Furniture: Theory and Analysis
IARC 444/544

Instructor:
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Meeting time and place:
10:00-11:20 am T-TH
Room 206 LA

Format:
lecture/discussion

Credit hours and grading:
3 credit hours graded or P/NP

Prerequisites:
Interiors and Architecture students must have completed at least one 4/584 Design Studio. Product Design students must have completed PD 323 Product Design Drawing. This course is required for Interior Architecture and Product Design and provides valuable background information for architecture students interested in 4/586 furniture design studio.

Course Objectives:
This course examines furniture as a product as well as an element in architecture. We examine freestanding furniture pieces but also modular systems and furniture that is integrated into building construction. Upon finishing this class students will have a working knowledge of:

- Furniture types and typology
- The influence of Anthropometrics and ergonomics on furniture design and placement
- Social systems as mediated by furniture
- Contemporary design theory as seen in emerging furniture design
- Theories of flexibility and modularity in furniture design
- Relationships between buildings and furniture
- Lifespan, obsolescence and sustainability

Study Vehicles/Course Content:
Mid-term and Final Exams cover readings and lectures. A series of short writing and drawing/model-making projects will allow students to critically analyze furniture from the perspective of users and designers. Lectures given by the instructor will be punctuated with product demonstrations, student presentations and in-class activities.

Required Readings:
Extensive readings for the course include product literature, articles compiled from contemporary sources and illustrated essays that supplement the lectures. Readings are mostly available on blackboard or through selected websites. One text with a modest price may be assigned.

Students with Disabilities:
The University of Oregon is committed to providing inclusive learning environments. Please notify your instructor if there are aspects of this course that result in barriers to your participation. If you have a documented disability please make an appointment with the instructor to show your notification letter. You may also wish to contact Disability Services in 164 Oregon Hall at 541.346.1155 or disabsrv@uoregon.edu