Furniture Design Studio
IARC 486/586

In this studio we will design and fabricate full-scale working prototypes for a furniture element that responds to task, cultural meaning and materials use. Our theme for the term is:

**Read(ing) + Write(ing)**

The acts of reading and writing are the same yet different in the modern age. Digital media has changed the tools, the posture, and the possible locations for these activities. Yet, desks, tables, chairs and storage elements are much the same as they were in the past. This studio asks students to explore new forms and/or adjust old forms of furniture that relate to reading and writing tasks.

In addition to supporting tasks and tools furniture elements carry cultural and personal messages as well. A writing desk might say something about its owner or about literary traditions, language or culture of the written word. These too can inspire contemporary furniture elements.

Meets: 1:00 – 4:50 pm. MWF
In the Furniture Design Studio (millrace)
Offered on a Pass/No Pass basis only
Associate Professor: Linda Zimmer
Shop Tech: Kevin Rowland

Studio Objectives:
The furniture design studio is a compelling lesson in how design impacts materials and fabrication. The dual focus on design and fabrication will be carried throughout the 10-week time as design decisions are tested in a series of prototypes. Students are expected to reconcile conceptual and technical requirements in their finished prototype. Designs should be appropriate to (at least) small-scale production.

Furniture design provides a unique opportunity for students to explore three-dimensional composition through scale models, mock-ups and finished prototypes. Scale and proportion are key elements of this studio and students must be able to articulate and defend compositional decisions.

Method of Work:
Function is kept simple and open in this studio to encourage a focus on composition and concept. Rather than beginning with a functional program we will begin with compositional exercises. Construction of boxes and stands that follow specific proportional rules early in the term will be used to spark thinking and build precision. Multiple models at different scales are an important design tool in this studio.

Cooperative spirit and willingness to work together in this studio is crucial. A technical consultant will be an integral part of this studio. This consultant will be available during studio time and at additional scheduled open shop times to assist students in fabrication and safe/proper use of tools. Students will be expected to make use of open shop hours to complete their projects in a timely fashion. Students will keep a time sheet and expense report throughout the term. All students are expected to document their design thinking throughout the term and to submit a written report and photographs of their finished prototype at the end of the term.