

IARC 484/584 - Furniture Design Studio

Fall 2018

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Office Hours - M-TH, 5-8pm, LA 185

While much of the world sits on the ground to eat, most in North America sit at a table, their behinds about 18" off the floor. Dining furniture needs to be stable and comfortable, and allow the user to focus on what's really important - food and companionship. It should be easy to move, accommodate a range of different bodies, and hold up to a long life of use.

This term, we'll investigate the structure, form, and function of the dining chair. We'll place emphasis on learning the tools in the wood shop and designing to suit the processes available. The principles of *Commodity*, *Firmness*, and *Delight* will guide us through the term - structural stability will be counted as important as a compelling design, and trying to re-invent the wheel won't gain you any points.

The design process thrives on reasonable constraints. This term, we'll be designing a chair for the Hearth in Lawrence Hall. You'll make two identical chairs - one to keep, and one to leave for a further term's hard testing at the Hearth. Your chair must suit the application (a cafe chair), the space (the Hearth), and the material (hardwood).

Students are responsible for the cost of their final project materials and any field trip transportation. They must also promptly complete a safety training with the shop technician in the first week of class. This course is offered solely as pass/fail.

I highly encourage you to become comfortable with the ambiguity of design and build. Outside of safety concerns, *there are no right answers in the wood shop*. You'll get different advice from every expert, and that's OK. Embrace this term as an opportunity to learn and experiment, not as a grim race against perfectionism. That said, I will hold the class to an extremely high standard of reliability, communication, and work ethic. I don't expect perfection, but I do demand accountability and improvement.

REQUIRED READING

These are not optional. You must buy these books and read them.

- Woodworking Basics, by Peter Korn
- The Anarchist's Design Book, Christopher Schwarz
- Welsh Stick Chairs, by John Brown

RECOMMENDED READING

- The Soul Of A Tree, George Nakashima
- We Sit Together, by Francis Cape
- A Cabinetmaker's Notebook, by James Krenov
- Japanese Woodworking Tools, by Toshio Odate
- Make A Chair From A Tree, by John Alexander
- With the Grain: A Craftsman's Guide to Understanding Wood, by Christian Becksvoort

REQUIRED VIEWING

- "Ten Bullets," by Tom Sachs
- "How To Sweep," by Tom Sachs

REQUIRED TOOLS

- 6" adjustable square (Empire or Starrett, >\$15)
- Retractable razor knife (utility size blade)
- .5mm mechanical pencils
- Normal #2 pencils
- 6" flexible steel ruler
- 16' FastCap measuring tape, mm AND inches
- Dozuki saw - 6" Beading Saw with Woodpecker Tooth by Z-Saw (\$17)
- 1/2" chisel - Narex with wood handle (\$14)
- Shop coat or apron (optional)

Calendar

	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1	<p>9/24</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Class introduction - Safety Orientation part 1 <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - n/a <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safety Videos - Online Agreement - Single Object - Buy Books/tools - Sketches/toolbox 	<p>9/26</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Furniture history (summarized) - Safety Orientation part 2 - Examine Single Objects - 1-on-1 - Toolbox sketches <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Single Object - Toolbox sketches <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete toolboxes by EOD Friday 	<p>9/28</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joinery 101 - Design drawings for furniture - Work in class - Demo: gluing up <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toolboxes, by end of day <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Designer profiles - 20 chair report
Week 2	<p>10/1</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present 20 chair research - 3 Designer profiles - 1 Week Stool - Measuring mission <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24 chair report <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 Week Stool 	<p>10/3</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3 Designer Profiles - Review sketches, 1 week stool - Demo, cut list - Review - Measured Drawings <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sketches, 1 week stool <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut list and measured drawings for 1 week stool 	<p>10/5</p> <p>TOM OUT OF TOWN Kevin will take over.</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In class work - 1 week stool <p>Due:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cut list and measured drawings for 1 week stool <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Progress, 1 week stool
Week 3	<p>10/8</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In class work - 1 week stool <p>Due, end of class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final 1 week stool, clean and sanded but not finished - Measured 1/10 drawings of 1 week stool. <p>Assigned: n/a</p>	<p>10/10</p> <p>In Class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present and critique 1 week stool. <p>Due: n/a</p> <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Go to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum 	<p>10/12</p> <p>Field Trip - Portland</p> <p>Leaving at 10:00. Returning by 22:00.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Portland Art Museum - DWR - The Good Mod - Japanese Gardens <p>Assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sketches for a dining chair

Week 4	<p>10/15</p> <p>In Class: - Group critique of sketches - Continue design work</p> <p>Due: - Sketches for a cafe chair</p> <p>Assigned: - Focused sketches - 1/10 scale sketch models</p>	<p>10/17</p> <p>In Class: - Critique of focused sketches and models</p> <p>Due: - Focused sketches - 1/10 scale sketch models</p> <p>Assigned: - Refined design options, 1/4 scale models.</p>	<p>10/19</p> <p>In Class: - Field trip/Urban Lumber? - Studio work afterwards - Desk crits - refined designs</p> <p>Due: - Refined designs.</p> <p>Assigned: - Midterm Critique</p>
Week 5	<p>10/22</p> <p>In Class: - MIDTERM CRITIQUE</p> <p>Due: - Inspiration - Cardboard 1x1 model - 1/2 scale flat & isometric drawings - A thoughtful verbal presentation.</p> <p>Assigned: - Collate and show in 2D any needed changes after receiving critique.</p>	<p>10/24</p> <p>In Class: - Meet and present final designs. - Overall design must be finalized and approved by EOD today.</p> <p>Due: - Thoughts stemming from crit. - Final revisions to design.</p> <p>Assigned: - Make a complete cut list with outside dimensions only. - Prepare your wood order - species, board footage, and estimated cost. Group pieces by thickness and length.</p>	<p>10/26</p> <p>In Class: - Wood order questions? - Field trip to CrossCuts</p> <p>Due: - Cut list and wood order</p> <p>Assigned: - Full scale drawings. - Cut list with all details and dimensions. List pieces in order of operation.</p>
Week 6	<p>10/29</p> <p>In Class: - Begin 1/4 scale model - Desk crits - drawings and cut lists.</p> <p>Due: - Full scale drawings. - Ordered cut list with all dimensions</p> <p>Assigned: - 1/4 scale model, actual materials</p>	<p>10/31</p> <p>In Class: - Review 1/4 scales - Change drawings and cut lists as needed - Desk crits - prep. for test joints and details</p> <p>Due: - 1/4 scale model, actual materials</p> <p>Assigned: - Test joints/details</p>	<p>11/2</p> <p>In Class: - Complete test joint as needed - Group crit of test joints</p> <p>Due: - Test joint/detail, structural and sanded but no finish.</p> <p>Assigned: - Complete production schedule - Monograph project. - Final deliverables.</p>

Week 7	11/6 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed. Due: - Complete production schedule	11/8 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/10 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.
Week 8	11/12 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/14 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/16 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.
Week 9	11/19 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/21 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/23 <i>Thanksgiving - no class.</i>
Week 10	11/26 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/28 In Class: - Work in class. - Desk crits as needed.	11/30 In Class: - Prepare for Final Critique
Week 11	12/4 Final critique in Lawrence Hall. Reception to follow. Collect one of your chairs from the Hearth Tuesday 12/5 before noon, or as announced.		

LEGAL MISCELLANY

STANDARDS

You're all nearly off on your own in the cruel world. In order to prepare you for this, I will hold you to a professional standard. This means I will treat you with a great deal of respect, but know that I'm not interested in excuses for missed work or in disrespectful behavior. That's industry standard. Take the class and the work seriously, even if it's conceptually far out. I do not linger on students who have done little and/or poor quality work; I move on to the next student who cares more.

Don't freak out because you aren't a professional woodworker. That's why you're in the class. Concentrate on being flexible, learning, and improving. Keeping a death grip on perfection is a great way to destroy your design abilities. Accept ambiguity and know that it's up to you to resolve conflicting inputs - that's a huge part of design. And remember that I don't expect perfection, I expect effort and improvement.

ATTENDANCE - LATE WORK - CLEANING

Your attendance is required at all classes. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late or leave early, I will ruthlessly count you absent. Take this seriously. More than two absences will affect your final evaluation. Missing four or more classes for any reason will result in a no-pass grade without exception. If something serious comes up, talk to me and we'll figure something out. Half of life is showing up. It's like free money! Take advantage.

Late work will not receive credit.

Cleaning the workshop and project at the end of every day is absolutely mandatory. Respect the school, the space, and your colleagues. Clean, don't lean! Don't be prissy about only cleaning up your own stuff. Pitch in and get it all done. Hustle is more important than fairness.

GRADES

This is a pass/fail class, and your ability to pass the class is measured by your:

- timely completion of assignments
- participation in discussions and prompt communication with faculty, staff, and students
- enthusiasm and work ethic
- quality of work:
 - Workmanship - whether it's a drawing or a final prototype, it should be as well made *as your abilities allow*.
 - Clarity - do you clearly communicate your intent and reasoning?
 - Vitruvian standards - firmness, commodity, and delight.
 - Poetry - does it lift the spirit? Does it both ask and answer questions?
 - Relevance - does it deserve to exist in this age of landfill?

DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Students who have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course should make arrangements to see the instructor as soon as possible. They should also request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter verifying the disability. Woodworking is physically and mentally challenging, and quite unlike other academic disciplines. If you have concerns about your ability to complete the work, please speak with the instructor immediately.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

You are expected at all times to do your own work. Copying content from other students and submitting it as your own work is grounds for failing the class. The University Student Conduct Code (available at conduct.uoregon.edu) defines academic misconduct. Students are prohibited from committing or attempting to commit any act that constitutes academic misconduct.

PLAGIARISM

Students should properly acknowledge and document all sources of information (e.g. quotations, paraphrases, ideas) and use only the sources and resources authorized by the instructor. If there is any question about whether an act constitutes academic misconduct, it is the student's obligation to clarify the question with the instructor before committing or attempting to commit the act. Additional information about a common form of academic misconduct, plagiarism, is available at: <http://library.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/index.html>

Specific to this class: There's obviously a line between design and making, but in this program, you're expected to make everything that you design. If you require assistance or expert manufacturing ability, you **MUST** explain the situation to me and work out a viable solution *ahead of time*. Sometimes it's fine to have someone else make your final model - you just need to prove that you're actually designing it. When in doubt, ask.

INCLUSION STATEMENT

The School of Architecture and Allied Arts is a community that values inclusion. We are committed to equal opportunities for all faculty, staff and students to develop individually, professionally, and academically regardless of ethnicity, heritage, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic standing, cultural beliefs and traditions. We are dedicated to an environment that is inclusive and fosters awareness, understanding, and respect for diversity. If you feel excluded or threatened, please contact your instructor and/or department head. The University Bias Response Team is also a resource that can assist you. Find more information at their website at <http://bias.uoregon.edu/index.html> or by phoning 541-346-2037.

HOW TO WORK BETTER.

1 DO ONE THING

AT A TIME

2 KNOW THE PROBLEM

3 LEARN TO LISTEN

4 LEARN TO ASK

QUESTIONS

5 DISTINGUISH SENSE

FROM NONSENSE

6 ACCEPT CHANGE

AS INEVITABLE

7 ADMIT MISTAKES

8 SAY IT SIMPLE

9 BE CALM

10 SMILE