Massimals: Interactive Assembly Models

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The ***Massimals*** project seeks to expand the possibilities of built form and potentially how we interact with buildings through the design and implementation of full-scale installation pieces. Though abstracted by the techniques of fabrication, each object's recognizable affinity towards the shape of polar bear and its arrangement in the narrative of a traveling herd or a petting zoo brought curiosity and playful interaction from the viewers. It is architectural design research, but is not a model representation of something other than itself. Each of ¬the following *Massimal* **case studies** display the familiar character, selected for its **massive body**, in negotiation with **scale, a material system, component resolution, construction, site specificity**, and **contextual parameters** as an opportunity to drive design experimentation and while simultaneously **engaging** users within their proximity.

CASE STUDY 1: SITUATED OBJECTS

The original ***Massimals*** are a set of 1:1 design **objects** that serve as prototypes to examine how physical form can engage the public realm. These constructs are **abstractions of animal forms** built in the manner of **massing studies** produced in an architectural design practice. Like massing models, they are volumetric, devoid of details, and fabricated from one material such as chipboard, polystyrene foam, and foam core. The suggestive forms and their specific arrangement imply docile behavior similar to animals in a **petting zoo** augmenting the way visitors approach and engage built form.

CASE STUDY 2: TACTILE SPECTACLE

The ***Zip-Tie Massimal*** is an installation developed for the 2011 Beaux Arts Ball hosted annually by the local chapter of the AIAS. It blends in with the lively atmosphere of the party by creating a **spectacle** in the form of a glowing volume comprised of over 20,000 zip ties. As an addition to the *Massimals* series, it continues with the theme of the petting zoo introducing a new set of **tactile** sensations and effects. The durable and flexible nature of its zip tie skin allows visitors to physically engage the installation and generate responsive movement.

CASE STUDY 3: VISUAL TRANSFORMATION

The ***Rainbow Massimal*** is an installation designed and fabricated for participation in the 2012 Beaux Arts Ball. Like the original *Massimals*, the Rainbow Massimal is manufactured out of one material utilizing a simple fabrication technique at full scale. As a large and unmovable object, it reconfigures spatial flow and creates a **visual transformation of color and shape** as one walks around its exterior. Its inhabitable belly contains an atmosphere of varying hues and patterns as light passes through its colorful egg-crate exterior.

MASSIMALS

Interactive Assembly Models

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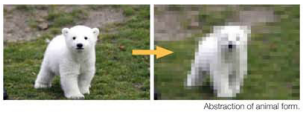
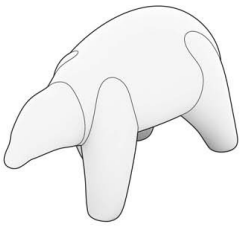
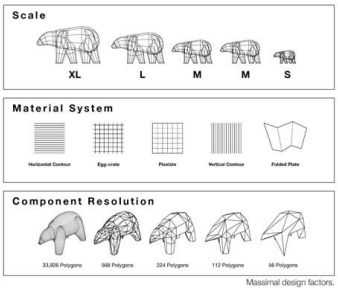
Petting zoo.



Abstraction of animal form.



The "Massive" body.



Massimal design factors.

CASE STUDY 1: A PETTING ZOO

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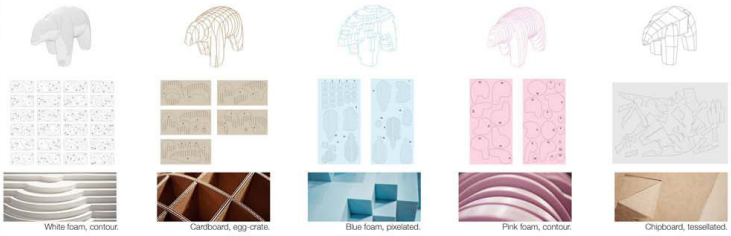

White foam, contour. Cardboard, egg-crate. Blue foam, pixelated. Pink foam, contour. Chipboard, tessellated.

Petting zoo.

CASE STUDY 2: TACTILE SPECTACLE

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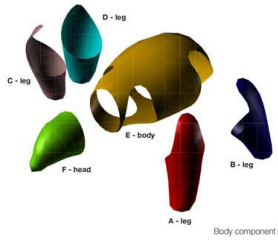
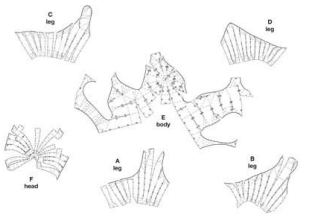


Body component organization.

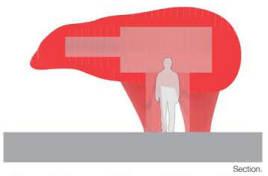


Unrolled skin templates.

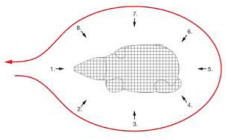
Assembling the skin, interior. Raising the skin. Installation at the Beaux Arts Ball. Head detail. Skin detail.

CASE STUDY 3: VISUAL TRANSFORMATION

Rainbow Massimal is an installation designed and fabricated for participation in the 2012 Beaux Arts Ball. Like the original *Massimals*, the Rainbow Massimal is manufactured out of one material utilizing a simple fabrication technique at full scale. As a large and unmovable object, it reconfigures spatial flow and creates a **visual transformation of color and shape** as one walks around its exterior. Its inhabitable belly contains an atmosphere of varying hues and patterns as light passes through its colorful egg-crate exterior.



Section.



Circumnavigating the bear.

Inside the belly.

Color gradient transformation.

Red / Orange elevation. Blue / Red elevation. Yellow / Blue elevation. Orange / Yellow elevation.