

INDUSTRIAL**DESIGNER.**

Aapo Heikkinen

Chef turned into a designer



CV//////Aapo Heikkinen

I graduated as a designer in spring 2025. Before that, I worked in professional kitchens, where I learned to value **efficient workflows** and understanding customers' needs. In design, I want to continue this same mindset: creating **functional** and **meaningful** experiences for people.



EDUCATION

Bachelor of culture and arts, industrial design - 2025 - LAB Institute of Design
Competence based chef degree - 2017 - TAKK
Vocational upper secondary qualification in audiovisual media and graphic design - 2006 - Kainuun Ammattiopisto

WORK

Industrial design - Lehtovuori Oy - 5/2024 ->
Service design - OHG Tampere Oy - Marriott Courtyard - 1-2/2024
UX/UI design, Graphic design, Marketing - Roidu Oy - 5-6/2023
Chef - Staffpoint - Short gigs beside studies - 2023
Chef - OHG Tampere Oy - Marriot Courtyard 2021-2022
Chef - Sokotel Oy - Sokos Hotel Torni Tampere 2017-2021
Shorter kitchen assignments in different restaurants 2016-2017
2000-2015:
Various customer service jobs
Some warehouse work
Other stuff from judging snowboarding competitions on naitonal level to some modeling in clothing catalogues

SKILLS

SolidEdge
SoilidWorks
Shapr 3D
KeyShot
Affinity Photo
Affinity Designer
Affinity Publisher
Photoshop
Illustrator
In Design
Sketching
Model Making
Sheet Metal
Design Research
Project Planning
Workshops & Facilitating

INTERESTS

Product Design
Visual Design & Art
D.I.Y.
3D printing
UX & UI
Service Design
Marketing
Kitchens & Restaurants
Food
Music & Culture
Skateboarding
Snowboarding

LANGUAGE

Finnish - native
English - fluent

CONTACT

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+358 44 328 21 85

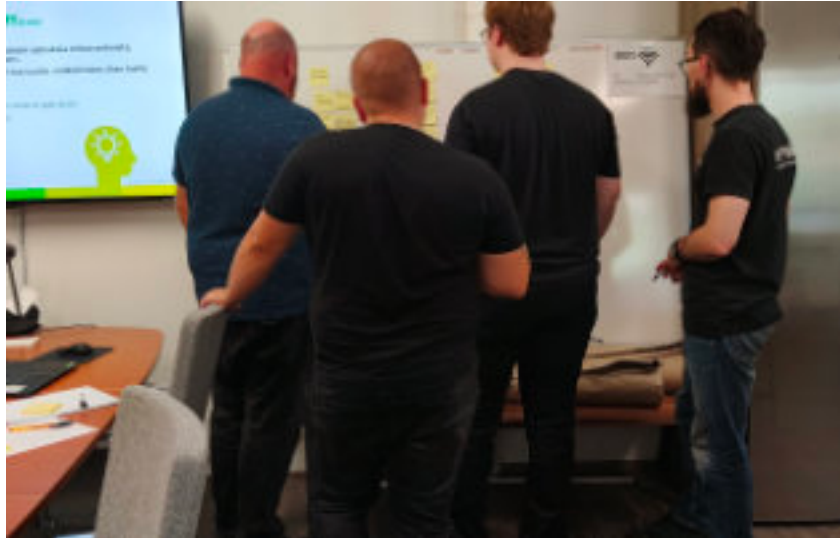
LOOP

OUTDOOR WASTE SORTING SOLUTION

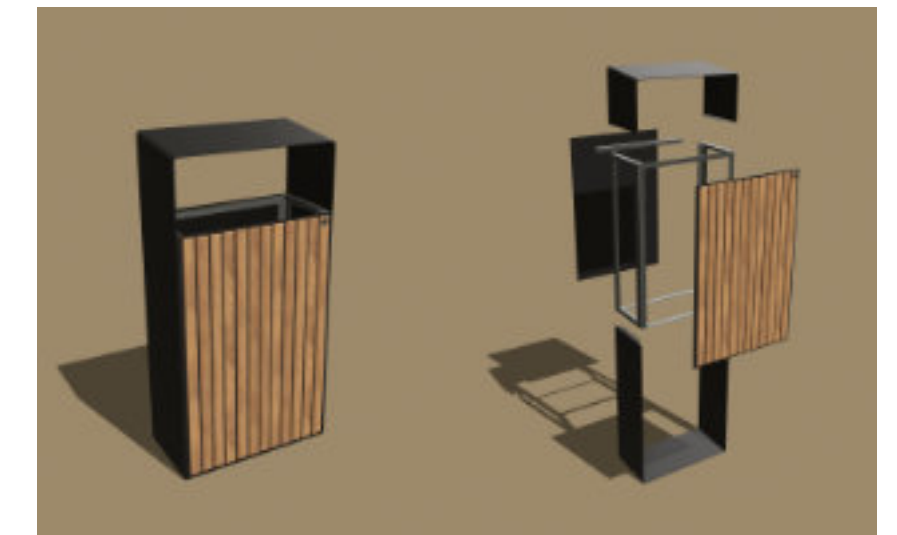
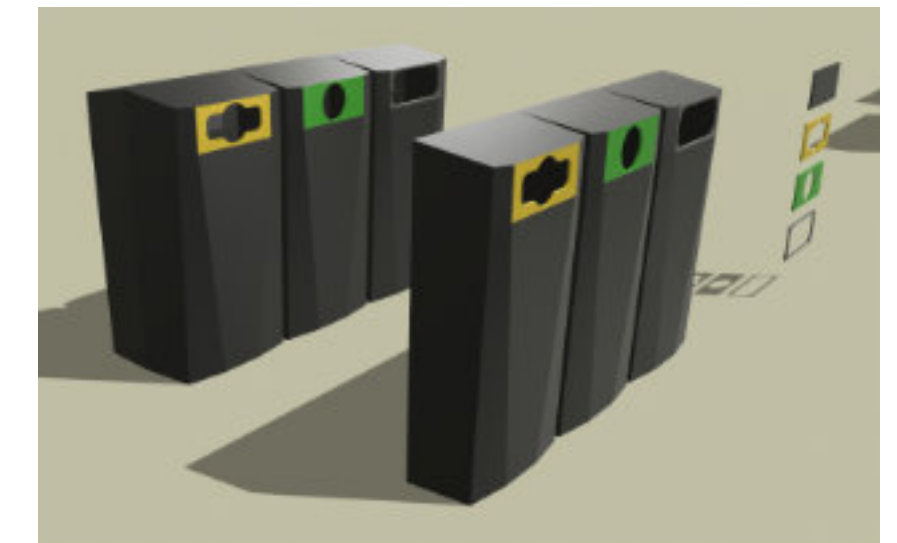
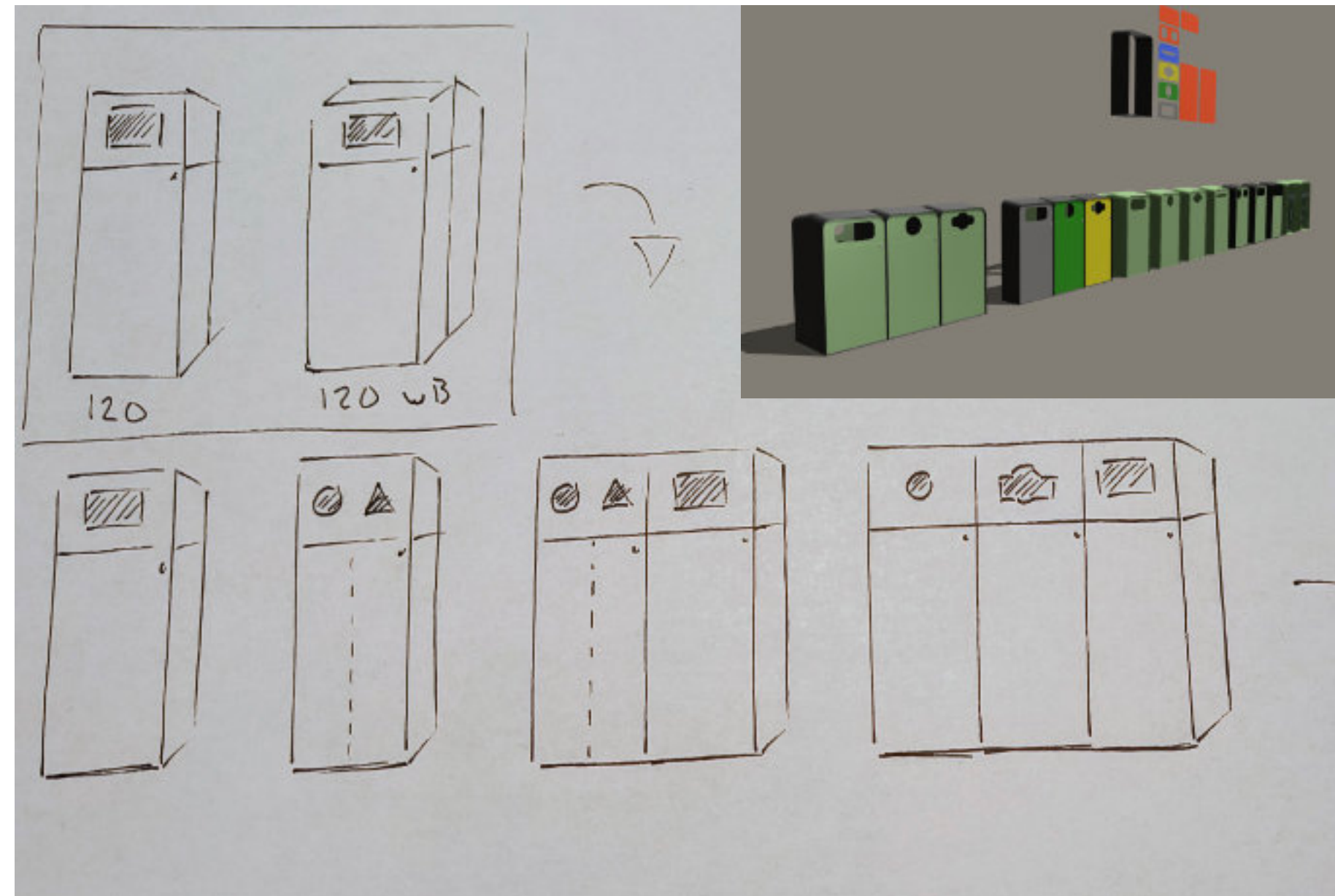
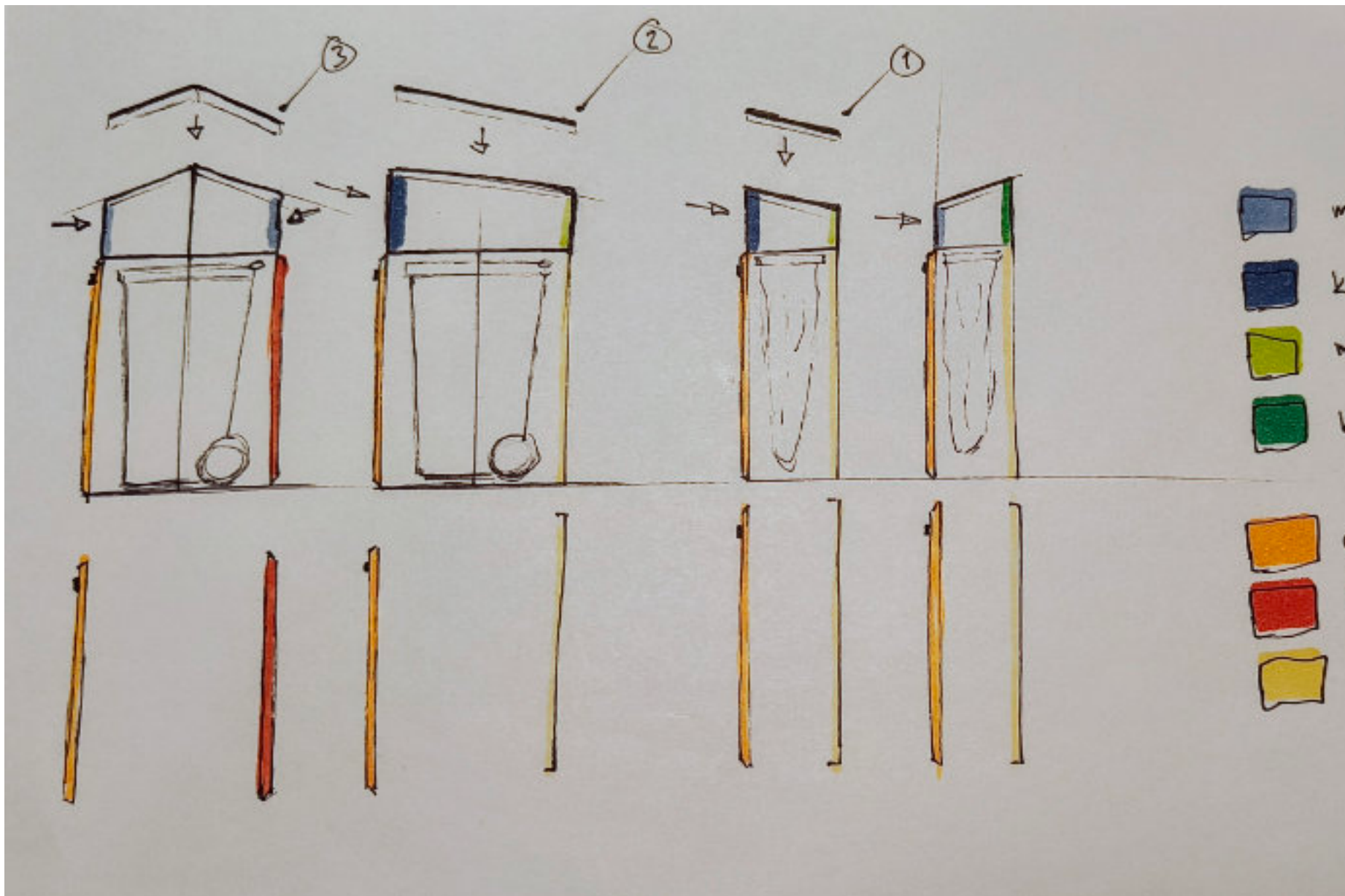
"Loop is a modular outdoor recycling bin designed for public spaces. It adapts to different needs with customizable colors, shapes, and smart-ready features. Ideal for cities, parks, campuses, and public spaces, Loop supports the simultaneous collection of different waste fractions. Its customizable design, durable materials, and smart features make it a future-ready recycling solution."

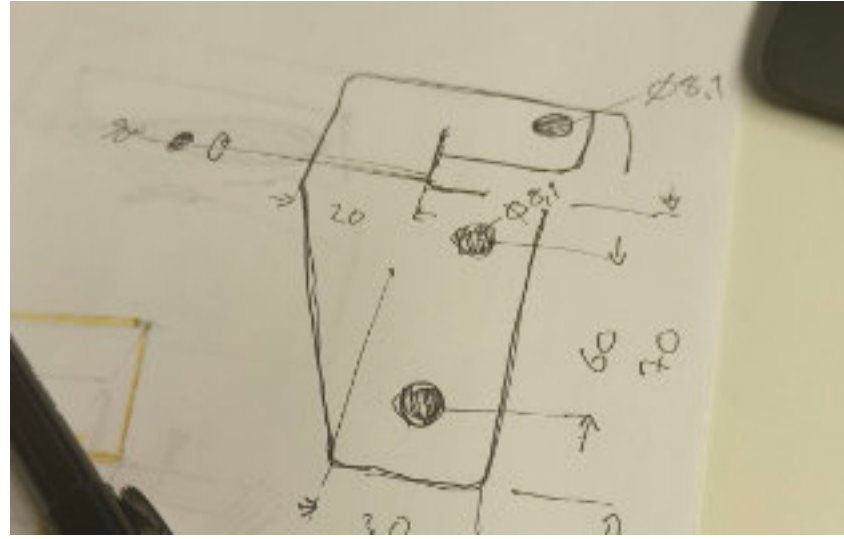
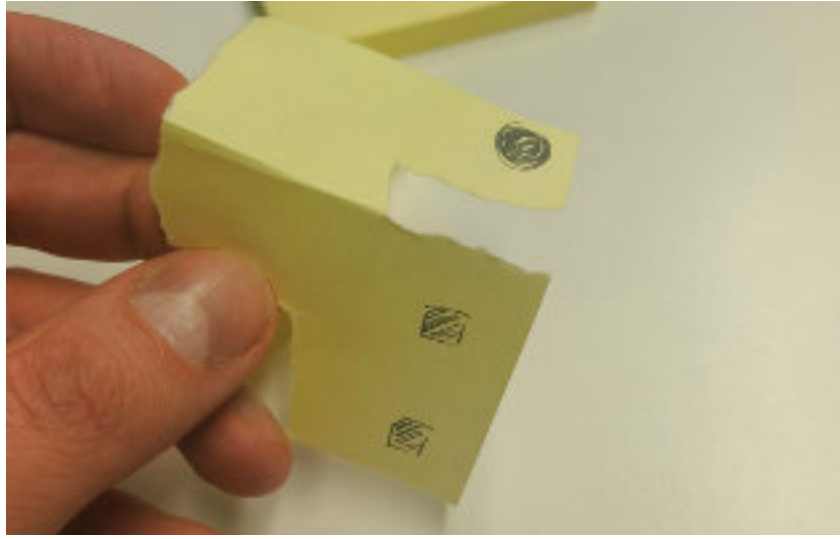
My contribution: Design research & product specification, project planning, facilitating workshops, concept creation, 3D modeling, mechanical design and prototyping. Rendered images and animation for marketing use.





Hours of background research. Project planning, discussions with stakeholders, benchmarking, and workshops. Brainstorming and ideating. Piles of sketches. Quick 3D iterations on iPad with Shapr3D. Product architecture planning.





Sheet metal modeling with Solid Edge. Rough prototypes and testing ideas. The first more polished prototypes showcased at the Viherpäivät 2025 trade fair to gather feedback. Further refinement of prototypes, testing size options and accessories towards release.





Viherpäivät 2026, after launch

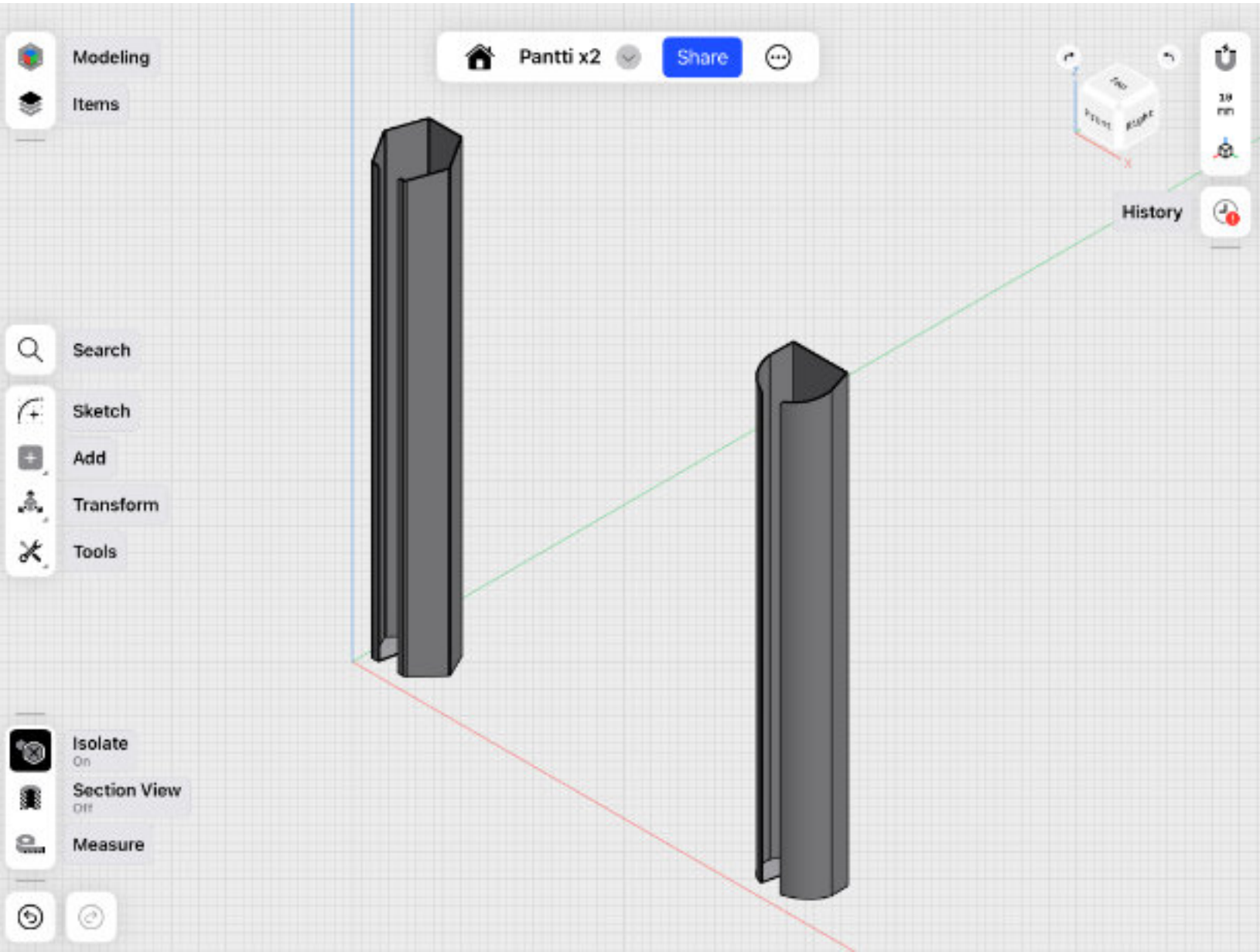
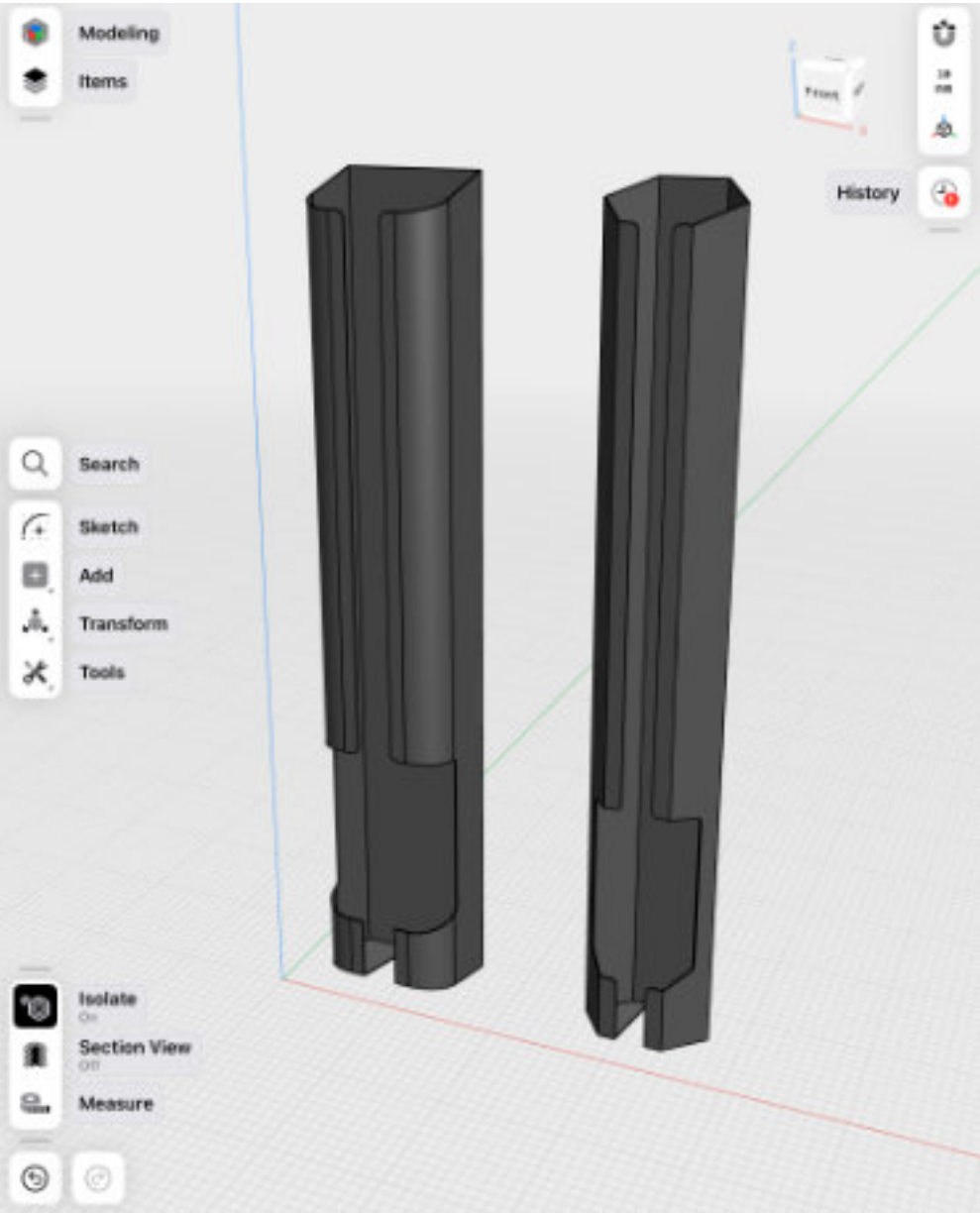


First prototypes of the final version installed for testing. Tähtitorninmäki, Helsinki 2025



BOTTLE AND CAN RECYCLING RACK

With the launch of the Loop recycling bin, Lehtovuori's bottle and can recycling racks were unified into one solution compatible with all Lehtovuori waste bins. Not to reinvent the wheel, but to create the most functional solution, one that is cost-effective to manufacture, easy to install, and compatible with the entire product range.

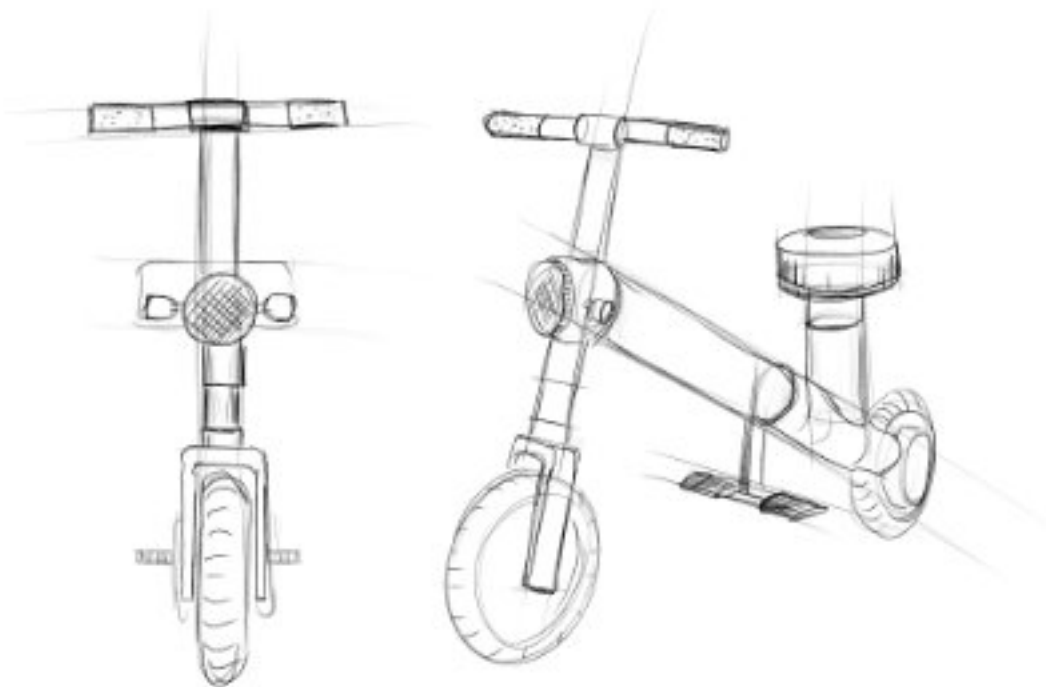
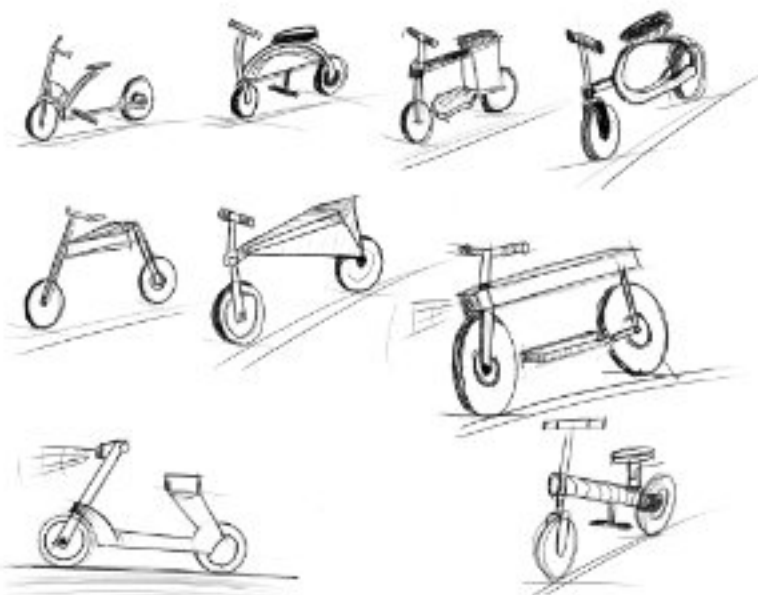




QUICK DESIGN

Retro-futuristic electric scooter concept.

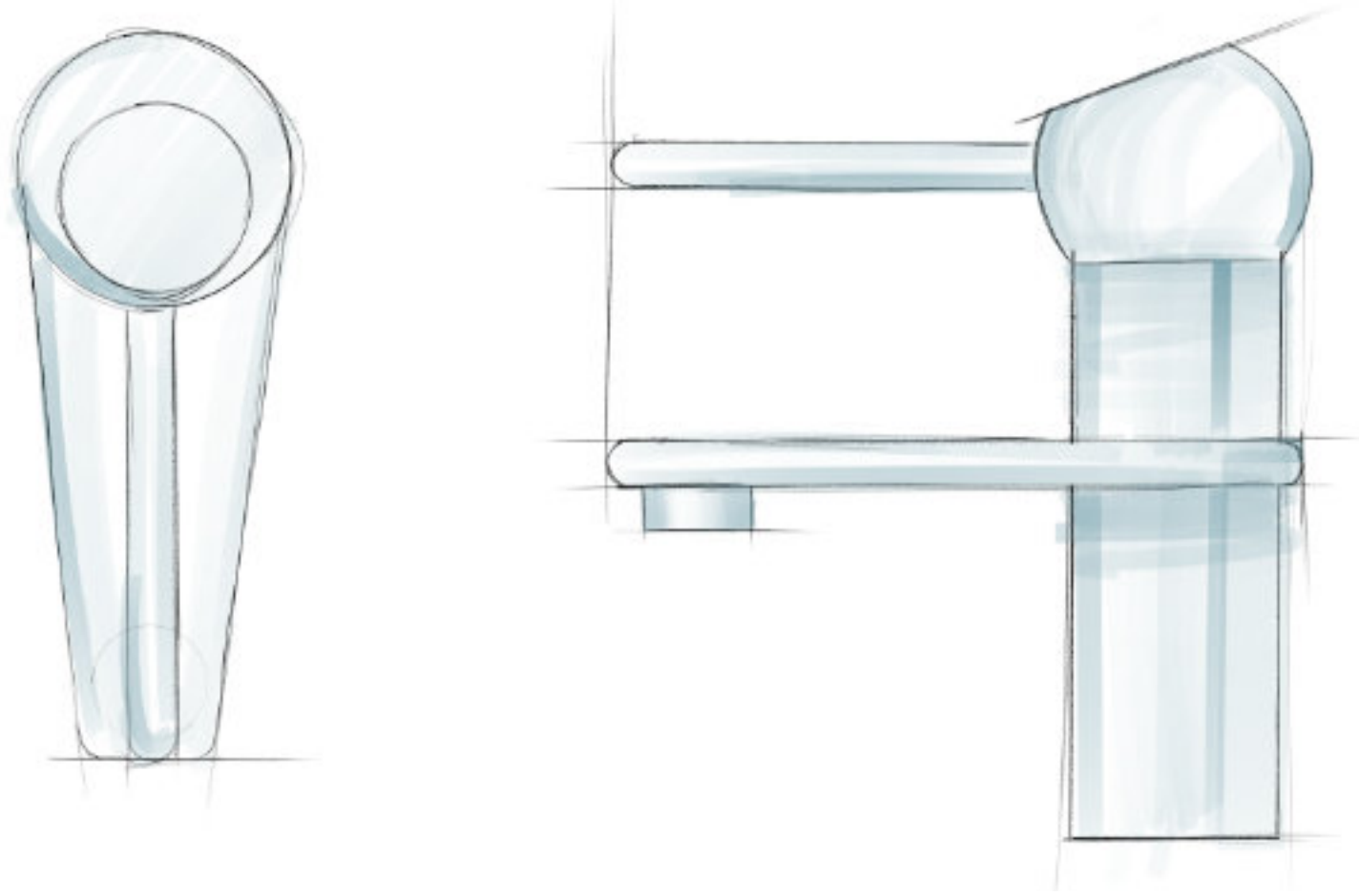
3D and visualizations: Shapr 3D



QUICK DESIGN

Bathroom water tap.

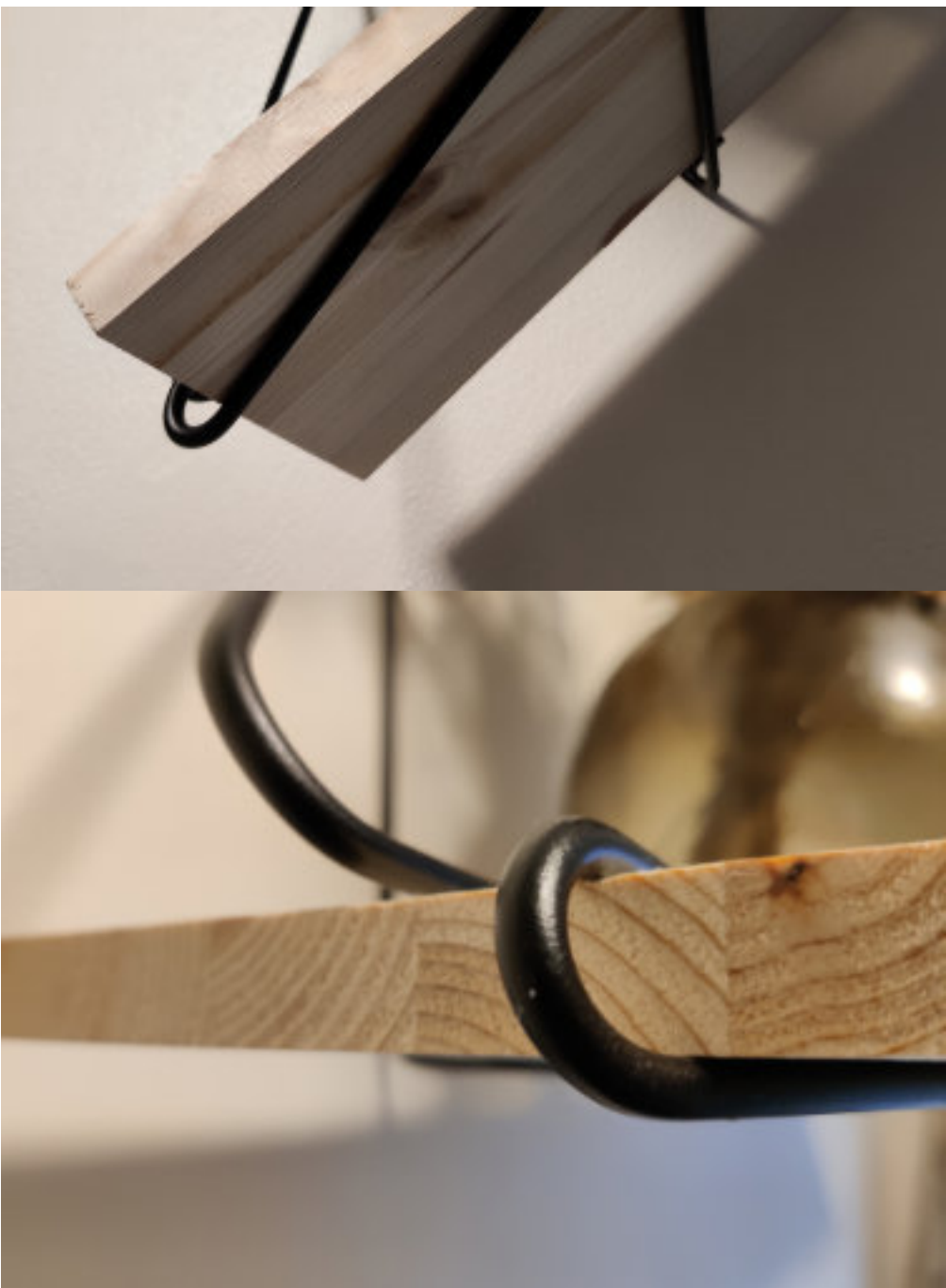
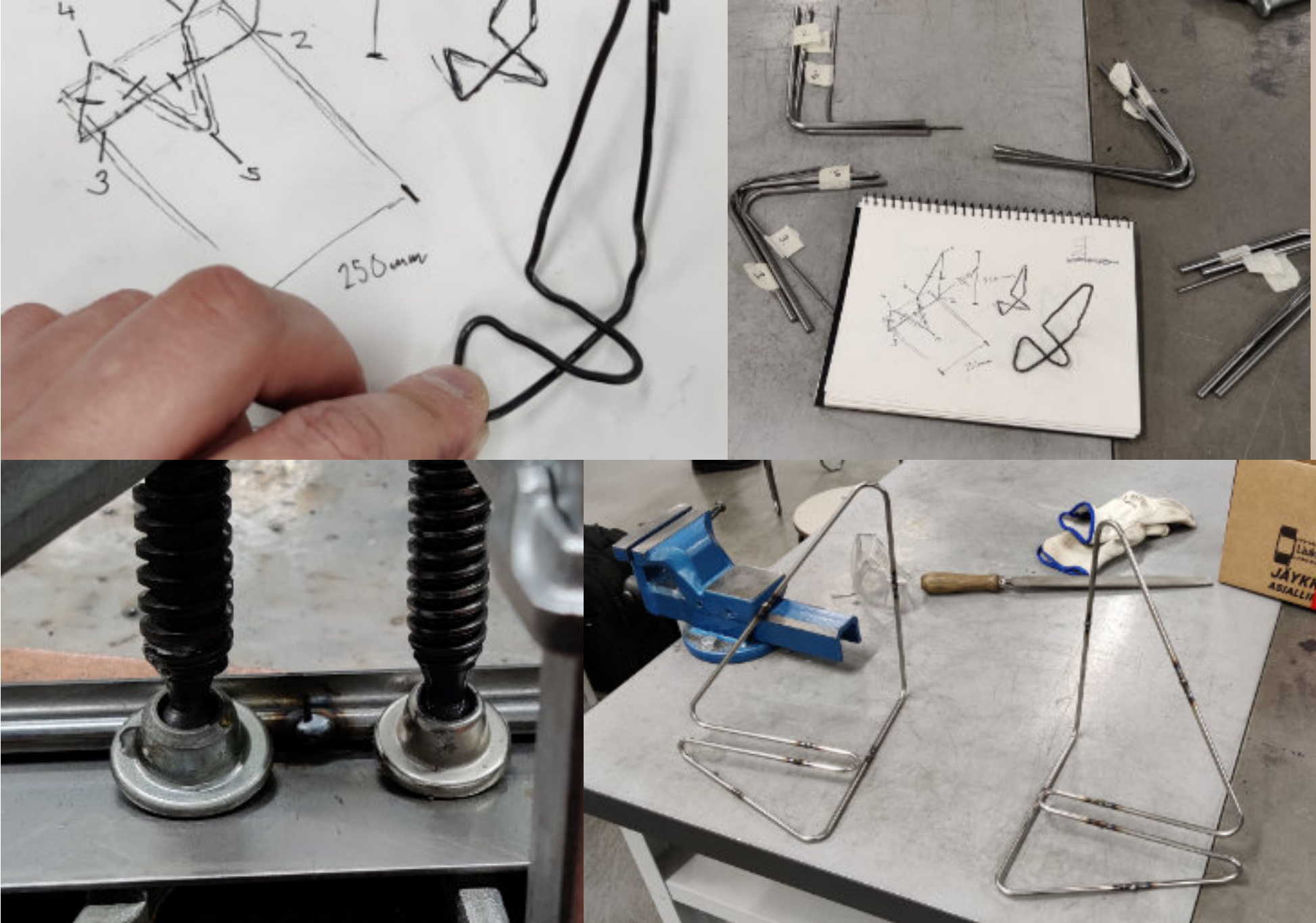
3D and visualizations: Shapr 3D



QUICK DESIGN

Photo shelf.

Some spare time and a piece of metal wire for inspiration.





POCKET STOVE

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**Collapsible pocket-size twig stove. Set up in seconds.
No loose parts. Tested and approved in Finnish winter.**

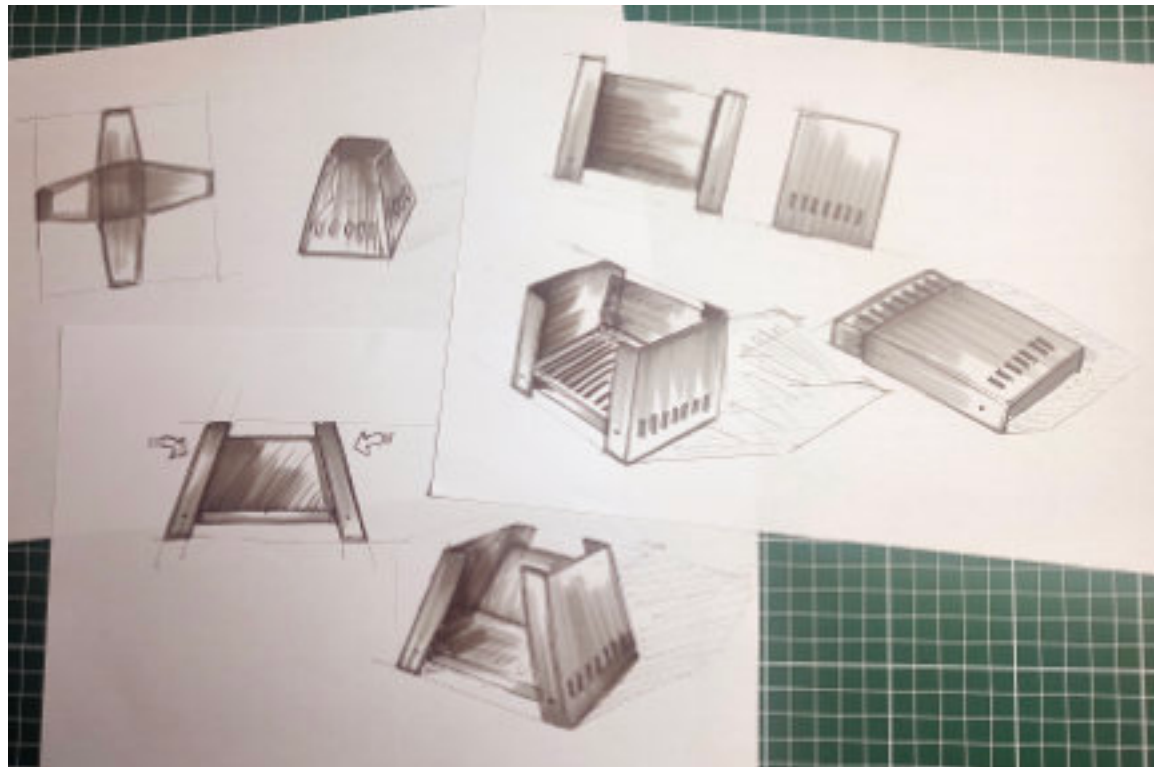


12/2022

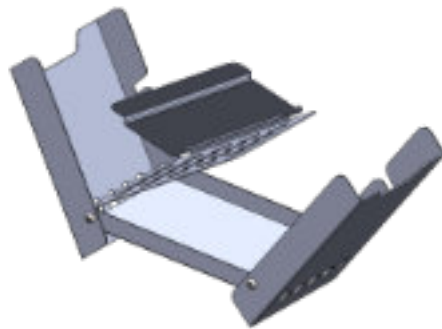
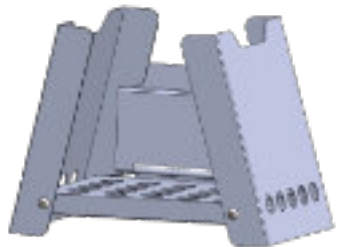
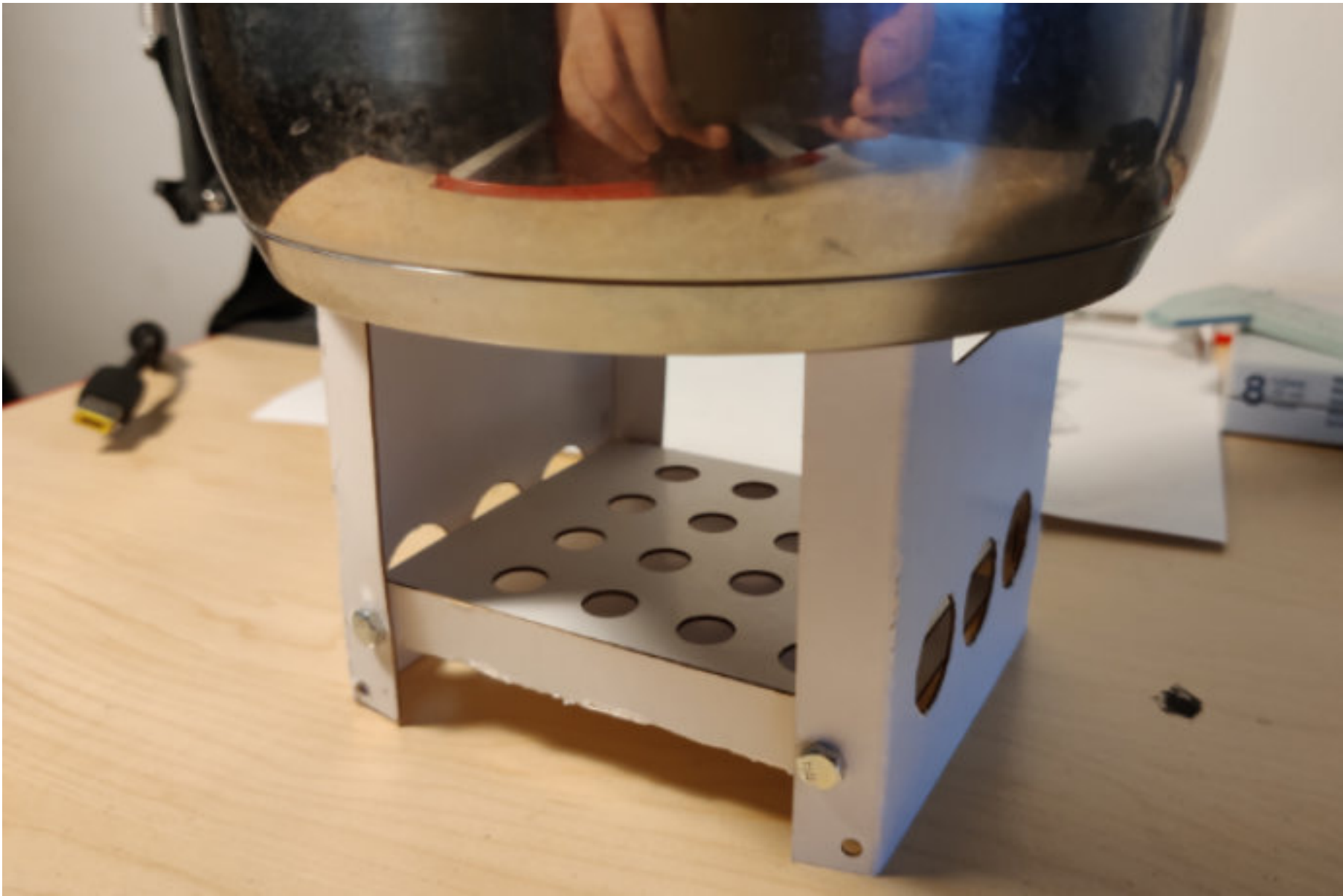
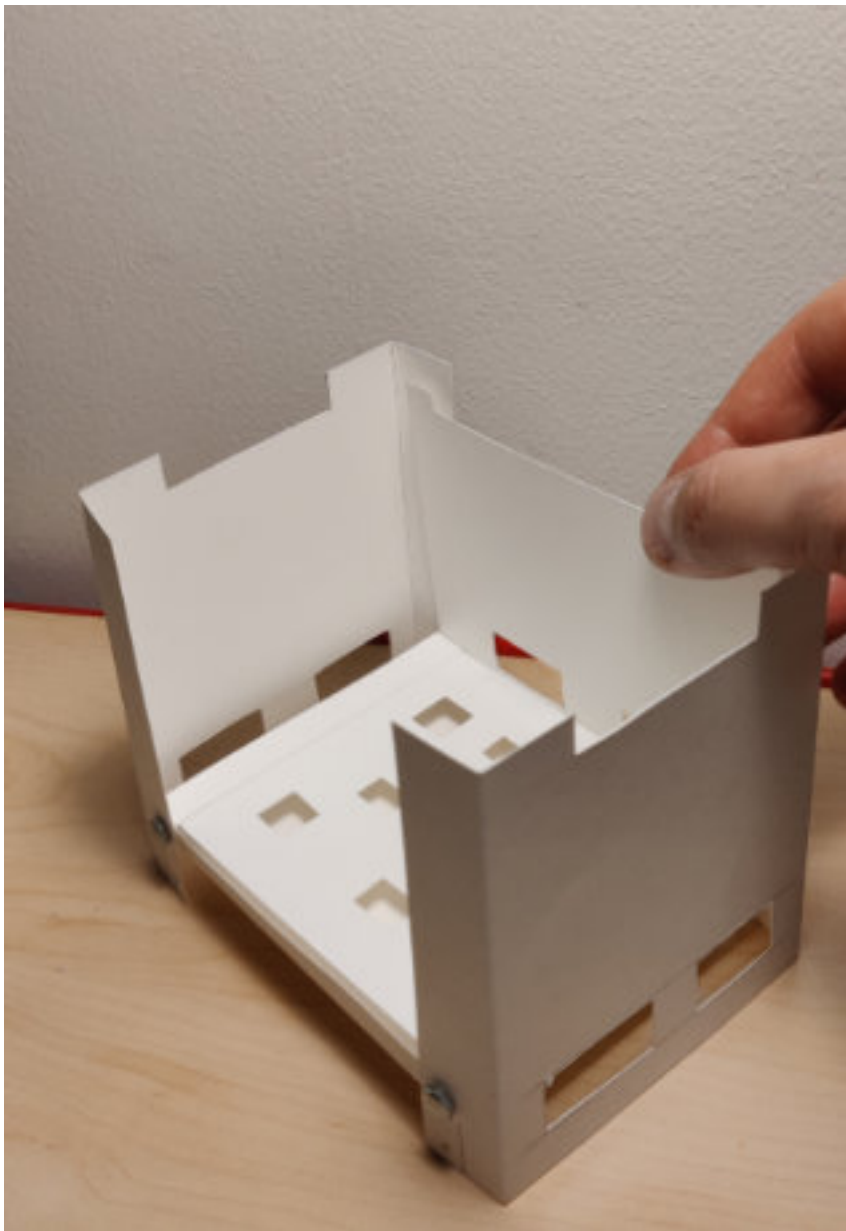
Group task – LAB Institute of Design

Group members:Aapo Heikkinen, Tuukka Niemelä, Sonja Pynnönen, Hanna Vilppula

My contribution: benchmarking, ideating, coming up with the final shape and mechanism.
Making mockups of the idea with cardboard, scissors, 2D vector drawings and laser cutter. Final tweaks, bends and assembly of the laser cut prototype.



Sketching and prototyping with paper and scissors. Then laser cutter and cardboard. Figuring out the dimensions and the basic idea of the mechanism.



3D-model by Hanna Vilppula

POCKET STOVE

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Main components are **laser cut** from 0,8 mm **stainless steel** sheet, machine bent and put together with four stainless steel pivot rivets and a steel wire "piano hinge" for the backside wall. Solid base under the grating adds fire safety.

Pocket-size: 143 x 90 x 20 mm /// Suitable for pots and pans with base diameter approximately 14-20 cm.





COURTYARD[®]

1-2/2024 - Service design project

BY MARRIOTT

Concept plan focusing on developing the hotel restaurant operations at Courtyard Tampere City

The goal was to create a development plan to ease the capacity problem of the hotel restaurant during peak hours. As a basis for the development plan, I utilized the existing preliminary plans available at the hotel. I further developed and modified the plan into a finalized proposal, which I presented to the client. The plan was crafted based on interviews conducted with the staff, observations of customers, utilizing some typical service design tools and visualizations made by different design tools and applications.



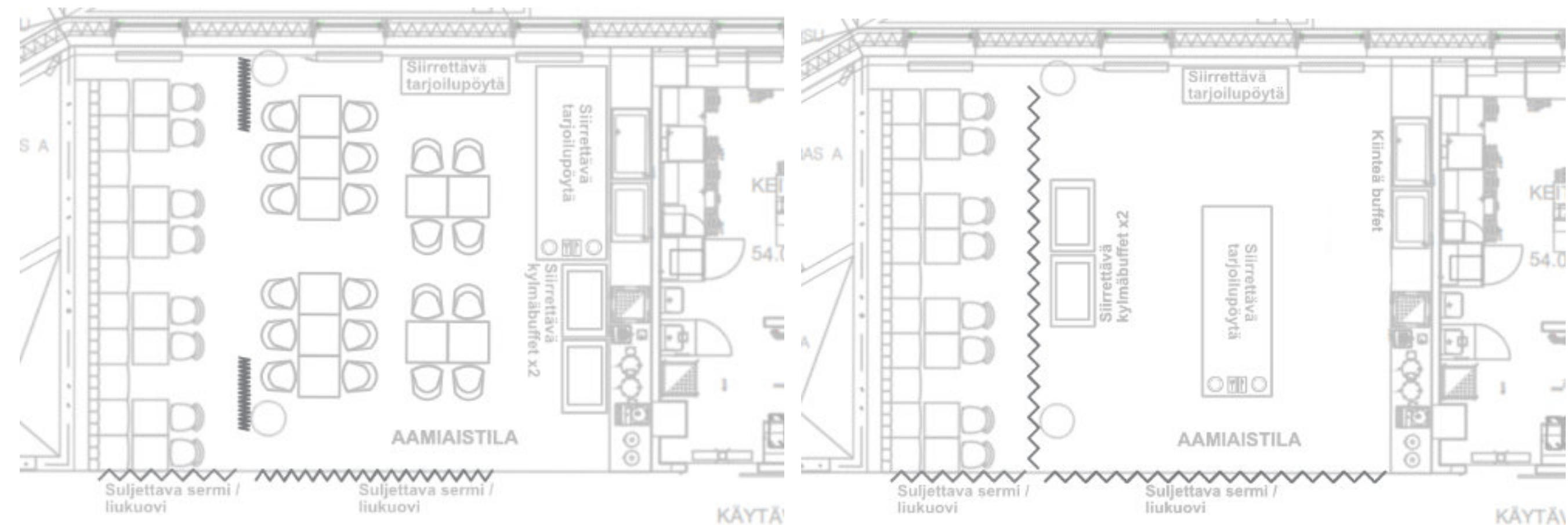
"Aapo understood the starting points of the assignment excellently and was able to delve into the key problem areas that were important to us, presenting logical, clear, and feasible solutions for them. The collaboration was effortless, and the communication was excellent. We are extremely satisfied with the end result."

-Ville Virkki, General Manager

Simple visualizations of a potential expansion for the restaurant. Proctate sketch on a photo, finalized with Vizcom AI.



Floor plans of a new flexible breakfast area to facilitate congestion during breakfast time and to enable a more versatile and efficient use of space.



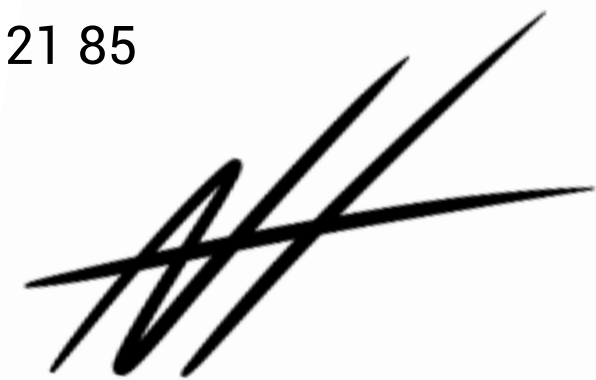
The remaining materials contain confidential information, and I am unable to showcase them in my portfolio.

THANK YOU!

CONTACT

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+358 44 328 21 85

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aapo', is positioned on a light gray rectangular background.