Compact living

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Project;
Over half the earth’s population now live in urban areas, placing an ever-increasing demand on the built environment. Small living spaces are the norm for inhabitants of the world’s major cities. This changes the way we use and design furniture. In this studio we will explore how people’s compact living situations and personal routines create a demand for new products and product categories. Foldaway beds, pull out tables and folding chairs are all common examples of space saving furniture. Another way to save space can be to combine two product categories into one element. This can also add to a product’s unique character and serve as a point of difference in the commercial market.

As a final project each student will design a compact table with a built in storage solution. We will use your personal preferences, experiences and market research to develop a table for a chosen room in a small city flat. The final design will be presented as a full-scale working prototype that responds to the demands of (at least) small-scale production. Students are encouraged to consider the environmental impact and life cycle of their design.

Objective;
Throughout the term we will be working on a range of projects aimed to give a good understanding of and develop the basic skills behind commercial furniture design. The goal is to learn how your personal preferences, experiences and creativity can be used to answer a client’s brief and result in unique products.

Method;
Assignments will give a brief introduction of contemporary furniture and the some of the most celebrated designers. Sketching, prototyping techniques and group work are all key elements in this studio. The course will make good use of the wood shop. A shop technician is available to assist with production and proper machine use.

The Black Mirror was originally designed for an art show at the Venice Biennale and is an example of a product that has several functions; mirror, light and storage. Design: Hallgeir Homstvedt 2008