CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A flexible shell structure, comprising:

a plurality of rigid support strips that collectively define a three-dimensional shape of at least one part of a character form; and

at least one coupling member configured to couple two or more rigid support strips of the plurality of rigid support strips, wherein a first end of the at least one coupling member is coupled to a side surface of one rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips and a second end of the at least one coupling member is coupled to a side surface of another rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips,

wherein the at least one coupling member enables the flexible shell structure to flex when a first force is applied to the flexible shell structure in a first direction, and enables the flexible shell structure to resist flexing when a second force is applied to the flexible shell structure in a second direction.

2. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein at least one portion of the flexible shell structure is attached to a show element structure.

3. The flexible shell structure of claim 2, wherein the show element structure includes an animated figure, a robotic figure, a puppet, a walk-around character, an interactive character, a theatrical prop, a static prop, or an animated prop.

4. The flexible shell structure of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of the flexible shell structure is configured at or near a moveable joint of the show element structure, and wherein the flexible shell structure is configured to flex in response to a movement of the moveable joint.

5. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein the first direction is approximately perpendicular to the second direction.

6. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein a flexibility of the flexible shell structure

is based on at least one of a length or a thickness of the at least one coupling member.

7. The flexible shell structure of claim 6, wherein the plurality of rigid support strips are spaced apart by separation distances, and wherein the flexibility of the flexible shell structure is further based on the separation distances.

8. The flexible shell structure of claim 7, wherein at least two of the separation distances are different.

9. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein at least one rigid support strip of the plurality of support strips has at least a first width and a second width.

10. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein at least one rigid support strip of the plurality of support strips has at least a first thickness and a second thickness.

11. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein a rigidity of each rigid support strip of the plurality of rigid support strips is based on at least one of a width or a thickness of each rigid support strip of the plurality of support strips.

12. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein different regions of the flexible shell structure have different amounts of flexibility, and wherein the different amounts of flexibility are associated with a respective shape of each rigid support strip of the plurality of rigid support strips.

13. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein at least one rigid support strip of the plurality of support strips has a curved shape.

14. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, further comprising a liner material coupled to at least two rigid support strips of the plurality of rigid support strips.

15. The flexible shell structure of claim 14, wherein the at least two rigid support strips includes a first rigid support strip and a second rigid support strip, and wherein the liner material

is coupled to

a first rear surface of the first rigid support strip and a second rear surface of the second rigid support strip,

a first front surface of the first rigid support strip and a second front surface of the second rigid support strip, or

a first side surface of the first rigid support strip and a second side surface of the second rigid support strip.

16. The flexible shell structure of claim 14, wherein the liner material includes at least one of a natural textile, a synthetic textile, or a flexible plastic sheet.

17. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein the flexible shell structure is a part of a show element.

18. The flexible shell structure of claim 17, wherein the show element comprises a tangible figure, a tangible object, a tangible device, or a tangible system.

19. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein the character form includes a human character form, an animal or creature character form, or an object character form.

20. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein the flexible shell structure is covered with a flexible material to simulate a skin for the character form, the flexible material including at least one of a silicone material, a urethane material, a foam material, or a rubber material.

21. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, wherein the flexible shell structure simulates a presence of the character form under a covering.

22. The flexible shell structure of claim 21, wherein the covering includes at least one item of clothing.

23. The flexible shell structure of claim 21, wherein the covering includes a flexible material, the flexible material comprising at least one of a rubber material, a silicone material, a vinyl

material, a urethane material, a neoprene material, a foam material, a fabric, or a textile.

24. The flexible shell structure of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one other coupling member configured to couple the two or more rigid support strips of the plurality of rigid support strips,

wherein the at least one other coupling member is coupled to an end of a first rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips and an end of a second rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips.

25. A method for generating a flexible shell structure, comprising:

generating a plurality of rigid support strips that collectively define a three- dimensional shape of at least one part of a character form; and

coupling two or more rigid support strips of the plurality of rigid support strips with at least one coupling member, wherein a first end of the at least one coupling member is coupled to a side surface of one rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips and a second end of the at least one coupling member is coupled to a side surface of another rigid support strip of the two or more rigid support strips,

wherein the at least one coupling member enables the flexible shell structure to flex when a first force is applied to the flexible shell structure in a first direction, and enables the flexible shell structure to resist flexing when a second force is applied to the flexible shell structure in a second direction.