

Carol Prusa: Desiring to invigorate my work with new forms and problems to solve and work outside of my established skill set, I applied for and was awarded an artist-in-industry residency at the Kohler Company factory where I (painter/drawer) learned factory methods to make plaster molds and slip cast forms to fire in their industrial tunnel kilns. Moving from the smooth curved gesso-covered surfaces of my acrylic domes and spheres to form complex organic relief sculptures in vitreous china was a significant stretch for me and provided a tremendous opportunity to push my work both physically as well as conceptually and open up my mind through play, imagination and failure to inspire deepened directions. This led me to envision and create organic forms based upon complex folding and repeating geometries, as simulated through computer modeling and investigations in emergent forms. I am working to translate these abilities through new 3D technologies.

To facilitate working through 3D technologies I reached out to the FAU undergraduate research facilitators, attending a Spring 2014 “Meeting of the Minds” to present my research and attract a student to work with me. On that occasion Prof. Henning Haupt of Architecture in the College of Design and Social Inquiry recommended a student: Justin Sheinberg. As a result, this past summer I began working with Justin, who is a senior in architecture. We resolved several projects in modeling and are physically building two of them. The first project involved CNC routing of Plexiglas to create sixteen fins to rotate around a 24” diameter hemisphere I articulate in silverpoint and paint to transmit light in additional patterns.

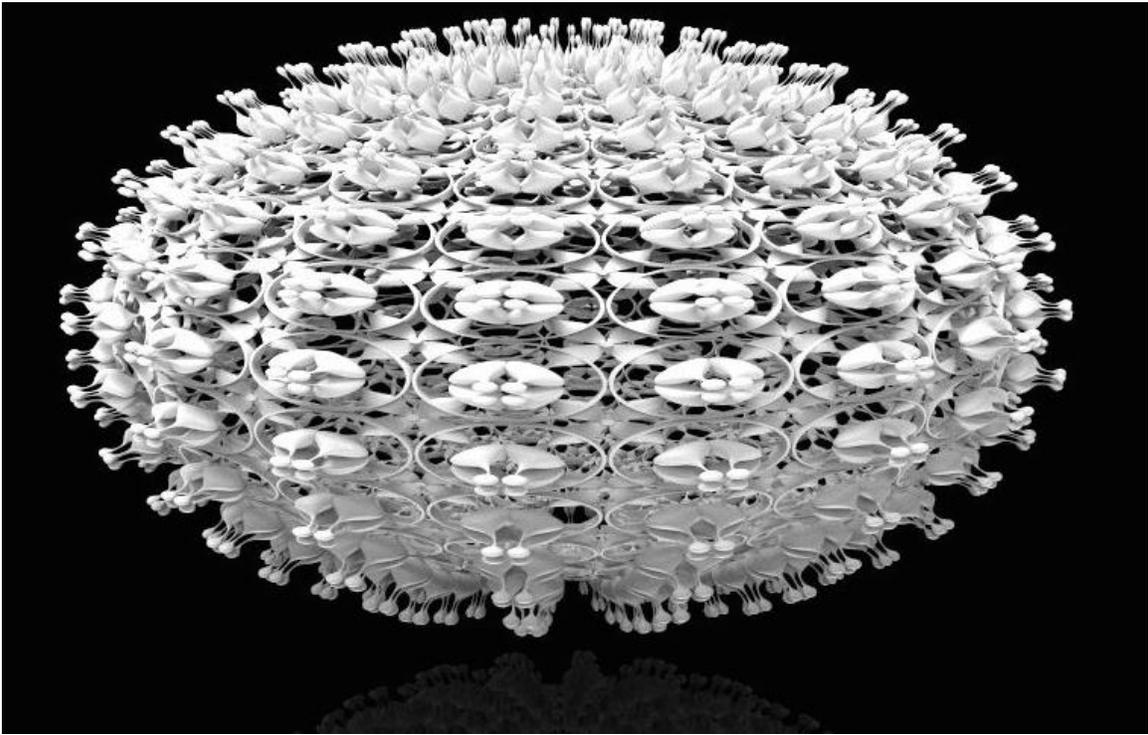
(see the computer model below, left, and the actual piece, right).

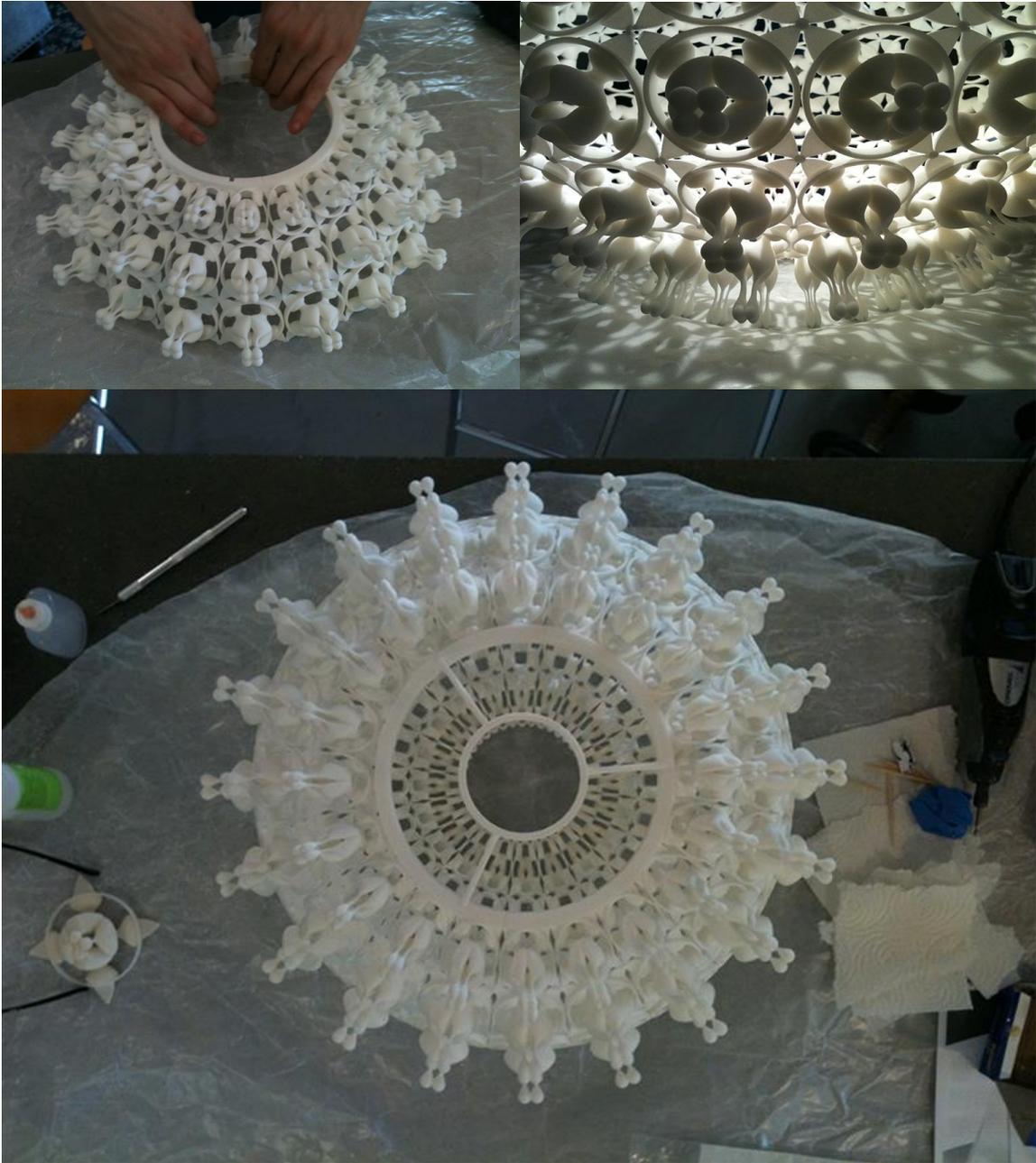




(actual piece , bottom view, with light off on left, light on on right)

The second project involved modeling for 3D printing. We sent the files out to be printed because FAU didn't have a printer we could use that would do the job. (see below)





Currently we are beginning a new project, based on the CNC routed fin project to create a piece that is going to be 60 inches in diameter. I have applied for grant support. We also wish to print the model (pictured in the lower image on this page) at a larger size (the one we had printed is 16" but we do not have the finances/printer to approach a work of this scale at this time).