



**Steelcase Concept Showroom at NeoCon 2005, Chicago, IL**

John Hamilton, Designer

Fabricator: Evert Binke, Coremax

**ISSUES**

- ◆ Steelcase, a leading global manufacturer of office furniture and environments, wanted to create and display an innovative piece of contemporary architecture at NeoCon 2005.
- ◆ To inspire conversation about their company, they designed a concept meeting space – a yurt, modeled after portable tents used by nomadic people of Asia.
- ◆ Project designer John Hamilton built the circular, domed meeting space, or yurt structure, offering a unique solution to the transient nature of work and the need to huddle around an idea.

**CHALLENGES**

- ◆ Specifying a durable material with the ability to be formed seamlessly into the curved and monolithic shell of the conceptual yurt.
- ◆ Identifying a versatile material with the innate strength and depth to withstand patterned holes envisioned in the middle of the structure.
- ◆ Securing a visually inviting material that would enhance the overall design and create a welcoming feel for the gathering space.

**SOLUTIONS**

- ◆ Hamilton chose Corian® to wrap the outside of his structure because it could be thermoformed to create a beautifully curved shell.
- ◆ Using computer technology to create a design template, identical horizontal holes were cut in the middle of the Corian® shell using a CNC routing process. The holes allow those outside the yurt to tell when it is occupied and those inside the yurt to be able see out.
- ◆ "We identified materials that convey luxury; rich leather, fine wood, precision metals, hard stones, and Corian®. We chose Corian® for its tactile sense and its ability to be formed seamlessly into monolithic architectural volumes of different sizes and shapes," said Hamilton.

**BENEFITS**

- ◆ The seamless nature of Corian® allowed the conceptual shape and smooth surface of the design to become a reality for attendees to see and touch.
- ◆ Corian® resists chips, scratches, cracks, heat and stains and is a renewable material because marks can be removed easily to restore it to its original condition.
- ◆ Corian® is available in more than 110 colors and a wide selection of aesthetics.

**PROJECT COLOR**



Corian®  
Cameo White



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- ♦ Writing desks, credenzas, conference tables and other furniture
- ♦ Molding and wainscoting
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- ♦ Exterior cladding
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