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Baily RISD Museum Bench

RISD Museum

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My name is Scott Bailey. I'm a first year grad student in the Furniture Department here at RISD. Some of the objects in the museum that inspired me were the vessel forms that are so prevalent throughout all the galleries.

Specifically the lekythos forms that are oil flasks were of interest to me. They have a very beautifully tapered top portion that is captured by a really crisp edge before draping down the rest of the form, and that was something that I really grasped onto and began to work with when I was designing the legs for my bench.

Something that also inspired me was just the general tranquility and peacefulness of the galleries that's also reflected in all these beautiful flowing light forms, and that was something that I wanted to capture when I started designing my bench, and really kind of fit into the space with that light tranquil atmosphere, but still create an object that can be interesting and inviting, and catch people's attention, so that they know they can come sit down and take in all these forms around them.

Hi, I'm Peter Walker. I'm an associate professor at RISD and the graduate program director in the department of Furniture Design, and I'm the faculty member who's responsible for coordinating and running this specific museum seating class. This was a fascinating opportunity for our department of Furniture Design students, which encompass not only graduate students, but also students from senior and junior year to engage in a class that brought the museum and the teaching institution of RISD together in a very unique combination.

I think quite often when patrons visit us into the museum—and students, as well – we're absorbing extraordinary amounts of information and cultural references, and influences. In this particular instance we were able to absorb them and then reinterpret them, and then actually place them back in the museum. So I think this is a really extraordinary opportunity where the museum patrons of the future, and visitors in the future, are actually going to be able to learn from the process of education that has happened here; as well as the history that's been preserved and represented.