



CUBE Centre for the Urban Built Environment

Title of Publication: Re:Polo

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Date: Jan 2012

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Subject of article: Peter Ward CUBEOpen2011

Size: N/A

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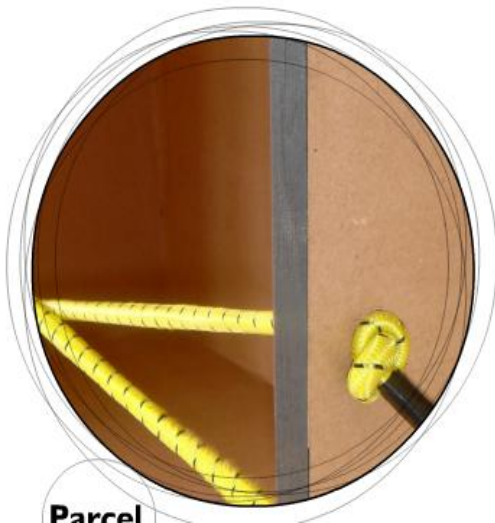
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The chairs are the end result of a project which required the evaluation and analysis of the concept of sustainability.

There are various definitions of the term and there are many views on what this actually means. However, the one which I feel designers should be concerned with is the one which The Brundtland Commission of the United Nations defined on March 20, 1987 as: "...development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In short, leave the planet as you found it. Sounds simple, but as we all know it is a lot more difficult to achieve in the real world.



The concept was based around a simple premise. As all products reach their natural life cycle, far too often they are discarded. So, if any portion of a product could be retained for use in the future then this obviously reduces new manufacturing while simultaneously cutting down on waste and problems such as pollution and landfill. 50% of one chair + 50% of another = 'new' chair. Thus reducing the wastage by 50%.

The lower half of the chair is made from broken cabriole legged dining chairs, the top part is made from the shells of the classic Polo chair, designed by Charles and Ray Eames. The finish on the legs is recycled newspaper and colour matched magazine scraps.

What this project hopefully shows is that this process can be carried out in a considerate manner where disparate elements can be combined in a way to create something positive, new and aesthetically pleasing.

