

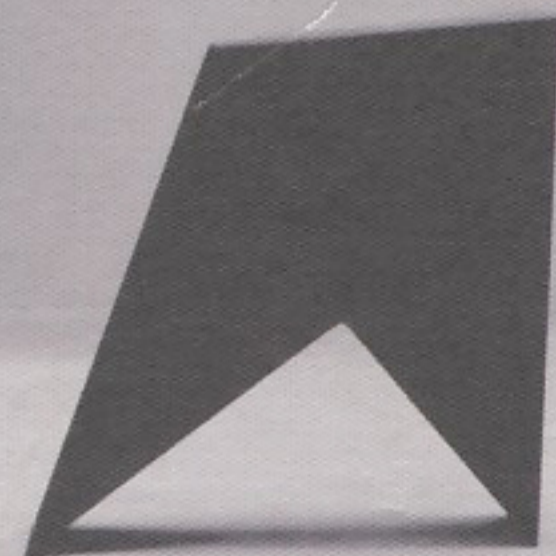
# CURATED

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# The Archive

*k&k architects*

*Design: k&k architects*

*Client: Carteco*

*Photography: Anastasia Adamaki*

*Site: Thessaloniki, Greece*

*Area: 21 sqm*

*Retail store*

In January 2008, k&k architects were commissioned by Carteco, a Greek company specializing in the retail of architectural materials, to design a creative working place for architects and designers, with a material's library. The space should reflect the company's devotion to architecture and design, as well as its wish to continuously support creative young minds. The Archive is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the use of a personalized entrance card. The Archive is located in a ground floor store in the center of Thessaloniki, Greece's second largest city. The possible expansion of the brand in other cities was a parameter taken into consideration from the beginning of the design process.

The architectural concept is the creation of a "shell" through the bending of a single flat pattern. The idea behind this synthesis is the creation of a space that resembles to an architectural model, the par excellence architectural design tool. The result is a folded surface whose folds form the necessary furniture, embody lights and create space for exhibiting materials.

White painted osb boards, mounted on a light metal structure, are used for the construction of the surface. The surrounding walls and the ceiling of the space are painted black allowing the structure to stand out more effectively. Two custom made "barcode" bookcases (inspired by the company's logo) were designed to accommodate catalogues from numerous companies that specialize in architectural materials. One of them also functions as a filter providing visual privacy from the busy street outside. The whole structure is placed within a small distance from the glass facade, making space for furniture display or periodical store-front exhibitions. A series of selected architectural events are presented on-site through the year, in order to constantly revive the interest of the Archive's creative members.

