

Specification**PROCESS FOR THE FORMATION OF
POLYHEDRAL OLIGOMERIC SILSESQUIOXANES****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This disclosure describes methods that enable the selective manipulation of the silicon-oxygen frameworks in polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane (POSS) cage molecules. It is desired to selectively manipulate the frameworks of POSS compounds because they are useful as chemical species that can be further converted or incorporated into a wide variety of chemical feed-stocks useful for the preparation of catalyst supports, monomers, polymers, and as solubilized forms of silica that can be used to replace fumed and precipitated silicas or in biological applications, and for surface modification. When incorporated into a polymeric material POSS can impart new and improved thermal, mechanical and physical properties to common polymeric materials.

A variety of POSS frameworks can be prepared in synthetically useful quantities via the hydrolytic condensation of alkyl- or aryl-trichlorosilanes. In most cases, however, hydrolytic condensation reactions of trifunctional organosilicon monomers afford complex polymeric resins and POSS molecules that are unsuitable for use in polymerization or grafting reactions because they do not possess the desired type or degree of reactive functionality. In light of the fact that many structurally well-defined silsesquioxane resins $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]$ and POSS molecules of the homoleptic formula $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_x$ (where R= includes but is not limited to aliphatic, aromatic, olefinic or alkoxy groups and $n = 4-14$) can be prepared in good to excellent yields from readily available organosilicon monomers, there are enormous incentives for developing a methodology capable of converting these POSS species into systems bearing functionalities that are more desirable for polymerization, grafting, catalysis, or compatibilization with common organic resins. Examples of such desirable functionalities include but are not limited to: silanes, silylhalides, silanols, silylamines, organohalides, alcohols, alkoxides, amines, cyanates, nitriles, olefins, epoxides, organoacids, esters, and strained olefins.

Prior art in the silsesquioxane field has taught processes for the chemical manipulation of the organic functionalities (substituents denoted by R) contained on the silicon oxygen frameworks of polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxanes. While these methods are highly useful for varying the organic functionality (substituents) contained on POSS molecules they are not always amenable to low-cost manufacturing nor do they offer the ability to selectively cleave and or manipulate the silicon-oxygen frameworks of such compounds. Thus, these methods are of no utility for transforming the multitude of readily available and low cost silane, silicate, polysilsesquioxane (aka T-resins or T-type siloxanes) or POSS systems.

Prior art has reported that bases (e.g., NaOH, KOH, etc.) could be used to both catalyze the polymerization of POSS into lightly networked resins or to convert selected polysilsesquioxane resins into homoleptic polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane structures. Marsmann et al have more recently shown that a variety of bases can be used to redistribute smaller homoleptic POSS cages into larger sized homoleptic cages. While there is precedent in the literature for treatment of silsesquioxanes and POSS systems with base, the previous art does not afford the selective manipulation of silicon-oxygen frameworks and the subsequent controlled production of POSS fragments, homoleptic POSS nanostructures, heteroleptic POSS nanostructures and functionalized heteroleptic POSS nanostructures. Furthermore, the prior art does not provide methods of producing POSS systems suitable for functionalization and subsequent polymerization or grafting reactions. This oversight in the prior art is reflective of the fact that the invention of POSS-based reagents, monomers and polymer technology has only recently been developed and consequently post-dates this prior art. Hence POSS compositions and processes relevant to the types of systems desired for POSS monomer/polymer technology were not envisioned in the prior art. Additionally the prior art does not demonstrate the action of bases on silane, silicate, or silsesquioxane feedstocks suitable for producing low-cost and high purity POSS systems.

In contrast to the prior art (Brown et al. and Marsmann et al.), the processes taught here specifically enable the development of lower cost, high purity POSS systems bearing functionalities useful as derivitizable chemical reagents and feedstocks.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention teaches three processes that enable the manipulation and development of POSS compounds from readily available and low-cost silicon containing feedstocks. Examples of these low cost feedstocks include but are not limited to: Polysilsesquioxanes $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$, homoleptic Polyhedral Oligomeric Silsesquioxanes (POSS) $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, functionalized homoleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, heteroleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, functionalized heteroleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, and polyhedral oligomeric silicates $[(\text{XSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, and POSS fragments $[(\text{RXSiO}_{1.5})_n]$.

DEFINITION OF FORMULA REPRESENTATIONS FOR POSS NANOSTRUCTURES:

For the purposes of explaining this invention's processes and chemical compositions the following definition for representations of nanostructural-cage formulas is made:

Polysilsesquioxanes are materials represented by the formula $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ where ∞ = degree of polymerization within the material and R = organic substituent (H, cyclic or linear aliphatic

or aromatic groups that may additionally contain reactive functionalities such as alcohols, esters, amines, ketones, olefins, ethers or halides). Polysilsesquioxanes may be either homoleptic or heteroleptic. Homoleptic systems contain only one type of R group while heteroleptic systems contain more than one type of R group.

POSS nanostructure compositions are represented by the formula:

$[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ for homoleptic compositions

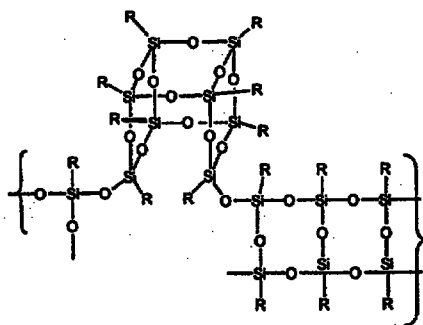
$[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ for heteroleptic compositions

$[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ for functionalized heteroleptic compositions

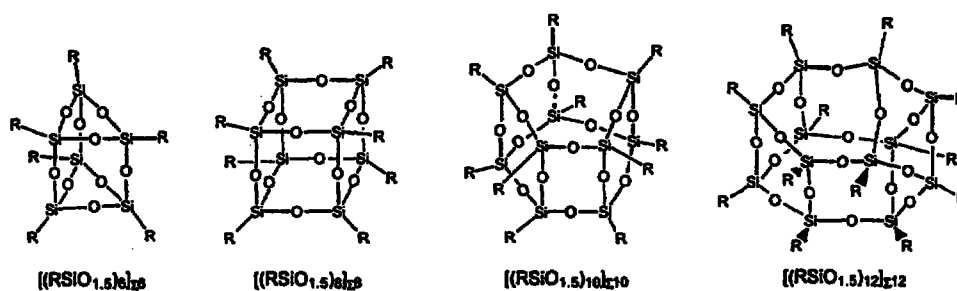
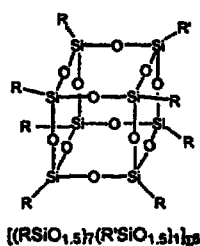
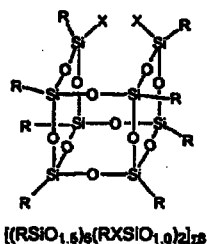
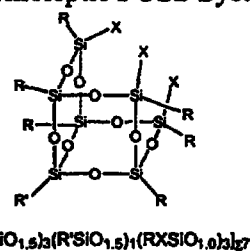
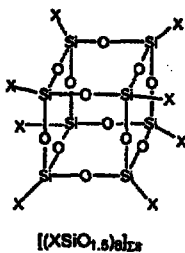
$[(\text{XSiO}_{1.5})]_{\Sigma\#}$ for homoleptic silicate compositions

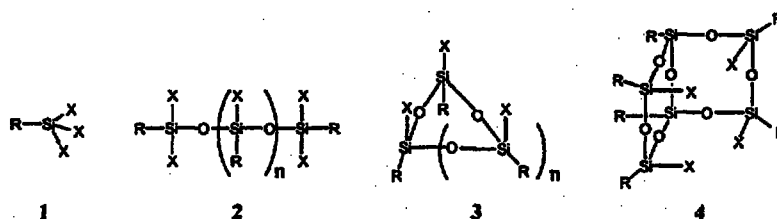
In all of the above R is the same as defined above and X includes but is not limited to OH, Cl, Br, I, alkoxide (OR), acetate (OOCR), peroxide (OOR), amine (NR_2), isocyanate (NCO), and R. The symbols m and n refer to the stoichiometry of the composition. The symbol Σ indicates that the composition forms a nanostructure and the symbol # refers to the number of silicon atoms contained within the nanostructure. The value for # is usually the sum of m+n. It should be noted that $\Sigma\#$ is not to be confused as a multiplier for determining stoichiometry, as it merely describes the overall nanostructural characteristics of the POSS system (aka cage size).

POSS Fragments are defined as structural subcomponents that can be assembled into POSS nanostructures and are represented by formula $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$. Note the symbols $\Sigma\#$ are absent as these fragments are not polyhedral nanostructures.



Example of Polysilsesquioxane Resins $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$

Examples of Homoleptic POSS Systems $[(RSiO_{1.5})]_{\Sigma\#}$ Example of a Heteroleptic POSS System $[(RSiO_{1.5})_m(R'SiO_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ Example of a Functionalized Homoleptic POSS System $[(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RXSiO_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ Example of a Functionalized Heteroleptic POSS System $[(RSiO_{1.5})_m(R'SiO_{1.5})_n(RXSiO_{1.0})_p]_{\Sigma\#}$ Example of a Polyhedral Oligomeric Silicate System $[(XSiO_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$



Fragment Examples: RSiX_3 (1), $[(\text{RXSiO}_{0.5})_n]$ (2), $[(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$ (3), $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$ (4)

Figure 1. Examples of Common Silsesquioxane, Silicate, POSS Nanostructures and Fragments.

GENERAL PROCESS VARIABLES APPLICABLE TO ALL PROCESSES

As is typical with chemical processes there are a number of variables that can be used to control the purity, selectivity, rate and mechanism of any process. Variables influencing the process for the conversion of polysilsesquioxanes $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ into POSS structures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_p]_{\Sigma\#}$ include but are not be limited to the following: chemical class of base, silicon-oxygen ring size, composition type $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ (silsesquioxane), $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n(\text{R}_2\text{SiO})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ (silsesquioxane-siloxane), $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{XSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ (silsesquioxane-silicate), effect of the organic substituents, process temperature, process solvent, process temperature, stoichiometry of base and the presence of a catalyst. Each of these variables is briefly discussed below.

Co-reagent Promoters

Specific chemical agents can be utilized to promote or enhance the effectiveness of the bases utilized in the processes. Specifically, nucleophilic base mixtures that work in combined fashion to firstly solubilize the silsesquioxane and secondly promote formation of the POSS nanostructure. Examples of such systems may include but are not limited to KOR where OR is an alkoxide, RMgX which include all common Grignard reagents, or alkali halides such as LiI , or any of a variety of molten or fused salt media. In a similar fashion co-bases such as $[\text{Me}_3\text{Sn}][\text{OH}]$ and $[\text{Me}_4\text{Sb}][\text{OH}]$ have been shown to promote chemical transformations of POSS systems yet have not been utilized as a co-reagent in the formation of POSS cages. Alternatively, electrophilic promoters such as zinc compounds, (i.e. ZnI_2 , ZnBr_2 , ZnCl_2 , ZnF_2 , etc.) aluminum compounds, (i.e. Al_2H_6 , LiAlH_4 , AlI_3 , AlBr_3 , AlCl_3 , AlF_3 , etc.) boron compounds including (i.e. $\text{RB}(\text{OH})_2$, BI_3 , BBr_3 , BCl_3 , BF_3 , etc.) which are known to play important roles in the solubilization and ring-opening

1 polymerization of cyclic silicones and in the ring-opening of polyhedral oligomeric
2 silsesquioxanes.

4 Chemical Bases

5 The purpose of the base is to cleave the silicon-oxygen-silicon (Si-O-Si) bonds in the
6 various silsesquioxane structures. The exact type of base, its hydration sphere, concentration,
7 and solvent interactions all play important roles in the effectiveness of the base for cleaving
8 the silicon-oxygen bonds. Proper understanding and control of conditions enable the
9 selective cleavage and/or assembly of silsesquioxane, silicate, POSS, and POSS fragment
10 systems in the desired manner. The base can also assist in the assembly of POSS fragments.

11 There are a wide range of bases that can be used in the processes and these include but
12 are not limited to: hydroxide $[\text{OH}]^-$, organic alkoxides $[\text{RO}]^-$, carboxylates $[\text{RCOO}]^-$, amides
13 $[\text{RNH}]^-$, carboxamides $[\text{RC(O)NR}]^-$, carbanions $[\text{R}]^-$, carbonate $[\text{CO}_3]^{2-}$, sulfate $[\text{SO}_4]^{2-}$,
14 phosphate $[\text{PO}_4]^{3-}$, biphosphate $[\text{HPO}_4]^{2-}$, phosphorus ylides $[\text{R}_4\text{P}]^-$, nitrate $[\text{NO}_3]^-$, borate
15 $[\text{B(OH)}_4]^-$, cyanate $[\text{OCN}]^-$, fluoride $[\text{F}]^-$, hypochlorite $[\text{OCl}]^-$, silicate $[\text{SiO}_4]^{4-}$, stannate
16 $[\text{SnO}_4]^{4-}$ basic metal oxides (e.g. Al_2O_3 , CaO , ZnO etc.), amines R_3N and amine oxides R_3NO ,
17 and organometallics (e.g. RLi , R_2Zn , R_2Mg , RMgX etc.). Furthermore, the processes taught
18 here are not limited to the above-mentioned bases; rather any reagent can be employed which
19 produces a pH spanning the range from 7.1 to 14.

20 Alternatively mixtures of bases may also be utilized to carryout the process. One
21 advantage of such an approach is that each of the bases in a given mixture can serve different
22 functions. For example in a mixed base system one base can be used to cleave silicon-
23 oxygen bonds or silicon-X bonds while a second base is used to assemble the POSS structure.
24 Thus synergies can exist amongst several types of bases and these can be utilized to the
25 advantage and refinement of these processes.

26 Silicon-oxygen Ring Size, Ring Type and Cage sizes

28 The processes discussed in this disclosure are not limited to the formation of specific
29 sizes of POSS cages (i.e. Σ in $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma}$). Similarly the processes should not be limited
30 to specific types of silsesquioxanes (i.e. resins, cages or fragments). They can be carried out
31 to manufacture POSS cages containing four to eighteen or more silicon atoms in the silicon-
32 oxygen framework. It has been noted that the silicon-oxygen ring size contained within such
33 POSS systems does however affect the rate at which cage silicon-oxygen ring opening can
34 occur. For example rings containing three silicon atoms and three oxygen atoms as in
35 Formula 1 appear to open faster than the larger rings containing 4 silicon atoms and 4 oxygen
36 atoms. The relative rate for the opening of POSS silicon-oxygen rings appears to be six
37 member rings with three silicon atoms > eight member rings with four silicon atoms > ten
38 member rings with five silicon atoms > twelve member rings with six silicon atoms. Selective

ring opening processes therefore can be controlled through the use of the appropriate base and knowledge of this information allows the user of these processes to control selective formation of POSS molecules.

Effect of the Organic Substituent, Process Solvents and Process Temperatures

The processes described in this disclosure are not limited to POSS systems bearing specific organic groups (defined as R) attached to the silicon atom of the silicon-oxygen ring systems. They are amenable to silsesquioxane feedstocks bearing a wide variety of organic groups (R = as previously defined) and functionalities (X= as previously defined). The organic substituent R does have a large effect on the solubility of both the final product and the starting POSS material. Therefore, it is envisioned that the different solubilities of the starting silsesquioxanes and POSS products can be used to facilitate the separation and purification of the final reaction products. We currently find no limitation of the process with respect to the type of solvent used and the processes have been carried out in common solvents including but not limited to ketones, ethers, dimethylsulfoxide, CCl₄, CHCl₃, CH₂Cl₂, fluorinated solvents, aromatics (halogenated and nonhalogenated), aliphatic (halogenated and nonhalogenated). Other processes can be carried out in supercritical fluids including but not limited to CO₂, H₂O, and propane. The variables of solvent type, POSS concentration, and process temperature should be utilized in the standard way to match the specific cage opening process to the equipment available. Preferred solvents for the processes are THF, MIK, and toluene. In many cases the solvent is an integral component of the process, which enables the base to act on the specific silsesquioxane system, hence solvent effects greatly influence the degree of ionization of the base used in these processes.

Process I: Formation of POSS Systems from Polymeric Silsesquioxanes.

The current methods of preparing POSS molecules from the acid catalyzed condensation of alkyltrichlorosilanes (RSiCl₃) is inefficient in that it produces mixtures of POSS cage species homoleptic (POSS) [(RSiO_{1.5})_n]_z, functionalized homoleptic POSS [(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RXSiO_{1.0})_n]_z, heteroleptic POSS [(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RSiO_{1.5})_n]_z, functionalized heteroleptic POSS [(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RXSiO_{1.0})_n]_z and polymeric silsesquioxanes [RSiO_{1.5}]_∞. In some cases the undesired polymeric silsesquioxanes are produced in as much as 75% yield. It is therefore advantageous to develop a process that can efficiently convert [RSiO_{1.5}]_∞ into desirable POSS nanostructures or into POSS fragments [(RXSiO_{1.5})_n]. Such a process will serve to not only reduce the amounts of hazardous waste produced in such reactions but will also reduce the production costs for POSS systems.

The process developed utilize bases (as defined previously), in particular hydroxide bases (e.g. sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, lithium hydroxide,

1 benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide, tetramethyl ammonium hydroxide etc) to convert
 2 polymeric silsesquioxanes $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ into homoleptic (POSS) $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, functionalized
 3 homoleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, heteroleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{R}'\text{SiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$,
 4 and functionalized heteroleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{R}'\text{XSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$.

5 In the current process polymeric silsesquioxane $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ is dissolved or suspended
 6 in a technical grade solvent such as acetone or methylisobutyl ketone, and subsequent
 7 addition of an aqueous or alcoholic solution of base is carried out with stirring. Sufficient
 8 base should be added to the reaction mixture so as to produce a basic solution (pH 7.1-14).
 9 The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature for 3 hours followed by heating to reflux
 10 for an additional 3-12 hours. During this time the desired POSS cages generally precipitate
 11 from the reaction medium due to their insolubility in the reaction medium. This precipitation
 12 aids in the isolation of the desired products and ensures that the products (such as the
 13 functionalized POSS species) do not undergo further reaction. In some cases it is desirable to
 14 reduce the volume of solvent by distillation or by reduced pressure in order to increase
 15 product yields or to isolate soluble POSS products. The desired POSS product is collected by
 16 filtration or decantation and can be purified through exhaustive washing with water.

17 We have found that hydroxide $[\text{OH}]^-$ bases are highly effective at concentrations of 1-
 18 10 equivalents (the preferred range is 2-5 equivalents per silicon atom) per mole of silicon for
 19 the conversion of aliphatic and aromatic polysilsesquioxanes $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ into homoleptic
 20 (POSS) $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, functionalized homoleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$,
 21 heteroleptic POSS $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{R}'\text{SiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$, and functionalized heteroleptic POSS
 22 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{R}'\text{XSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$. Hydroxyl-bases are particularly effective for producing
 23 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$ POSS species. We have found that milder bases such as acetate
 24 and carbonate are more effective at converting $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ systems bearing vinyl or allyl
 25 groups. It is also recognized that the use of other co-reagents may be used to promote the
 26 formation of POSS species from this process.

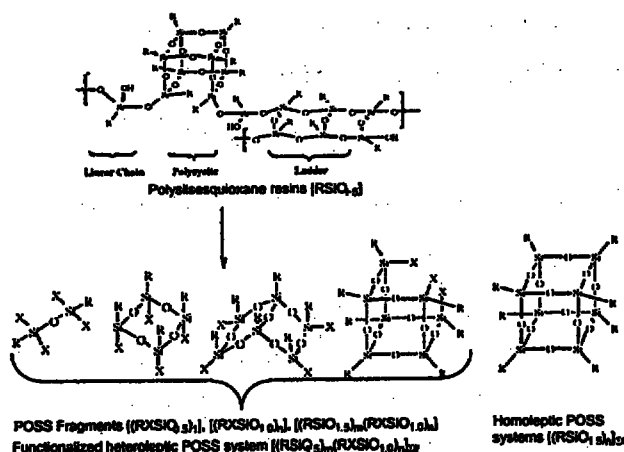


Figure 2. Illustration of Process I where polymeric silsesquioxane resins are converted into POSS fragments and nanostructures.

For the above reaction scheme the polymeric silsesquioxane resin is converted into either POSS fragments or nanostructured POSS cage species depending on the type of base and conditions employed. The conversion of polysilsesquioxanes $[\text{RSiO}_{1.5}]_n$ to POSS-species (homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma}$, functionalized homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma}$, heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma}$ and functionalized heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma}$) or into POSS-fragments $[(\text{RXSiO}_{1.5})_n]$ can be selectively controlled through manipulation of the process variables discussed above. The process can be conducted using a polysilsesquioxane resin which may contain only one type of R group to produce homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma}$ products. Alternatively the process can be carried out using polysilsesquioxane resins containing more than one type of R group or with mixtures of polysilsesquioxanes in which each contains different R groups to afford heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma}$ products. For the above reaction scheme in which mixtures of homoleptic POSS cages (i.e. R of one POSS cage $\neq$ R of the second POSS cage) are substituted for the polysilsesquioxane resin the process effectively converts mixtures of homoleptically substituted POSS cages into heteroleptic POSS cages (functionalized and nonfunctionalized) that contain statistical distributions of different R groups per cage. In most cases the POSS fragments and various homo or heteroleptic nanostructured POSS species can be separated from one another through crystallization, or extractions by utilizing the differences in solubility between the reaction products and the starting silsesquioxane.

The purpose of the base in this process is to cleave silicon-oxygen bonds in the starting silsesquioxane and thereby allow for, as well as aid in the rearrangement and formation of the various POSS fragments, homoleptic and heteroleptic species. The strength of the base and the base-solvent-silsesquioxane interaction are critical factors, which enable

control over the type of products formed in these reactions. For example, increasing the basicity of the medium affords the production of POSS fragments while less basic conditions coupled with exclusion of water promote the formation of nonfunctionalized POSS species. Formation of functionalized POSS systems are favored by carrying out the process at an intermediate pH with scarce amounts of water for shorter periods of time.

Process II: Reactions between POSS Systems and Silsesquioxane/Siloxane Fragments.

The process developed utilized bases (as defined previously) to convert fragments and functionalized POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ into alternate functionalized POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$. In the process a POSS fragment is dissolved or suspended in acetone, benzene or alcoholic solvents after which a solution of base is added with stirring. In general the reaction conditions employed in this process are milder than those used in Process I and can utilize both hydroxide and nonhydroxide bases, while the molar ratio of base relative to silicon is 1:10 (with 1:1 or 1:2 ratio being preferred).

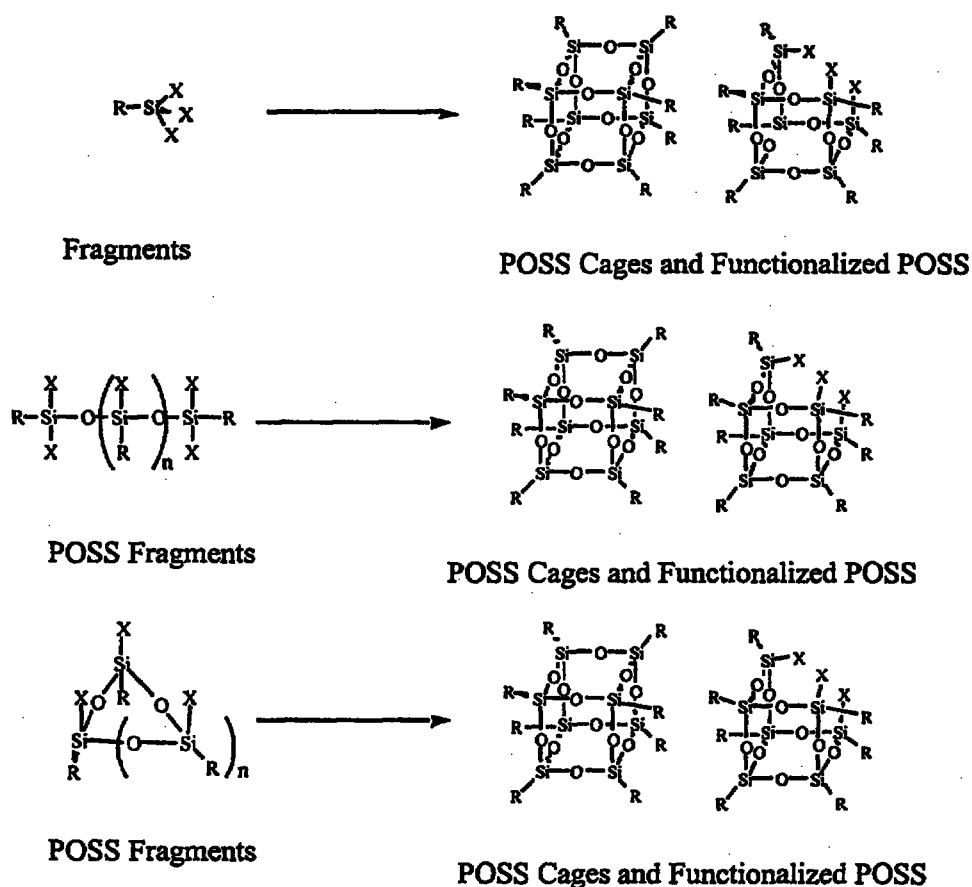


Figure 3. POSS Fragments converted into POSS cages.

1 The purpose of the base in this process is to cleave silicon-oxygen bonds in the
 2 starting POSS fragments. The base may also aid in the assembly of POSS structures from the
 3 fragments. A number of different bases (as defined previously) can be used to convert POSS
 4 fragments into POSS compounds. The net reaction results in the assembly of POSS
 5 fragments into POSS nanostructures, having either homoleptic or heteroleptic composition.
 6 Additionally, the resulting POSS cages may contain functional groups (i.e.
 7 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$).

8 When mixtures of POSS fragments are utilized they are incorporated statistically into
 9 the POSS structure and their final composition is based on the stoichiometry of the starting
 10 POSS fragments. In some cases the statistical degree of substitution between these groups is
 11 governed by isomorphism resulting from the nearly identical topological shape of the R group
 12 (e.g. vinyl and ethyl). Isomorphic governance is often observed for closely related R groups
 13 (e.g. allyl and propyl etc.) however, on occasion the trend is not followed due to other factors
 14 such as rate of reaction, reagent addition, or solubility between the various POSS fragments
 15 and products. For example the reaction of 1 equivalent of EthylundecanoateSi(OMe)₃ or
 16 VinylSi(OMe)₃ with 7 equivalents of MeSi(OMe)₃ results in a molecule of formula 2 of the
 17 composition $[(\text{ViSiO}_{1.5})_1(\text{MeSiO}_{1.5})_7]_{\Sigma 8}$ or $[(\text{EthylundecanoateSiO}_{1.5})_1(\text{MeSiO}_{1.5})_7]_{\Sigma 8}$, despite
 18 the topological dissimilarity between the R groups.

19 In many cases the desired homo or heteroleptic nanostructured POSS species can be
 20 separated from one another via crystallization, extraction or by utilizing differences in the
 21 solubilities of the products and the starting POSS fragments.

22 An extension of this process is the action of base on functionalized POSS
 23 nanonanostructures (i.e. $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$). It should be noted that these systems are
 24 chemically similar to a POSS fragments in terms of their chemical composition. They are
 25 different however in their topology and physical properties such as melting point, solubility
 26 and volatility.

27 Figure 4 illustrates actual reactions that use the conditions described in Process II as
 28 proof that the bases and conditions described in Process II are effective for the conversion of
 29 functionalized POSS cages (i.e. $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma n}$) desired POSS structures. It
 30 should also be noted that in most cases these process results in an increase in the number of
 31 functionalities (X) on a POSS nanostructure while at the same time maintaining the original
 32 number of silicon atoms contained within the starting nanostructural framework. This can be
 33 desirable for a variety of subsequent synthetic product manipulations and derivations.

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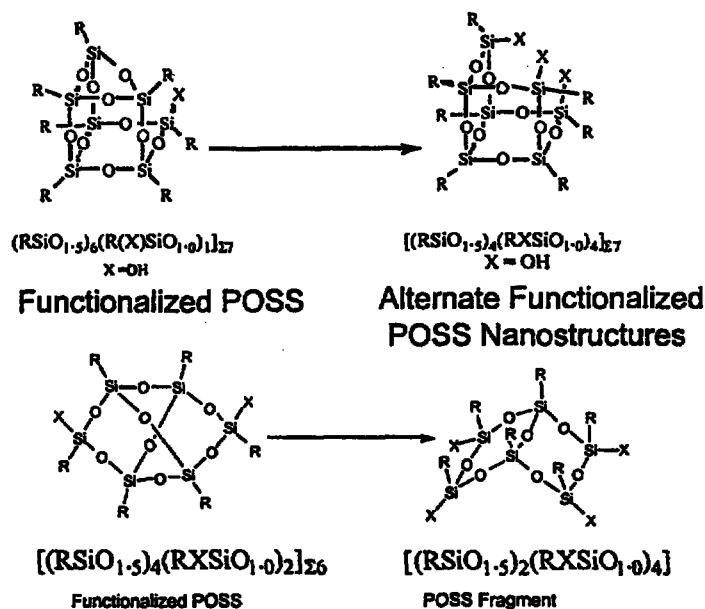
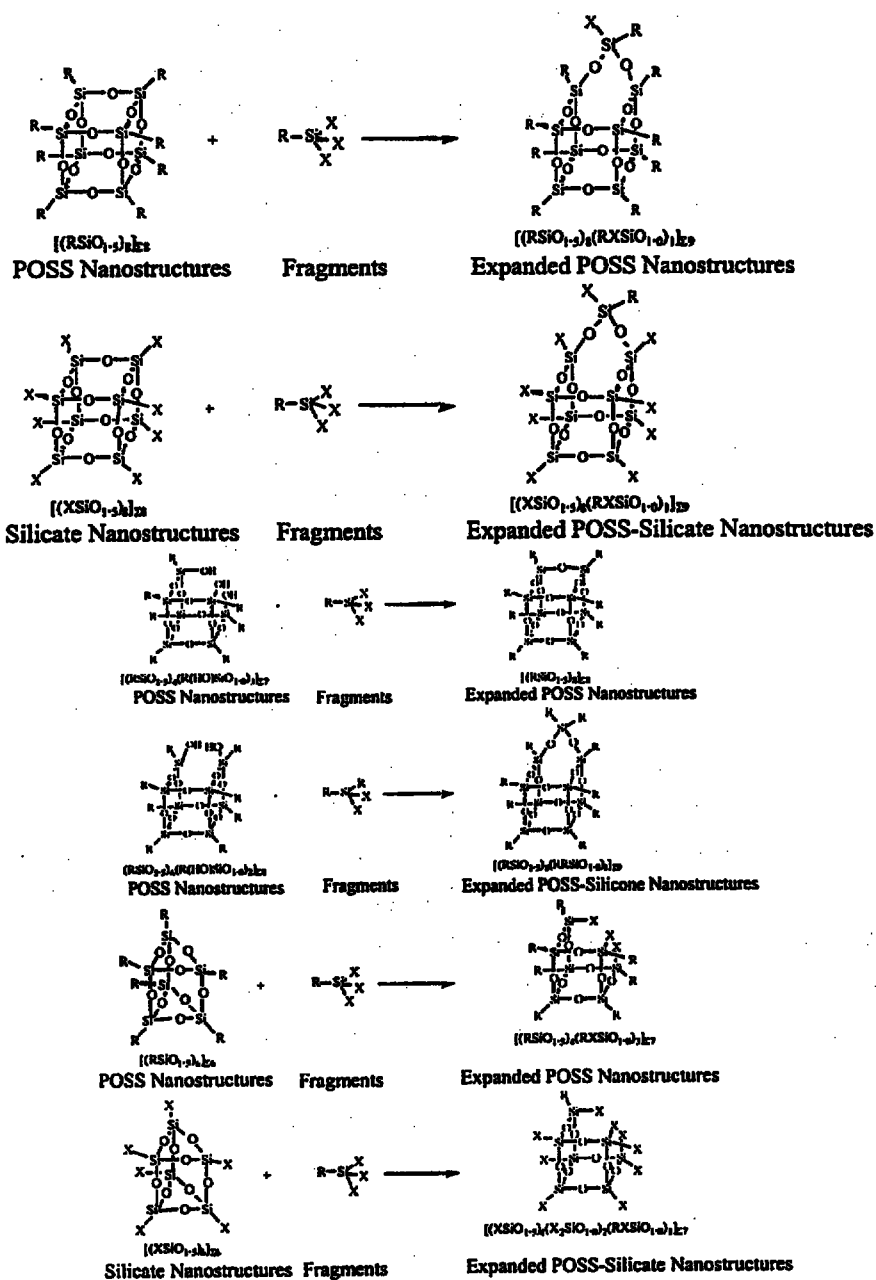


Figure 4. POSS Cages being interconverted.

- 1 The first example in Figure 4 illustrates the selectivity for the cleavage of 6 membered
- 2 silicon-oxygen rings in the presence of 8 membered silicon-oxygen rings by the base, to
- 3 afford the trifunctionalized POSS species. This reaction is driven by the release of greater
- 4 ring strain energy from the cleavage of the 6 membered silicon-oxygen ring vs. cleavage of
- 5 the 8 membered silicon-oxygen ring and is thermodynamically favorable. In the second
- 6 example the energy of the twisted conformation is relieved upon cleavage to form a more
- 7 open structure.

- 8 A final alternate of process II and one that is of great utility is that it can also allow for
- 9 the incorporation of POSS fragments into existing POSS and POSS silicate nanostructures.
- 10 This is a very important and useful aspect of this process because it allows for the expansion
- 11 of both POSS and POSS silicate cage species. This is analogous to a carbon-carbon bond
- 12 forming processes in organic systems. Hence this process can be utilized to prepare larger
- 13 POSS nanostructures as well as POSS nanostructures having previously inaccessible sizes.
- 14 Of particular importance is the use of this process to prepare nanostructures having odd as
- 15 well as even numbers of silicon atoms.



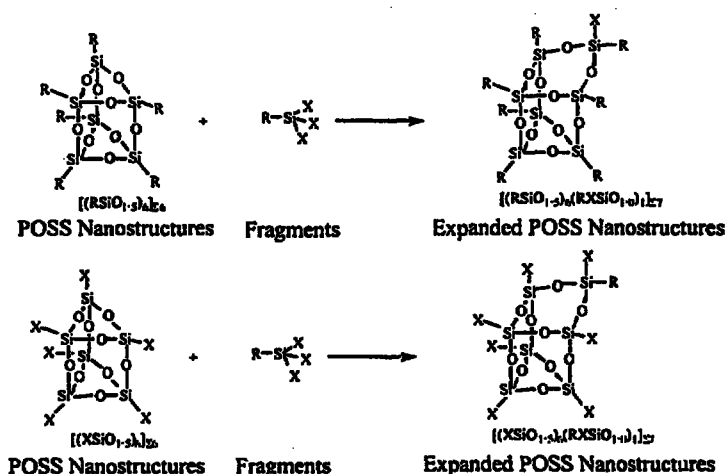


Figure 5. Silsesquioxane/siloxane fragments being inserted into POSS Cages

The net reaction in the examples shown in Figure 5 is cleavage of an Si-O-Si bond in the POSS or POSS silicate nanostructure and insertion of the POSS fragment. This reaction results in the expansion of the silicon-oxygen ring in the POSS nanostructured product. Note that the ring expansion in these reactions is in some cases favored thermodynamically through relief of ring strain in the silsesquioxane starting material. For example, the reaction of 1 equivalent of Vinyl(OMe)₃ with [((c-C₆H₁₁)SiO_{1.5})₆]_{Σ6} results in POSS molecule having the composition [((c-C₆H₁₁)SiO_{1.5})₄(c-C₆H₁₁)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂(ViSiO_{1.0})₁]_{Σ7}.

Mixtures of bases may also be utilized to carryout the process. One advantage of such an approach is that the use of different types of base in combination could serve different functions. For example one base may be particularly useful for the cleavage of Si-X groups while the second base may function in the assembly of POSS fragments into POSS nanostructures. Synergistic effects between different types of base can also be expected.

Particularly important is the use of mixtures of POSS fragments (i.e. where R of one fragment ≠ R of the other fragment) or POSS fragments having more than one type of R group. Use of mixed fragments or fragments having mixed R groups affords heteroleptic POSS species [(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RSiO_{1.5})_n]_{Σ#} which contain more than one type of R group. In general the POSS nanostructured products formed contain a statistical mixture of R which is determined by the stoichiometry of the starting fragments. As a result, numerous isomers are possible.

Process III: Selective Opening, Functionalization and Rearrangement of POSS Nanostructures

This processes utilizes bases (as defined previously) and POSS nanostructures having homoleptic [(RSiO_{1.5})_n]_{Σ#} and heteroleptic [(RSiO_{1.5})_m(RSiO_{1.5})_n]_{Σ#} compositions. The

process allows for the conversion of low cost and easily produced unfunctionalized POSS nanostructures into more desirable functionalized POSS systems of the type $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$. POSS nanostructures of the type $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ can be used as stand alone chemical reagents or further derivatized to provide a diverse array of other POSS nanostructures. This process provides an entirely new synthetic route for the preparation of very important and useful incompletely condensed trisilanol reagents $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ in particular where $X = \text{OH}$.

Homoleptic POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ are readily converted into POSS nanostructures having the formula $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, as well as POSS fragments having the formula RSiX_3 , $[(\text{RXSiO}_{0.5})_n]$, $[(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$, or $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$ through the use of bases as shown in Figure 6. Note that all possible geometric and stereochemical isomers for each product are not shown.

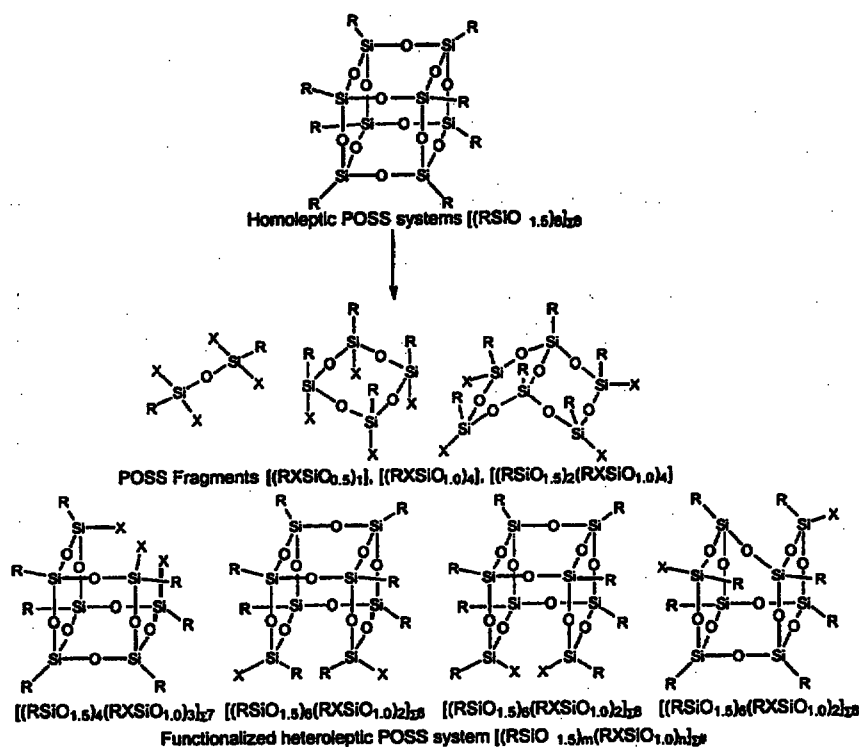


Figure 6. Illustration of Process III

Furthermore as a variation of this process it is possible to interconvert various sizes of POSS nanostructures. For example, with the proper addition of base $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ can be either cleaved into a smaller POSS fragments (e.g. $[\text{RSiX}_3]$, $[(\text{RXSiO}_{0.5})_n]$, $[(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$, or $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]$) or functionalized into heteroleptic POSS nanostructures of the same

1 size (e.g. $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\Sigma 6}$) or larger (e.g. $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$) as shown in Figure
 2 6.

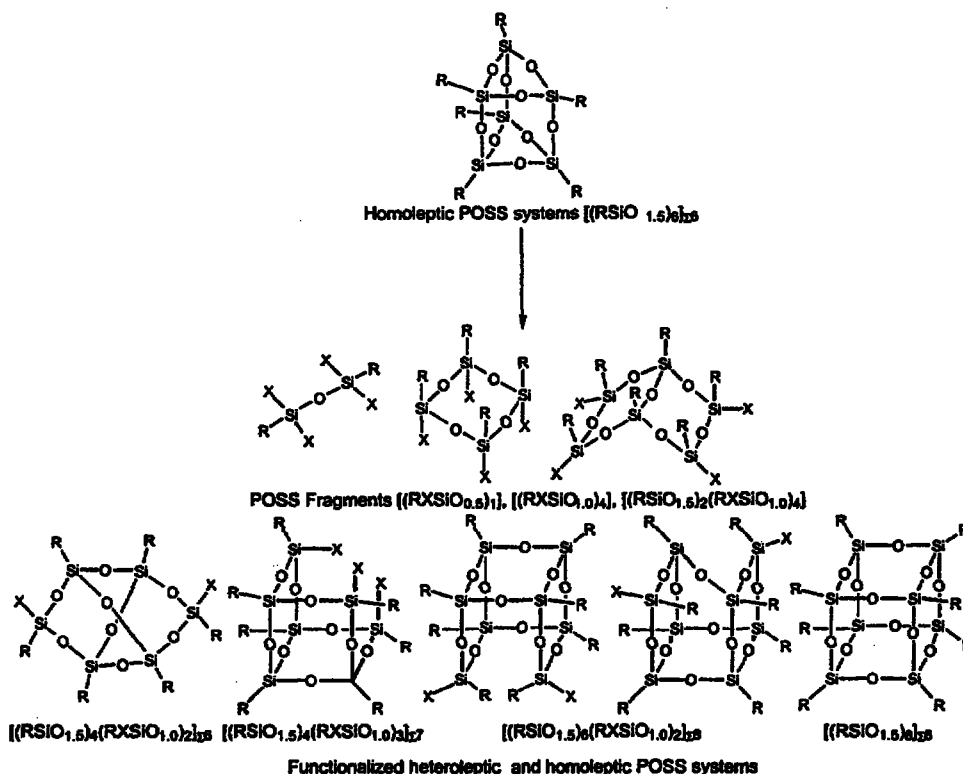


Figure 7. Illustration of Process III

1 As a variation of the above it is recognized that this process can utilize mixtures and
 2 distributions of POSS cages as well as polyhedral oligomeric silicate species (e.g.
 3 $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO}\}\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 6}$, $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{NO}\}\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 6}$, $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO}\}\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 8}$,
 4 $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{NO}\}\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 8}$. In such cases the base effectively converts cages of several sizes into
 5 functionalized and nonfunctionalized heteroleptic POSS nanostructures as shown in Figure 7.
 6 This represents an entirely new synthetic route for the preparation of the very useful
 7 incompletely condensed trisilanol reagents $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ in particular where X =
 8 OH.

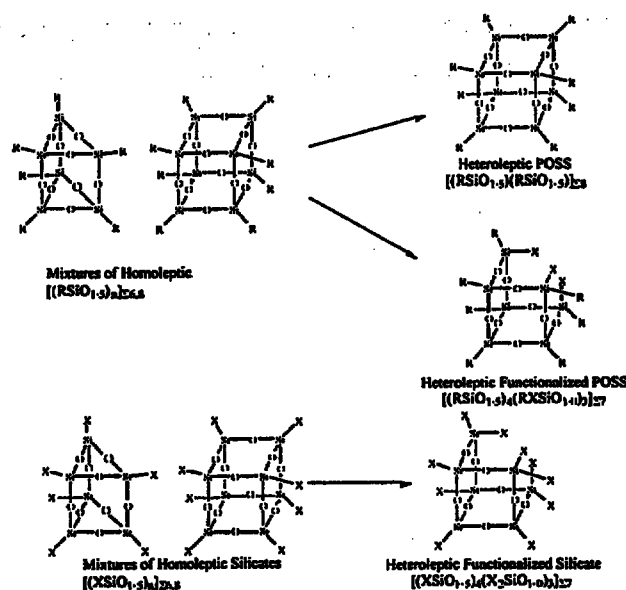


Figure 8. Illustration of the conversion of POSS and Silicate Nanostructures - Process III

- 1 A final variation of this process is the selective action of base on heteroleptic POSS
- 2 nanostructures. POSS nanostructures bearing more than one type of R group per cage
- 3 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_x$ are readily converted through the use of base into functionalized
- 4 POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_x$. Note that all possible geometric and
- 5 stereochemical isomers are not shown.

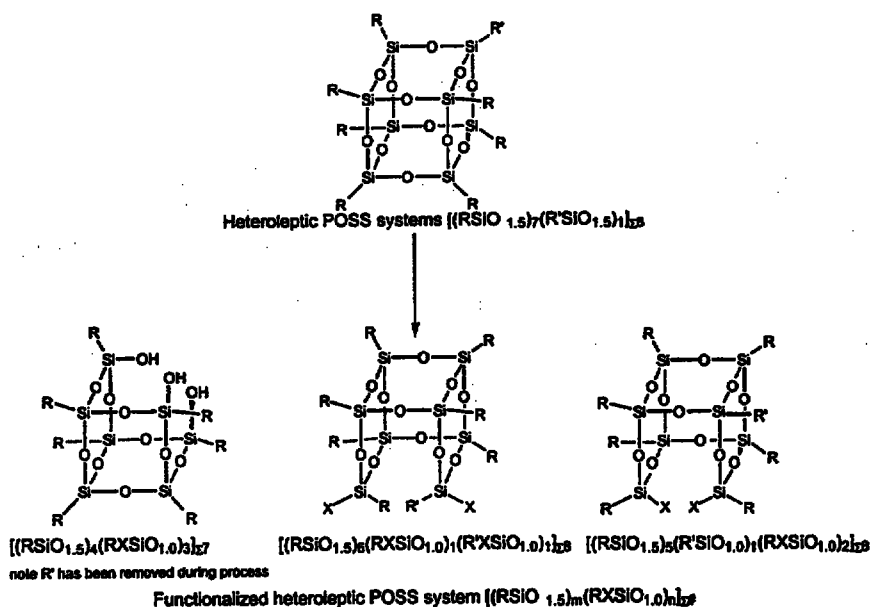


Figure 9. Illustration of the conversion of POSS Nanostructures - Process III

The action of base in the described in the preceding paragraph can also be controlled selectively so that silicon atoms can be removed entirely from the silicon oxygen framework of a polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane. This represents an entirely new synthetic route for the preparation of the very useful incompletely condensed trisilanol reagents such as $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\text{Z}}$ where $\text{X} = \text{OH}$ in particular. Note that not all stereochemical and geometrical isomers have been shown.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL - SECTION B: ISOMERS OF POSS SYSTEMS

METHODS FOR CONTROLLING STEREOCHEMISTRY

Given the three dimensional, nanoscopic nature of POSS systems it is important to realize that a number of isomeric forms for any given formula may be produced by the processes taught in this work. The stereochemistry of these isomers can be controlled by the through methods taught in this patent however, in some cases geometrical isomers will still exist. A number of examples are provided to convey our acknowledgement of the presence of such isomers and that we in no way limit our claims to any one specific stereochemical or geometrical isomer.

Six isomers are possible for difunctional, incompletely condensed POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\text{Z}}$ as shown in Figure 10.

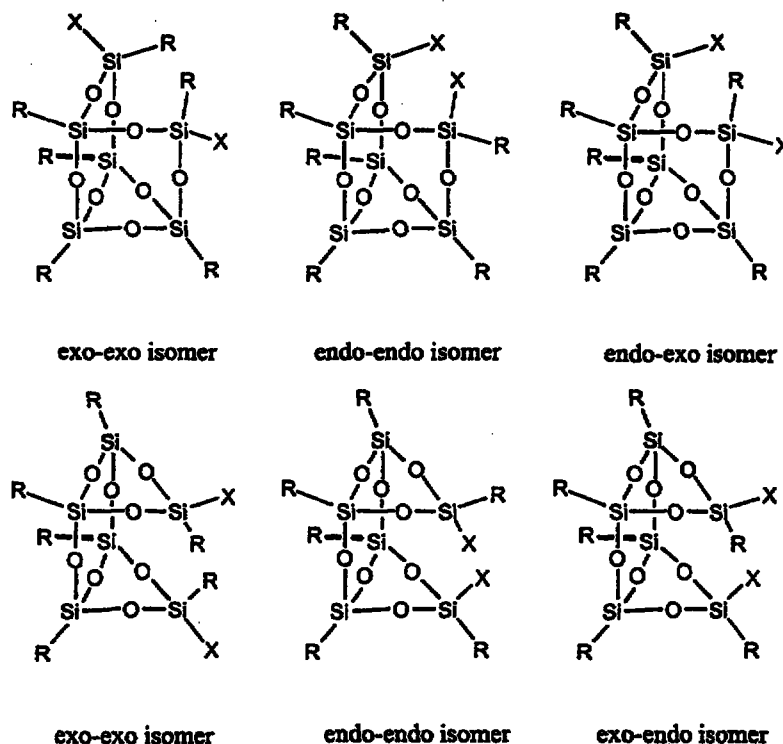


Figure 10. Isomers for difunctional, incompletely condensed POSS nanostructures $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\text{Z}}$

1 EXAMPLES

2 NMR spectra were recorded on Omega-500 (^1H , 500 MHz; ^{13}C , 125 MHz; ^{29}Si , 99
3 MHz). tetrahydrofuran, methylisobutyl ketone were distilled prior to use. All other solvents
4 were used as purchased without purification.

6 Examples for Process I. The conversion of polysilsesquioxanes into POSS fragments 7 and nanostructures.

8 Synthesis of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$ from $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin.

9 Tetramethylammonium hydroxide (2.0 mL, 5.57 mmol) was added to $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin
10 (13.0 g, 100.6 mmol) in toluene (100 mL) at room temperature. The reaction mixture was
11 heated to 80 °C for 12 hours, then cooled to room temperature, acidified with 1N HCl, and
12 filtered to give 12.065 g of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$ as a white solid. Product was verified by
13 EIMS which shows a molecular ion at 1032.5 amu along with daughter ions corresponding to
14 loss of one, two, and three phenyl groups, respectively, at 954.7, 877.4, and 800.6 amu. The
15 above procedure can be modified for the continuous and batch production. Alternately,
16 benzene, acetone, and methyl ethyl ketone can also be used as solvents for this reaction in
17 place of toluene and KOH can be used instead of tetraalkylammonium bases. In addition,
18 phenyltrimethoxysilane can be used in place of phenyl resin to prepare $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$.

19 Synthesis of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{12}$ from $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin. Potassium hydroxide
20 (46.5 g, 829 mmol) was added to $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin (1000 g, 7740 mmol) in THF (7.8L)
21 at room temperature. The reaction mixture was heated to reflux for 2 days then cooled to
22 room temperature and filtered to give 443 g of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{12}$ as a microcrystalline
23 white solid. Additional $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin (912 g, 7059 mmol) was added to the reaction
24 mixture and the solution was heated to reflux for 2 days followed by cooling to room
25 temperature and filtration to give 851 g of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{12}$ as a microcrystalline white
26 solid. Characterization was accomplished by EIMS which shows a molecular ion at 1548.2
27 amu. The above procedure can be modified for the continuous and batch production.
28 Alternately, methylene chloride can also be used as a solvent for this reaction in place of THF
29 and tetraalkylammonium bases can be used instead of KOH. In addition,
30 phenyltrimethoxysilane can be used in place of $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin to prepare
31 $[(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{12}$.

32 Synthesis of $[(\text{c-C}_5\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$ from $[(\text{c-C}_5\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin. A 1.80 gram sample
33 of resin was dissolved into 90 ml of acetone and 90 mg of NaOH was added to the reaction

1 mixture. The mixture was allowed to stir for 3 hours at room temperature and then was
 2 heated to reflux overnight. The solution was then cooled and filtered to obtain 1.40 g (77%
 3 yield) of pure product. The white microcrystalline powder was confirmed by X-ray
 4 diffraction and by HPLC relative to authentic sample.

5 **Synthesis of $[(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$ from $[(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin and**
 6 **$[\text{Si}_4\text{O}_{20}][\text{NMe}_4]_{28}$.** A 0.63 g sample of resin and 2.22g of tetramethylammonium silicate salt
 7 were dissolved into 20 ml of ethanol and NMe_4OH was added to the reaction mixture until it
 8 became highly basic (pH~12). The mixture was allowed to stir for 6 days at room
 9 temperature and then was filtered to obtain 1.9 g of $[(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$. Alternately a
 10 distribution of cages of $[(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$, where $n = 8, 10, 12, 14$ can be prepared in a
 11 similar manner from the reaction of $\text{CH}_2=\text{CHSi}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$ in cyclohexane with NMe_4OH
 12 followed by azeotropic distillation of water and methanol. The resulting white solid product
 13 $[(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{8-14}$ is obtained in 40% yield and is highly desirable as it is highly soluble
 14 in common solvents/reagents and melts at approximately 150°C.

15 **Synthesis of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4$:** In a typical reaction, a mixture
 16 of (cyclohex-3-enyl)trichlorosilane and cyclohexyltrichlorosilane were added with vigorous
 17 stirring to a solution of methanol (200 mL) and water (5 mL). The mixture was then refluxed
 18 for 2 days. Upon cooling, volatiles were removed in vacuum to afford a resin containing both
 19 cyclohexyl-Si and cyclohex-3-enyl-Si groups. Base catalyzed redistribution of this resin was
 20 accomplished by refluxing for 48 h in methyl isobutyl ketone (25 ml) with enough
 21 $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{OH}$ to produce a strongly basic solution (ca. 2 mL of 40% solution in
 22 MeOH). Evaporation of the solvent (25°C, 0.01 Torr) gave a white resinous solid, which was
 23 stirred with acetone (15 mL) and filtered to afford a mixture $[(\text{R})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n[(\text{R}')\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$,
 24 frameworks possessing both cyclohexyl and cyclohex-3-enyl groups. Isolated yields are
 25 typically 70-80%.

26 **Note:** Excluding enantiomers, there are 22 $[(\text{R})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n[(\text{R}')\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$ frameworks
 27 with the formula $(\text{cyclohexyl})_n(\text{cyclohex-3-enyl})_{8-n}\text{Si}_8\text{O}_{12}$ ($0 \leq n \leq 8$). All are presumed to be
 28 present in the product mixture. The relative percentage of each compound is most dependent
 29 on the relative amounts of (cyclohex-3-enyl)trichlorosilane and cyclohexyltrichlorosilane
 30 used in the reaction, but it may also depend on other factors. The high-resolution ^{29}Si NMR
 31 spectrum (C_6D_6) of each product mixture exhibits a series of well-resolved resonances for
 32 framework Si atoms possessing cyclohexyl and cyclohexenyl groups. The chemical shifts of
 33 these resonances are constant, but the relative intensities of the resonances depend on the
 34 amount of (cyclohex-3-enyl) SiCl_3 and cyclohexyl SiCl_3 used in the reaction. The product is
 35 clearly a mixture of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$ frameworks. The following

chemical shift assignments (in C_6D_6) were made based on comparisons to pure, authentic samples of $[[[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}]$, $[[[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}]$ and $[[[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_n][(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma 8}]$:

Si-cyclohexenyl groups with three Si-cyclohexyl nearest neighbors: δ -67.40

Si-cyclohexenyl groups with two Si-cyclohexyl nearest neighbors: δ -67.46

Si-cyclohexenyl groups with one Si-cyclohexyl nearest neighbors: δ -67.51

Si-cyclohexenyl groups with zero Si-cyclohexyl nearest neighbors: δ -67.57

Si-cyclohexyl with three Si- cyclohexenyl groups: δ -67.91

Si-cyclohexyl with two Si- cyclohexenyl groups: δ -67.97

Si-cyclohexyl with one Si- cyclohexenyl groups: δ -68.02

Si-cyclohexyl with zero Si- cyclohexenyl groups: δ -68.08

A sample prepared by reacting equimolar amounts (0.0125 mol) of (cyclohex-3-enyl)trichlorosilane and cyclohexyltrichlorosilane as described above exhibited all 8 resonances with relative integrated intensities of approximately 4:17:17:5:4:21:22:10. A ^{13}C NMR spectrum of the same sample (in $CDCl_3$) resembles a superposition of spectra for pure $[[[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}]$ and $[[[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}]$, except that resonances for ^{13}C nuclei close to the Si_8O_{12} framework are much broader due to the overlap of many resonances with slightly different chemical shifts: δ 127.45 (br m), 127.07, 27.47, 26.85, 26.63, 25.51, 25.08, 23.15, 22.64, 18.68. Analogous results were observed when $[[[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_n][(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma 8}]$ mixtures were prepared using the following ratios of (cyclohex-3-enyl)trichlorosilane and cyclohexyltrichlorosilane:

Entry	(cyclohex-3-enyl)SiCl ₃	cyclohexylSiCl ₃
1	2.7 g (12.5 mmol)	2.72 g (12.5 mmol)
2	2.7 g (12.5 mmol)	8.18 g (37.5 mmol)
3	2.7 g (12.5 mmol)	10.88 g (50 mmol)
4	6.47 g (30 mmol)	9.79 g (45 mmol)
5	1.35 g (6.25 mmol)	9.52 g (44 mmol)
6	5.82 g (27 mmol)	9.79 g (45 mmol)
7	0.68 g (3.13 mmol)	9.52 g (44 mmol)

Synthesis of $[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_{2n}$: A charge of (cyclohex-3-enyl)trichlorosilane (10.78 g, 0.05 mol) was added with vigorous stirring to a solution of methanol (200 mL) and water (5 mL). The mixture was then refluxed overnight. Upon cooling, volatiles were removed in vacuo to afford $[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ resin in quantitative yield. The $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum of the resin exhibits a broad featureless resonance characteristic of silsesquioxane resins and no sharp resonances attributable to discrete polyhedral silsesquioxanes (e.g., $[(R)SiO_{1.5}]_n$ with $n = 6, 8, 10, 12, 14$). Base catalyzed redistribution of $[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ resin was accomplished by refluxing for 48 h in methyl isobutyl ketone (25 ml) with enough $C_6H_5CH_2N(CH_3)_3OH$ to produce a strongly basic solution (ca. 2 mL of 40% solution in MeOH). Evaporation of the solvent (25°C, 0.01 Torr) gave a white resinous solid, which was stirred with acetone (15 mL) and filtered to afford $[(c-C_6H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_8$ in 80% yield (5.33 g) as a white, microcrystalline solid. Characterization data: 1H NMR (500.2 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300 K) δ 5.76 (br s, 2 H), 2.09 (br m, 4 H), 1.92 (br m, 4 H), 1.52 (br m, 1 H), 1.08 (br m, 1 H). ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300 K) δ 127.33, 127.08, 25.46, 25.03, 22.60, 18.60. ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, C_6D_6 , 300 K) δ -67.4. The product was also characterized by a single crystal X-ray diffraction study.]

Synthesis of $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_8$: Water (1 mL) was added carefully with vigorous stirring to a solution of $(CH_3)_2CHSiCl_3$ (6.15 g, 34.8 mmol) in methanol (100 mL). The solution was then refluxed for 24 h. Upon cooling, the solvent was evaporated to afford a quantitative yield of $[i-PrSiO_{3/2}]_n$ resin as a pale yellow liquid. The $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum of the resin exhibits a broad envelope of resonances characteristic of silsesquioxane resins and indicates that very little, if any, discrete polyhedral silsesquioxanes (e.g., $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_n$ with $n = 6, 8, 10, 12, 14$) are present. Base catalyzed redistribution of the $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ resin was accomplished by refluxing for 6 h in methyl isobutyl ketone (25 ml) with water (1.4 mL) and enough $C_6H_5CH_2N(CH_3)_3OH$ to produce a strongly basic solution (ca. 1 mL of 40% solution in MeOH). The crude equilibration mixture was diluted with Et_2O (200 mL), washed several times with water, dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$ and concentrated to afford $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_8$ as a white microcrystalline powder. The yield after one equilibration is typically 15-30%, but additional $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_8$ can be obtained by base-catalyzed redistribution of $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_{\infty}$ resin present in the mother liquors. The compound prepared in this fashion is identical to $[(CH_3)_2CHSiO_{1.5}]_8$ prepared via the method described by Unno (*Chemistry Letters* 1990, 489) Characterization data: 1H NMR (500.2 MHz, $CDCl_3$, 300 K) δ 1.036 (d, $J = 6.9$ Hz, 48 H, CH_3); 0.909 (sept, J

1 = 7.2 Hz, 8 H, CH). ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300 K) δ 16.78 (s, CH_3); 11.54 (s, SiCH). ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, CDCl_3 , 300 K) δ -66.3.

3 **Synthesis of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$:** $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiCl}_3$ (8.3 mL, 0.05 mol) was
4 added with vigorous stirring to a mixture of CH_2Cl_2 (200 mL) and water (5 mL). The mixture
5 was then refluxed overnight. Upon cooling, the CH_2Cl_2 layer was decanted, dried over CaCl_2
6 (5 g) and evaporated to afford $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin in quantitative yield. The
7 $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum of the resin exhibits a broad featureless resonance characteristic of
8 silsesquioxane resins and no sharp resonances attributable to discrete polyhedral
9 silsesquioxanes (e.g., $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$ with $n = 6, 8, 10, 12, 14$). Base catalyzed
10 redistribution of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin was accomplished by refluxing for 48 h in
11 methyl isobutyl ketone (25 ml) with enough $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{OH}$ to produce a strongly basic
12 solution (ca. 2 mL of 40% solution in MeOH). Evaporation of the solvent (25°C, 0.01 Torr)
13 gave a white resinous solid, which was stirred with acetone (15 mL) and filtered to afford
14 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$ in 30% yield (1.64 g) as a white, microcrystalline solid.
15 Evaporation of the acetone solution gives more $[\text{i-BuSiO}_{3/2}]_\infty$ resin, which undergoes further
16 base catalyzed redistribution to produce more $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$. The combined
17 yield of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{)}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$ after three resin redistribution reactions is typically
18 greater than 60%. Characterization data: ^1H NMR (500.2 MHz, C_6D_6 , 300 K) δ 2.09 (m, 8 H,
19 CH); 1.08 (d, $J = 6.6$ Hz, 48 H, CH_3); 0.84 (d, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 16 H, CH_2). ^{13}C NMR (125.8 MHz,
20 C_6D_6 , 300 K) δ 25.6 (s, CH_3); 24.1 (s, CH); 22.7 (s, CH_2). ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, C_6D_6 , 300 K)
21 δ -67.5.

22 **Preparation of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_m$ from $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$**
23 **Resin:** $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin was prepared in two steps from $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiCl}_3$. In the first step,
24 water was added to a toluene solution of phenyltrichlorosilane to produce $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin
25 according to the procedure reported by Brown (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, (1965), 87, 4317). This
26 $[\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin (1.0 g) was then dissolved in cyclohexane (50 mL) and hydrogenated to
27 $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin in a Parr minireactor (150 °C, 220 psi, 48 h) using 10% Pd/C (1.3 g)
28 as the catalyst. Filtration to remove the catalyst and evaporation of the solvent in vacuo
29 afforded the $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin as a white solid. The ^1H NMR spectrum of this resin
30 exhibits broad featureless resonances characteristic of $c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{Si}$ groups and no resonances
31 attributable to $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{Si}$ groups. The $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR spectrum exhibits a broad featureless
32 resonance characteristic of cyclohexyl silsesquioxane resins and no sharp resonances

attributable to discrete polyhedral silsesquioxanes (e.g., $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_n$ with $n = 6, 8, 10, 12, 14$).

Base catalyzed redistribution of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin (0.5 g) was accomplished by refluxing in methyl isobutyl ketone (40 ml) with 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (2 mL, 5 mmol) in MIK (40 mL) for 10 h. After cooling, the solution was decanted and evaporated to dryness in vacuo to afford a brownish solid. Analysis of this solid by $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectroscopy and HPLC indicated the formation of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ in 10-15% yield.

Examples for Process II: Reactions between POSS Systems and Silsesquioxane/Siloxane Fragments.

Preparation of $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_7(CH_3CH_2OOC(CH_2)_{10}SiO_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$: One equivalent of ethylundecanoate triethoxysilane and seven equivalents of methyltrimethoxy silane (1.9g) (were added dropwise to a refluxing solution of acetone (40ml) and 1 ml of water containing 0.15 equivalents, 235.6 mg) of potassium acetate. The reaction was refluxed for 3 days cooled and the white crystalline product was collected via filtration and was washed with MeOH to remove resin. The product was characterized by MS and X-ray diffraction. A similar procedure was followed for each of the following compounds:

$[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_6(CH_3(CH_2)_7SiO_{1.5})_2]_{\Sigma 8}$, $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_7(CH_2=CHSiO_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$,
 $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_4(CH_2=CHSiO_{1.5})_4]_{\Sigma 8}$, $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_6(CH_2=CHSiO_{1.5})_2]_{\Sigma 8}$,
 $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_7(H_2N(CH_2)_3SiO_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$, $[(C_6H_5)_3SiO_{1.5}]_7((CH_2=CHSiO_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$,
 $[(CH_3)_3SiO_{1.5}]_7(H_2N(CH_2)_3SiO_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$, $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_7((CH_3CH_2OOC(CH_2)_{10}SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$,
 $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_7((CH_2=CHSiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$.

Preparation of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 6.8}$: A 1.23g charge of $[(c-C_6H_{11})(OH)_2SiOSi(OH)_2(c-C_6H_{11})]$ was added to ethanol (50ml) followed by the addition of 5meq of $KHCO_3$. The reaction mixture was then allowed to react during reflux for 3 hours then the mixture was made basic through the addition of Bu_4NOH and refluxed for 2 days. The reaction was then allowed to cool and neutralized with the addition of acetic acid and the volatiles removed under reduced pressure. The residue was washed with MeOH repeatedly and dried. Yield of product 93%. The product was characterized by MS and X-ray diffraction.

Preparation of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 8}$: Mixtures of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_6[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_2$ and $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_4]_{\Sigma 8}$ dissolved in methylisobutylketone and reacted with 20% aq. Et_4NOH under reflux for 4 days

1 produce nearly $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_8$. Authenticity of product was verified relative to
2 authentic sample.

3 **Preparation of $[(CH_3)_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$:** A 1.22kg (7.5 mole) charge of $(CH_3)_2Si(OCH_3)_2$ was
4 added to acetone (8 l) followed by the addition of 2.37 equivalents of Me_4NOH and 405 g of
5 water. The reaction mixture was then allowed to react during reflux for 24 hours and the
6 product was then collected by filtration. The product was washed repeatedly with MeOH and
7 dried. Yield 466.2 g of product 93%. The product was characterized by MS and X-ray
8 diffraction. A similar procedure can be used to prepare $[(CH_2=CH)SiO_{1.5}]_8$, $[(c-$
9 $C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_8$. Modification of this procedure will afford continuous and batch-scale
10 production.

11 **Preparation of $[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_8$:** A similar procedure to that above for
12 $[(CH_3)_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$ was followed in acetone to produce a $[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_\infty$ resin which is
13 then taken up in THF using KOH to produce $[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_8$. 1H NMR (500 MHz,
14 $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 0.602 (q, J = 7.9 Hz, 16 H), 0.990 (t, J = 7.9 Hz, 24 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz,
15 $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 4.06, 6.50; ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) -65.42. Modification of
16 this procedure will afford continuous and batch-scale production.

17 **Preparation of $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_n$, n = 8, 10.** A similar procedure
18 to that above for $[(CH_3)_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$ was followed using KOH to produce
19 $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_n$, n = 8, 10 in quantitative yield. 1H NMR (500 MHz,
20 $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 0.563 (dd, J = 8.2, 15.1 Hz, 1 H), 0.750 (dd, J = 5.6, 15.1 Hz, 1 H), 0.902 (s,
21 9 H), 1.003 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 3 H), 1.125 (dd, J = 6.4, 13.9 Hz, 1 H), 1.325 (br d, J = 13.9 Hz, 1
22 H), 1.826 (m, 1 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) 23.72, 24.57, 25.06, 25.31, 25.71,
23 25.75, 25.78, 26.98, 29.52, 30.22, 30.28, 31.22, 53.99, 54.02, 54.33; ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz,
24 $CDCl_3$): δ (ppm) -69.93, -67.75 $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_{12}$, -67.95
25 $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_{10}$, -66.95 $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$. EIMS: m/e
26 1039 (17%, M^+ $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_{10}$), 1207 (100%, M^+
27 $[(CH_3)_2CH_2CHCH_3CH_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$). Modification of this procedure will afford continuous
28 and batch-scale production.

29 **Preparation of $[(CF_3CH_2CH_2SiO_{1.5})_8]$.** A similar procedure to that above for
30 $[(CH_3)_2SiO_{1.5}]_8$ was followed using KOH and methanol as a solvent to produce the
31 following mixture of products $[(CF_3CH_2CH_2SiO_{1.5})_8]_{12}$ 97.5%, $[(CF_3CH_2CH_2SiO_{1.5})_8]_{10}$

1 2.5% ^1H NMR (300 MHz, THF-d_8): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 0.978 (m, CH_2), 2.234 (m, CF_3CH_2); ^{13}C NMR
 2 (75.5 MHz, THF-d_8): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 4.99 (s, CH_2), 5.42 (s, CH_2), 28.14 (q, $J = 30.5$ Hz, CF_3CH_2),
 3 28.32 (q, $J = 30.5$ Hz, CF_3CH_2), 128.43 (q, $J = 276$ Hz, CF_3), 128.47 (q, $J = 276$ Hz, CF_3); ^{29}Si
 4 NMR (59.6 MHz, THF-d_8): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ -68.38 (T_{12}), -65.84 (T_{10}), -65.59 (T_{12}); ^{19}F $\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR
 5 (376.5 MHz, THF-d_8) $\delta(\text{ppm})$ -71.67, -71.66. EIMS: m/e 1715 (100%, $\text{M}^+ - \text{H}_4\text{CF}_3$).

6 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma n}$ where $n = 8, 10, 12$.** A similar procedure
 7 to that above for $[(\text{CH}_3\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ was followed to produce the following mixture of
 8 products ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 0.604 (m, 2 H), 0.901 (t, $J = 7.0$ Hz, 3 H),
 9 1.280 - 1.405 (m, 32 H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 12.02, 14.15, 22.79, 22.89,
 10 29.49, 29.75, 29.79, 29.85, 29.90, 32.05, 32.76; ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ -
 11 70.48, -68.04 $[(\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_{12}]_{\Sigma 12}$, -68.22 $[(\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_{10}]_{\Sigma 10}$, -66.31
 12 $[(\text{CH}_3(\text{CH}_2)_{16}\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$.

13 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ from**
 14 **$(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$:** Isobutyltrimethoxysilane (93.3 g, 523.3 mmol) was added
 15 dropwise to $\text{LiOH}\cdot\text{H}_2\text{O}$ (10.0 g, 238.3 mmol) and water (8.0 mL, 444 mmol) in 88/12
 16 acetone/methanol (500 mL) at reflux. The reaction mixture was heated at reflux the was
 17 acidified by quenching it into 1N $\text{HCl}(\text{aq})$ (500 mL) and stirring for 2h. The resulting solid
 18 was filtered and washed with CH_3CN (2 x 175 mL) and air dried. The product
 19 $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ was isolated in 94% yield at 98.8%
 20 purity. Note that the above procedure can be adapted to both continuous and batch
 21 production methods.

22 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$:** A similar procedure to
 23 that above for $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ was followed using
 24 acetone and LiOH to produce $[(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ as white crystalline
 25 solid in 40-80% yield. ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 0.582 (q, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 6 H), 0.590
 26 (q, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 2 H), 0.598 (q, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 6 H), 0.974 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 3 H), 0.974 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz,
 27 9 H), 0.982 (t, $J = 7.9$ Hz, 9H), 6.244 (br, 3H); ^{13}C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ 3.98 (1),
 28 4.04 (3), 4.50 (3), 6.42 (3), 6.46 (4); ^{29}Si NMR (99.4 MHz, CDCl_3): $\delta(\text{ppm})$ -65.85 (3), -64.83
 29 (1), -56.36 (3). MS (electrospray): m/e 617 (70%, $[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+$), 595 (100%, $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$).
 30 Modification of this procedure will afford continuous and batch-scale production.

31 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3\text{SiO}_{1.5})_7(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OOC}(\text{CH}_2)_{10}\text{SiO}_{1.5})_1]_{\Sigma 8}$:** One equivalent of
 32 Triethoxyethylundecanoate and seven equivalents of methyltrimethoxy silane (1.9g) (were

added dropwise to a refluxing solution of acetone (40ml) and 1 ml of water containing 0.15 equivalents, 235.6 mg) of potassium acetate. The reaction was refluxed for 3 days cooled and the white crystalline product was collected via filtration and was washed with MeOH to remove resin. The product was characterized by MS and X-ray diffraction.

Preparation of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ from $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_6((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 7}$: 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (20 μ L, 0.05 mmol) is added to a THF (0.5 mL) solution of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_6((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 7}$ (48 mg, 0.05 mmol) and mixed well through agitation. After 1.5 h at 25 °C, several drops of C_6D_6 were added and $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum was recorded. The spectrum matched the data for the previously reported for basic solutions of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$.

Preparation of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_2((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_4]_{\Sigma 6}$ from $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_2]_{\Sigma 6}$: C_2 -symmetry- $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_2]_{\Sigma 6}$ (38 mg, 0.05 mmol) was reacted with 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (20 μ L, 0.05 mmol) in THF (0.5 mL) and after 30 minutes at 25 °C, several drops of C_6D_6 were added and $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR spectrum was recorded. The spectrum matched the spectrum of authentic $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_2((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_4]_{\Sigma 6}$ prepared by the reaction of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ with aqueous NEt_4OH .

Preparation $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$ from $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_6((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 7}$: A solution of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_6((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 7}$ (0.46 mmol) and 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) was refluxed in THF (5 mL) for 5 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white solid, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a white microcrystalline solid in high yield. Analysis of the product mixture by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy indicated that the major product was $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{\Sigma 7}$; small amounts of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ were also present.

Preparation of $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8((CH_3)_2SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 9}$ from $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$: Reaction of $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ (2.21 g, 2.28 mmol) and octamethyltetracyclosiloxane (1.35 g, 4.56 mmol) in 2 mL toluene with Me_4NOH (9.4 mg of 25% solution in MeOH, 0.626 mmol) is allowed for 24 h at 120 °C. The mixture is then quenched with 6 N HCl (1 mL), extracted with Et_2O (3 mL), evaporated to dryness to give a white pasty solid which contains a mixture of 70% $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5})_8((CH_3)_2SiO_{1.0})_1]_{\Sigma 9}$,

1 polydimethylsiloxane, and 29% $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_8$. Analysis by $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR
 2 ($CDCl_3$) spectroscopy revealed $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_8[(CH_3)_2SiO_{1.0}]_1$, at (δ -65.76, -68.30, -
 3 68.34, 2:2:4).

4 **Preparation of $[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2SiO_{1.5}]_6[(5-norbornene-2-ethyl)(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_1$**
 5 **from $[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2SiO_{1.5}]_6[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2(OH)SiO_{1.0}]_2$** . An Et_2O (5 mL) solution of
 6 $[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2SiO_{1.5}]_6[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2(OH)SiO_{1.0}]_2$ (890 mg, 1.00 mmol) was added a
 7 mixture of dichloromethyl(5-norbornene-2-ethyl)silane (endo/exo = 3/1, 282.3 mg, 1.20
 8 mmol), Et_3N (195 μ L, 1.4 mmol), and Et_2O (5 mL) at $-35^\circ C$. After addition the resulting
 9 mixture was warmed to room temperature and stirred for 20 h. The mixture was hydrolyzed
 10 and extracted with diethyl ether, washed with brine, and dried over Na_2SO_4 . Evaporation of
 11 the volatiles gave $[(CH_3)_2CHCH_2SiO_{1.5}]_6[(5-norbornene-2-ethyl)(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_1$ (720 mg,
 12 0.68 mmol) as a white powder in 68% yield. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 0.10 (s, 9H), 0.12 (s, 3H),
 13 0.48-0.68 (m, 72H), 0.84-1.05 (m, 194H), 1.06-1.36 (m, 18H), 1.40-1.50 (m, 4H), 1.80-1.94
 14 (m, 32H), 1.95-2.03 (m, 3H), 2.55 (br s, 1H), 2.77 (br s, 3H), 2.78-2.83 (m, 4H), 5.93 (q, 3J =
 15 5 Hz, 3J = 10 Hz, 3H), 6.04 (q, 3J = 5 Hz, 3J = 10 Hz, 1H), 6.09-6.14 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR
 16 ($CDCl_3$) δ -1.11, 15.86, 16.21, 22.58, 23.20, 23.83, 23.98, 24.06, 24.18, 25.76, 25.81, 25.89,
 17 27.71, 29.50, 32.41, 33.10, 41.89, 41.97, 42.09, 42.65, 45.10, 45.20, 46.03, 49.61, 132.35,
 18 136.29, 136.87, 136.96. ^{29}Si NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ -69.25, -69.23, -69.21, -69.15, -67.04, -
 19 21.73, -21.63.

20 **Preparation $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_7(CH_2=CCH_3(O)CO(CH_2)_3SiO_{1.5}]_1$** : An Et_2O (80
 21 mL) solution of Methacryloxypropyltrichlorosilane (0.69 mL, 3.31 mmol) and 1,8-
 22 bis(dimethylamino)naphthalene (2.34 g, 10.91 mmol) was added to an Et_2O (20 mL)
 23 solution of $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_4[(CH_3)(OH)SiO_{1.0}]_3$ (1.26 g, 2.54 mmol) at $-35^\circ C$. The
 24 mixture was further stirred at room temperature for 5 h and then concentrated
 25 under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with ether. The insoluble
 26 materials were filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to give an oil-like solid. The
 27 solid was passed through a silica gel column using hexane/ Et_2O (50:1) as an eluent.
 28 Evaporation of the volatiles gave $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_7(CH_2=CCH_3(O)CO(CH_2)_3SiO_{1.5}]_1$
 29 (415 mg, 0.64 mmol) as a white solid in 25% yield. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 0.136 (s, 3H),
 30 0.142 (s, 12H), 0.146 (s, 6H), 0.64-0.72 (m, 2H), 1.72-1.82 (m, 2H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 4.11 (t, J
 31 = 6.78 Hz, 3H), 5.54 (t, J = 1.58 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (br s, 1H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ -4.56, -

1 4.48, 8.24, 18.31, 22.19, 66.46, 125.16, 136.53, 167.46. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ -67.71, -
 2 66.00, -65.69. Calcd for $\text{C}_{14}\text{H}_{32}\text{O}_{14}\text{Si}_8$: C, 25.91; H, 4.97. Found: C, 25.69; H, 4.99.

3 Preparation of $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8((\text{CH}_2=\text{CCH}_3)(\text{O})\text{CO}(\text{CH}_2)_3)(\text{H}_3\text{C})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_1\}]_{\Sigma 9}$: An
 4 Et_2O (20 mL) solution of a mixture of
 5 $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}/[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ (581.9 mg, 4/1, 0.40
 6 mmol) was added a mixture of dichloromethacryloxypropylmethylsilane (108.8 μL ,
 7 0.50 mmol), Et_3N (139.4 μL , 1.00 mmol), and Et_2O (3 mL) at room temperature and
 8 stirred for 20 h, was then hydrolyzed, and extracted with diethyl ether. The extract
 9 was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 and after evaporation of the volatiles
 10 gave $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8((\text{CH}_2=\text{CCH}_3)(\text{O})\text{CO}(\text{CH}_2)_3)(\text{H}_3\text{C})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_1\}]_{\Sigma 9}$ (475.5 mg, 0.36 mmol)
 11 as a white solid in 89% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.43 (s, 3H), 0.85-0.90 (m, 2H), 1.87-
 12 1.95 (m, 2H), 1.95 (s, 3H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 2.43 (s, 12H), 2.44 (s, 6H), 4.16 (t, $^3J = 6.8$ Hz,
 13 2H), 5.56 (br s, 1H), 6.11 (br s, 1H), 7.19-7.29 (m, 18H), 7.59-7.68 (m, 10H), 7.71-7.79
 14 (m, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ -0.92, 12.87, 18.24, 21.57, 22.12, 127.14, 127.38, 127.43,
 15 128.49, 128.55, 128.58, 128.64, 133.94, 134.16, 134.19, 134.25, 140.23, 140.39, 140.59,
 16 167.37. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ -78.72, -78.51, -76.98, -18.75.

17 Preparation of $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3((\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2)(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$: A THF (15 mL)
 18 solution of $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ (572.9 mg, 0.50 mmol) was added an aqueous
 19 solution of Et_4NOH (35%, 226.2 μL , 0.55 mmol) at room temperature. After addition
 20 the resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 6 h. The mixture was
 21 neutralized with 1N HCl solution and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic
 22 layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 and volatiles evaporated to give
 23 $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$. The $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4$
 24 $((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ was dissolved in an Et_2O (30 mL) and a mixture of
 25 chlorodimethylvinylsilane (505 μL , 3.66 mmol), Et_3N (595 μL , 4.27 mmol), and Et_2O
 26 (3 mL) was added at room temperature and stirred for 7 h. The mixture was
 27 hydrolyzed and extracted with diethyl ether washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 ,
 28 and evaporated to give a solid. Recrystallization of the solid from hexane afforded
 29 colorless crystals of $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OSi}(\text{CH}_3)_2(\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2))\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ (230
 30 mg, 0.18 mmol) in 36% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.38 (s, 18H), 2.33 (s, 9H), 2.34 (s,

1 9H), 2.39 (s, 3H), 5.90 (dd, $^2J = 20.4$ Hz, $^3J = 3.8$ Hz, 3H), 6.03 (dd, $^3J = 14.9$ Hz, $^3J = 3.8$
 2 Hz, 3H), 6.28 (dd, $^2J = 20.4$ Hz, $^3J = 3.8$ Hz, 3H), 7.01 (d, $^3J = 7.7$ Hz, 12H), 7.19 (d, $^3J =$
 3 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.27 (d, $^3J = 7.7$ Hz, 6H), 7.41 (d, $^3J = 7.7$ Hz, 6H), 7.53 (d, $^3J = 7.7$ Hz, 2H).
 4 ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.42, 21.51, 21.54, 21.60, 127.51, 127.97, 128.14, 128.26, 128.55,
 5 129.51, 132.26, 134.06, 134.11, 134.17, 138.78, 139.65, 139.77, 140.37. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3)
 6 δ -77.81, -77.29, -77.15, -0.50.

7 **Preparation** $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ from $[\{((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)_4\text{NO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$: To a
 8 solution of trimethylchlorosilane (140.0 mL, 1.10 mol), heptane (500 mL), and N,N-
 9 dimethylformamide (200 mL) was added a powder of $[\{((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)_4\text{NO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ (11.9 g,
 10 10.0 mmol) over a period of ca. 30 min at 0 °C. After addition of all the
 11 $[\{((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)_4\text{NO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ the mixture was stirred for an additional 30 min then allowed to
 12 warm to room temperature overnight. An ice-water (1 L) was added and the mixture stirred
 13 for 30 min. The organic layer was washed with water until neutral, dried over MgSO_4 , and
 14 concentrated. To the residue was added a methanol and the soluble part was removed by
 15 filtration to leave a pure $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ (4.1 g, 4.84 mmol) as a white solid in 48%
 16 yield: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.17 (s, 54H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.18. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ
 17 14.27, -99.31.

18 **Preparation of** $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_4]_{\Sigma 6}$: To an Et_2O (5
 19 mL) solution of vinyltrimethylchlorosilane (121.5 μL , 0.88 mmol) and NEt_3 (139.4 μL , 1.00
 20 mmol) was added an Et_2O solution of $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_2\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_4]_{\Sigma 6}$
 21 (174.7 mg, 0.20 mmol) at room temperature. The mixture was stirred at room temperature
 22 for 4h and then concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with hexane.
 23 The insoluble materials were filtered. The filtrate was concentrated to give a spectroscopic
 24 pure $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_4]_{\Sigma 6}$ (225.6 mg, 0.18 mmol) as a white
 25 foam solid in 92% yield: ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.13 (s, 54H), 0.14 (s, 12H), 0.18 (s, 12H), 5.73
 26 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.77 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.91 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz, 2H), 5.94 (d, $J = 4.0$ Hz,
 27 2H), 6.11 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 2H), 6.15 (d, $J = 15.0$ Hz, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.11, 1.52,
 28 1.62, 132.00, 138.79. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ 11.24, 10.17, -1.35, -108.31, -108.70. MS (ESI):
 29 Calcd for $\text{C}_{34}\text{H}_{90}\text{O}_{17}\text{Si}_{16}\text{Na}$, 1243.2. Found: 1243.6.

30 **Preparation of** $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_1\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{C}(\text{CH}_3)(\text{O})\text{CO}$
 31 $(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_1]_{\Sigma 8}$ from $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_4\{(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_1\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})$
 32 $(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2]_{\Sigma 7}$: An Et_2O (8 mL) solution of methacryloxypropyltrichlorosilane (340.3

1 μL , 1.63 mmol) and NEt_3 (748.5 μL , 5.37 mmol) was added to an Et_2O (7 mL) solution
 2 of $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_4\{(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_1\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2\}]_{27}$ (817.0 mg, 0.81
 3 mmol) at -35°C and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 6 h and then
 4 concentrated under reduced pressure. The residue was extracted with hexane,
 5 insoluble materials were filtered, and the filtrate was concentrated to give an oil.
 6 The oil was purified using a silica gel column and hexane/ Et_2O (50:1) as an eluent.
 7 Evaporation of the volatiles gave $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_1$
 8 $\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CCH}_3)(\text{O})\text{CO}(\text{CH}_2)_3\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_1\}]_{28}$ (210.0 mg, 0.18 mmol) as a white solid in 25%
 9 yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.13 (s, 18H), 0.16 (s, 18H), 0.17 (s, 9H), 0.18 (s, 9H), 0.73-
 10 0.80 (m, 2H), 1.77-1.85 (m, 2H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 4.11 (t, $J = 6.62$ Hz, 2H), 5.54 (t, $J = 1.58$
 11 Hz, 1H), 6.09 (br s, 1H), 7.35-7.41 (m, 2H), 7.43-7.48 (m, 1H), 7.66-7.72 (m, 2H). ^{13}C
 12 NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.24, 7.95, 18.30, 22.11, 66.39, 125.22, 127.70, 130.22, 130.69, 134.08,
 13 136.41, 167.37. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ -109.06, -108.88, -108.82, -78.86, -65.60, 12.55,
 14 12.58, 12.59. Calcd for $\text{C}_{31}\text{H}_{70}\text{O}_{20}\text{Si}_{14}$: C, 32.21; H, 6.10. Found: C, 31.99; H, 6.35. MS
 15 (ESI) Calcd for 1177.1 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$, 1193.1 $[\text{M} + \text{K}]^+$. Found: 1177.2 $[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$, 100%;
 16 1193.2 $[\text{M} + \text{K}]^+$, 10%.

18 Examples for Process III: Selective Opening, Functionalization and Rearrangement of 19 POSS Nanostructures

20 **Preparation of $[\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{HO})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2\}]_{28}$ from**
 21 $[\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_8]_{28}$: An aqueous solution of NEt_4OH (33%, 2 mL, 0.25 mmol) in THF
 22 (10 mL, -35°C) was added to a stirred solution of $[\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_8]_{28}$ (2.95 g, 4.66 mmol)
 23 in 1:1:1 THF/ CH_2Cl_2 /isopropanol (300 mL), which was chilled in a -35°C (1:1
 24 methanol/water and N_2) cold bath. After 4.3 hours the reaction was quenched with 1M HCl
 25 (20 mL, -35°C) and the solution was washed with 1M HCl (2 x 40 mL), water (2 x 40 mL),
 26 and sat. aq. NaCl solution (40 mL). After drying over Na_2SO_4 , and removal of the solvent *in*
 27 *vacuo* (25°C , 0.01 Torr) a white solid (3.01 g, 99%) was isolated. The product
 28 $[\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{HO})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2\}]_{28}$ prepared by this procedure is
 29 spectroscopically pure. Additional purification can be accomplished through recrystallization
 30 from CH_2Cl_2 /hexanes/acetic acid (25°C). ^1H NMR (CDCl_3 , 500.2 MHz, 25°C): δ 6.12-
 31 5.74 (m, $\text{SiCH}=\text{CH}_2$), 5.7 (br, SiOH). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (CDCl_3 , 125.7 MHz, 25°C): δ 137.00,
 32 136.87, 136.81 (s, CH_2 , rel. int. 1:1:2), 129.75, 129.17, 128.80 (s, SiCH , rel. int. 1:2:1).

²⁹Si{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 99.4 MHz, 25 °C): δ -71.39 (s, SiOH), -79.25, -80.56 (s, SiCH₃, rel. int. 1:2). Mass Spectrum (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₆H₂₆O₁₃Si₈: [M + H]⁺ 650.96, found 651.2 (20%); [M + Na]⁺ 672.94, found 673.1 (100%). Mass Spectrum (EI) m/z calculated for C₁₆H₂₆O₁₃Si₈: [M]⁺ 649.9528, found 649.9532 (4%); [M - C₂H₅]⁺ 622.9, found 623.2 (100%).

Preparation of [((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ from [((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈: A solution of [((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈ (0.11 mmol) in 1:1:1 CH₂Cl₂/THF/isopropanol (-35 °C, 7.5 mL) and aq. NEt₄OH (35 wt%, 50 μL, 0.13 mmol) was stirred at -35 °C for 2 h. Addition of CH₃CO₂H (0.1 mL, -35 °C), extraction with a saturated aqueous NaCl solution (3 x 10 mL), drying over Na₂SO₄, and removal of the solvent *in vacuo* (25 °C, 0.001 Torr) afforded [((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((Boc-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ as a colorless paste in a 63 % yield. ²⁹Si{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 99.4 MHz, 25 °C): δ -57.798, -65.674, -67.419 (s, rel. int. 1:1:2). Mass Spectrum (ESI) m/z calcd for C₆₄H₁₃₀N₈O₂₉Si₈: [M + Na]⁺ 1721.7, found 1722.1.

Preparation of [((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ from [((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈: A solution of [((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈ (0.11 mmol) in 1:1:1 CH₂Cl₂/THF/isopropanol (-35 °C, 7.5 mL) and aq. NEt₄OH (35 wt%, 50 μL, 0.13 mmol) was stirred at -35 °C for 2 h. Addition of CH₃CO₂H (0.1 mL, -35 °C), extraction with a saturated aqueous NaCl solution (3 x 10 mL), drying over Na₂SO₄, and removal of the solvent *in vacuo* (25 °C, 0.001 Torr) afforded [((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((Cbz-Pro-NHCH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ as a colorless paste in 77 % yield. ²⁹Si{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 99.4 MHz, 25 °C): δ -58.4, -65.543, -67.470 (s, rel. int. 1:1:2). Mass Spectrum (ESI) m/z calcd for C₁₂₈H₁₇₀N₁₆O₃₇Si₈: [M + Na]⁺ 2772.54, found 2772.9.

Preparation of [((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ from [((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈: A solution of [((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₈]₂₈ (0.11 mmol) in 1:1:1 CH₂Cl₂/THF/isopropanol (-35 °C, 7.5 mL) and aq. NEt₄OH (35 wt%, 50 μL, 0.13 mmol) was stirred at -35 °C for 2 h. Addition of CH₃CO₂H (0.1 mL, -35 °C), extraction with a saturated aqueous NaCl solution (3 x 10 mL), drying over Na₂SO₄, and removal of the solvent *in vacuo* (25 °C, 0.001 Torr) afforded [((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₆((MeO₂CCH₂CMe₂CH₂CH₂CH₂)(HO)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂₈ as a colorless paste in 66 % yield. ²⁹Si{¹H} NMR (CDCl₃, 99.4 MHz, 25 °C): δ -57.551, -64.981, -66.841 (s, rel. int. 1:1:2). Mass Spectrum (ESI) m/z calculated for C₆₄H₁₂₂O₂₉Si₈: [M + Na]⁺ 1601.61, found 1602.0.

Preparation of $[(((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_2(((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_4)]_{\Sigma 6}$: To a THF (4 mL) solution of $[(((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ (169.5 mg, 0.20 mmol) was added an aqueous solution of NEt_4OH (35%, 82.3 μL , 0.20 mmol) at -40°C . The resulting mixture was stirred between -40 to -25°C for 40 min. The mixture was neutralized with aqueous solution of HCl (1N, 3 mL) and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and evaporated to give a spectroscopic pure $[(((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_2(((\text{CH}_3)_3\text{SiO})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_4)]_{\Sigma 6}$ (174.7 mg, 0.20 mmol) as a white wax solid in 99% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.14 (s, 54H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 1.24, 1.28. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ 12.44, 12.19, -100.12 , -109.27 .

Preparation of $[(((\text{H}_3\text{C})_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6(((\text{H}_3\text{C})_3\text{SiO})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2((\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}))_{\Sigma 7}$: The starting polyhedral oligomeric silicate $[(((\text{H}_3\text{C})_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ was prepared via a procedure analogous to that published by Harrison et al. *Main Group Metals Chemistry* (1997) vol 20, pp. 137-141. A solution of Vinyltrimethoxysilane (0.04 mL, 0.26 mmol) and aqueous NEt_4OH (0.1 mL, 0.25 mmol) was prereacted for 10 minutes and then added to a solution of $[(((\text{H}_3\text{C})_3\text{SiO})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ (198 mg, 0.23 mmol) and was stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature. The reaction was then neutralized through the addition of dilute HCl and the solvent was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was then taken up in diethylether filtered and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a yellow oil (2.31 mg, 0.002mol) in 10.2% yield. Selected characterization data: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C) δ -99.8, -100.1, -108.0, -108.9. MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 977.1 ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$).

Preparation of $[((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)(\text{HO})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\Sigma 8}$ from $[((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$: A $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2/i\text{-PrOH/THF}$ (10/10/10 mL) solution of $[((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ (259.7 mg, 0.40 mmol) was added an aqueous solution of Et_4NOH (35%, 493.5 μL , 1.20 mmol) at -20°C . After addition the resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 7 h. The mixture was neutralized with 1N HCl solution and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na_2SO_4 . Evaporation of the volatiles gave spectroscopically pure $[((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)(\text{HO})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2]_{\Sigma 8}$ (263.5 mg, 0.39 mmol) as a white solid in 99% yield. ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 0.54-0.66 (m, 16H), 0.93-1.04 (m, 24H), 5.21 (br s, 2H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 3.94, 4.36, 4.41, 6.42, 6.46, 6.50. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ -66.73, -64.95, -57.63. Calcd for $\text{C}_{16}\text{H}_{42}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8$: C, 28.80; H, 6.35. Found: C, 28.78; H, 6.43.

Preparation of $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6\{((\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH})(\text{HO})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2]_{\Sigma 8}$ from

$[\{((\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_8]_{\Sigma 8}$: $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ (302 mg, 0.397 mmol) was dissolved in 15 mL of solvents' mixture (iso-propanol: CH_2Cl_2 :THF = 1:1:1). The aqueous 35% solution of $\text{Et}_4\text{N}_4\text{OH}$ (0.8 mL) was added to the solution of $[\{((\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ at -12°C . After 7 hours, the reaction mixture was decanted, extracted with Et_2O (4 x 3 mL). The extract was dried over anhydrous Na_2SO_4 , then evaporated in vacuo, obtained a yellow solid which was purified by column chromatography (SiO_2 , 60% CH_2Cl_2 in hexanes) to afford a spectroscopically pure powder (189 mg, 61%). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): δ 3.90 (br s, SiOH, 2H), 1.03 (br m's, 48H), 0.91 (br m's, 8H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): δ 16.91, 16.79, 16.64 (8:4:4 for CH_3), 11.91, 11.77, 11.38 (4:2:2 for CH), $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C): δ -57.92, -65.29, -67.70 (2:2:4). IR (25°C , KBr, cm^{-1}): 3352, 2950, 2869, 1466, 1260, 1112. MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 802.0 $\{[\text{M}+\text{Na}]^+, 100\%$, 779.1 (M^+ , 70%). Anal. Calculated for $\text{C}_{24}\text{H}_{37}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8$ (found): C, 37.03 (36.92), H, 7.38 (7.54).

Preparation of $[\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_4\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_1]_{\Sigma 7}$:

A solution of 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (0.1 mL, 0.25 mmol) was added to a solution of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{\Sigma 6}$ (205 mg, 0.25 mmol) and VinylSi(OMe) $_3$ in THF (2.5 mL). The solution was stirred for 1 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white resin, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a white solid in high mass yield. Analysis by multinuclear NMR spectroscopy and electrospray mass spectrometry indicated that the product mixture contained a ~6:1 mixture of $[\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_2\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_4]$ and $[\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_4\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_9)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_2\{(\text{CH}_2=\text{CH})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}\}_1]_{\Sigma 7}$. Selected characterization data: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C) δ -60.1 (s, 2 Si, Cy-Si-OH), -68.2 (s, 1 Si), -69.1 (s, 2 Si), -69.7 (s, 1 Si), -72.0 (s, 1 Si, V-Si-OH). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25°C) δ 5.90 (m, 3 H, $-\text{CH}=\text{CH}_2$); 1.65, 1.16 (m, 66 H, C_5H_{11}). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125.8 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25°C) δ 135.4 (s, $=\text{CH}_2$); 130.4 (s, $-\text{CH}=\text{}$); 27.53, 27.47, 26.82, 26.67, 26.59, 26.56 (s, CH_2); 23.81, 23.59, 23.36, 23.10 (s, CH). MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 917 ($[\text{M} + \text{H}]^+$, 75%); 939 ($[\text{M} + \text{Na}]^+$, 100).

Reaction of $[\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ with NEt_4OH at room temperature: A solution

of $[\{(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}_6]_{\Sigma 6}$ (200 mg, 0.24 mmol) and 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (0.1 mL, 0.25 mmol) in THF (2.5 mL) was stirred at 25°C for 4 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white solid, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a white solid in

high mass yield. Analysis of the product mixture by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy indicated that it contained mainly $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_2(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_4\}]_{\Sigma 6}$ (>60%) and $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ (>30%).

Preparation of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ from $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$: A solution of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$ (250 mg, 0.23 mmol) and 35% aqueous NET_4OH (0.1 mL, 0.25 mmol) in THF (3 mL) was stirred at room temperature for 1 h and then neutralized with an aqueous solution of HCl. The volatiles were evaporated in vacuo to afford a white solid, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a white microcrystalline solid in high yield. Analysis by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy and electrospray MS indicated that the product mixture contained ~76% (by ^{29}Si NMR) $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ -60.4, -67.2, -69.8 (s, 1:1:2), as well as smaller amounts of unreacted $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$ (δ -68.2, ~20%). Small ^{29}Si NMR resonances attributable to tetrasilanol $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ were also observed, as well as prominent peaks in the electrospray mass spectrum for the $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ (1117.36 for the ion with H^+ and 1139 for the ion with Na^+). Spectroscopic data for $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{\Sigma 8}$ matched the data previously reported for this compound.

Preparation of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ from $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$: A solution of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$ (500 mg, 0.46 mmol) and 35% aqueous NET_4OH (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) was refluxed in THF (5 mL) for 4 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white solid, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ as a white microcrystalline solid in 23% yield. Spectroscopic data for the product matched the data previously reported for samples of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_3\}]_{\Sigma 7}$ obtained via the hydrolytic condensation of $c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{SiCl}_3$.

Preparation of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_2((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_4\}]_{\Sigma 6}$ from $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$: A solution of $[\{((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})\text{SiO}_{1.5})_3\}]_{\Sigma 3}$ (200 mg, 0.24 mmol) and 35% aqueous NET_4OH (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) in THF (5 mL) was stirred at 25 °C for 1 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white solid,

1 which was dissolved in Et₂O and dried over anhydrous MgSO₄. Filtration and evaporation
 2 of the solvent afforded [((*c*-C₆H₁₁)SiO_{1.5})₂((*c*-C₆H₁₁)(OH)SiO_{1.0})₄]₂ as a white solid in 63%
 3 yield (135 mg). ²⁹Si{¹H} NMR (99.3 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C) δ -59.4, -68.8 (s, 2:1). ¹H NMR
 4 (500 MHz, CDCl₃, 25 °C) δ 1.78 (v br m); 1.7 (v br m). ¹³C{¹H} NMR (125.8 MHz, CDCl₃,
 5 25 °C) δ = 27.55, 27.47, 26.86, 26.62(CH₂); 23.68, 23.16 (2:1, SiCH). MS (ESI, 100%
 6 MeOH): *m/e* 846 (M+H⁺, 48%); M+Na⁺, 95%); 885 (M⁺ - H + K, 100%).

7 **Preparation of [((C₆H₅CH=CH)SiO_{1.5})₆((C₆H₅CH=CH)(OH)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂ from**
 8 [((C₆H₅CH=CH)SiO_{1.5})₃]₂: A CH₂Cl₂/*i*-PrOH/THF(4/4/4 mL) solution of
 9 [((C₆H₅CH=CH)SiO_{1.5})₃]₂ (124.2 mg, 0.10 mmol) was added an aqueous solution of Et₄NOH
 10 (35%, 49.4 mL, 0.12 mmol) at -35 °C. After addition the resulting mixture was stirred at the
 11 same temperature for 5 h. The mixture was neutralized with 1N HCl solution and extracted
 12 with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na₂SO₄, and
 13 evaporated. The residue was passed through a silica gel column using hexane/Et₂O (2:1) as
 14 an eluent. Evaporation of the volatiles gave pure
 15 [((C₆H₅CH=CH)SiO_{1.5})₆((C₆H₅CH=CH)(OH)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂ (112.4 mg, 0.09 mmol) as a white
 16 solid in 89% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 5.83 (br s, 2H), 6.31-6.45 (m, 16H), 7.21-7.59 (m,
 17 40H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 117.41, 117.76, 117.96, 126.90, 128.43, 128.50, 128.53, 128.75,
 18 128.83, 128.90, 137.17, 137.23, 137.29, 149.11, 149.15, 149.21. ²⁹Si NMR (CDCl₃) δ -
 19 78.05, -77.05, -68.66.

20 **Preparation of [((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂SiO_{1.5})₆((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂)(OH)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂ from**
 21 [((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₃]₂: A CH₂Cl₂/*i*-PrOH/THF (5/5/5 mL) solution of
 22 [((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂)SiO_{1.5})₃]₂ (251.6 mg, 0.20 mmol) was added an aqueous solution of Et₄NOH
 23 (35%, 247.0 mL, 0.60 mmol) at -35 °C. After addition the resulting mixture was stirred at the
 24 same temperature for 4 h. The mixture was neutralized with 1N HCl solution and extracted
 25 with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over MgSO₄, and
 26 evaporated. The residue was passed through a silica gel column using hexane/Et₂O (2:1) as
 27 an eluent. Evaporation of the volatiles gave pure
 28 [((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂SiO_{1.5})₆((C₆H₅CH₂CH₂)(OH)SiO_{1.0})₂]₂ (225.3 mg, 0.18 mmol) as a colorless
 29 oil in 88% yield. ¹H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 1.11-1.25 (m, 16H), 2.86-2.98 (m, 16H), 5.24 (br s,
 30 2H), 7.25-7.47 (m, 40H). ¹³C NMR (CDCl₃) δ 13.56, 14.19, 14.30, 28.90, 28.95, 28.98,

1 125.74, 125.84, 127.71, 127.83, 128.29, 128.33, 128.42, 143.67, 143.75, 143.78. ^{29}Si NMR
2 (CDCl_3) δ -67.75, -65.99, -58.35.

3 **Preparation of $[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{28}$ from**
4 **$[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}]_{28}$:** A procedure similar to that used for
5 **$[\{(\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{28}$** was used to produce
6 **$[\{(\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_4\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((\text{CH}_3\text{C}_6\text{H}_5)(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2\}]_{28}$.** ^1H NMR (CDCl_3) δ 2.36 (s, 6H), 2.41 (s,
7 12H), 2.42 (s, 6H), 6.03 (br s, 2H), 7.08 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.16 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 8H),
8 7.24 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.56 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 4H), 7.62 (d, 3J = 7.5 Hz, 8H), 7.72 (d, 3J =
9 7.5 Hz, 4H). ^{13}C NMR (CDCl_3) δ 21.50, 21.53, 21.56, 127.10, 127.29, 127.65, 128.41,
10 128.48, 128.53, 134.25, 140.26, 140.31, 140.56. ^{29}Si NMR (CDCl_3) δ -78.22, -76.86,-
11 69.05. MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/z Calcd for $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{58}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8\text{Na}$ (100%): 1185.2. Found:
12 1185.4. $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{58}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8\text{H}$ (20%): 1163.2. Found: 1163.5. $\text{C}_{56}\text{H}_{58}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8\text{K}$ (20%): 1201.2.
13 Found: 1201.3.

14 **Preparation of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2]_{28}$ from $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{28}$:**
15 A THF (100 mL) solution of $[(c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{28}$ (5.41 g, 5.00 mmol) was added a methanol
16 solution of Me_4NOH (25%, 1.90 mL, 4.50 mmol) at room temperature. After addition the
17 resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 1 h. The mixture was neutralized
18 with 1N HCl solution and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with
19 brine, dried over MgSO_4 , and evaporated. The residue was passed through a silica gel
20 column using hexane and CH_2Cl_2 as an eluent. Evaporation of the volatiles gave pure $[(c\text{-}$
21 $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11}\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6((c\text{-C}_6\text{H}_{11})(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0})_2]_{28}$ (4.60 g, 4.18 mmol) as a white solid in 84% yield. ^1H
22 NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25 $^\circ\text{C}$): δ 4.30 (br s, SiOH, 2H), 1.76 (br m's, 40H), 1.23 (br m's,
23 40H), 0.74 (br m's, 8H). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3 , 25 $^\circ\text{C}$): δ 27.55, 27.48, 26.88,
24 26.79, 26.58, 26.53 (CH_2), 23.79, 23.69, 23.07 (4:2:2 for CH), $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99 MHz,
25 CDCl_3 , 25 $^\circ\text{C}$): δ -59.91, -67.60, -69.85 (2:2:4). IR (25 $^\circ\text{C}$, KBr, cm^{-1}): 2916, 2838, 1447,
26 1197, 1109. MS (70 eV, 200 $^\circ\text{C}$, relative intensity): m/e 1015 ($[\text{M} - (\text{C}_6\text{H}_{11})]^+$, 100). Anal.
27 Calcd for $\text{C}_{48}\text{H}_{90}\text{O}_{13}\text{Si}_8$ (found): C, 52.42 (52.32), H, 8.25 (8.68).

28 **Reaction of $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}]_{28}$ with NEt_4OH at room temperature.** A
29 solution of 35% NEt_4OH in water (0.11 mL, 0.25 mmol) was added to a THF (5 mL) solution
30 of $[\{(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}\}]_{28}$ (0.20 g, 0.23 mmol). The solution was stirred at room
31 temperature for 1 h and then neutralized with an aqueous solution of HCl. The THF was
32 removed in vacuo to afford a white oil, which was dissolved in Et_2O , dried over anhydrous
33 MgSO_4 and filtered. Evaporation of the solvent afforded in 85% mass yield a milky white oil

1 containing (by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy and ESI MS) unreacted $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$
 2 (9%), $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_3}]_{\Sigma 7}$ (29%),
 3 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_2}]_{\Sigma 8}$ (13%) and
 4 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_4}]_{\Sigma 8}$ (34%). Selected characterization data
 5 for $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ -67.6; MS (ESI,
 6 100% MeOH): m/e 873 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 5%). For
 7 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_3}]_{\Sigma 7}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25
 8 °C) δ -58.9, -67.1, -68.5 (3:1:3); MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e : 791 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 2%) and 813
 9 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 5%). For $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_2}]_{\Sigma 8}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR
 10 (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ -59.6, -66.8, -68.7 (1:1:2); MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 891
 11 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 11%) and 913 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 5%). For
 12 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_4}]_{\Sigma 8}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25
 13 °C) δ (-58.4, -56.6, -66.5, -68.3, 1:1:1:1); MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 909 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 15%)
 14 and 931 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100%).

15 **Preparation of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_3}]_{\Sigma 7}$ from**
 16 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$: A solution of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_8]_{\Sigma 8}$ (400 mg, 0.46 mmol)
 17 and 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) was refluxed in THF (5 mL) for 4 h then
 18 neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white resin,
 19 which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous MgSO_4 . Filtration and evaporation of
 20 the solvent afforded crude $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.5})_3}]_{\Sigma 7}$ as a white
 21 resinous substance in 44% yield. Colorless crystals were obtained by recrystallization from
 22 acetonitrile/toluene. Selected characterization data for
 23 $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_4\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_3}]_{\Sigma 7}$: $^{29}\text{Si}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25
 24 °C) δ -58.5, -66.9, -68.3 (s, 3:1:3). ^1H NMR (500 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ 2.21 (m, 7 H, -CH-);
 25 1.24 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 18 H, CH_3); 1.21 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 18 H, CH_3); 1.17 (d, J = 6.6 Hz, 6 H,
 26 CH_3); 0.97 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 6 H, CH_2); 0.95 (d, J = 7.1 Hz, 6 H, CH_2); 0.92 (d, J = 7.0 Hz, 2 H,
 27 CH_2). $^{13}\text{C}\{^1\text{H}\}$ NMR (125.8 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ = 25.7 (s, CH_3); 25.6 (s, CH_3); 25.5 (s,
 28 CH_3); 24.1 (s, CH_2); 24.05 (s, CH_2); 24.0 (s, CH_2); 23.4 (s, CH); 23.0 (s, CH); 22.6 (s, CH).
 29 MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e 791.16 ($\text{M}+\text{H}^+$, 80%); 813.08 ($\text{M}+\text{Na}^+$, 100%). A single crystal
 30 X-ray diffraction study was also performed.

31 **Preparation of $[\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5})_6\text{((CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{(OH)SiO}_{1.0})_2}]_{\Sigma 8}$ from**

1 $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{28}$: A reactor was charged with 2126g (2.438 moles)
 2 $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_{28}$ and 20 L THF. A basic solution of Me_4NOH (48 mL, 25 wt %, in
 3 MeOH) and THF (4 L) was cooled to 0 °C and added slowly (3.5 hours) to the reaction
 4 followed by 1 hour of stirring. Product formation was monitored by HPLC and upon
 5 completion was quenched into 320 mL conc. HCl and 700 mL H₂O at 0 °C. Evaporation of
 6 the resulting solution gave waxy solids, that were washed with water until a pH = 7 and
 7 recrystallized using acetone and acetonitrile to produce 1525 g (70% yld) of product at 98%
 8 purity. ¹H NMR (CDCl_3): 3.99 (2 H, 2 x OH, bs); 1.85 (8 H, 8 x CH, m); 0.95 (48 H, 16 x
 9 CH_3 , m); 0.60 (16 H, 8 x CH_2 , m). {¹H} ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3): 25.80; 25.75; 25.65; 23.99;
 10 23.93; 23.86; 23.07; 22.46. Note that the above procedure can be adapted to both continuous
 11 and batch production methods to produce the desired product higher yield and greater purity.

12 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_6[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_2$**
 13 **from $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$, n = 8, 10:** A reactor was charged with 128.0 g
 14 (96.82 mmol $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_8$) and 2080 mL THF. A basic solution 48 mL
 15 (25 wt %, in MeOH) of Me_4NOH was cooled to 0 °C and added to the reaction mixture over
 16 45 minutes and stirred for an additional 1.5 hour. Reaction progress was monitored by HPLC
 17 and at completion the reaction was quenched into HCl (150 mL, 1 N) and hexane (500 mL)
 18 with rapid stirring over a period of 1 hour. The top layer was removed and evaporated to give
 19 125.7 g (97 %) of the colorless liquid product. ¹H NMR (CDCl_3): 1.83 (9.3, bm); 1.27 (9.8,
 20 bm); 1.15 (10, bm); 1.00 (23, m); 0.89 (64, s); 0.85 (7.7, s); 0.73 (8.1, bm); 0.58 (8.0, bm).
 21 {¹H} ¹³C NMR (CDCl_3): 54.50; 54.37; 31.19; 30.22; 29.48; 25.59; 25.49; 25.30; 25.22; 25.00;
 22 24.36; 24.29.

23 **Preparation of $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3$**
 24 **from $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_n$, n = 8, 10:** A similar procedure to that reported
 25 above for $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_6[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_2$ can be using LiOH
 26 in acetone to prepare an oily trisilanol product that contains 95% of two trisilanol species
 27 $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_4[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3$ and $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CH}_2\text{CHCH}_3\text{CH}_2$
 28 $\text{SiO}_{1.5}]_6[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{CHCH}_2(\text{OH})\text{SiO}_{1.0}]_3$. ¹H NMR (500 MHz, CDCl_3): δ(ppm) 0.562 (m, 1 H),
 29 0.755 (m, 1 H), 0.908 (s, 9 H), 1.002 (m, 3 H), 1.137 (m, 1 H), 1.303 (m, 1 H), 1.831 (m, 1
 30 H), 6.240 (br, 3 H); ¹³C NMR (125 MHz, CDCl_3): δ(ppm) 24.06, 24.51, 24.86, 25.44, 25.59,
 31 25.65, 25.89, 29.65, 29.90, 30.64, 30.68, 31.59, 32.02, 54.28, 54.77; ²⁹Si NMR (99.4 MHz,
 32 CDCl_3): δ(ppm) -68.66, -68.43, -67.54, -67.32, -58.75, -57.99. EIMS: m/e 1382 (22%, M⁺(T₉)
 33 - iOct - H₂O), 1052 (100%, M⁺(T₉) - iOct - H₂O).

Preparation

from

$[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$: A solution of 35% NEt_4OH in water (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) was added to a THF (5 mL) solution of $[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$ (0.41 g, 0.46 mmol). The solution was refluxed for 7 h and then neutralized with an aqueous solution of HCl. The THF was removed in vacuo affording a colorless oil, which is dissolved in Et_2O and dried over $MgSO_4$ anhydrous. Evaporation of the solvent in vacuo and crystallization from MeOH afforded $[(CH_3CH_2)SiO_{1.5}]_4((CH_3CH_2)(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{27}$ as a white solid. Selected characterization data: $^{29}Si\{^1H\}$ NMR (99.3 MHz, C_6D_6 , 25 °C) δ = -56.4, -64.8, 65.9 (3:1:3MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e : 595 ($M+H^+$, 100%); 617 ($M+Na^+$, 60%).

Preparation

$[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_4((CH_3)(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{27}$ from $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$: A THF (350 mL) suspension of $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$ (8.5 g, 15.83 mmol) was added an aqueous solution of Et_4NOH (35%, 6.51 mL, 15.83 mmol) at room temperature. After addition the resulting mixture was stirred at the same temperature for 20 h. The mixture was neutralized with 1N HCl solution and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over $MgSO_4$. Evaporation of the volatiles gave a white oil-like solid. Recrystallization of the white solid from a mixed solvent ($MeOH/H_2O = 2.5/1$) afforded $[(CH_3)SiO_{1.5}]_4((CH_3)(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{27}$ (1.35 g, 2.72 mmol) as a white powder in 17% yield. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ 0.13 (s, 9H), 0.14 (s, 3H), 0.15 (s, 9H), 6.11(s, 3H). ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ -4.50, -4.35. ^{29}Si NMR ($CDCl_3$) δ -65.70, -65.16, -55.84. Calcd for $C_7H_{24}O_{12}Si_7$: C, 16.92; H, 4.87. Found: C, 17.16; H, 4.89. MS (ESI, 100% MeOH): m/e : 496.96 ($M+H^+$, 100%); 518.86 ($M+Na^+$, 75%).

Preparation

from

$[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_7((H)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{28}$: A solution of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_7((H)SiO_{1.0})_1]_{28}$ (460 mg, 0.46 mmol) and 35% aqueous NEt_4OH (0.2 mL, 0.49 mmol) was refluxed in THF (5 mL) for 5 h then neutralized with dilute aqueous HCl. Evaporation of the volatiles afforded a white solid, which was dissolved in Et_2O and dried over anhydrous $MgSO_4$. Filtration and evaporation of the solvent afforded a white microcrystalline solid in high yield. Analysis of the product mixture by ^{29}Si NMR spectroscopy indicated that the major product was $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_4((c-C_6H_{11})(OH)SiO_{1.0})_3]_{27}$; small amounts of $[(c-C_6H_{11})SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$ were also present.

Preparation

$[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_4((c-C_5H_9)(OH)SiO_{1.0})_2]_{28}$ from $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_{28}$: A 12-L reactor equipped with a mechanical stirrer, addition pump and drying tube, was charged

1 with 443.4 g (457.2 mmol) $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_2$ and 6.0 L THF. A base solution of Me_4NOH (in
2 $MeOH$, 25 wt %, 212 mL) and THF (1.4 L) was prepared and added slowly to the reaction
3 mixture and this mixture was stirred for 3 hours. Upon completion of the reaction a
4 mechanically stirred quench tank was charged with 65 mL conc. HCl and 500 mL water was
5 cooled to 0 °C and the above reaction mixture was quenched. Evaporation and filtration of
6 the resulting mixture gave $[(c-C_5H_9)SiO_{1.5}]_4[(c-C_5H_9)(OH)SiO_{1.0}]_2$ to produce 364 g
7 (81 %) of white solids at 98% purity. 1H NMR ($CDCl_3$): 4.63 (2 H, 2 x OH, bs); 1.72 (16 H,
8 8 x CH_2 , m); 1.56 (16 H, 8 x CH_2 , m); 1.46 (32 H, 16 x CH_2 , m); 0.94 (8 H, 8 x CH, m). $\{^1H\}$
9 ^{13}C NMR ($CDCl_3$): 27.41; 27.39; 27.36; 27.20; 27.06; 27.02; 27.00; 26.99; 22.88; 22.66;
10 22.16. Variations of this preparative method can be used to design both continuous and batch
11 processes.

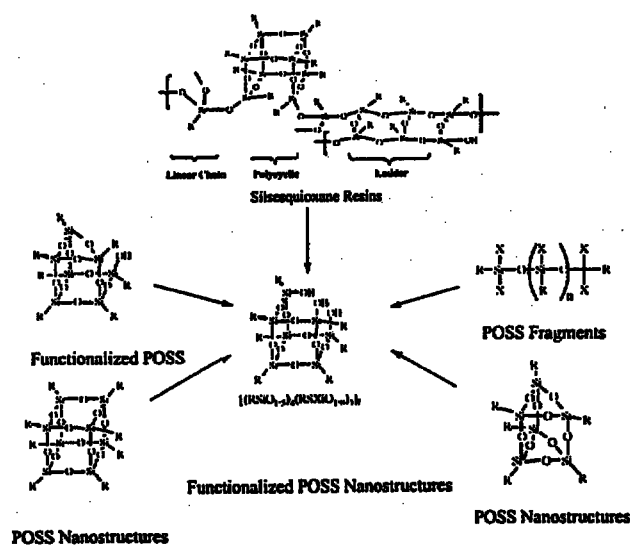
12 Although the present invention has been described above in terms of specific
13 embodiments, it is anticipated that alterations and modifications thereof will no doubt become
14 apparent to those skilled in the art. It is therefore intended that the following claims be
15 interpreted as covering all such alterations and modifications as fall within the true spirit and
16 scope of the invention.

17 What is claimed is:

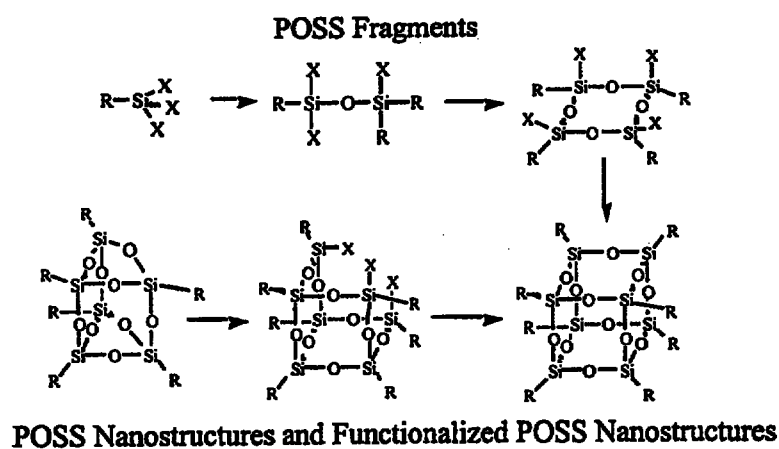
CLAIMS

- 1 1. The process of using bases to convert polysilsesquioxane resins into POSS
2 nanostructures of the type: homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ and
3 functionalized heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$. Where m and n represent the
4 stoichiometric composition and # = the number of silicon atoms contained within the
5 nanostructure (aka cage size).
- 1 2. The process of using bases to convert POSS fragments $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ into
2 POSS nanostructures of the type homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, heteroleptic
3 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ and functionalized heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$.
- 1 3. The process of using bases to convert POSS nanostructures homoleptic
2 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ into functionalized heteroleptic
3 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ POSS nanostructures.
- 1 4. The process of reacting POSS fragments with POSS and silicate nanostructures to
2 form functionalized heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, $[(\text{XSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ POSS
3 nanostructures.
- 1 5. The process of directly manufacturing $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ from
2 polysilsesquioxanes $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, nonfunctionalized $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ POSS cages,
3 and POSS fragments $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ using base as shown in the figure.





- 1 6. The process for the sequential growth of POSS fragments, homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$,
- 2 heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, POSS nanostructures from POSS fragments using
- 3 base, as shown in the figure.



- 1 7. The compositions reported in the examples for homoleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$, heteroleptic
- 2 $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ and functionalized heteroleptic $[(\text{RSiO}_{1.5})_m(\text{RXSiO}_{1.0})_n]_{\Sigma\#}$ POSS and
- 3 POSS silicate nanostructures.

