

Francesca Pezze



Francesca Pezze is a junior product designer at Poppin, a lifestyle office supply company based in New York City, where she has been working happily since the fall of 2011. She earned her BFA in Industrial Design and also completed her associate's degree in graphic design while studying at the Rochester Institute of Technology. During her four year journey at RIT, she also had the opportunity to study abroad at Hochschule Anhalt in Dessau, Germany – which is within walking distance to the Bauhaus. Francesca graduated in 2011 with high honors and earned honorable mention in Metaproject01's Wilsonart furniture challenge.

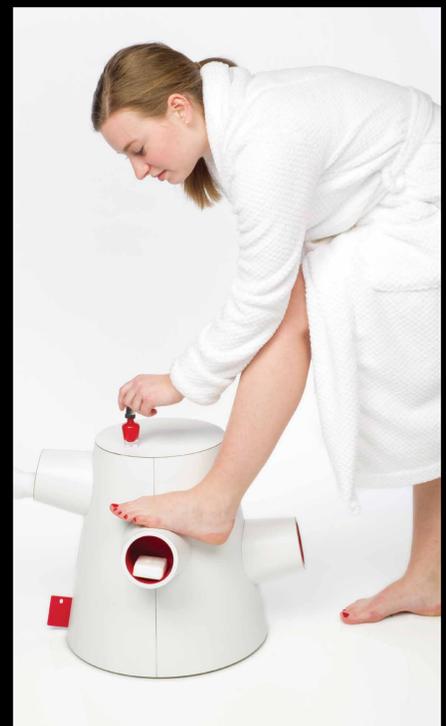
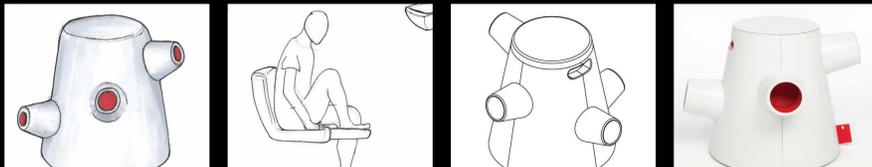
Her stool, The Nodule, from the Wilsonart Challenge was exhibited at the 2011 International Contemporary Furniture Fair held in NYC. The final prototype of The Nodule has since been archived in RIT's permanent Cary Collection. Currently she is an aspiring junior product designer, discovering and developing her conceptual and creative abilities in the prominent mecca of the design world, NYC. She meshes nicely alongside the positive energy that the Poppin office environment permeates. With Poppin's motto of *workhappy.everyone.everywhere.everyday* she strives to work happy while shaking up the stagnant office supply industry one stapler at a time. Her current endeavors are just a short distance from her hometown of Albany, NY, where her parents and three older sisters reside.

Year of Graduation
2011

Current Position
Junior Product Designer at Poppin, a lifestyle office supply company located in NYC

The Nodule

“It was an overwhelming task to apply laminate to curved surfaces, something laminate doesn't take well to. To be more specific – for the interior red application on the smaller cones, I remember heating (baking more or less) the laminate in the my apartment oven. I was more concerned about whether or not it was going to hold when I was done – and less about the fumes it was emitting into the common space. The original idea was to use a kiln – but because of time constraints and the small sizes of the pieces it seemed like the best idea to use the oven at the time. This in turn worked out perfectly. Looking back, it was perhaps not the safest of approaches.”



Chair Statement

Naming the stool The Nodule goes back to original inspiration and a sketch that highly resembled a tree stump with branches coming off it. It represented a small, knobby rock or an growth formed on roots, the word nodule seemed appropriate. Wilsonart's laminate was perfect for this bathroom stool because of it's durability and easy-to-sanitize surface. Bathrooms are a place where soft organic forms thrive, so one goal was to push the limits of laminate in order to fit it to the cone shapes that were repeated throughout the stool. The nodule enhances the processes of personal grooming which is often disregarded.

Product Description

A bathroom stool with varying height supports and storage compartments.

Product Background

The goal for this project was to design a seating device that enhances a cultural context and uses Wilsonart's laminate. Stipulations for the project were that the chair had to hold 400 pounds, and only the laminate colors of red, black, or white could be used. Wilsonart's red logo chip also had to be incorporated into the chair.

Year of Release

The Nodule was never released or manufactured. It is a prototype from Pezze's senior year at RIT that was designed for Metaproject01 Wilsonart Furniture Challenge.

Awards/Achievements

Honorable Mention, Metaproject01 Wilsonart Furniture Challenge, 2011

Exhibited at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, 2011

Archived in RIT's Cary Collection, 2011

