

Roaming Rome accessories, object for travellers

competition 2010 – 8. place

Skin and shelter!

The contemporary city provides many of the existential layers necessary to accommodate an extremely fast paced society. Today, diverse environments intersect in the same spaces. Virtual and real existing places gather or loose in importance quickly. Identity is decisive under these fast-changing circumstances! The human body becomes an expressive tool – the individual configuration an essential element of one's own perception and the perception of others.

The iconography of the object's design is conceived from the culturally permanent imaginations (we have) of nomadic life forms. The low weight roof, when pneumatically stabilized, serves the temporary identification of a place. Then, the initially mobile structure is turned into a really defining a place in space. It claims a place for an open – not definitely defined – use, thereby bestowing an ephemeral quality onto it. The construction's light-ness reflects it's resource friendliness and the easiness with which the object adapts.

The object is multi-functional. It is an apparel and an architecture and at the same time. Yet, it also has the limitations of both. The user is individualized **and** protected by a physical and psychic distancing from the environment. Because the skin can be adapted from the in- and outside, the social status of the user can be displayed or disguised.

The structure consists of a medium-weight elastic synthetic membrane. It can be easily transformed from a cape or waistcoat into an architectural form by inflating a lighter-than-air-medium (like helium). The material inscribed memory allows for a quick change between mobile and immobile at any time. Thus, the object represents the urban-temporary life style as contemporary art form.