

Matter Design

FOUNDED

2008

BIENNIAL

2012

WEBSITE

matterdesignstudio.com

LOCATIONS

Boston

Ann Arbor

DISCIPLINES

Architecture

Product design

Brandon Clifford and Wes McGee founded Matter Design as a collaborative venture. The practice is committed to invention in the design process and exploration at many scales. Clifford's research and work experiment with design-focused innovations and resurrect past knowledge in order to establish

reciprocities between the acts of drawing and making. Clifford received the Skidmore, Owings and Merrill Traveling Fellowship and served as editor of *Pidgin Magazine*. He currently teaches at MIT, where he holds a post as the Belluschi Lecturer.



Periscope

DATE
2010

COLLABORATION
Simpson Gumpertz
& Heger
—Matthew Johnson

Supermanoeuvre
—Dave Pigram

LOCATION
Atlanta, Georgia

STATUS
Built, Temporary



Periscope was the winning entry in the 10Up! architecture competition, sponsored by the Young Architects Forum of Atlanta. The competition called for entries that could be constructed in twenty-four hours within a ten-foot by

ten-foot plot. No height limit was given. Taking advantage of this oversight, the form of the tower inverts the structural rhetoric of what appears to be a tensile fabric lifted by impossibly thin compression rods. In reality, the sixty-foot tall

tower is constructed of extruded polystyrene foam blocks that were robotically cut, stacked, and then placed in compression by tension cables that lash the very large and wind-prone installation to a heavy, stabilizing foundation.



Pongo

DATE
2012

STATUS
Built

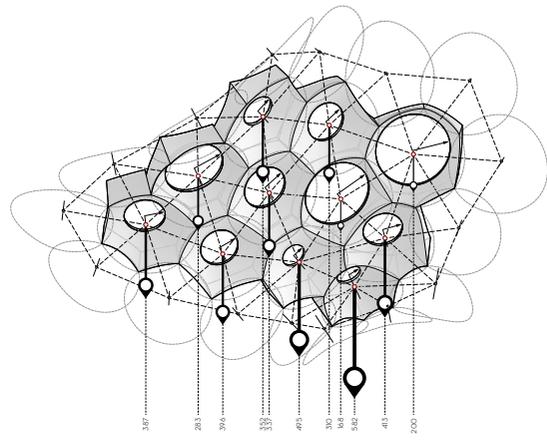
TYPE
Furniture



Pongo is a curved translation of the twisted-stick coatrack typology—forming a continuous, plastic, and voluptuous object of affection. Belly buttons occur around holes where bolts will cinch the sticks together. These devices make the

assembly process visible, while maintaining an ambiguous impression of flesh-like forms. The three sticks wrap around one another in such a way that the bolts align with the neighboring parts, making assembly a simple task that requires no

instructions, while packing nicely for shipping when disassembled.



La Voûte de LeFevre

DATE
2012

LOCATION
Columbus, Ohio

STATUS
Built, Temporary

TYPE
Installation
Research



La Voûte de LeFevre is a mashup of ancient stereotomic vault construction with contemporary computation and advanced fabrication. The vault is a compression-only structure calculated through a custom simulation program to

determine how large each unit's opening should be in order to adjust its mass in relation to its neighbors. The project translates past methods of fabrication into contemporary culture. The purpose of this research is not to revert to an

antiquated architecture, but to re-engage a problem that may be unfamiliar in contemporary culture. This terrain produces something new, an architecture that is somehow ancient yet contemporary, heavy yet light, familiar yet alien.