

DIY Concrete House Rings

by archi-ninja

What is the DIY Concrete House Ring?

The DIY Concrete House Ring is a high quality silver and concrete composite ring. Packaged as a DIY kit the ring transfers and shares the unique and rewarding process of making to rings owner. Part narrative, part architecture, part object, part jewelry, part process.

The DIY Concrete House Ring is sold with 14 components and comes with easy step-by-step instructions on how to prepare, cast and finish your ring.

Unlike the typical process of designing and making Jewelry the DIY Concrete House Ring is an evolution of process that stems from the construction industry. When developing the rings the most reward part was the making process and unlike other Jewelry you know how it goes together. Unique and innovative in its design and process the rings allow you to be its maker and by doing so allows the rings to take on a new narrative.

Development:

Since conception in 2012 the DIY Concrete House Ring has been a constant evolution of design, material technology and process. Throughout design and development the DIY Concrete House Ring has been made better with constant feedback from designers, builders, architects, material manufacturers, specialists, friends, family and the passer by who makes comment.

Design: The most important consideration when designing the ring was about capturing the notion of home in a single and recognisable symbol. The icon of the house enunciates to the memory of home, where families grow and contract, habitual routines are developed, and our notions of safety and placemaking are formed.

Since inception, hundreds of designs have been tested ensuring the final designs fit comfortably on the users finger. Each iteration has allowed for the refinement of the rings profile, size, weight, colour and texture.

Materials: Silver and a Concrete Composite come together in order to form the concrete house ring. The most important consideration when developing the materials was to ensure ongoing stability and durability. The high quality silver inner component comes in satin finish with rhodium plating. The silver is machine casted to ensure accuracy allowing it to fit perfectly within the

mould each time.

Similar to the working of rebar in building design, the silver component contains a system of internal rods to hold the concrete composite in place. The concrete composite has undergone hundreds of iterations to determine a unique ratio of cement, aggregate and epoxy resin. Each iteration has allowed for the development of a consistent, long lasting and viable ratio.

Process: The most important consideration when developing the process of the ring was to ensure ease of use.

The silver and casting modeling components were developed using complex 3D programs. The computer modelling has allowed me to bring together a number of specialist and typically separate trades.

What is the story?

The story began in 2012 when I made the decision to relocate from Sydney to Melbourne. Through the themes of scale, intimacy, meaning, memory and experience the DIY Concrete House Ring was instigated by a personal journey of change.

The ring seeks to reduce the **scale** of architecture into something more comprehensible and accessible for the user the complexity of the home is captured in a simple and recognisable image. The reduction of scale and use of symbolism seeks to heighten the users experience, interaction and understanding of the object. To bring the ring into focus allows the user to notice its intrinsic details, the imperfections of the concrete, its movement, colour, texture and weight.

The ring design draws on the notion of **intimacy**. It is connected directly not only to the body but to the hand, as a part of the body that constantly exchanges and engages with our surroundings. The ring can be twisted around the users finger, drawing on my own personal habit associated with stress. As I continue to do this with the concrete house ring it takes on a new poetry by an architect (in training) twiddling a house around their finger.

The concrete house ring reconsiders the notion of ownership not as a commodity but through personal authorship. Its **meaning** is connected to transforming my role as a recent architecture graduate. The concrete house ring is a productive and personal exploration of creativity that seeks to connect its narrative into that of the user.

The ring serves as a reminder of my recent relocation from Sydney to Melbourne. The symbolism of home represents the pursuit of change. The concrete house ring is connected to the **memory** of safety through place. While the user will have a unique memory and interpretation of home, I am reminded of home both in Sydney (the nostalgic past) and Melbourne (the future

and new opportunities).

Experience is by nature connected to narrative. The connected narrative of the ring seeks to evolve during the **experience** of its lifespan. The ring begins to take on its own story through the users pattern of everyday wear. The ring will begin to fade, crack and chip as it creates a dialogue about its use and misuse.

Why DIY?

The original story of the ring was heavily connected to the process of making and I wanted to hand this over to the user and by doing so allowing the user to create their own story. The beauty of this is that every ring will be unique in meaning but connected to the original and every other ring made through its process.

Personal Ownership: The DIY Concrete House Ring considers ownership not as a commodity but through personal ownership and the sense of gratification and pride possible when making. It is about sharing and an exchange of ideas between architect and user.

Process of Building:

It's the fun part:

Who is the DIY Concrete House Ring for?

Anyone who loves Jewelry or DIY. Anyone in the building/housing industry, Architects, designers, real estate, builders. Anyone who wants to connect with the concept or create their own narrative about home.

Recommended Retail Price?

\$150 AUS plus delivery

Design Options:

Soon Available in two designs

Colour Options:

Soon Available in light or dark concrete

Material Options:

Soon Available in Brick

Reuse:

Your mould can be reused to make other rings from different materials. My favourite use to create a replica crayon ring with an interesting juxtaposition between permanent and temporary. Involve your family, create gifts for other people.

The Originals:

The original rings contained a silver outer piece. While this particular design is not available for sale, I will create special one off pieces for my highest backers. Available in a range of colour options.