

RAPID TYPE COFFEE POD

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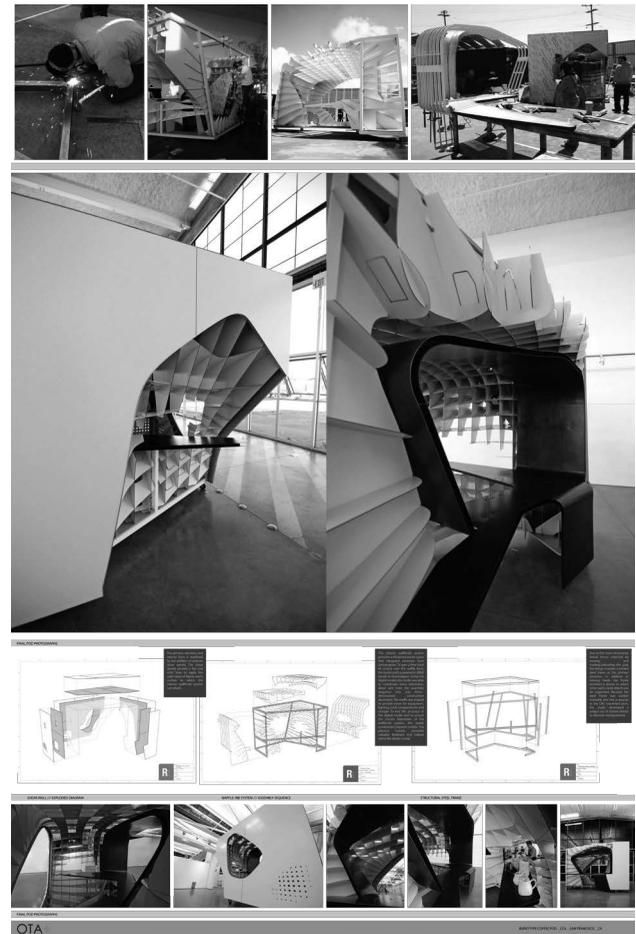
1 Rapid Type Coffee Pod Interior (Bieg 2011)

This project explores alternative uses of Alpolic, a material manufactured by Mitsubishi Plastics Inc., within the limits of CNC fabrication technology. The final design is the result of an elective undergraduate/graduate studio course offered at California College of the Arts (CCA) and taught by Kory Bieg and Andre Caradec.

The project name—Rapid Type—was based on the conceptual and programmatic agenda of the studio. Our first goal was to enable students to design a unique prefabricated structure using proven methods of mass manufacturing. We trained students to work quickly and efficiently using digital design and fabrication tools. They produced dozens of alternative designs, each of which was vetted through budgetary, scheduling and feasibility constraints, until one was selected.



The exterior form of the pod was determined by the maximum size allowed for towing. The interior was driven by human occupation, coffee service, and storage. The studio pursued a design process utilizing Booleans to quickly test multiple schemes while addressing the tension between the orthogonal container and a more complex interior. The final design offered the most variation of space and use, while providing opportunities for human interaction on all sides of the pod.



KORY BIEG is an assistant professor of architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. Bieg has previously taught at California College of the Arts and the University of California, Berkeley. In 2005, Bieg founded OTA+, an architecture, design and research office that specializes in the application of advanced digital technologies for the design and construction of projects of all types and scale. Bieg is a registered architect in the state of California, Colorado and Texas.