ac Adam Christopher

Comtemporary Geometric
Planters in a Fibre
Strengthened Cast Concrete
Construction
By Adam Christopher

# About me

My name is Adam Christopher and over the past few years I have devoted my time and energy into creating a range of quality planters that offer something a little different to the mass produced shapes seen so frequently. I like to call them sculpture planters as I feel they bridge the gap between the function of a planter and the aesthetic form of a sculpture.

I started in a tent in my parents' garden back in 2011 after I stopped designing toys for LEGO in Denmark. It wasn't long before that tent blew away one snowy, windy winter's day whilst I was drinking a cup of tea and looking out of the window. It uprooted itself and made a bid for freedom, jumping the neighbours fence and laying in pieces on their lawn.

After that I went up in the world to acquire a shed as premises and went on to produce my own products before deciding to change the format of the business and sought out a production partner to work with. This started in late 2015 and throughout 2016 I worked closely with the chosen studio to bring to market my latest range of quality, cast, fibre concrete sculpture planters.

My first production facilities after they blew away in 2011

The upgrade to a shed after the demise of the tent

Me working to fill one of the early Kronen's using a fibreglass mould

Dad and I collecting a master of one of my early sculptures

An early concept model of Kronen

# Material Quality

I have always worked with fibre reinforced concrete because of its strong and durable properties and the ability to create shapes that are too fragile in clay. It also just so happens to be that concrete is a pretty cool material and the reason why it is used in so many applications is its versatility.

Concrete, unlike plastic or some composite materials, offers up natural charm like real stone. The process of casting the material entrains imperfections like bubbles or slightly different shades where a reaction has happened in a different way. This makes for a really interesting material to work with as each one is different from the next.

When researching materials, in particular concrete, what I found the most fascinating was a concept that has been used for centuries. The idea of adding 2 different materials together and both working in unison to offer the benefits each has and offsetting the weakness of the other.

Concrete is used in construction because it has simply amazing compressive strength properties. Put simply, you can't squash it very easily. However, because it is made from lots of granules its tensile strength is not so good. In other words you can't bend it without breaking it.

Fibre glass is the other part and that is also amazing! A sheet of glass is pretty fragile, as we all know, and this is because as it cools after manufacture many tiny invisible cracks form making weaknesses throughout the structure. When glass fibre is made these cracks never form in the fibre so you are left with an incredibly strong fibre with great tensile strength properties.

When you take these 2 and mix them together you get something magical: A material that can't be squashed very easily but also is held together like a fabric by the fibres.

## Frost

What causes frost damage is that the material absorbs water and then freezes. When water freezes it expands and this forces the material particles apart and over a period of time the material eventually gives up and separates from the rest of the product.

Whilst my planters will absorb some surface water, the fibres are added to combat the effects of frost. As I have already outlined the wonderful properties of fibre glass, the tensile strength in them is there to hold the material strong against the forces of frozen water. The same applies for when the contents of the pot freezes and expands putting repeated pressure on the walls of the pot.

## Weathering

Concrete is a naturally porous material and therefore takes on water and life. Much like natural stone the colour will change over time as the surfaces play host to nature. There are, however, a multitude of products available to keep this from happening.


## Grey Concrete

Grey concrete is the most commonly used and best know types. It produces and tonally variable warm grey that is contemporary and classic. What people love about grey concrete is that interesting differences in the material occur when casting and this gives it life. Bubbles and different shades make the material seem almost like a natural stone that is hard to replicate using other materials

## Rust Etched Concrete

The base concrete is dyed a brownish colour during casting first and then once cured a surface etch is applied. The rust forms a powder that is left on the surface and evolves over time, staining the concrete more as it washes away. Once the powder has disappeared you will still be left with a stained surface that looks just like rust and only acid or sand paper will get rid of it.

## White Concrete

White concrete is still concrete but being white it has a more tonally uniform finish. You still get the charming bubbles but less of the variation in tone so it offers a different feel. It looks very similar to lime stone in its appearance and its weathering characteristics as well.

# Colour Options

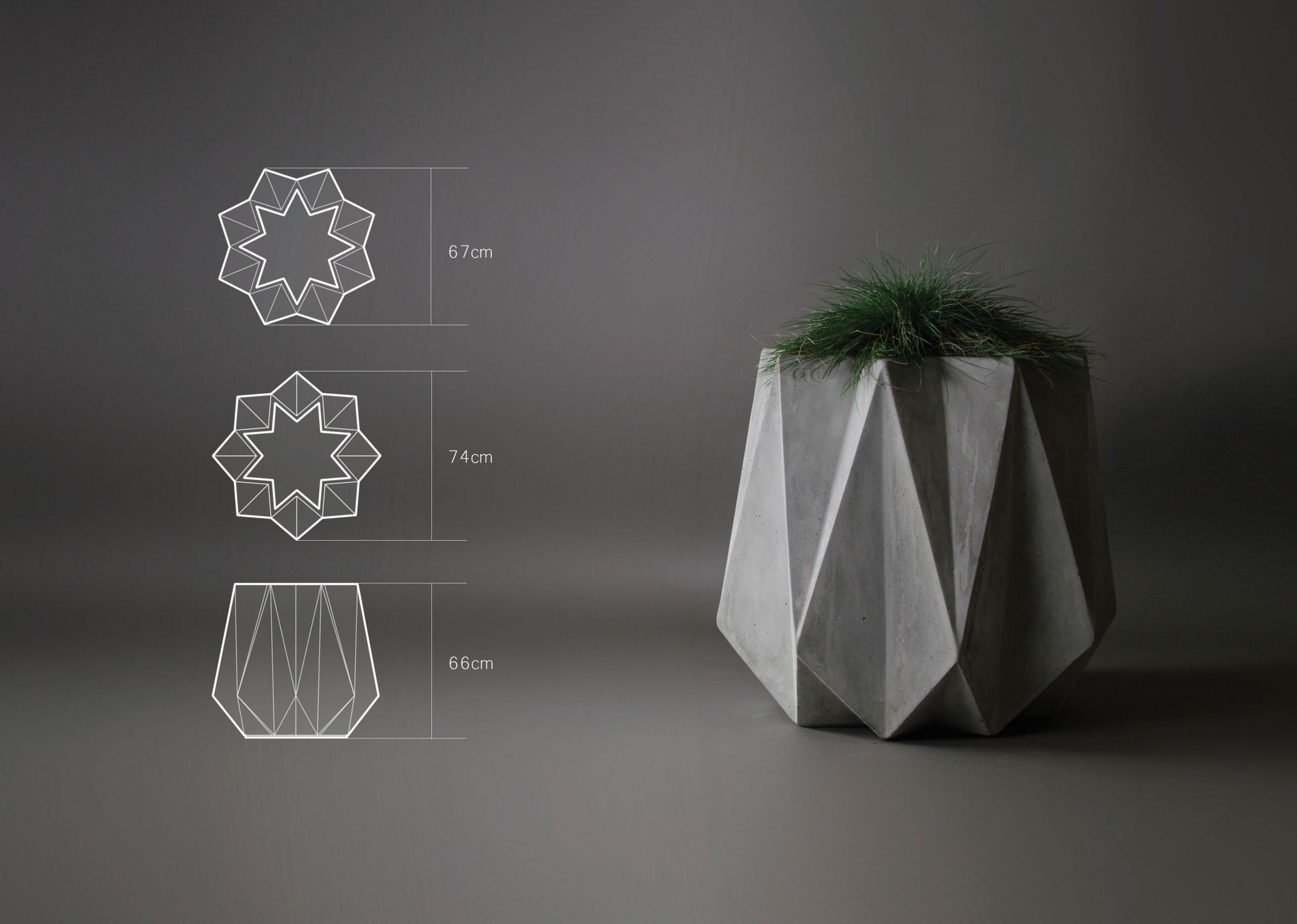
Grey

Rust

White

## Kronen 65

Kronen 65 has taken several forms going from a smaller pot to what you see now. The name Kronen comes from Danish meaning 'The Crown'. Kronen is a very sculptural form with its tapered top making it catch the light dramatically.

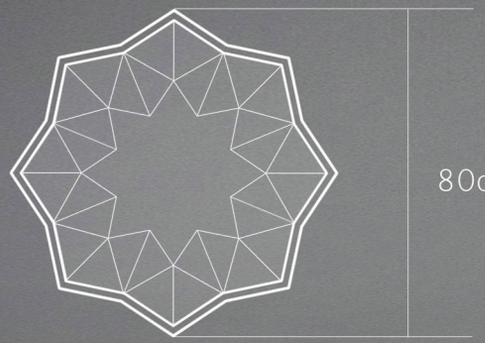

67cm
74cm
66cm

# Colour Options

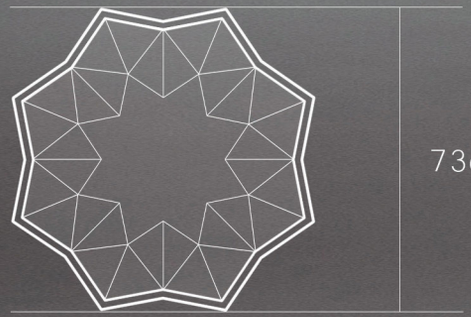
- Grey
- Rust
- White

## Prisme

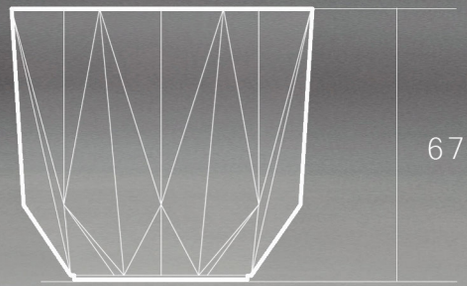
Prisme was an evolution of Kronen as in its original, origami, developmental fold it was exactly the same but with less of a pinched top. Now it offers a larger volume than Kronen but still in a striking and eye catching geometric form.



80cm



73cm



67cm

# Colour Options

Grey

Rust

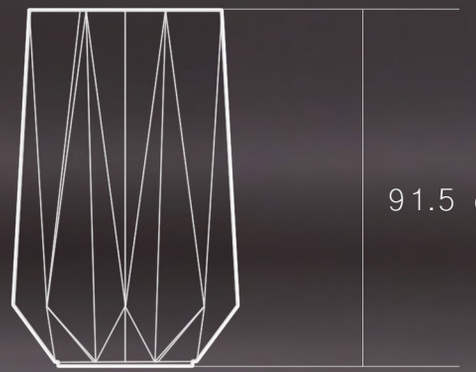
White

## Kronen 90

Like Kronen 65 and Prisme before, Kronen 90 utilizes the same fold pattern of an 8 point star. It was developed to offer a taller and more elegant planter to line doorways and openings and has the same dramatic angles as Kronen 65.

53cm

57cm



91.5 cm

# Colour Options

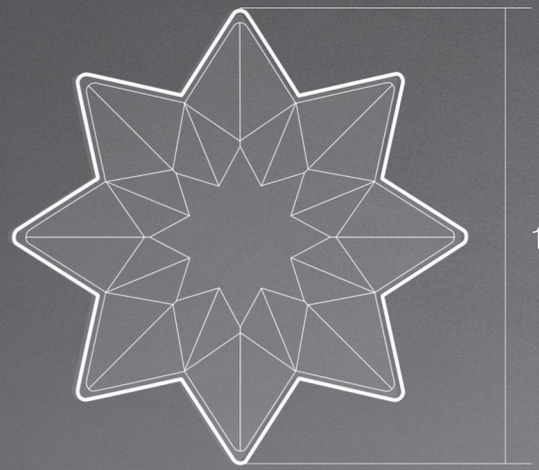
Grey

Rust

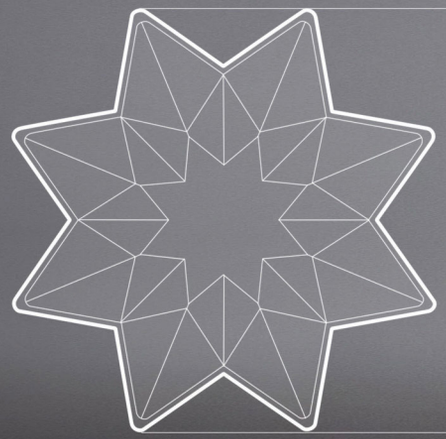
White

## Kronen Bowl

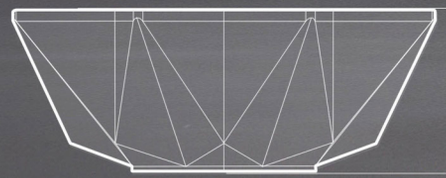
Kronen Bowl is where it all started and the fold to this was the basis for all the Kronen and Prisme range. The feature planter offers a low planting solution and focal point with a wide 8 point star allowing for some interesting possibilities in planting design.



102cm



95cm



36cm

# Colour Options

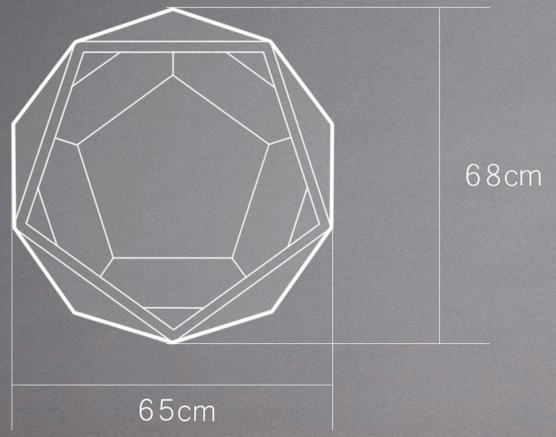
Grey

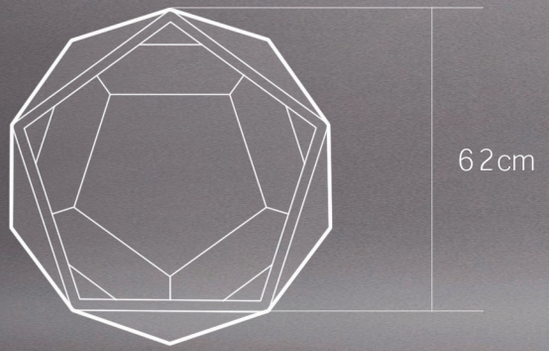
Rust

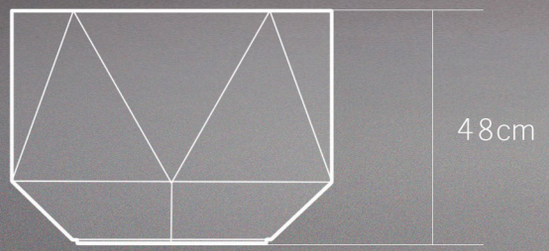
White

## Femkant

Femkant means pentagon in Danish or directly translated, 'five edge' and is formed from tessellating equilateral triangles with a flattened bottom for stability. It is the smallest planter I offer, yet still stylish and striking in its design it offers a low to medium height display.


68cm
65cm


62cm


48cm

# Contact

Adam Christopher Design Ltd
Faircross Way,
St Albans,
Herts,
AL1 4SD,
ENGLAND

Tel: 0044 7793 049 863
Info@adamchristopherdesign.co.uk