furniture design studio
Re-invented Tables

Project:
This studio will engage students in hands-on learning to design and build a contemporary table that draws inspiration from a distinct historical type. Students will begin by working in groups to analyze types that have reappeared in different forms, materials, time periods and cultures. Examples include but are not limited to: frame and tray tables, nesting tables and gueridon (portable tables). Parallel construction exercises will allow students to rehearse form and materials solutions and to understand how contemporary materials and fabrication might change the form of a “traditional” small table or set of tables.

Each student will design and fabricate a full-scale working prototype that is unique but that also responds to the demands of (at least) small-scale production. Students will be encouraged to experiment with design ideas that respond to environmental, theoretical and lifestyle constraints of contemporary society.

Objectives:
The furniture design studio is a compelling lesson in how design impacts materials and fabrication and visa-a-versa. 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. A particular goal for this furniture studio is to work together to explore contemporary solutions for age-old problems addressed by tables.

Method:
Cooperative spirit and willingness to work together in this studio is crucial. Students will be encouraged to work together where possible and appropriate in order to harness the power of serial production or to create pieces that share a common element or message. A technical consultant will be an integral part of this studio. This consultant will be available during studio time and at additional scheduled times to assist students in fabrication and proper machine use. Students will also be encouraged to make use of open shop hours to complete their projects in a timely fashion.