LAYERING SCRIPT — Peter Griffith

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Materials are like an ignition point for our work, it's where we start in our process of design. It leads us to make products better, to improve quality, build, and structural strength. When designing, we are pushing the boundaries of technology and product making.

Designing cell phones is in a way about understanding constraints. Tackling these often leads to the best design work. One of the most fundamental constraints for cellular devices is antenna performance. So, when we set out to find the best material to work with radio antennas, we turned to polycarbonate.

We take a familiar material and develop the skill to find richer ways of using it.

We strive to become masters of the materials we use, and continuously evolve this over successive generations of devices.

With the N9 and the Lumia 800, we pioneered the material innovation of inherent colour polycarbonate.

This means the material is the colour, rather than paint on top.

Our latest design work is focused on 'layering', a technique where we combine layers of clear and coloured resin.

This layering has evolved from a technique we have used before.

Like the 5130, made with an outer translucent layer that revealed an inner texture.

More recently, in the Lumia 620, we have advanced this idea by building layering into a monobody construction

This means the device is built from just 2 parts, the display screen and the continuous shell. Like the Asha 501

Now, we are introducing this combination of layers and monobody to the latest Asha family of devices.

Early on we started experimenting, first with lots of material samples; literally layering them up to see what would happen. Later, we extended the design studio into the production space, experimenting with machinery and playing with these ingredients, learning all the time as we went along.

What we found was that this transparency brings a lightness to the form and a vibrancy to the colour. The colour is sealed beneath an outer layer...

With this outer layer, we thickened the material at the corners, exaggerating the sensation of depth. These deep, glass like corners beautifully capture the coloured light inside.

This brings a new level of refinement to our colours as well as to our neutral tones

Designing a piece of technology goes far beyond utility...

We set out to make great mobile devices with the best antenna performance. Selecting the right material and learning its properties led us to find its own unique beauty. From there we craft products that people are drawn to and love to own.