



M A K I L A
N S I K A

THE WOOD RING EARRINGS
FROM THE PALMS COLLECTION

mknsika@gmail.com

+44 708764708

83a Downs park road, E5 8NP, London
United-Kingdom

PRESENTATION

The Wood Rings earrings is an improved element of the Palms Collection, created during the MA research project.

This collection introduced the palm nut as a valuable creative medium, celebrating its inherent versatility. The earrings are the result of simplifying the design to make it more market-adapted. It features a slice of the palm kernel, sanded to a fine finish while preserving its natural shape. This approach allows local artisans to prepare the element easily, even with limited tools. The engraving adds texture and visual interest, while the rhombus-shaped, recycled silver earring hooks link the piece to the collection's identity and reference ancient symbols. The hooks, which elevate the natural material, can also be commissioned in recycled or fair-trade 18ct gold. A variation in fully recycled silver may also be proposed.



CONTENT



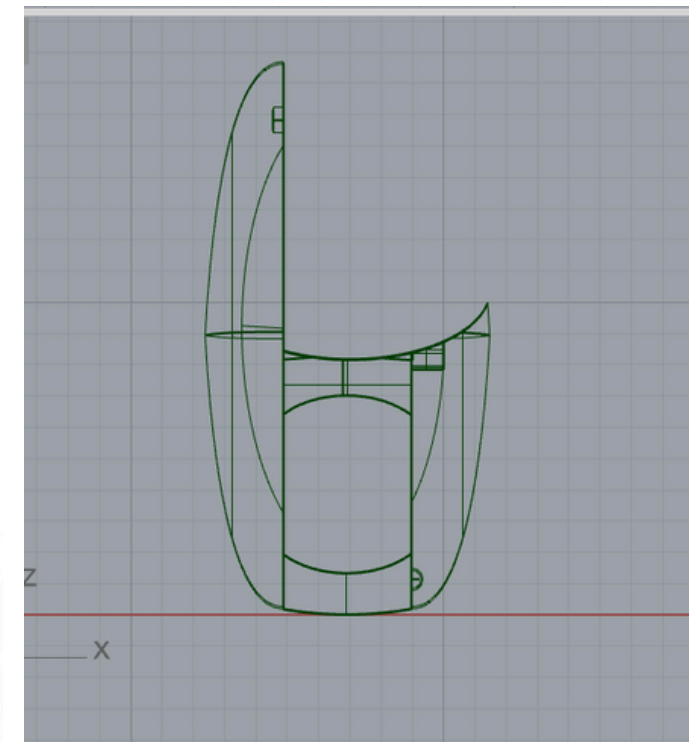
1- My material - p.4



2- Collaborating
with artisans
p.5



3- Research - p.6



4- technical
drawings
p.12

1 | MY MATERIALS

The Palm Nut is:

- A natural material with strong cultural root where I was born in Congo
- A local food waste. Reclaiming it is designing a new circular process.
- A non-timber product coming from small traditional farming near the forest. Proposing it to local wood artisan is offering alternative to the use of precious wood from endangered trees.
- The palm trees are grasses, not trees.

The sterling silver is recycled. The gold used for plating is usually recycled but not guaranteed. One company in UK can certify recycled or fairtraded plating gold for a minimum order of £500.

I finish the kernels by brushing them a mix of bea wax and seed oil such as castor oil.



2 | COLLABORATING LOCALLY

Working with artisans nearby the forest was essential to the project.

New tools were made from scratch to adapt the existing workshop to this new material and to the needs of the designs. The impact of the project was obvious as Prudence Letip started to incorporate the nuts in his normal practice and to propose his own creations in the local artisan market thus seriously considering replacing precious wood in his practice.

The local street restaurant increased its revenue when selling its waste to this new customer.



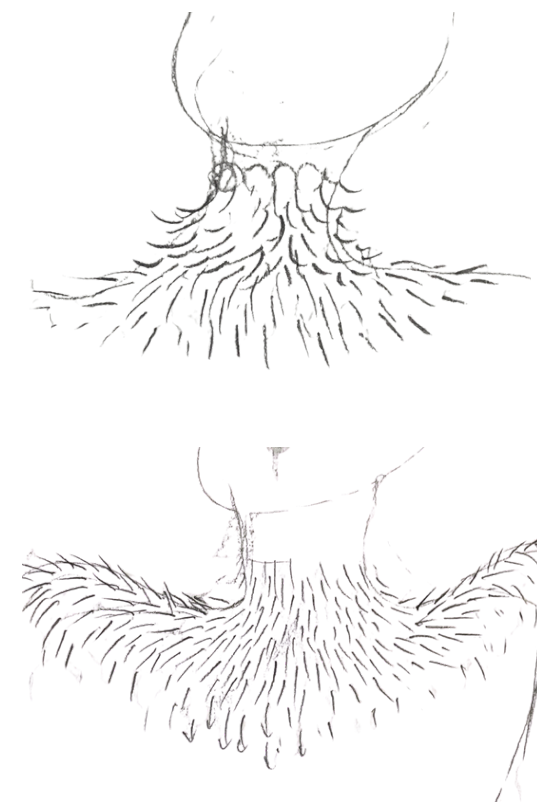
2 | RESEARCH

Palms is a jewellery collection that introduces, as a valuable creative medium the palm nut, celebrating its inherent versatility. The collection celebrates the dark woody beauty of the kernel and the wilderness of the forest, using recycled precious metals to elevate it to its true worth.

Each piece blends artisanship with cutting-edge technology and weaves together symbols from the modern west with those of the ancient Kongo kingdoms. AWARDS : LVMH Maison/o 2024; CSM Graduate Award 2024.



- Research, Design & Development of the collection:



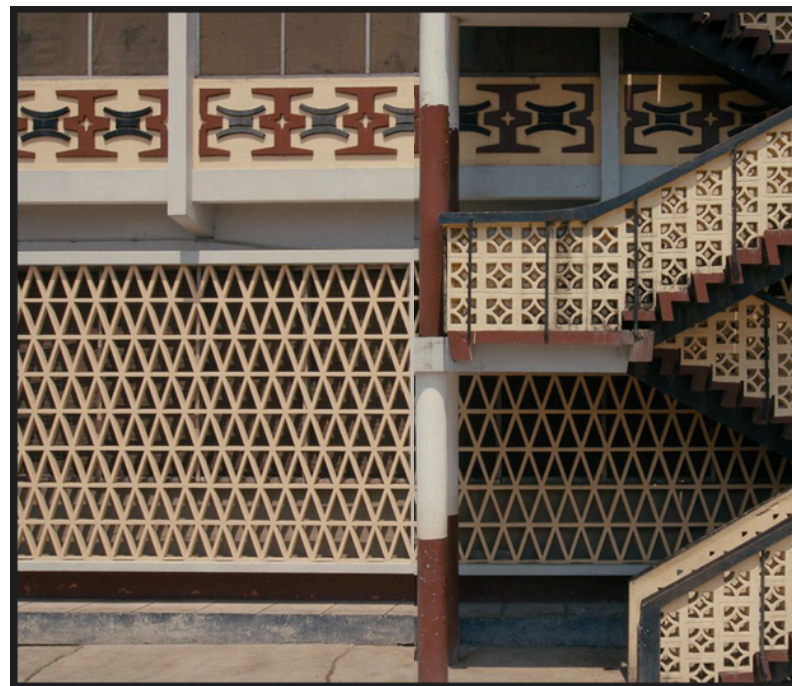
Model making with corks



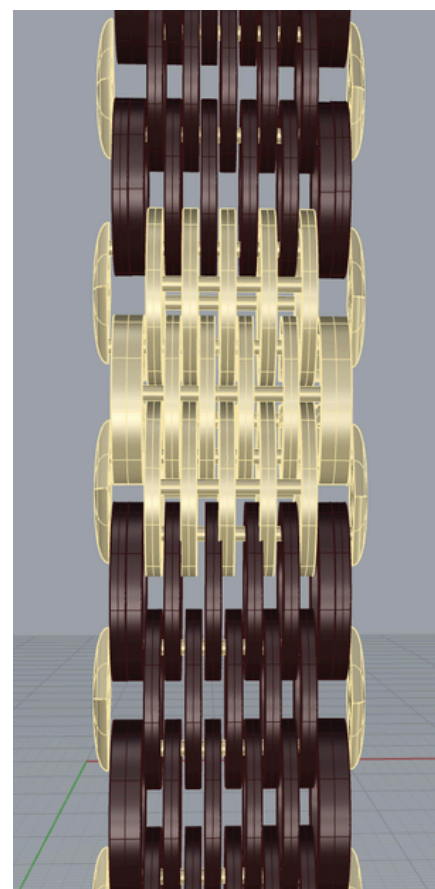
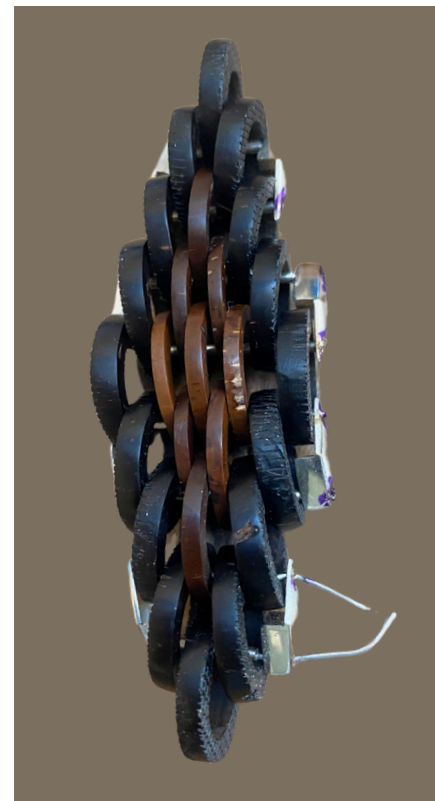
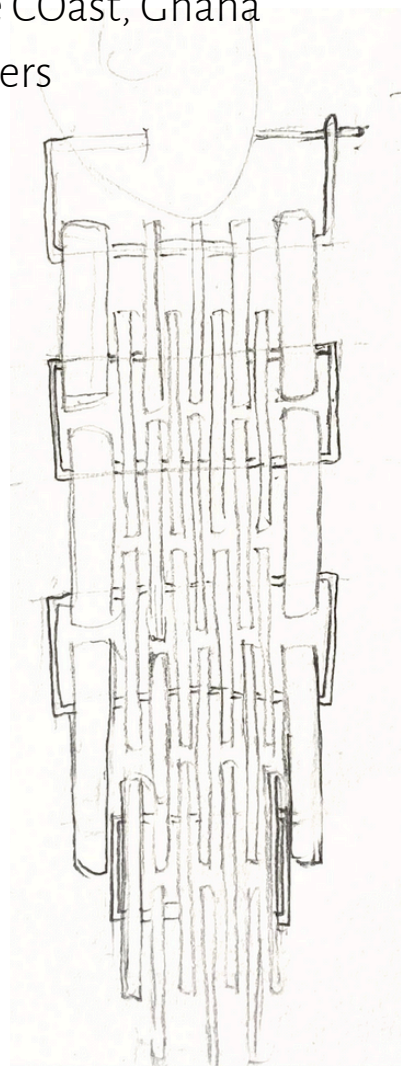
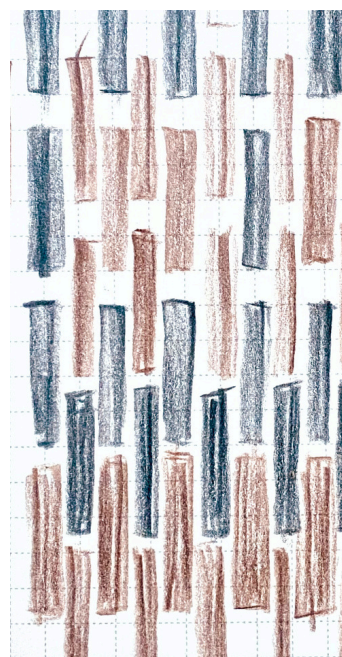
Moodboarding and ideation



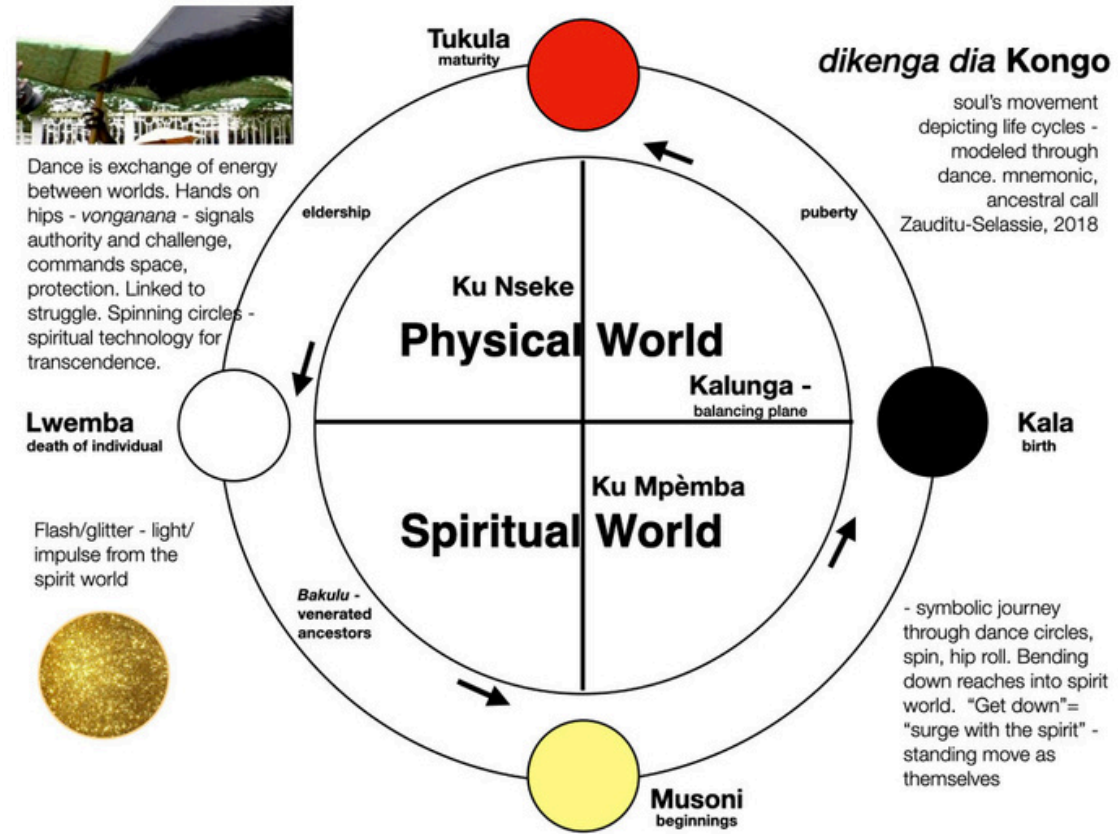
- Reflexion on Tropical Modernism



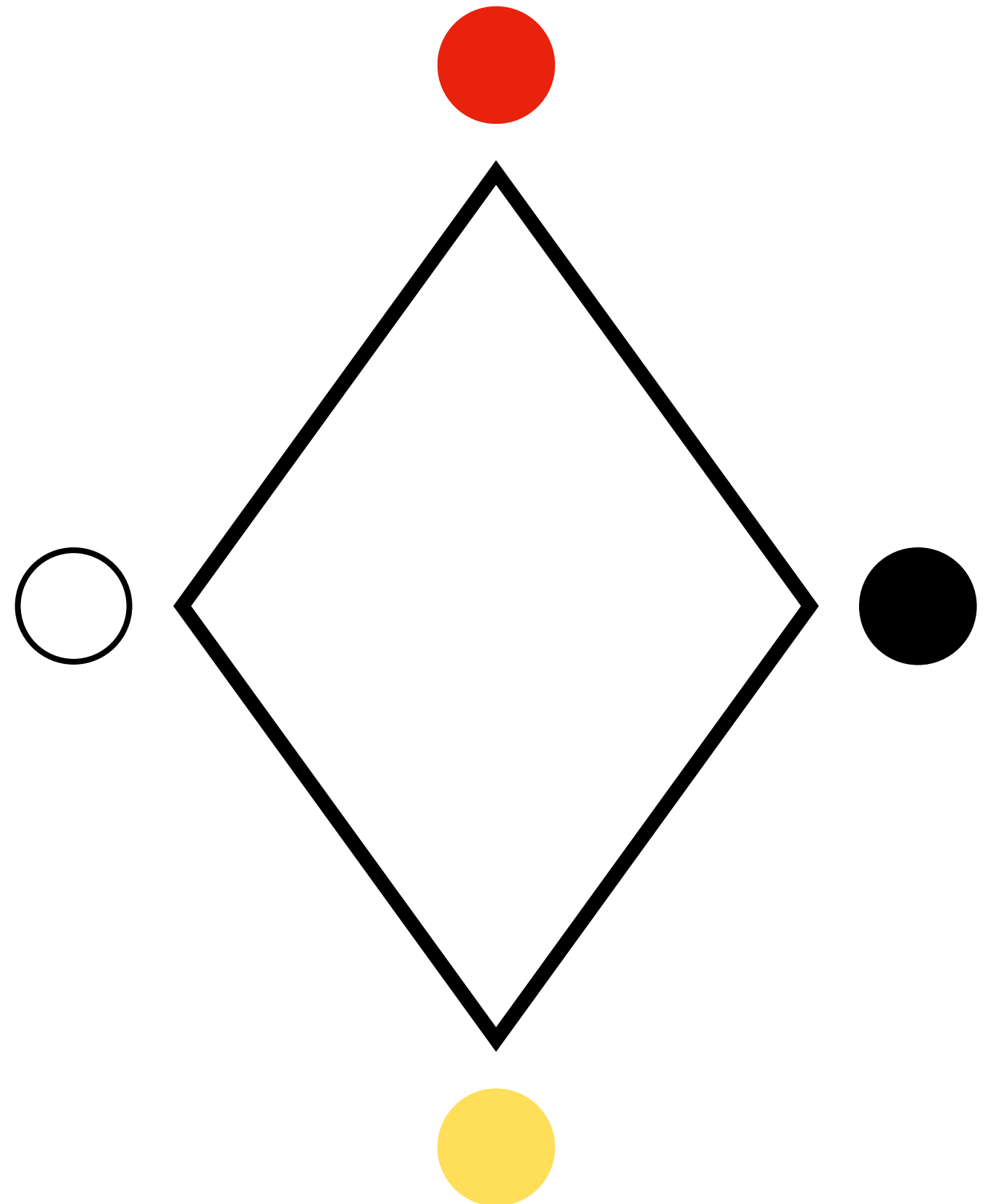
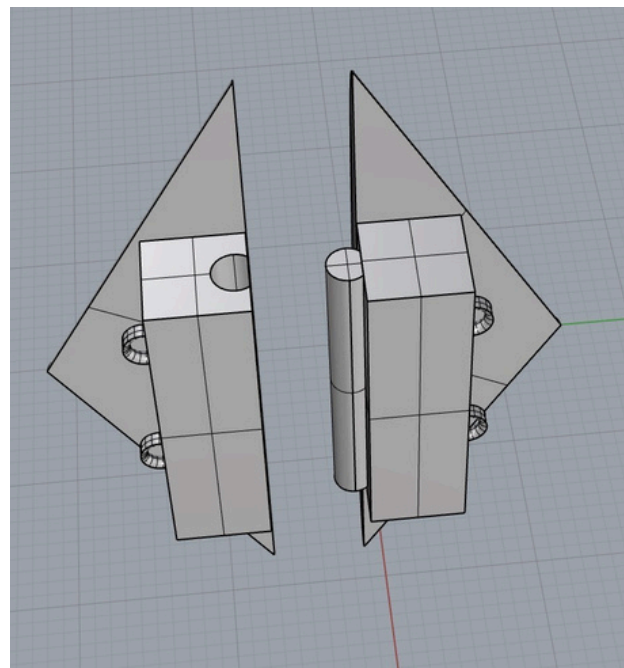
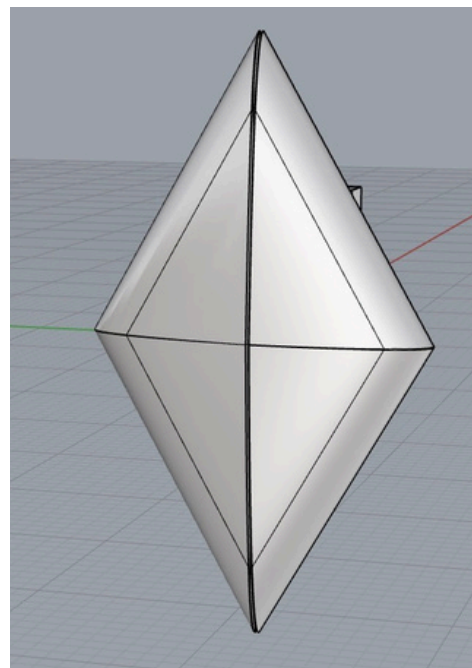
Mfantshipin School, Cape Coast, Ghana
(1958) Fry, Drew & partners



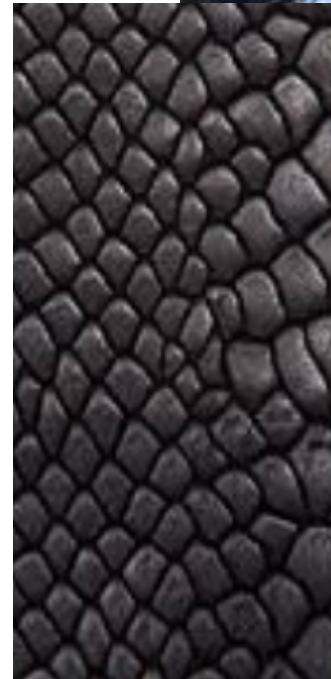
- Ancient Kongo symbolism



CAD drawings:



- Pattern research and Laser engraving

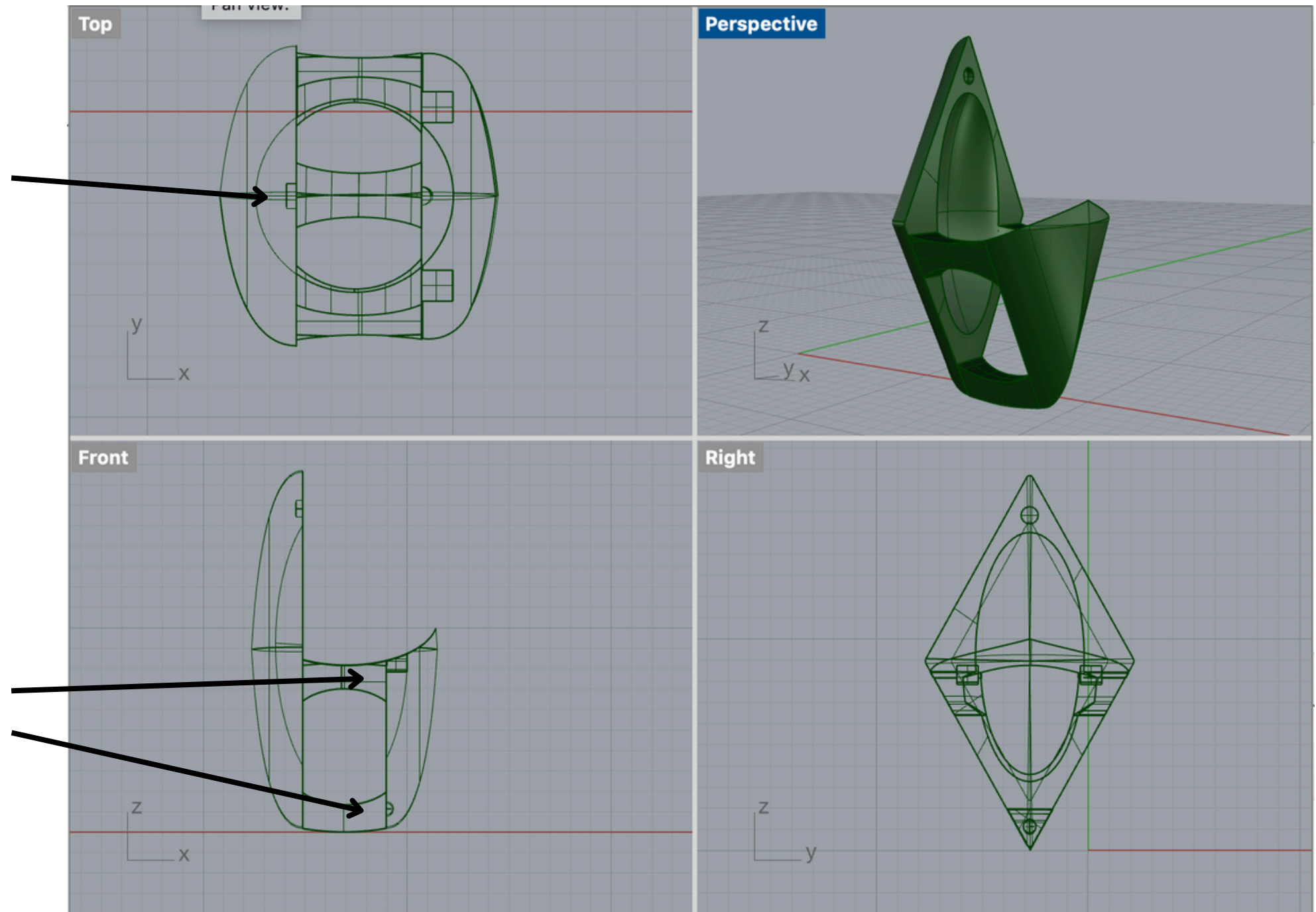


- Final Moodboard



3 | TECHNICAL DRAWINGS FOR THE EARRINGS HOOKS

Ear post position - 0.8mm diameter - to solder prior to adding the kernel slice



Joints to be laser welded after positioning the kernel slice inside

