Mr. Norman - 21,650; Mr. Walker - 22,850; and Mr. Miller - 30,000.
- (2) Included in this number are 731,578 shares with respect to which executive officers and directors have the right to acquire beneficial ownership under options exercisable within 60 days.
- (3) Calculated based on the number of shares outstanding plus the option shares referred to in notes (1) and (2) above.

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The Board of Directors. The information in the following table relating to each nominee's and director's age, principal occupation or employment for the past five years, and beneficial ownership of shares of common stock as of August 4, 1997, has been furnished to the Company by the respective nominees and directors. Except as described in the notes following the table, the following nominees and directors have sole voting and dispositive power as to all of the shares set forth in the following table.

Name and Principal Occupation	Age	Year First Became a Director	Shares Owned(1)	Percent of Class(2)
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Nominees for Election as Directors for Terms to Expire in 2000

C. William Pollard Chairman of the Board, The ServiceMaster Company (Management and Consumer Services for Health Care, Industrial, and Educational)	59	1985	49,723(3)	.11
Ruth Alkema Reister Private Investments and Civic and Charitable Activities	61	1985	37,910(4)	.08
Richard H. Ruch From July 1995 to October 1995--Chairman of the Board of Directors, Herman Miller, Inc. From April 1992 to July 1995--Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, Herman Miller, Inc.	67	1986	195,816(5)	.42
James R. Carreker Since October 1995--Chairman and CEO of Aspect Telecommunications Corp. From August 1985--October 1995--President and CEO of Aspect Telecommunications Corp.	50	1997	466	.001

Nominee for Election as Director for Term to Expire in 1998:

Dorothy A. Terrell President, Sun Express, Inc.--Corporate Officer, Sun Microsystems, Inc.	52	---	-0-	-0-
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Directors Whose Terms Expire in 1998:

Dr. E. David Crockett Since November 1992--Chairman, Cornerstone Imaging, Inc. (Document Image Processing) Since May 1991--General Partner, Aspen Ventures (Venture Capitalists)	61	1982	37,438	.08
David L. Nelson Since October 1995--Chairman of the Board of Directors of Herman Miller, Inc. From January 1994--Vice President, Customer Support, America's Region, Asea, Brown, Boveri, Inc. Prior to January 1994--Vice President, Customer Satisfaction, Industry Segment, Asea, Brown, Boveri, Inc. (Electronics Manufacturer)	67	1972	97,438(6)	.21

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Name and Principal Occupation	Age	Year First Became a Director	Shares Owned(1)	Percent of Class(2)
Michael A. Volkema Since July 1995- Chief Executive Officer, Herman Miller, Inc. Since May 1995- President, Herman Miller, Inc. From February 1995 to May 1995- President and Chief Executive Officer, Coro, Inc. (a subsidiary of Herman Miller, Inc.) From May 1993 to September 1994- Chairman of the Board, Meridian, Inc. (a subsidiary of Herman Miller, Inc.) Prior to May 1993- President, Meridian, Inc. (a subsidiary of Herman Miller, Inc.)	41	1995	338,607(7)	.72
Directors Whose Terms Expire in 1999:				
J. Harold Chandler Since November 1993--Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Provident Companies, Inc. From June 1993 to November 1993--President, MidAtlantic NationsBank and Maryland National Corporation From January 1992 to June 1993--President, NationsBank/Washington, D.C., Maryland, and N. Virginia	48	1995	8,838	.02
William K. Brehm Chairman of the Board SRA International, Inc. (Consulting Engineering Firm)	68	1991	21,388	.05
Brian Griffiths, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach Since 1990--International Advisor, Goldman Sachs International Limited (International Banking Firm)	55	1991	23,709	.05

- (1) Shares shown for each director who is not an officer of the Company include 67,000 shares for Mr. Nelson; 27,000 shares for Messrs. Crockett, Pollard, and Ms. Reister; 18,000 shares for Mr. Griffiths; 6,000 shares for Mr. Brehm; and 3,000 shares for Mr. Chandler with respect to which the director has the right to acquire beneficial ownership under options exercisable within 60 days.
- (2) Percentages are calculated based upon shares outstanding, plus shares which the director has the right to acquire under stock options exercisable within 60 days.

- (3) Includes 806 shares owned of record and beneficially by Mr. Pollard's wife. Mr. Pollard disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- (4) Includes 1,200 shares owned by Mrs. Reister's husband. Mrs. Reister disclaims beneficial ownership of these shares.
- (5) Includes 12,000 shares with respect to which Mr. Ruch has a right to acquire beneficial ownership under options exercisable within 60 days. In addition, Mr. Ruch's wife owns 9,800 shares to which Mr. Ruch disclaims beneficial ownership and a Ruch Family Foundation Charitable Trust owns 21,838 shares to which Mr. Ruch disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (6) Shares are owned jointly by Mr. Nelson and his wife. Includes 2,400 shares owned of record and beneficially by Mr. Nelson's wife, with respect to which Mr. Nelson disclaims beneficial ownership.
- (7) Includes 80,000 shares with respect to which Mr. Volkema has a right to acquire beneficial ownership under options exercisable within 60 days and 157,188 shares of restricted stock which are subject to forfeiture under certain conditions.

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Mr. Crockett also is a director of Cornerstone Imaging, Inc., and Metatec Corporation. Mr. Nelson also is a director and trustee of Cardinal Fund, Inc. Mr. Pollard also is a director of The ServiceMaster Company and Provident Companies, Inc. Brian Griffiths, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, also is a director of The ServiceMaster Company. Mr. Chandler is also a director of Provident Companies, Inc., AmSouth Bancorporation and Storage Technology Corp. Mr. Carreker also is a director of Aspect Telecommunication Corporation. Ms. Terrell also is a director of General Mills, Inc. and Sears, Roebuck & Co.

The Board of Directors held five meetings during the last fiscal year. All of the directors attended at least 75 percent of the aggregate number of meetings of the Board and the Board committees on which they served.

Finance and Audit Committee. The Company has a Finance and Audit Committee comprised of Ms. Ruth A. Reister (chair); Dr. E. David Crockett (vice chair); Messrs. William K. Brehm, C. William Pollard, Richard H. Ruch, and Brian Griffiths, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach. The Finance and Audit Committee recommends to the Board of Directors the selection of independent auditors and reviews the scope of their audit, their audit reports, and any recommendations made by them. The committee approves fees paid for audit and nonaudit services by the independent public accountants. The committee also reviews the activities of the Company's internal auditors, and reviews and recommends to the Board issues concerning the Company's dividend policies, capital expenditures, welfare benefits plans, and other related financial matters. The committee met two times during the last fiscal year.

Executive Compensation Committee. The Company has an Executive Compensation Committee, comprised of Messrs. William K. Brehm (chair), E. David Crockett, and J. Harold Chandler. The Executive Compensation Committee recommends to the Board the annual executive incentive plan, the grant of employee stock options, and the annual remuneration of the Company's Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Chief Executive Officer, and acts as the administrative committee for the Company's Employee Stock Option and Long Term Incentive Plans. The committee met five times during the last fiscal year.

Nominating Committee. The Company has a Nominating Committee comprised of Messrs. C. William Pollard (chair), David L. Nelson, J. Harold Chandler, Michael A. Volkema, and Richard H. Ruch. The Nominating Committee selects and presents to the Board candidates for election to fill vacancies on the Board. The committee will consider nominees recommended by shareholders, provided recommendations are submitted in writing, on or before the 60th day preceding the date of the annual meeting, including a description of the proposed nominee's qualifications, his or her consent to serve as a director, as well as other required data on the nominee and the shareholder submitting the proposal and other relevant biographical data, to C. William Pollard, at Herman Miller, Inc., 855 East Main Avenue, P.O. Box 302, Zeeland, Michigan 49464-0302. The committee met four times during the last fiscal year.

Executive Committee. The Company has an Executive Committee comprised of Messrs. David L. Nelson (chair), William K. Brehm, C. William Pollard, Richard H. Ruch, and Michael A. Volkema. The Executive Committee acts from time to time on behalf of the Board in managing the business and affairs of the Company (except as limited by law or the Company's Bylaws), and is delegated certain assignments and functions by the Board of Directors. The Committee met one time during the last fiscal year.

## COMPENSATION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND NON-EMPLOYEE OFFICERS

The Company pays directors' fees to nonemployee directors at the rate of \$32,500 per year, plus \$1,000 per regular meeting and \$1,500 per special meeting. Directors may elect to receive a share grant, having a market value equal to the cash retainer, up to 100% of the retainer. If a share grant is selected, the director will receive a cash stipend of 20% of the value of the shares granted. No other amounts are payable for service on committees of the Board or for any other assignments that may be undertaken by a director as a director.

In 1997, the Board established Director Stock Ownership Guidelines. These guidelines, like those of the management team, are intended to reinforce the importance of linking shareholder and director interests. Under these guidelines, each director is expected to reach a minimum level of share ownership which as a value equivalent to six (6) times the annual retainer fee of \$32,500 or a minimum total ownership valued at \$195,000.

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Mr. Nelson became the Chairman of the Board on October 30, 1995. For the 12 month period ending October 1997, Mr. Nelson agreed to devote at least 80 percent of his business time to the Board of Directors for the payment of \$250,000 plus director fees, and an annual library allowance of \$1,500. In addition, he will receive an annual benefit package of \$10,000. Share grants of 10,000 shares at \$15.94 per share, and 5,000 shares at \$36.125 per share, were awarded to Mr. Nelson on July 9, 1996, and May 13, 1997, respectively, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Company.

The Company has in effect a stock option plan, approved and adopted by its shareholders, under which officers and directors who are not employees of the Company or its subsidiaries are granted options to purchase shares of the Company's common stock. Subject to certain exceptions, the options are not exercisable until 12 months after the date of grant and expire 10 years after the date of the grant. The option price is payable upon exercise in cash or, subject to certain limitations, in shares of the Company's common stock already owned by the optionee, or a combination of shares and cash.

During fiscal 1997, each director and officer of the Company who is not an employee was granted an option to purchase 3,000 shares of the Company's common stock at \$32.875, its fair market value on the date of grant. Under this plan, a total of 33,000 options were granted to all nonemployee directors and officers as a group, and 52,600 options were exercised at an average exercise price of \$11.06 per share during the past year.

### EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

#### General

The Company has long recognized the importance of a well-founded executive compensation program and the role it plays in achieving the Company's short- and long-term objectives of promoting superior corporate performance, creating shareholder value, and maintaining fairness and relative equity in the compensation of and between its executives and all other employee-owners. The Executive Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors, which comprises four nonemployee directors, was established over 20 years ago to provide an ongoing review of the executive compensation program to ensure that it is structured and administered to support the Company's mission and strategy. The committee is responsible for recommendations to the full Board for several aspects of executive compensation, including the annual remuneration of the Company's Chief Executive Officer, which includes base salary, incentive pay, and equity-based compensation. In addition, the committee also establishes the performance objectives for the annual executive incentive plan which covers the Chief Executive Officer, corporate officers, vice presidents, and directors at each of the Company's business units. The Company's Chief Executive Officer establishes the base salary of the Company's other executive officers.

#### Compensation Philosophy

The Company's compensation philosophy, as formulated by the Executive Compensation Committee and endorsed by the Board of Directors, is designed to engender and preserve a sense of fairness and equity among employees, shareholders, and customers. Consistent with this philosophy, an "Economic Value Added" (EVA(R)),<sup>1</sup> performance measurement and incentive compensation system has



been created and implemented. This system, which is an internal measurement of operating and financial performance that has been shown by extensive independent market research to more closely correlate with shareholder value than any other performance measure.

Beginning in fiscal 1997, the incentive compensation plans of corporate officers, vice presidents, and directors at each of the Company's business units were linked to the EVA concept. Under the terms of the EVA plan, focus is shifted from budget performance to long-term continuous improvements in shareholder value. Each year, the EVA target is raised over the actual EVA earned the prior year by an improvement factor so that higher EVA targets must be attained in order to earn the same level of incentive pay. This improvement factor is established by the Board of Directors for a period of three years.

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<sup>1</sup> EVA is a registered trademark of Stern Stewart & Co.

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The Committee believes that the utilization of the EVA measurement system, with its focus on maximizing the Company's return on capital investments relative to its cost of capital, will be a more effective means of evaluating and rewarding management performance. The Committee believes the adoption of the EVA measurement system is consistent with its objective of endorsing an executive compensation program designed to:

- Link a material portion of annual compensation directly to operating performance.
- Promote achievement of long-term strategic goals and objectives.
- Align the interests of executives with the long-term interests of the shareholders.
- Attract, motivate, and retain executives of outstanding ability.

Executive Stock Ownership Guidelines. To further emphasize and reinforce the importance of linking shareholder and management interests, the Board has adopted stock ownership requirements for approximately 150 executives, including all officers. Under these guidelines, the CEO is expected to own shares of Herman Miller stock which have an aggregate value of at least twelve (12) times his base salary. The other executives are expected to own shares with an aggregate value of between one (1) and six (6) times their base salaries to be achieved over a five to ten year period. The level of ownership and attainment period is determined by the executive's responsibility level and corresponding management position within the Company. Ownership for the purposes of the guidelines is defined to include shares owned by the executives, as well as shares held in profit sharing, 401-k and deferred compensation accounts for his/her benefit. Stock options are not included in the calculation of an executive's total ownership.

To assist executives in attaining the required ownership levels, the Board and shareholders adopted the 1994 Key Executive Stock Purchase Assistance Plan. The plan authorizes the Board's Executive Compensation Committee to extend loans to selected executives to acquire shares of the Company's stock. The executives can earn repayment of a portion of the principal and interest due on these loans provided that certain corporate performance goals are attained.

During fiscal 1997, three individuals were selected to participate in the plan. Loans totaling \$1 million resulting in the acquisition of 45,000 shares were made. Currently, loans under this plan totaling \$2 million have been extended to 13 individuals. Based on the Company's performance as measured against its fiscal 1997 goals, 193 percent of the annual repayment of principal and 100 percent of interest due was earned.

In fiscal 1997 the Company also adopted a Key Executive Deferred Compensation Program whereby executives can elect to defer a portion of the EVA cash bonus and have it denominated in Company stock. For 1997 the Company also provided an incentive in the form of a premium denominated in Herman Miller common shares equal to 30 percent of the amount deferred up to a maximum of 50 percent of the cash bonus. Each year, the Committee may adjust the premium percentage and the maximum amount of the deferral that is subject to the premium. The Committee believes that this program provides an additional opportunity and incentive for the key executives to increase their ownership level in the Company. Fifteen (15) executives were elected to participate in this program for fiscal 1997 and deferred 1,481,833, which was invested in Company stock and received a premium totaling \$395,333, which was also invested in Company stock.

In addition, stock options which may be granted under the 1994 Long-Term Incentive Plan may be utilized to assist executives in achieving their ownership requirements. Stock ownership is also made available to all the Company's employees through the Employee Stock Purchase Plan and various Employee Ownership and Profit Sharing Plans.

#### Company Performance and Executive Compensation

The salaries of the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other executives are established on a performance-based evaluation system. Each executive officer's performance, except that of the Chief Executive Officer, is evaluated by his or her superior and reviewed by the Executive Compensation Committee. This review considers the employee's

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overall performance relative to the achievement of corporate objectives as well as individual contributions and achievements. This same evaluation system is applied to the Company's Chief Executive Officer by this committee.

In 1997, the Company's new EVA measurement system replaced the method for awarding both annual stock options and the formula for awarding cash incentive bonuses as defined by the fiscal 1996 Executive Compensation Plan.

As discussed earlier, the Herman Miller EVA Incentive Compensation Plan is intended to more closely link incentive awards to the creation of shareholder wealth and to promote a culture of performance and ownership. The Executive Compensation Committee approves an expected annual improvement in EVA for which a target bonus is paid for attaining performance which matches the annual planned improvement factor that has been established for a 3 year period by the Board of Directors. For the Company's Chief Executive Officer and other executives, the EVA plan is intended to motivate growth above the expected annual improvement in EVA with a straight line payoff profile offering a cash bonus award that has a unlimited upside potential, as well as unlimited downside potential. The potential for suffering a negative bonus is made possible because annual bonus awards are not fully paid out but instead are banked forward and put at risk with their full payout contingent upon continued successful performance.

In consideration of this risk profile the Executive Compensation Committee believes it inappropriate to cap the CEO's cash compensation as has been its past policy. Therefore, beginning in fiscal 1997 there will no longer be a cap imposed on the cash compensation of the company's Chief Executive Officer.

The Executive Compensation Committee also authorizes the grant of stock options to employees of the Company, including executive officers. Under the EVA plan, the committee initially approves a target option grant which is then multiplied by the same bonus multiple that is applied to the target cash bonus. However, executives are limited by an upside potential of two times the target option grant and on the downside by a zero grant.

During fiscal 1997 Mr. Michael A. Volkema, the Company's Chief Executive Officer, earned a base salary and cash bonus of \$352,900 and \$316,783 respectively, representing total cash compensation of \$669,683. In addition, under the Key Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, Mr. Volkema elected to defer 50% of his EVA cash bonus denominated in Herman Miller common shares and received a premium also denominated in Herman Miller common shares equal to 92,107, which vests over a three year period.

In July 1997 Mr. Volkema was also awarded a stock option grant of 40,000 shares representing a multiple of two times his target options of 20,000. The committee believes that the significant ownership position created by these actions will more closely align Mr. Volkema's interests with those of the shareholders. The size of the equity based compensation awards and the cash compensation reflect the committee's evaluation and recognition of Mr. Volkema's contribution to the significant accomplishments and successes achieved by the Company in fiscal 1997.

William K. Brehm (Chair)  
E. David Crockett  
J. Harold Chandler

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table sets forth the compensation received by the Named Executives for each of the three fiscal years ended May 31, 1997, June 1, 1996, and June 3, 1995.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long Term Compensation			All Other Compensation (5)
		Salary (1)	Bonus (2)	Other	Restricted Stock Awards	Securities Underlying Awards	Payouts	
		(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(\$)	(#) (8)	(\$)	(\$)
Michael A. Volkema,	1997	352,900	316,783	-0-	-0-	40,000	631,765	4,199
President & Chief Executive Officer	1996	357,771	274,269	-0-	1,435,000 (6)	40,000	592,745	2,718
	1995	159,000	-0-	-0-	200,000 (7)	40,000	-0-	-0-
Andrew C. McGregor,	1997	205,000	129,261	84,145	108,375 (9)	20,000	125,329	7,433
Executive Vice President,	1996	194,923	185,317	-0-	-0-	24,000	125,652	6,099
President Herman Miller	1995	162,058	29,876	44,402 (3)	-0-	40,000	46,167	3,151
Choices								
Christopher A. Norman,	1997	205,000	109,793	-0-	108,375 (9)	20,000	91,732	5,774
President, Miller SQA, Inc.	1996	207,692	180,930	-0-	-0-	24,000	91,966	4,551
	1995	130,461	191,532	-0-	-0-	20,000	34,317	1,753
Brian C. Walker,	1997	195,000	122,860	-0-	108,375 (9)	20,000	126,092	4,724
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	1996	137,307	128,024	-0-	-0-	24,000	122,035	2,837
	1995	74,108	1,698	-0-	13,013 (10)	20,000	-0-	692
Gary S. Miller,	1997	187,200	89,141	-0-	-0-	20,000	122,285	8,387
Executive Vice President,	1996	180,000	162,837	-0-	-0-	14,000	122,600	7,053
Product Services	1995	162,058	35,241	-0-	-0-	46,000	44,852	4,061

- (1) Includes amounts deferred by employees pursuant to Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code. Includes 52 weeks of compensation for 1997 and 1996, and 53 weeks for 1995, consistent with the Company's fiscal year.
- (2) Represents amounts earned under the Company's Earned Share Bonus Plan and Executive Incentive Plan, but excludes amounts foregone at the election of the Named Executives and payable in shares of the Company's common stock under the Key Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, as reported in the Long-Term Incentive Plan table.
- (3) The amount includes cost of living, foreign assignment, foreign exchange, spouse travel, and moving expenses.
- (4) Represents amounts earned under the Company's 1994 Key Executive Stock Purchase Assistance Plan and applied to the repayment of loans made thereunder.
- (5) Includes amounts attributable during fiscal 1997 to benefit plans of the Company as follows: (a) amounts contributed by the Company pursuant to the Company's profit sharing plan for the account of Messrs. Volkema, McGregor, Norman, Walker, and Miller were \$4,199; \$6,299; \$5,774; \$4,724; and \$6,299, respectively; and (b) payments by the Company in fiscal 1997 of premiums for life insurance for the benefit of Messrs. McGregor, and Miller were \$1,134 and \$2,088, respectively.
- (6) This amount represents the value of 60,000 and 40,000 shares of the Company's common stock (based on the closing price on the date of grant of \$13.25 and \$16.00 per share, respectively) granted to Mr. Volkema under the terms of two Incentive Share Grant Agreements. Mr. Volkema elected to use 28 percent of his grants to pay his federal taxes on these grants which resulted in his receipt (net of taxes) of 43,200 and 28,800 shares, respectively. The shares are subject to forfeiture provisions which lapse as the number of shares become vested each year over a five- or six-year period. The minimum annual rate of vesting is 10% of the total shares granted during the first five years following the date of grant, with the balance vesting at the end of the sixth year (fiscal 2001 and 2002, respectively). The rate of vesting may be accelerated if certain corporate performance goals are achieved, which would permit full vesting not earlier than fiscal 2000 and 2001, respectively. Dividends are payable on the restricted shares at the same rate as dividends on the Company's common stock. At May 31, 1997, the value of the 72,000 restricted shares held by Mr. Volkema based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on that date (\$35.75 per share) equaled \$2,574,000.

- (7) The amount represents the value of 19,048 shares of the Company's common stock (based on the closing price on the date of grant of \$10.50 per share) granted to Mr. Volkema under the terms of an Incentive Share Grant Agreement. Mr. Volkema elected to use 28 percent of his grant to pay his federal taxes on this grant which resulted in his receipt (net of taxes) of 13,714 shares. The shares are subject to the same forfeiture and vesting provisions described in footnote (6) above. Full vesting would occur not earlier than fiscal 2000 and not later than fiscal 2001. At May 31, 1997, the value of the 13,714 restricted shares held by Mr. Volkema, based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on that date (\$35.75 per share)

equaled \$490,275.50.

- (8) The options reflected as being granted in fiscal 1997, were awarded in fiscal 1998 on July 8, 1997, but relate to fiscal 1997 performance.
- (9) The amount represents the value of 3,000 shares of the Company's common stock (based on the closing price on the date of grant of \$36.125) granted to Mr. McGregor, Mr. Norman and Mr. Walker under the terms of a Share Grant Agreement. All participants elected to use 45% of the grant to pay federal and state taxes on this grant which resulted in a net receipt of 1,650 shares to each participant. The shares are subject to the same provisions described in footnote (6) above. Full vesting would occur not earlier than fiscal 2002 and no later than fiscal 2003. At May 31, 1997, the value of each participant's 1,650 restricted shares based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on that date (\$35.75 per share) equaled \$58,987.50.
- (10) The amount represents the value of 1,200 shares of the Company's common stock (based on the closing price on the date of grant of \$10.84) granted to Mr. Walker under the terms of a Share Grant Agreement. The shares are subject to forfeiture provisions which lapse after a five year period, at which time the shares will vest 100%. Full vesting would occur at the end of fiscal 2000. At May 31, 1997, the value of the 1,200 restricted shares held by Mr. Walker based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on that date (\$35.75 per share) equaled \$42,900.

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AGGREGATED STOCK OPTION EXERCISES IN FISCAL 1997 AND YEAR END OPTION VALUES

The following table provides information on the exercise of stock options during fiscal 1997 by the Named Executives and the number and value of unexercised options at May 31, 1997.

Name	Shares Acquired on Exercise	Value Realized(1)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options at May 31, 1997		Value of Unexercised In the Money Options at May 31, 1997 (2)	
			Exercisable	Unexercisable	Exercisable	Unexercisable
Michael A. Volkema	-0-	-0-	80,000	-0-	1,800,000	-0-
Andrew C. McGregor	-0-	-0-	86,000	-0-	1,972,500	-0-
Christopher A. Norman	-0-	-0-	65,200	-0-	1,441,824	-0-
Brian C. Walker	-0-	-0-	44,000	-0-	941,500	-0-
Gary S. Miller	9,522	158,303	98,478	-0-	2,308,319	-0-

- (1) Represents the aggregate market value of shares acquired at time of exercise, less the aggregate exercise price paid by the employee.
- (2) Values are based on the difference between the closing price of the Company's common stock on May 31, 1997 (\$35.75) and the exercise prices of the options.

LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLANS-AWARDS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

Name	Number of Shares, units or other rights (#) (1)	Performance or other period until maturation or payout (2)
Michael A. Volkema	8,043	3 years
Andrew C. McGregor	3,115	3 years
Christopher A. Norman	2,791	3 years
Brian C. Walker	2,963	3 years
Gary S. Miller	2,064	3 years

- (1) Represents the number of units credited to an employee's account under the terms of the Company's Key Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"). Under the terms of the Plan, participants may elect to defer all or a portion of their EVA cash incentive. Deferred amounts are credited in stock units, based on the value of the Company's stock as of the end of the month in which the bonus would have been paid to the employee. Stock units are payable only in shares of the Company's common stock. Includes the following number of units credited to each of the Named Executives premium

account, as described in footnote (2): Michael A. Volkema - 1,856; Andrew C. McGregor - 719; Christopher A. Norman - 644; Brian C. Walker - 684; and Gary S. Miller - 476.

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- (2) Each year the Company's Executive Compensation Committee establishes the maximum percentage of EVA cash bonus that may be deferred, the maximum amount of EVA cash incentive which may be subject to a premium percentage, and the amount of the premium percentage. For fiscal 1997, the maximum percentage of EVA bonus that is subject to a premium percentage was 50%, and the premium percentage was established at 30%. Stock units credited to a participant's account due to the premium percentage are credited to a separate premium account, which vests at the rate of 33-1/3%, beginning on the first anniversary of the deferral, and each anniversary thereafter, provided that the participant is an employee of the Company. The plan allows for accelerated vesting in the event of a participant's death, disability, retirement or termination due to a change in control, as defined in the Company's Plan for Severance Compensation After Hostile Takeover, as amended and restated.

#### PENSION PLAN TABLE

The following table sets forth the estimated annual benefits payable upon normal retirement at age 65, on May 31, 1997, to persons in specified compensation and years of service classifications under the Company's Retirement Income Plan. Projected benefits are computed on a straight line annuity basis, and such benefits are in addition to any amounts which may be received under the Social Security Act. Under current tax rates, annual benefits payable at retirement may not exceed \$125,000.

Average Annual Compensation(1)	Years of Benefit Service(2)				
	20	25	30	35	40
\$150,000.....	52,277	65,346	78,415	91,484	104,553
\$180,000.....	63,377	79,221	95,065	110,909	126,753
\$210,000.....	74,477	93,096	111,715	130,334	148,953
\$240,000.....	85,577	106,971	128,365	149,759	171,153
\$270,000.....	96,677	120,846	145,015	169,184	193,353
\$300,000.....	107,777	134,721	161,665	188,609	215,553

- (1) Average annual compensation is determined under the Retirement Income Plan by the average of the five highest consecutive years of annual compensation (the amounts included under the columns "Salary" and "Bonus" in the Summary Compensation Table) during the last ten years of employment, subject to a maximum of \$160,000 for fiscal 1997.
- (2) The Named Executives have credited years of service and "average annual compensation" under the Retirement Income Plan as follows: Michael A. Volkema, 2 years - \$491,987, Andrew C. McGregor, 22 years - \$260,306, Christopher A. Norman, 18 years - \$302,044, Brian C. Walker, 8 years - \$148,138, Gary S. Miller, 22 years - \$249,398.

#### OTHER ARRANGEMENTS

The Company maintains a Salary Continuation Plan, which provides that an officer's base salary (as shown in the "Salary" column of the Summary Compensation Table) will be continued for twelve months after termination of the officer's employment. Under this plan, benefits terminate if the officer performs services for a competitor of the Company, and benefits are offset for any noncompetitor payments for services. No benefits are payable under the plan if an officer dies, retires, voluntarily terminates employment, or is terminated for malfeasance.

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#### SHAREHOLDER RETURN PERFORMANCE GRAPH

Set forth below is a line graph comparing the yearly percentage change in the cumulative total shareholder return on the Company's common stock with that of the cumulative total return of the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and the NASD Non-Financial Index for the five year period ended May 31, 1997. The following information is based on an annual investment of \$100, on May 30, 1992,

in the Company's common stock, the Standard & Poor's 500 Stock Index and the NASD Non-Financial Index, with dividends reinvested.

Total Shareholder Return Herman Miller, Inc.

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
NASD Non-Financial	100	118	121	145	213	231
S&P 500 Index	100	112	116	140	180	233
Herman Miller, Inc.	100	138	136	123	176	414

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#### SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS--1998 ANNUAL MEETING

Any shareholder proposal intended to be presented at the next annual meeting of the Company must be received by the Company at 855 East Main Avenue, PO Box 302, Zeeland, MI 49464-0302 not later than April 22, 1998, if the shareholder wishes the proposal to be included in the Company's proxy materials relating to the meeting.

In addition, the Company's Bylaws contain certain notice and procedural requirements applicable to director nominations and shareholder proposals, irrespective of whether the proposal is to be included in the Company's proxy materials. A copy of the Company's Bylaws has been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and can be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission or the Company.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

If any matters, other than the matters set forth herein, properly come before the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed proxy to vote the shares thereby represented in accordance with their judgment.

The cost of the solicitation of proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition to the use of the mails, proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone or telegraph by a few regular employees of the Company without additional compensation. The Company may reimburse brokers and other persons holding stock in their names or in the names of nominees for their expenses in sending proxy materials to the principals and obtaining their proxies.

The annual report of the Company for the fiscal year ended May 31, 1997, including financial statements, is being mailed to shareholders with this proxy statement.

Shareholders are urged to date and sign the enclosed proxy and return it promptly to the Company in the enclosed envelope.

Questions related to your holdings can be directed as follows:

First Chicago Trust Company of New York  
PO Box 2500  
Jersey City, NJ 07303-2500  
Phone: 1 800 446 2617

By Order of the Board of Directors  
James N. De Boer, Jr., Secretary of the Board  
August \_\_\_\_\_, 1997.

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Herman Miller, Inc.

By signing this card, the shareholders appoints Richard H. Ruch, Michael A. Volkema, and David L. Nelson and each of them, as attorneys, with the power of substitution, to vote the shares of Common Stock of Herman Miller, Inc. ("the company") held of record by the undersigned on August 4, 1997, at the Annual

Meeting of Shareholders to be held at the Zeeland High School Performing Arts Center, 3333 - 96th Avenue, Zeeland, Michigan on Wednesday, October 1, 1997, at 4:00 p.m. (E.D.T.) and at the adjournment thereof.

Election of four directors, each for a term of three years. Nominees: C. William Pollard, Ruth Alkema Reister, Richard H. Ruch, and James R. Carreker.

Election of one director, for a term of one year. Nominee: Dorothy A. Terrell.

The Proxies will vote your shares in accordance with your direction on this card. If you do not indicate your choice on this card, the Proxies will vote your shares "FOR" the nominees and "FOR" the proposals.

All shares votable hereby and the undersigned includes shares, if any, held for my account in the company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan and Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

Please mark your vote as in this example

This proxy is solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors

- | For  | Withheld | For Against   | Abstain |
|--|----------|---|---------|
| 1. Election of Directors as listed on reverse side |          | 2. Proposal to increase the authorized common stock to 120,000,000 shares |         |

for, except vote withheld from the following nominee(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Ratification of appointment of Arthur Anderson LLP as independent auditors for the Year ending May 30, 1998.

4. At their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting or adjournment thereof.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Title if required\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Title if required\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Please sign exactly as name appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, or guardian, please give full title as such.

FOLD AND DETACH HERE

Please mark the boxes on the above proxy to indicate how you wish your shares to be voted. SIGN AND DATE THE PROXY, DETACH IT, AND RETURN IT IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPE. We must receive your vote before the Annual Meeting of Shareholders on October 1, 1997.