CUSTOMER
STORY

STEPHAN HENRICH

Meeting the Pioneer
of Additive Design

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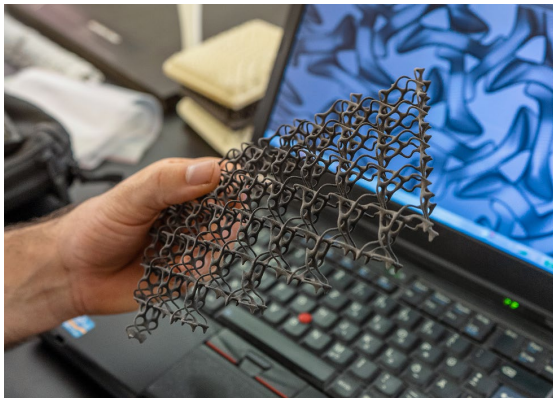
«Selective laser sintering could become a way of thinking design.»

Stephan Henrich in his studio in Stuttgart. The designer is interested in creaturely objects that move.

He sets chairs, tables and chandeliers in motion. Robotics, design and architecture are closely interwoven in his prototypes, studies and products. Stephan Henrich uses additive manufacturing as a pioneering design tool for furniture, objects and installations.

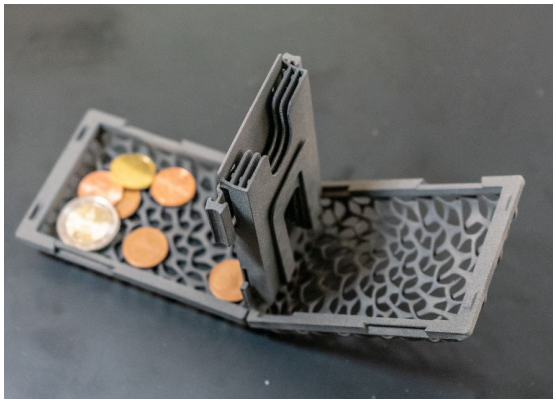
It looks like a slope in San Francisco but is a quarter in Stuttgart. A screen blocks the view through the shop window, for good reason: ideas and concepts that are not patented yet can be found in the studio. Hand sketches, renderings printed on paper or 3D printed prototypes are not allowed to be shown publicly. Stephan Henrich is probably the most interesting designer in the world to incorporate 3D printing into his works. As a pioneer of „additive design", he teaches architecture and design at several universities.



This structure of intervowen textile components was printed from both Sintratec PA12 and Sintratec TPE.

Fascinated by creatures

Stephan Henrich, who had been trained as an architect, expanded his focus to include kinematics. His objects should be dynamic – as a counterpoint to the otherwise so static architecture. He brings robotics, which transform themselves and adapt to their surroundings, into the field. Be it hoof-like ankles that level a table on uneven ground, or octopus-like chandeliers moving in slow motion, his creativeness reaches far. Characteristically, the mechanical and the creaturely represents a recurring motif in his works. Stephan Henrich: „I don't want to develop dead devices." The fascination with the creature can be perfectly combined with additive manufacturing.



3D printed in one go: a laser sintered wallet.

Perfect symbiosis with additive technologies

Stephan Henrich uses the exceptional features of 3D printing technology like no other. Typical are his elegant designs of interwoven structures. Additively produced shapes that cannot be created with any other 3D printing technology than selective laser sintering. The process is therefore ideal for moving parts printed within one another. The realization of such designs would be impossible via Fused Deposition Modeling for example. „I threw myself into this technology and began to think 'additively'. Over the years, I've become familiar with creating SLS designs." Wether it is futuristic textiles or wallets: Stephan Henrich is ultimately interested in 3D printing functional end parts. SLS technology with its great freedom of construction is the driving force that keeps pushing the development of his designs forward.

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