Objectives
Practice woodworking skills: tool sharpening, layout, millwork, joinery, gluing, & sanding.
Learn the characteristics of the material wood, including specific species.
Analyze the strength of wood joints.
Design a piece of furniture based on a program, with materials and techniques in mind.
Understand the point of view of the maker within the design process.
Complete the final project.

Schedule
The first six weeks, we practice solid wood joinery using hand tools and power tools. This is a crucial time to attend every day and stay current. There will be an assignment each week due on Tuesday morning. Students sharpen chisels and mill lumber to S4S. Our discussions are grounded in wood’s cellular structure and anisotropy. Strength derives from long grain, weakness from the lack of long grain. Changing moisture content creates expansion and contraction parallel to the annual rings. This is a crucial time to attend every day and stay current. There will be an assignment each week due on Tuesday morning. We will study furniture design history and visit the shops of Austin craftsmen to see how they work.

The final project is one piece of furniture of your choice of program. It must be mostly solid wood, no digital fabrication, and no plywood. Final project design assignments include iterations of sketches, scaled drawings, models at 3”=1'-0", and full-scale mock-ups. The class holds two design reviews before construction begins, allowing seven weeks for completion. The class participates in school-wide final reviews with other design studios. Begin now thinking about what you want to build for your final project. On the seventh week, your proposal will be locked in.

Week 1, Jan 17 - properties of wood, milling, S4S due Jan 24
Week 2, Jan 24 - half lap joint, chisel sharpening, Box due Jan 31
Week 3, Jan 31 - Japanese saw, mortise & tenon, design history, Block due Feb 7
Week 4, Feb 7 - David Pye, how to buy lumber, final project Schematic Design review Feb 14
Week 5, Feb 14 - dovetails, field trip, Handle due Feb 21
Week 6, Feb 21 - species, curved wood, final project Design Development Feb 28
Week 7, Feb 28 - final project 3”=1’ scale model & guest review
Week 8, Mar 7 - full-scale joinery details, buy lumber, schedule for final project
Week 9, Mar 14 - Spring Break
Week 10, Mar 21 - work
Week 11, Mar 28 - work
Week 12, Apr 4 - work
Week 13, Apr 11 - work
Week 14, Apr 18 - work
Week 15, Apr 25 - work
Week 16, May 2 - work, final project review on May 4

Readings
Required reading: The Nature and Art of Workmanship by David Pye.
There will be handouts. List of bookmarks at [www.diigo.com/user/wooddesign](http://www.diigo.com/user/wooddesign)
Design History images on Blackboard
Grading
First 6 weeks  25%
Final project  75%
The first six weeks are graded on effort, timeliness, and craft. I evaluate final project designs based on intent (expression of a design idea), process (self-criticism, iterations, variations), and resolution (effort and craft). After the last day of the semester, the wood shop hours are shortened. A grade of incomplete will only be granted for illness or family emergency.

Safety Training
All students must take UT’s Environmental Health and Safety department online training (https://utdirect.utexas.edu/ehs/class.WBX?s_course_comp=0&s_course_prefix=OH&s_course_number=0500) and pass a short exam at the end in order to enter the shop.
All Wood Design students are required to take John Vekho’s shop safety orientation.

Accommodations
Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

Absence policy
Four unexcused absences will result in a full letter drop in your grade for the semester. Contact me ahead of time if you plan to miss class, and notify me as soon as possible if you are sick or have a family emergency. By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of a religious holy day. You will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence. Please keep me informed so that I can help you.

Required supplies
Lock for desk
Tape measurer, combination square, 1" chisel
Dust masks. The good ones have two straps.
Lumber

Keep the shop clean
CLEAR your bench top and sweep the floor at the end of work day.
The only available scrap wood is in the scrap bins.
When gluing, cover the bench top with newspaper or wax paper.

Observe safety rules and tool maintenance
Wear hearing, eye, and respiratory protection.
No MDF. No reclaimed lumber unless specifically approved.