

Mar 20th, 8:30 AM - Mar 21st, 5:30 PM

Material Lessons: Expanding Practice (program)

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MATERIAL LESSONS

EXPANDING PRACTICE

Rhode Island School of Design
Department of Furniture Design
Symposium
March 20 & 21, 2014



materiallessons.risd.edu

SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

8:30am - 9:00am

Opening Refreshments
Chace Center, RISD Museum

9:00am - 10:00am

Introduction & Opening Remarks
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

10:00am - 12:00pm

Session I: Critique
Prov-Wash, Room 237

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00pm - 3:30pm

Session II: Workshops
various locations

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Session III: Objects & Materials
Materials Resource Center, RISD Library

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Gallery Night
RISD Museum

6:00pm - 9:00pm

Graduate Student Exhibition Opening
Sol Koffler Gallery, CIT Building

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

8:30am - 9:00am

Opening Refreshments
Chace Center, RISD Museum

9:00am - 10:30am

Session I: Practice
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

10:30am - 12:00pm

Session II: Engagement
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Lunch Break

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Drawing: Mind to Hand
Danforth Room, RISD Museum

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Session III: Pedagogy
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

3:00pm - 4:30pm

Session IV: Reflections & Keynote Address
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Closing Reception
Chace Center, RISD Museum

CRITIQUE

Thursday, March 20
10:00am - 12:00pm
Prov Wash Room 237

The creative process can be very personal but there is a significant moment in the trajectory when the work faces outward and the necessary feedback and assessment occur. This fundamental aspect of the process is what we call critique.

Critique can provide the central moments in creative development; it can be both individual and social and it can address everything from broad ambitions to specific design details, all within differing forms of conversation. Critique is concerned with discovery and it encourages critical thinking.

Symposium events will begin with short critiques and discussions involving two students in the MFA program and three students in the BFA program in conversation with faculty and guest critics.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Friday, March 21
3:00pm - 4:30pm
Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

REFLECTIONS ON MATERIAL LESSONS

Glenn Adamson

Glenn Adamson is the Nanette L. Laitman Director of the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD) in New York City. He was, until Autumn 2013, Head of Research at the V&A, where he was active as a curator, historian and theorist. Dr Adamson's publications include *Thinking Through Craft* (2007), *The Craft Reader* (2010), *Invention of the Craft* (2013), and *Postmodernism: Style and Subversion 1970 to 1990* (2011). He is also the co-founder and editor of the triannual *Journal of Modern Craft*.

REFLECTIONS ON EXANDING PRACTICE

Rosanne Somerson

Rosanne Somerson is a furniture designer/maker, educator, and is RISD's interim President after serving in the role of Provost and chief academic officer. She simultaneously maintains a robust creative practice, designing and creating furniture for exhibitions and commissions. Additionally, she consults on innovative educational and creative practice for institutions and industry. Her work has been exhibited widely throughout the world and is represented in many prestigious private, corporate, and museum collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Renwick Collection of the National Museum of American Art, Washington, DC, the Yale University Art Gallery, the Huntsville Museum of Art and the RISD Museum of Art. She has served on the boards of the Haystack Mountain School, in Maine, the Society of Arts and Crafts, Boston, is a named Fellow of the American Craft Council, and is the subject of an interview that forms part of the Smithsonian Institute Archives of American Art Oral History Program. As a sought-after international lecturer, juror, exhibitor, and evaluator, she applies both local and global perspectives to her work. She has received numerous awards and citations for her work as a designer, artist, and teacher, most recently the Award of Distinction for lifetime achievement in the field of studio furniture by the Furniture Society.

WORKSHOPS

All Workshops:

Thursday, March 20 1:00pm - 3:30pm

CNC ROUTER EXPERIMENTS

CNC Lab, Bank Building

led by Chris Specce, Brandon Walker

This workshop will demonstrate the basic capabilities of cnc routers and will attempt several experiments that explore possibilities for marking, cutting and forming with the technology. If you have a laptop with cad software, please bring it.

STEAM BENDING EXTRAVAGANZA

Furniture Design Woodshop, Metcalf Building

led by Tyler Inman, Ross Kellog, Anthony Dahut, Will Radin, Sira Udomritthiruj

In this workshop, participants will demonstrate a range of steam bending techniques. You are invited to free-form bend, while students will execute more controlled bends.

INFLATABLE STRUCTURES

Market Square

led by August Lehrecke, Matt Muller

We will be inflating a large metallic bubble structure in market square and explaining techniques and construction methods of said structure. Visitors may then get a chance to make their own inflatable object using tape and plastic sheeting.

METAL CASTING

Chace Plaza, Metcalf Building

led by Jude Hughes, Alex Kuzio, Jeff McKenzie

Jude hughes and Alex Kuzio will be sand-casting silica bronze. The process will include: melting down the bronze, pouring the molten bronze into a sand mold and liberating the cast piece from the mold.

WOOD TURNING, TEXTURING, & PAINTING

Furniture Design Woodshop, Metcalf Building & Bank Building

led by Gail Fredell, Dale Broholm, James Rosner, Anetta Urmeý, Dominique Fenechell, Sydney Nislow

“Point to Point”: this workshop will briefly explore the possibilities of form, texture and color by means of between centers turning. Turning blanks and paint materials will be provided.

LIGHTING & WIRING

Furniture Design Metal Shop, Lower Level of Metcalf Building

led by Scot Bailey, Kjartan Oskarsson

Participants will be provided with materials and instruction to produce a functional led lighting circuit, as well as materials for exploration and construction of other lighting designs.

PANEL DISCUSSION: OBJECTS & MATERIALS

Thursday, March 20

3:30pm - 5:00pm

Materials Resource Center, RISD Library (2nd floor)

Moderators: Eric Anderson & Chris Specce

Panelists: Josh Owen, Debra Folz, Andrea Parikh, Katie Stout

Objects serve myriad and complex needs of individuals and societies – from solving utilitarian problems to providing emotional and spiritual fulfillment. For designers, objects hold particular creative, ethical, commercial, and pedagogical significances. This panel will explore a range of meanings, focusing especially on the effect of materiality on meaning. How does the physical nature of the object and its materials shape the ways that designers and users understand objects? What roles do influence and history play in the design and experience of objects?

Panelists in the session will present favorite objects and materials, discussing how they understand and teach the relationship between materiality and meaning. Presentations will be followed by a conversation moderated by Eric Anderson and Chris Specce.

Josh Owen is President of Josh Owen LLC and Professor and Department Head of Industrial Design at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Debra Folz is faculty member in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD and New England School of Art & Design at Suffolk University and Principal of Debra Folz Design.

Andrea Parikh is an MFA student in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD whose thesis deals with the impact materiality has on the perception of objects.

Katie Stout is an alum of the Department of Furniture Design at RISD, former Gallery Director at Johnson Trading Gallery and has an active independent design practice.

Eric Anderson is a design historian and Assistant Professor in the Department of History of Art and Visual Culture at RISD.

Chris Specce is Assistant Professor in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD.

PANEL DISCUSSION: PRACTICE

Friday March 21st

9:00am - 10:30am

Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

Moderator: Pradeep Sharma

Panelists: Fo Wilson, Michael Hurwitz, Josh Owen, Alex Williams

The term Practice implies that we have to do something to understand it and that we get better the more we do it. What are the qualities of creative practice and how are they directed towards social design? How does creative practice work and how does it encourage innovation?

RISD Interim Provost Pradeep Sharma will moderate presentations and discussion about Practice.

Josh Owen is President of Josh Owen LLC and Professor and Department Head of Industrial Design at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Fo Wilson is a maker, educator, curator and writer as well as Assistant Professor of Art and Design at Columbia College, Chicago.

Michael Hurwitz is Principal of Michael Hurwitz Furniture in Philadelphia.

Alex Williams is a founding Partner of RBW, a furniture and lighting business based in Brooklyn.

PANEL DISCUSSION: ENGAGEMENT

Friday, March 21

10:30am - 12:00pm

Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

Moderator: Chris Rose

Panelists: Peter Walker, Saija Hollmen, Peter Dean, Sam Anderson

Design Thinking takes us across big changes of scale, from the smallest object to the infrastructures of human experience. Relationships between experimental and applied design skills, together with knowledge building and participatory planning, all feature in the social connectivity that we care about.

All participants share a deep interest in how design thinking and direct engagement with humanistic concerns can inform our teaching and research with students at all levels of study, with direct connections to fieldwork and sustained engagement. The session includes a short presentation from each contributor followed by a discussion and Q&A moderated by Chris Rose.

Peter Walker is a former RISD faculty member, now Program Director in the Sustainable Design MA at the University of South Australia.

Saija Hollmen is a founding member of UKUMBI NGO, with projects in Africa, and teaches architecture at Aalto University Helsinki

Peter Dean is a faculty member in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD, co-founder of the college's Nature Culture Sustainability Concentration, Board Member of the Marion Institute and partner in EcoCycleDesign.

Chris Rose is Graduate Program Director in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD.

Sam Anderson is a Senior in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD.

PANEL DISCUSSION: PEDAGOGY

Friday, March 21

1:30pm - 3:00pm

Metcalf Auditorium, Chace Center, RISD Museum

Moderators: John Dunnigan & Sarah Ganz Blythe

Panelists: Dale Broholm, Daniel Cavicchi, Philippa Lyon, Teshia Treuhaff

What are effective methods, practices, experiences and strategies necessary for building knowledge in design? What are the relevant links among ideas, skills, research and critical making? After brief presentations related to pedagogy from each panelist, Professor John Dunnigan will moderate a discussion to explore ways in which education in art and design can help to build creative practice.

Dr. Philippa Lyon is a Research Fellow on the Faculty of Arts at the University of Brighton, UK whose recent research is on drawing in design education.

Daniel Cavicchi is Professor of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences and the Dean of Liberal Arts at RISD.

Dale Broholm is Senior Critic in the Department of Furniture Design at RISD and Founder of The Witness Tree Project.

Teshia Treuhaff is a Graduate Student in the Department of Furniture Design whose thesis involves research into pedagogy and RISD 2050.

Sarah Ganz Blythe is the Director of Education at the RISD Museum.

John Dunnigan is Professor and Head of the Department of Furniture Design.

The Department of Furniture Design at Rhode Island School of Design is hosting a Symposium for the purposes of exploring the role of materials knowledge, research, critical making and engagement in expanding opportunities in art and design.

Department pedagogy reflects the belief that relationships between ideas and applied skills, knowledge building and the material world all feature in the social connectivity that is central to effective practice. With a focus on objects, the curriculum encourages diverse work in the broad area of human scale experience.

Through a series of events, workshops and discussions including students, faculty and guests, we propose a unique and engaging experience.



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