COIL

How would you describe Coil?

Coil is a modular cabinet system in which the 'shell' forms completely around the box as a semi-transparent curtain from a vertical and parallel woven elastic rope.

It forms the middle between a classic open rack and a display cabinet and can be used from all sides. Coil redefines the cupboard as an object in its use. To put something in or to take something out, the elastic strains have to be pushed aside.

Coil is a good example to clarify my dealings with materials and their properties. In order to be able to attach the elastic rope, the rope must be stretched so that the rope becomes thinner. The upper and lower shelf of the cabinet are provided at the edge with a specific cut-out curve that allows the stretched elastic to be inserted, after which it relaxes nicely in the recessed opening.

Due to its modular construction Coil can vary in height by 40 cm each. The inner shelves are a bit smaller. This keeps them a distance from the 'shell'.

Coil has a fixed rectangular format of 40 x 80 cm (W x H) and can be combined with quarter-circle modules with a radius of 40 and 80 cm. These quarter circle shaped modules (coloured blue on the poster) create a more balanced whole in order to build freestanding walls as a composition of curved and straight forms, as functional screens.

Coil is the answer to new ideas and new evolutions into living. Its acoustic qualities, its possibility to be used from all sides, its modular construction and its modularity in combinations to create functional space-dividers, its storage and display qualities and its semi-transparency are only a summary of its strengths.

How did the design come about? Were there any key influences or is it a

continuation of earlier work?

Coil resulted out of two researches for different projects. I was working on a modular and multi flexible room-divider system build up out of metal elements which would be mounted onto the floor and the ceiling. The system is called FLEX and uses the same curve I use in Coil. Between these elements elastic rope forms a curtain out of parallel and vertical strains.

On the same time I was asked to design a cupboard to replace a bunch of old cabinets stacked on top of each other and bulging with clothing and other stuff. It needed to store wet and dirty coats, footballs, skateboards, shoes and lots of other stuff but above all the cupboard was supposed to be placed in the living room which is not very large. The semi transparency makes a large cupboard looking small.

Where did the idea to use the elastic develop from?

My focus in the objects I design lies in the construction. I see the construction, the connection of two materials, the hinge, the joint, the knot… as a detail -a result I kept from my education as a jeweler- a detail I pay a lot of attention to.

In Coil a unique cutted out curve is used to combine the rope and the metal sheet. I had two other options: to use short pieces of rope from top to bottom or to string the rope through a hole but then hundreds of meters needed to be stringed true it twice a centimeter. Which was no option at all.

What materials did you use to create Coil and how did you find these?

I used elastic ropes in a research project in which I planned to bread a large elastic tree starting as a big tree trunk on the floor build from 100ds of ropes with branches connected to different places on the walls and the ceiling.

I like using materials which are pure in itself. Damages must be seen as signs of life and as remembrances. That’s why I choose materials which harm beautiful.

How many sizes have you made of it?

At this moment Coil exists as a cupboard with floor dimensions of 400 x 800 mm. It stands on legs with a height of 200 mm. Layers are separated every 400 mm. The dimensions of the layers in between the upper and lower plate are smaller to avoid the strains to touch them. Coil can be adjusted to every possible shape or dimension. The possibilities are endless. I created a model which is based on a quarter circle with an inner radius of 400 and an outer radius of 800 mm and which can join the straight models. Out of these models you can create cupboards which operate as room dividers in lots of different combinations. A surplus is the possibility to use Coil from all sides. So one can put something away another can take from his or her position.

Coil exists as a free standing cupboard, but all Coils can also be mounted on the wall, even the large models, by using specific anchors perfectly gliding between the elastic ropes…

Is Coil commercially available or a prototype? Straight model and measure to measure is already available, directly via our studio and via Boon\_Room in Paris.

The assembly is done in our studio in Belgium to be in control of the quality.

Will you develop it further?

We will start up an innovation dossier in september to do further research on the elastic ropes to find better quality, other visual and material aspects and other dimensions. Besides that I am working on some collaborations with people from different disciplines to find out more of its qualities.