

Brief: IF Dieter Rams were to design a park bench

Inspiration:

When looking at the work of Dieter Rams it is evident that his works for Braun are marvels of industrial design: beautiful, unobtrusive and simple to use. Rams follows his 10 principles of design when producing his works, he dared to be different through the principle "less is more" and therefore chooses to keep his products to the very basic and minimum design they require so that is clearly evident to the user how the product should be used. Rams conscientiousness in disregarding design that is confusing and decorative makes his design the pinnacle of product design at its time and raised the bar for generations of designers to come, the attention of the user is solely on the product itself and its function rather than the ornamentation.



The product itself:

I wanted to make my product fit its function and when thinking about the location of the product I found that all ages would be using the bench, parents watching infants and infants themselves. To make the bench suitable for all ages I chose to use a step design with different heights for different leg lengths which would be taken from anthropometric data to give my bench the most comfortable and proportional dimensions. When looking for inspiration I found the image below and first designed the bench using three cubes placed side by side, I then looked at the materials Rams uses in his products such as the White Coffin and wanted to incorporate them in my design so I chose to take away the front and back side to minimise the design and include a timber edge to add interest, small detail and variation in material which Rams does in his own work.

Production and finishes:

If this product was to be put into production it would be manufactured using a laminate board. The laminate board used for the product would be made up of a top and bottom layer of white gloss finished acrylic plastic, with intermediate layers of timber which are rolled with adhesive between each layer to secure them into one laminate sheet.

The timber chosen would be a hard wood which is light in colour such as teak; this would match the style of Rams' work, as well as being able to be stored outside without being damaged by weather.

The laminate board could then be treated as one solid sheet, cut then worked and joined with a lapped joint for example to give the shape of the bench. To finish the bench I would lacquer the acrylic layers and wax the teak edges that would come into contact with the air, this would protect the material against water damage and corrosion.

The type of lacquer would need to be taken into consideration and if possible a water-based lacquer would be selected. The teak and acrylic selected could also be recycled material; this would make my product as environmentally friendly and sustainable as possible.

A211 Park bench

Alex Hall / Dieter Rams inspired park bench

