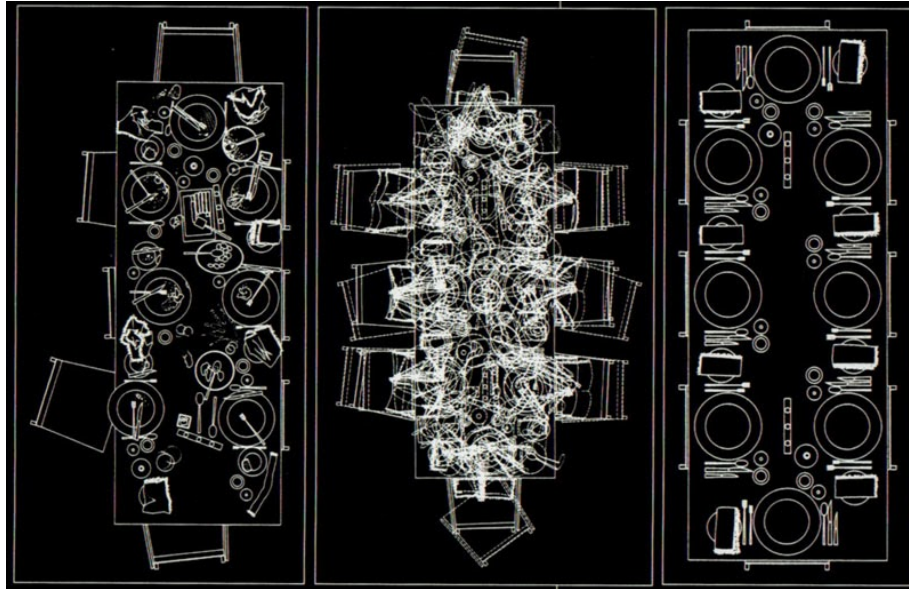


ARC F328W / F392W

Furniture Design

Summer 2020

Instructor: Mark Maček



Description

The course is listed as an Advanced Visual Communication and/or Open Elective taught online. The course examines the role of furniture design as an extension of architecture and interior practices but also as a distinct practice of its own, informed by responsiveness to the human body with an equal emphasis on materials, history, and means of production. In addition to readings and discussion, each student will determine the scope of a series of projects that will be developed through an iterative process with implications for the process of making. As a design/research course, the participating students are responsible for generating and maintaining an ongoing discussion prompted by assigned readings and focused studio-style projects. Emphasis is placed on the students' creative formation of connections between ideas and artifacts.

Structure

The course follows the unfolding of two lines of inquiry in the pursuit of a furniture practice. The primary trajectory will engage ideas through the making of physical *designs*. Questions will be framed in material through the way it is composed in relation to the human body. The second line of inquiry will engage ideas through analytical and interpretive *seminar* discussions. Questions will be revealed from the work of others and brought to bear on our investigation. The co-existence of these activities will affect the nature of ideas unfolding through the semester.

Design

At its core, this class is about design. Considerable energy will be placed in the details, intentions, and refinements of the artifacts designed. Creating a place to allow ideas to unfold is central to the goal. Our intent here is to view the act of design generatively. There will be four assignments, each longer and more developed than the previous one.

Seminar

The goal will be a critical reading and discussion of the texts. The challenge is to look into the works and ask how this thinking affects our activities as designers. Required reading will be posted on Canvas at least one week before they will be discussed. Students are expected to come to class prepared to critically address each reading and sustain a group discussion for the duration of the session. Bring to class one question to be posed to the group for discussion. The schedule is subject to change by the instructor with prior notice.

Technology

Upper-division students should be proficient in hand drawing and 3D rendering techniques as well as physical model making in a variety of media. You have your own graphically capable computer able to run modeling software. Each assignment will have further defined requirements specified.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Participation is expected. Students with three unexcused absences will be encouraged to drop the course. The minimum penalty for three unexcused absences is full letter drop in your final grade for the class. Please contact me if you expect to be late or miss class.

A student who misses a class or assignment due to the observance of religious holy day will be given the opportunity to complete the work within a reasonable time. By UT policy, a student should notify me at least fourteen days prior to the date of an observed religious holy day

Schedule (June 4 – July 9)

Week 1

June 4 Introduction

Readings: Hall, Edward T. *The Hidden Dimension*

June 5 Lecture: Body & Mind

Reading: Bachelard, Gaston. *The Poetics of Space*

Design assignment Project 1: NEST

Week 2

June 8 Pin up and presentation: NEST rough draft

Reading: Pye, David. *The Nature and Art of Workmanship*

June 9 Lecture: The Material Wood

June 10 Pin up and presentation: NEST due

Reading: Turkle, S. *Simulation and Its Discontents*

June 11 Lecture: Design History 1

Design assignment Project 2: TABLE

June 12 Pin up and presentation: TABLE schematic design

Week 3

June 15 Pin up and presentation: TABLE models and development

Reading: Benedikt, M. *Architecture Beyond Experience*

June 16 Lecture: Wood construction and species

June 17 Pin up and presentation: TABLE due

June 18 Lecture: Design History II
Design assignment Project 3: CABINET

June 19 Pin up and presentation: CABINET schematic designs
Reading: Sennett, R. *The Craftsman*

Week 4

June 22 Pin up and presentation: CABINET models and development
Reading: Crawford, Matthew. *Shop Class as Soulcraft*

June 23 Lecture: Woodworking, metalworking, and makers

June 24 Pin up and presentation: CABINET revisions
Reading: Weinthal, L. *Toward a New Interior*

June 25 Guest Lectures

June 26 Pin up and presentation: CABINET due
Design assignment Project 4: CHAIR
Reading: Walker, C. H. *A Theory of Mouldings*

Week 5

June 29 Pin up and presentation: CHAIR concepts
Reading: Wittgenstein's *Handles*

June 30 Lecture: Design Academy Eindhoven

July 1 Pin up and presentation: CHAIR full scale

July 2 Roundtable class discussion

July 3 Pin up and presentation: CHAIR full scale revised

Week 6

July 6 Pin up and presentation: CHAIR progress

July 7 Film

July 8 Pin up and presentation: CHAIR FINAL REVIEW

Grading

I evaluate final project designs based on intent (expression of a design idea combined with inquiry), process (self-criticism, iterations, variations), and resolution (effort and craft). A grade of incomplete will only be granted for illness or family emergency.

Grade Percentages

In class discussions	25%
Project 1	10%
Project 2	15%
Project 3	20%
Project 4	30%