



Cube Design Museum to Display Sarco 3D-Printed Euthanasia Capsule

The Sarco euthanasia capsule is the brainchild of Australian Euthanasia activist, Dr Philip Nitschke & Dutch industrial designer, Alexander Bannink.

Printed at the MAAK 3D print precinct in Haarlem in the Netherlands, the aim of Sarco is to allow a rational adult the option of a reliable and peaceful elective death in an elegant and stylish environment.

The Sarco uses liquid nitrogen to rapidly lower the oxygen level within the capsule (in a manner similar to that when a plane depressurises at altitude). On activation from inside the capsule, there is a rapid drop in oxygen level, that results in a peaceful death within a few minutes.

The hypoxic environment created within Sarco also means that the death may even be euphoric. According to Dr Nitschke, Sarco has the potential to shift death from a miserable experience full of dread to an event of affirmation and confirmation of life.

The Sarco capsule is detachable and can be used as a coffin for burial or cremation. The mechanism within the base is infinitely reusable.

The brief to ABID Design (NL) was to create a beautiful design for a peaceful and dignified death: to dispel the 'yuk' factor of dying badly, in pain and indignity.

According to Alex Bannink, Sarco was 'created with forward movement lines to signify travel'. The in-built safeguards ensure that 'only those who want to get in, will get in' he said.

Speaking of the collaboration Dr Philip Nitschke says 'Alex Bannink took a rough concept and turned it into a beautiful design with practical application.

'The allure of Sarco is breath-taking. Its portability ensures that one's passing from this world to the next can be a moment of beauty while surrounded by beauty' he said.

An initial wooden model of Sarco was controversially unveiled at the Amsterdam Funeral Fair in early 2018. A second, fully 3D-printed Sarco is currently in production. Exit expects that Sarco 2.0 to be utilised by a seriously ill person in Switzerland in the first half of 2020.

The **Short film** on the concept, design & print of Sarco is at: <https://vimeo.com/333502917> The **Sarco** website is at: www.sarco.design

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