

# Five classical elements

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## ABSTRACT

A series of artefacts exploring the classical elements of the universe, earth, sun, air, wood, and quintessence, challenge the emotional connection, awareness, sustainable design and material research approaches. The elements are historical, sociological, philosophical and essential matters. How can designing for the environment help to reconsider the value of these factors in our urban lives? This research stimulates scientific approaches, user experience and an object's meaning. The artefacts are engaging, caring, poetic and playful. The process of development and production play an important part in harmonising the final aesthetic signature and challenging the virtuous craftsmanship process. Together with local scale and light industrial production with horizontal evolution, they are put into practice through the cradle-to-cradle principle, bio-mimicry and ecofriendly material experimentation. The results are multiple and critical, leading to a series of bio-diverse conceptual objects, organic and singular with their own character. The outcome invites audiences to re-consider their connection with nature, the lifecycle and alternative ecosystem scenarios for the future.

## Keywords

drivers, material, experimentation

A series of artefacts exploring classical elements of the universe - Earth, Sun, Air, Wood, Quintessence – which challenge emotional connection, awareness, sustainable design process and research approaches.

Elements are historical, sociological, philosophical and essential matters. They represent essential primal drivers. How can Design for Environment help to reconsider the value of these factors in our urban lives ?

This research stimulates scientific approaches, user experience and the object's meaning. The development and production process play an important part in harmonizing the aesthetic signature and challenge virtuous processes. Together with local scale to light industrial production and horizontal evolution, they put in practice cradle to cradle principles, biomimicry and eco-friendly material experimentation.

The results are both multiple and critical ; leading to a series of biodiverse conceptual objects, organic and singular. The artefacts are engaging, caring, poetic, playful and reversible. In parallel they disseminate a vegetal story. The outcome invites audiences to re-consider their connection with nature, lifecycle and alternative ecosystem scenarios for tomorrow.

## The installation presents :

**Eco-Pebble** – Earth Conceptual pot-vase which aims to revalue the act of recycling in an urban context to create fertile soil.

**Bigger Series** - Air Magnifying greenhouse cloche rhyming the evolution of plants and playing with the air stream.

**Bigger Series** - Wood Conceptual vessel, Organic series based on seed metaphor and evolution.

**Para Moon & Sun** - Fire An urban way of using solar power technology by a lit sun-moon umbrella.

**Peekaboo** - Quintessence Post optimal concept-product on transmutation and after life.

## Eco-Pebble - Earth

Eco-Pebble is an urban composter which aims to experience the process of making soil in order to create fertilizer cocktails in an attractive and playful way.

This holistic project is about challenging lifestyle scenario, relationship with beauty & sustainability and shifting behavior.

Recycling our biodegradable scrap is becoming primordial as it represents a third of our waste. The composting process represents a challenge in its entirety, positive in mind and yet still concretely negative, in actuality. 35% of our organic waste is burned in a non optimum way or dumped together in landfill sites which alter the Earth element. This provokes unnecessary gas related to the climate change.

Eco- is innovative in terms of process, use and synthesis. It could be assisted by an electrical function to make it convenient and easy to deal in daily life compared to others. After one month the fertilizing cocktail is ready to host seedlings. What could be envisioned for this product production are two options: one customer oriented as a hackable object made in bioplastic 3d printed and a low technology qualitative version made of clay or porcelain.

The object birth date and its symbolic name referring to the periodic table is inscribed under the object to emphasize the object narrative.

The French Agronomic Research Institute INRA is considering testing it to prove its viability.

Eco-Pebble 20\*20\*30 - Plinth presentation

## Bigger Series – Wood

The origin of this project is an exploration of material characteristics, form, function and symbolic message as a seed metaphor. It is an extension and a complement of the Green house object, focusing on the base of the cloche.

As an element mainly listed in Chinese philosophy; wood is an essential environmental driver. Forests, eco-friendly regenerate and absorb pollution and in terms of properties, it is a warm, non-emissive material. Cork renews itself as long as the forest is sustainably harvested, suggesting the concept of slow design, emotional durable objects and biomimicry principles.

The assembly of the organic shaped glass explores unique solutions on each object. Cork allows the enclosure and maintains the glass without stress. In the same time the work acts as a plant pot through its breathability and waterproof quality. The cone can be used in both ways following the shape, and the needs of the plant.

Landscape pattern on one face; birth date of the object and its symbolic name referring to the periodic table is inscribed on the other face to emphasize the objects identity.

Bigger Serie 18\*15\*20 cm

## Bigger Series - Air

A greenhouse cloche rhyming and protecting the evolution of plants.

This project looks to time and protective relationships through the observation of a seedling. It could suggest an hourglass rhymed by the plant growing. This project values biodiversity and uniqueness of a series through material experimentation and playing with

the variability of the duplication or iterative process.

Air is vital and in the same time unnoticeable. By making it more visible and linking it directly to a vegetal life, the atmosphere becomes evident.

Different materials and effects are currently being tested: magnifying, translucent, transparent, recycled, photochromic, biodegradable. The cloche material could be made in glass or in bioplastic, for example acetate. In others word, it is a cloche which helps plant growth by creating a protective atmosphere and reducing or playing with the air stream. The glasshouse is in tune with the natural environment thanks to the gap. This allows the plant to strengthen.

The assembly of the objects explores different solutions. The cone can be used in both way following the shape, and the needs of the plant. The object is dismountable to ease recyclability and transport. The offcut is planned to be used as a prop. The object birth date and its symbolic name referring to the periodic table are inscribed under the object to emphasize the object attachment.

Bigger Serie 18\*15\*20 cm - Plinth presentation

## PARA Moon & Sun - Fire

PARA eclipses the sun and illuminate nights, it is a lighted umbrella. Its purpose is to protect during the day and collect power thanks to its solar cells energy. Then at night it lights gently the evening and the nature surrounding. This project is about finding a use and vegetal scenario to integrate green technology in urban life.

Sun, associated to the fire, is one of the greatest resources. Green and smart technologies have been recently developed to use it. The constraint of the collection process is challenging in an urban context as it needs a minimum area to be effective.

The project works on a modular basis. Thus PARA Gliding is a hanging light which moves gently in the air. They could work outdoor or indoor depending where they catch the light. Following their wingspan and composition, Para fits big or small terraces and converse with vegetal surrounding. It is easily movable and foldable to improve its volume, ease its disassembly and transport. It is made with ecologic and recyclable material. Different mono materials and effects are in test to ease dismantling. It works with low and renewable energy : sun power + led.

The object birth date and its symbolic name referring to the periodic table is inscribed on the object to emphasize the object narrative.

Para Glide : 50/100\*40/80\*2 cm - Hanging point : ceiling / window roof

## Peekaboo - Quintessence

Peekaboo is a post optimal object. Here the question is about our relation to product, the becoming of the object after its use and its potential transmutation. This critical design challenges assumptions about the object typologies in our environment.

The fifth element embodies the best essence of an object. It

expresses another level of meaning, of materiality, of philosophy...  
In physics it covers an array of hypothesis like dark energy linked to the universe accelerating.

The non design and the reuse of existing objects, question our need for a product. And also the idea in nature nothing is created, nothing is lost, everything changes – A. Lavoisier-. Expressive. in terms of symbolic, Ironic Iron is used as a communicating device where its tracks become playful but also meaningful in terms of representing a footprint. The reflection is also about the freedom, domestication of the material and the power control of the object. Are they controlling us or are we controlling them? The interactivity is part of the reflection by the thematic of movement. So could we envisage a world where objects escape and deliver messages when touched.

Ironic Iron : 20\*15\*20cm - Plinth presentation