

flexible design for sustainable living: molo's soft collection

Environmentally sustainable design considerations for molo's soft collection can be described in 3 main categories:

1. **Flexibility**, to make efficient and adaptable use of space
2. **Efficient use of material resources**, through lightweight/high strength honeycomb structures
3. **Responsible material choices**, such as recycled/recyclable materials and non toxic adhesives

Flexible use of space is the fundamental idea behind soft collection with its honeycomb structures that expand, contract and flex to form sculptural walls, seating topographies and lighting. This began with the sustainable idea of looking at how to make the most of small urban spaces for living and working and how to transform these spaces to suit many types of uses in the course of a day and over the life of a building. soft's softwall + softblock modular system can be used to create smaller intimate spaces, such as offices, meeting space or bedrooms, within a larger open plan. These smaller spaces can then be folded away when not in use, giving the volume back to the main room. softwall + softblock modular system requires no tracks or built in supports and infrastructure, offering a truly flexible way to adapt a space or building to many uses, as an environmentally responsible alternative to tearing out and rebuilding more "permanent" conventional partition walls. softwall + softblock further provide a medium for shaping acoustics and light within a space. The cellular structure and vertical pleats that run the course of an expanded softwall serve to dampen sound while translucent or opaque versions of softwall can sculpt the light of a space. People tend to keep things that are useful, adaptable and delightful. We think the most effective answer to a sustainable architecture is to create interior environments that people can adapt for change in use, occupancy or fashion.

Efficient use of material is inherent to the honeycomb geometry of soft collection. A little bit of material goes a very long way... opening softwall is a magical tactile experience as the honeycomb expands to create a free standing structure; hundreds of times larger than its compressed form. All softwall + softblock elements are flexible in length; expanding to just over 4.5 meters (15') and that same dimension can be compressed to the mere thickness of a book, less than 50mm (2").

soft collection aims to raise awareness in material responsibility through the use of humble materials that are commonly thought of as disposable. Given their functional flexibility and resilient strength, softwalls are intended to remain useful over a long life. Nevertheless, they are not expected to last forever and so each of the three materials used, tissue paper, unbleached kraft paper and polyethylene non woven textile, are all made from recycled content and are 100% recyclable. The tissue paper is made with 15% recycled office paper. The kraft paper is made with 50% recycled cardboard box fibre and 50% new long fibre. The new long fibres give strength; reinforcing the matrix of smaller recycled fibre to make a stiff robust paper. The non woven polyethylene textile material has 5% recycled content at present but we are pushing to have access to material with higher recycled content. Recycled all around the world, polyethylene is one of the most inert plastics. The adhesives used in laminating soft are non toxic and non yellowing. And the fire retardant in soft's paper products is salt based. The dye used in making the black versions of molo's walls and seats comes from bamboo charcoal.

Through its function, design and materials, molo's soft collection aims to minimize environmental damage and provide flexible solutions for contemporary living.