

Affidavit of Stephanie Forsythe

Re: Creation of Softwalls and Softblocks without influence from Charles Kaisin

I, Stephanie Forsythe of the address 1470 Venables Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, V5L 2G7, MAKE OATH AND AFFIRM THAT:

(i) I am a designer with the following education:

- Master of Architecture, completed under scholarship and awarded the Adjeleian Award in the Aesthetics of Structure – Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, 2000
- Advanced Printmaking and Ceramics – Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Halifax, Canada, 1999 to 2000
- Building Construction onsite apprenticeship training – carpentry and timber woodworking, stonework, concrete 1998 – 1999
- Printmaking – Cooper Union, New York, USA, 1998
- Bachelor of Environmental Design, Completed Under L.E. Shaw Scholarship – Technical University of Nova Scotia, Halifax, Canada, 1996
- Furniture, Jewelry and Glass Design (working in the mediums of Glass blowing, Metal and Wood) – The University of Industrial Arts, Helsinki, Finland, 1993 to 1994 (now named Aalto University)
- Architecture – Otaniemi Technical University, Otaniemi, Finland, 1993 to 1994 (now named Aalto University)
- Glass Blowing, Casting and Design, Fine Woodworking and Furniture Design, Metalwork – Sheridan College, School of Craft and Design, Oakville, Canada, 1992 to 1993
- Architecture – Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto, Canada, 1989 to 1991(now named Ryerson University)

(ii) I met Todd MacAllen (“MacAllen”) in 1994 during my undergraduate Architecture program in Halifax, Canada. More particularly, in 1994, MacAllen and I were invited to travel to a remote part of Colombia to take part in a large-scale architecture project. It is in Colombia I began working closely with MacAllen as we studied villagers’ houses, mostly fishers living over the water.

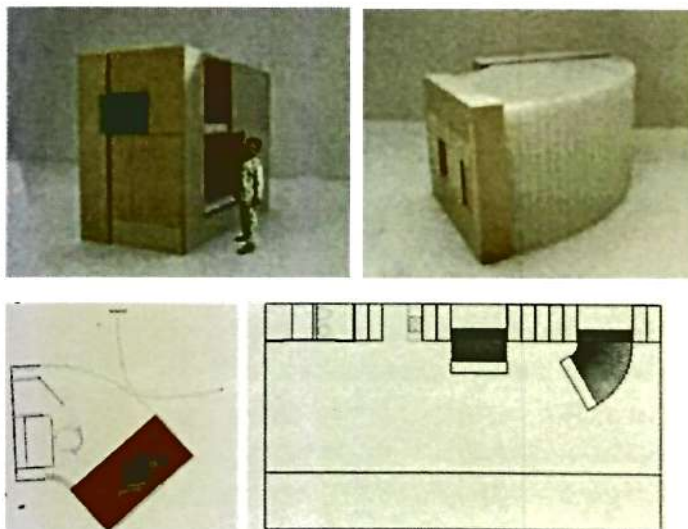
(iii) During the Colombia architecture project in 1994, MacAllen and I observed that the villagers built their houses in a simple construction and open plan - flexible and

responsive to the climate. We also noticed how the family structure changed as a couple married and moved into the wife's parents' home or had children. Partition walls would be added to the living area - light in construction and not reaching the ceiling. These walls allowed privacy and accommodated airflow through the space. As the family structure changed, these partition walls could be added and removed.

- (iv) Between 1995 and 1998, I took time between school semesters to further my understanding between design and building. I worked as an intern Architect for Steven Holl Architects for five months and James Carpenter Design Associates for eighteen months, both in New York. I completed a printmaking course and a construction apprenticeship. I also worked with MacAllen to design and build three houses for three clients.
- (v) In 1999, I returned to the Master of Architecture program at Dalhousie University. During this time, I remained in Halifax, Canada, continuing my thesis studies and teaching design studio at Dalhousie University School of Architecture.
- (vi) After I graduated from the Master of Architecture program, in 2000, MacAllen and I setup our first studio as a hybrid work and live space at Unit 206 – 869 Beatty Street, Vancouver, Canada. Inspired by our experiences in Colombia, MacAllen’s experience in Gambia, and the limited amount of space in our studio in 2000, we began a long study of how to partition space in a light and flexible way.
- (vii) In 2001, MacAllen and I entered the International Design Competition: Northern Style Housing Complex in Aomori (Japan), herein called “Aomori Housing Competition”. The objective of this competition was to mitigate suburban sprawl by designing two hundred apartments on a typical city block in a way that, and together with other aspects of community living, would make it desirable for people to live in the city centre again.
- (viii) MacAllen and I understood that most housing in cities all over the world is challenged by the economics of having to make do with small spaces. With this understanding, MacAllen and I developed designs through drawings and study models for the Aomori

Housing Competition with expandible/compressible private spaces within the home that could borrow from and give back to a more generous gathering space for the family than would otherwise be possible. We realized that if bedrooms or rooms for private study and work could fold away when not in use an otherwise small apartment could feel quite spacious. This work is the genesis for our “soft” concept of flexible interior architecture and furniture.

- (ix) MacAllen and I, developed the models and drawings of the expandible/compressible private spaces with translucent flexible walls and ceiling, images of which are shown below and were submitted for the Aomori Housing Competition:



- (x) On February 5, 2002, the final judging of the Aomori Housing Competition took place in Tokyo, Japan. MacAllen and I were awarded the Grand Prize and the Commission to develop the design for a building site. Judges for the Aomori Housing Competition included Tadao Ando (Japan) and Jean Nouvel (France), who are considered by many to be the most famous living architects from Japan and France.
- (xi) In 2002, MacAllen and I further developed the “soft” concept for interior spaces, creating drawing, models, and prototypes. The “soft” concept included ideas related to softhouse, softroom, softwall, softblock, lighting, seating and tables formed from flexible translucent honeycomb. Some of these early prototypes of the softwall and softblock modular system,

which were never sold, offered for sale, or made commercially available, are shown below. In the photo on the left, I am shown expanding a softwall prototype. Another softwall prototype, already expanded, and two softblock prototypes are shown in the background. The photo on the right shown one softwall and one softblock. These early prototypes did not have folding end panels or supports, which we only developed later. As a results, these prototypes were not self-supporting or vertically stable standing on their own, rendering them prone to collapse.



Photo taken 2003

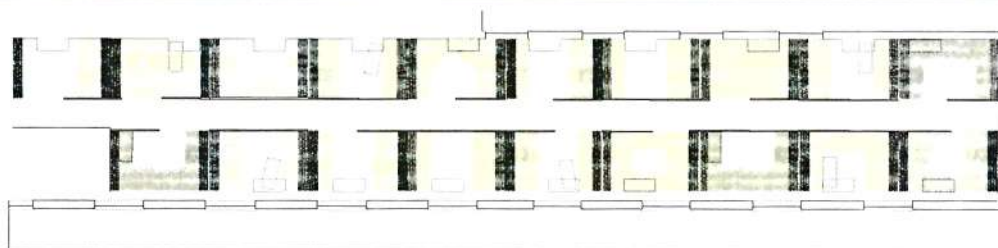
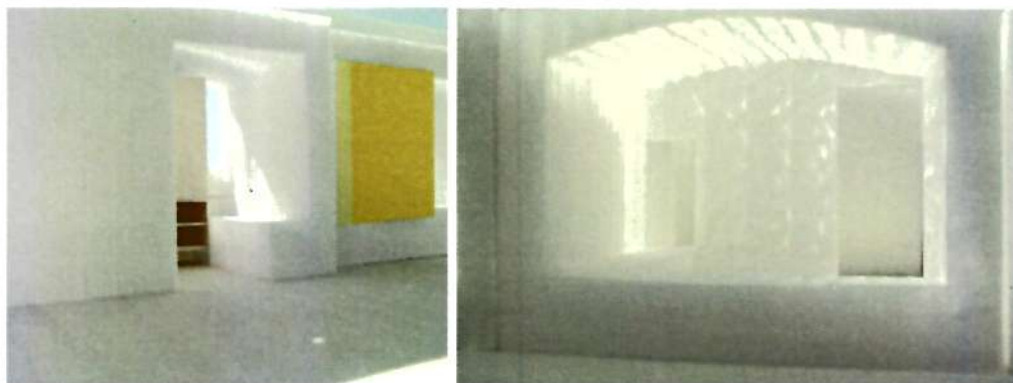


Photo taken 2002

- (xii) In 2003, MacAllen and I used our “soft” concept for interior architecture to enter three competitions, the 2003 First Step Housing Competition (New York, USA), the 2003 Design Beyond East and West Competition (Korea and China), and the 2003 LighTouch Competition (Italy and Singapore).

- (xiii) By May 27, 2003, MacAllen and I registered for the 2003 First Step Housing Competition (New York, USA), a competition sponsored by The Architectural League of New York and Common Ground Community. We submitted our design to the competition by August 25, 2003. The organizers of the competition recognized the value of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) housing in reducing homelessness, but that the quality of space, light, air and materials suffered from the challenges of making 19 small apartments per floor in the typical five story walk up building of New York’s Bowery neighbourhood. The competition brief specifically asked for ways of making the rooms not feel institutional as many homeless people have negative associations with institutional living situations.

- (xiv) For the 2003 First Step Housing Competition, MacAllen and I submitted our softhousing concept that included the ideas and prototypes for flexible honeycomb rooms with integral seating, beds, walls and ceilings along with independent flexible honeycomb benches that could be taken into the common areas or used anywhere. The independent flexible benches shown do not have the folding end panels. Models and plan view drawings of the softhousing concept that I made with MacAllen are shown below.



19 Unit Floor Plan - Each unit is prefabricated as an individual unit, then installed in an existing building.



19 Unit Floor Plan with some of the units contracted
Each unit is made from a flexible honeycomb structure and so can contribute space to transform the shared/public place of the hallway.

- (xv) On October 28, 2003, in New York, MacAllen and I were announced as one of five (5) winners of the First Step Housing Competition. The judges for this competition included: Toshiko Mori (Architect and Chair of Architecture Department at Harvard University), Steven Holl (Architect and Professor Columbia University), Michael Bell (Architect and Professor Columbia University), Julie Eizenberg (Architect), Andrew Freear (Director,

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