A lawn is an oasis in the city - a surface that invites people to play, rest, talk and decompress. This invitation comes in a delicate balance of smoothness, flatness, softness and firmness. But this balance requires constant grooming. A lawn demands attention. It needs to be seeded, weeded, trimmed, raked, aerated and rolled.

Meanwhile, movable chairs pose a problem for a lawn: parking, scraping or polishing the smooth surface and dense root system. If this were not enough, chair mobility typically demands lightness, which in turn creates an invitation to theft and theft towards fragility for heavily used public furniture. The result of these challenges is that movable chairs in public space are often cheap, flimsy and replaceable.

We envisioned our movable chairs as long-lasting, well-loved iconic infrastructure. Something that would be part of the urban fabric for at least 100 years. A chair that could not walk away, be blown away or crushed by the use and abuse of the city - and easily maintained by park staff. This all required weight, time-tested materials and a contemporary design infused with generations of memory and experiences in the city.

Then we turned to the lawn and asked a question (inspired by Louis Kahn): “What does a lawn want? We heard: “To be smooth and firm, a lawn wants to be gently rolled!”

The Lawn Roller Chair embodies the paradox of mobility, permanence and grooming. Rather than fighting against any of these, it integrates flexibility, security, comfort and lasting.

To accomplish this integration what should this chair be made of? with so many materials available today? To be sustainable means to transparently choose the materials we have around us. We chose those for our chair that are present in New York City in vast amounts. Each tells a different story of American recycling.

Cast iron is a material that has been used for centuries to make long-lasting public infrastructure. It is also one of the easiest materials to “melt the balls” cultivate the conversion of church bells into cannons. We wondered: how many cast iron cannons or cannon balls it would take to make 300 chairs? The answer? About three, 5-inch diameter cannon balls per chair (900 in total) or eight average size cannons. Perhaps this could be a message for our children; that in a place named “The Battery” we recycled artillery to create an infrastructure for peace, friendship and contemplation.

And if not cannons or cannon balls there is an endless supply of cast iron radiators discarded from NYC’s historic buildings. There is no shortage of cast iron in NYC. To be sustainably and practically recycled.

We also found that every day New York City uses about 1 million aluminum cans. We wondered what we could do with one day’s worth, (3,333 lbs) of aluminum. Divided by 300 we derived the weight for our cast aluminum roller at 110 lbs each

Hurricane Sandy provided the material for the drums. With miles of devastated boardwalks there is an ample supply of the best possible reclaimed wood. We all know that wood cannot be cast as a material for sitting on. Reclaimed tropical hardwood is an incredibly durable material that will last for decades with no surface treatment.

**CAST IRON FRAMES - RECLAIMED CANNON BALLS**
- 3 frame “base” = 7 lbs of cast iron: 2 bases [1] chair = 15 lbs cast iron
- 1 3” cannonball = 14 lbs; 1 chair = 40 lbs = 3 cannonballs
- 3 cannonballs × 300 chairs = 900 total cannonballs
- [Alternative: cannonballs: 300 cannonballs = [8” cannonballs]]

**ALUMINUM ROLLERS - RECYCLED NYC CANS**
- One day in NYC = 1,000,000 cans = 3,000 lbs of aluminum
- 3,000 lbs ÷ 300 = 10 lbs per roller (3,333 cans per roller)
- Solid cast aluminum roller with origin info text & embedded RFID tag
- [Alternative: aluminum: concrete with recycled glass aggregate]

**WOOD SLATS - RECLAIMED TROPICAL HARDWOOD**
- Tropical hardwood boards reclaimed from hurricane damaged boardwalks
- [1] 14” reclaimed board = [4] 2” re-milled slats
- 1 chair requires (1) 24” = 1000 reclaimed planks for 300 chairs
- [Alternative: Brooklyn Bridge Promenade boards, NYC subway rail ties]

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