This studio will explore the juxtaposition of furniture within architecture.

The intention of this studio is to help students better understand the principles of how a space can be modified with furniture, and to teach them about the fabrication process. Among the goals and objectives of this course, we are to provide the space user with functional fixtures. The design must enhance all activities taking place within the space. Students will follow specific programmatic needs established by a client, in this particular case, the staff of professors and students of the University of Oregon Department of Architecture.

Students will have to understand the concept of space intervention while going beyond pure form and will have to connect ideas to the activities that happen within the space. We will start with a pre-existing space and modify it with furniture. In the first stage the students will research how furniture and architecture have interacted in the past and present, creating one entity that encompasses spatial qualities as well as solutions for every day functions. Subsequently the student will become familiar with the anthropometric and ergonomic implications behind the design process, and how those have an impact in objects we interact with on a daily basis. Simultaneously students will begin exploring the possibilities of fabrication (how to turn ideas and concepts into buildable pieces with structural integrity) and the options of materials available in order to achieve a cost efficient sustainable solution that delivers quality of craftsmanship.

Participants will be guided through a hands-on design/build project based on the fundamental principles of furniture design and cabinet making as well as the evolution of furniture manufacturing, from basic fabrication techniques to the development of new machine technologies, and the emergence of new alternatives for manufacturing and the impact of globalization and sustainability on the craft and industry of furniture making.

Concepts and ideas will be explored, reviewed and refined with emphasis on both preliminary sketching and fully developed working drawings. Full-scale mock-ups will be made before fabrication begins. The project will be developed in small teams interacting together in order to achieve one common goal.