Mobius Strip

. . . an abstract sculpture in rare Strawberry Alabaster (Colorado)

by George Pratt

The Mobius Strip was developed as a result of research by Austrian physicist Ferdinand Mobius in 1858. A large body of study in trigonometry has since been developed by scholars, all exploiting the strange properties of this remarkable shape. To the mathematician, the Mobius is a source of eternal intrigue; to me as a sculptor, it has inspired the endless creative pursuit of stretching it into an infinite variety of shapes, hammered out of a profusion of stones—and every one more beautiful than the last.

A game for you: Put one twist in a strip of paper and then fetch the ends together and tape them: You now have a Mobius Strip. Put the tip of a pencil on any surface, then pull the the strip past the pencil until you eventually come back to the point where your pencil mark started; then cut the strip open again and—voila!—your mark appears on both sides of the paper, yet you haven't lifted the pencil. It is a proof that while the intact mobius appears to have two sides, it really has only one. It was this intriguing little parlor game that inspired the body of trigonometry around the mobius that exists today. (Look it up in Wikipedia; it's fascinating . . .)