



## (Fabric)ated

Instead of searching for a new form for the Troldekt material, I began by considering the material properties and processes involved in its manufacture. During the creation of a Troldekt product the timber wool becomes a structural web, caught delicately within the cement matrix. As in all composite materials, both parts have a role to play in the aesthetics and function of the panel. Taking inspiration from the flexural strength the wood fibre brings to the mix, I began to experiment with different methods of panel manufacture, exploring the natural properties of the hybrid material to develop a new aesthetic beyond that of the humble ceiling tile.

My proposal suggests forming ceiling panels or wall tiles using fabric as a flexible and reusable moulding surface. The form is generated by the interaction of gravity, the weight of the cement/wood mix, and the elasticity of the textile. The section generated represents the forces acting on the panel, and therefore it more readily carries its own weight, potentially allowing for larger spans with less material, especially if made using a two part mould.

Whilst the process itself is standardised, it is possible to have slight variation between each panel cast, as the form is dictated by the individual behaviour of the moulding equipment and mix. The textile surface allows excess water to weep out during curing, strengthening the panel. Complex and beautiful forms are possible from extremely simple moulds, made only from fabric and timber. These moulds can be adjusted within a run to form a variety of panels of a single size.

The panels inherit the fluid properties of the textile surface, creating undulations that are synonymous with acoustic performance, as well as a sculptural appearance. The described form is a protective yet delicate curtain, conceptually expressing the method of production to create a fine surface which is specified out of choice, rather than necessity.