Instructor: Ryan Donohoe  
email: ryandonohoe@uoregon.edu

6 credit hours, IARC 4/586  
Pass/No pass  
1:00 ~ 4:50 Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
Office hours: Friday 12pm ~ 1pm

The Old  

The New  

Taschen: Golden Age of Advertising 60’s  
Porada Mediacenter

**Studio Description:**

In this interior architecture furniture studio we will explore furniture types and forms that have been rendered obsolete by advancements in technology. Focusing on how users interact with their furniture, your goal will be to identify a formerly useful piece of furniture from the past that can be redesigned into relevance. You will ultimately build a working prototype and explain why the new piece has the potential to avoid the pitfalls of its predecessor.

This studio will help the student develop confidence in using machinery and hand tools, along with broadening one’s knowledge of woodworking vocabulary and design precedent. Students are expected to make a fully working prototype using the woodworking and joinery techniques that will be covered in the beginning weeks of the course via a short, introductory project. During the studio, there will be one field trip to look at furniture building resources.
**Studio Goals**

This studio will focus on identifying an obsolete piece of furniture from the past and reimagining it to coincide with present and future needs of users as well as investigating the basic woodworking techniques of cabinetry and furniture fabrication. Research via periodicals, sketches, joinery exercises, and full-scale drawings will lead to a fully realized furniture piece or prototype. At the end of this studio, students should be able to:

- Explore the utility of a wooden object
- Appreciate the refinement of a wooden object
- Research as a means to inform creative practice
- Manage proper pacing from ideation through creation
- Negotiate the constraints of a specific environment, function, material, and object(s)
- Practice precise milling/joinery with the use of machine tools and hand tools
- Utilize the appropriate construction methods of cabinetry

**Learning Objectives/Outcomes and Requirements**

- Complete safety training on Blackboard and through hands-on shop exercises in order to develop safe work habits
- Openness to both receiving and giving critical feedback
- Explore and analyze multiple alternatives to design solutions for an interior location
- Engage in the collaborative learning process by participating in group discussions and critiques
- Develop time management skills as evidenced by the ability to effectively progress from concept to finished furniture piece or prototype

**Instructor Bio:**

Ryan Donohoe migrated north from Orange County, CA to pursue his Bachelor’s of Architecture at UC Berkeley. Graduating just as the tech bubble burst in 2001, Ryan decided to head to Denmark to continue his studies and focus on furniture design. After three years of study and travel Ryan attended the California College of Art in San Francisco where he received his MFA. There he spent most of his time in the wood shop where he focused on combining the craftsmanship of handmade studio furniture with the design principles of the modern era. For the last eight years Ryan has owned and operated his own wood and metal fabrication studio in Los Angeles where he designed and built custom furniture for a wide range of individual and commercial clients. Ryan recently relocated to Portland where he and his partner, Tess Donohoe, operate a full service design/build studio. See ryandonohoe.com to get a feel for the way Ryan approaches his projects.