



Joe Dunaske

Furniture Designer and Facilitator

As an extraordinarily diligent and hard worker, I've honed my creative skills for the past four years at Kendall College of art and design. As a collaborative design major, I've learned not only how to lead a group of designers but how to work effectively as a team member. My minor is in furniture design, and although it is my main passion, I've pushed myself to great lengths, to squeeze out as much furniture related knowledge in only two years of classes. Having such a limited time to immerse myself, I've had to reach outside of standard classwork and self-direct my learning through extracurricular projects.

Outside the world of furniture, I also enjoy spending time refining my art practices of drawing and photography. I also appreciate getting to sit down in front of my typewriter and craft short stories. Lastly, I love to keep my hands busy by reeling in fish and doing projects in the woodshop.

Scholarships and Awards

- T.J. Amick Memorial Scholarship
- Bruce Mulder Furniture Design Scholarship
- Kendall Merit Scholarship
- Grand Rapids Furniture Designers Endowed Scholarship
- Kendall Portfolio Scholarship
- Kendall Award of Excellence Scholarship
- Won 2nd place 2019 WEGE PRIZE
- Won 2nd 2019 MWEST
- Won 2nd and Peoples Choice 2018 MWEST

Skills and Abilities

- Hand sketching and rendering
- AutoCad
- Fusion 360 and Keyshot
- Consumer and trend research
- Management and facilitation of groups
- Model making and prototyping
- Knowledge of historical furniture styles
- Woodworking and CNC programming

Contact

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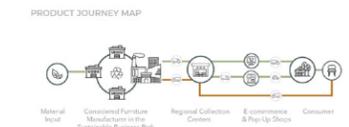
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'TSURU'

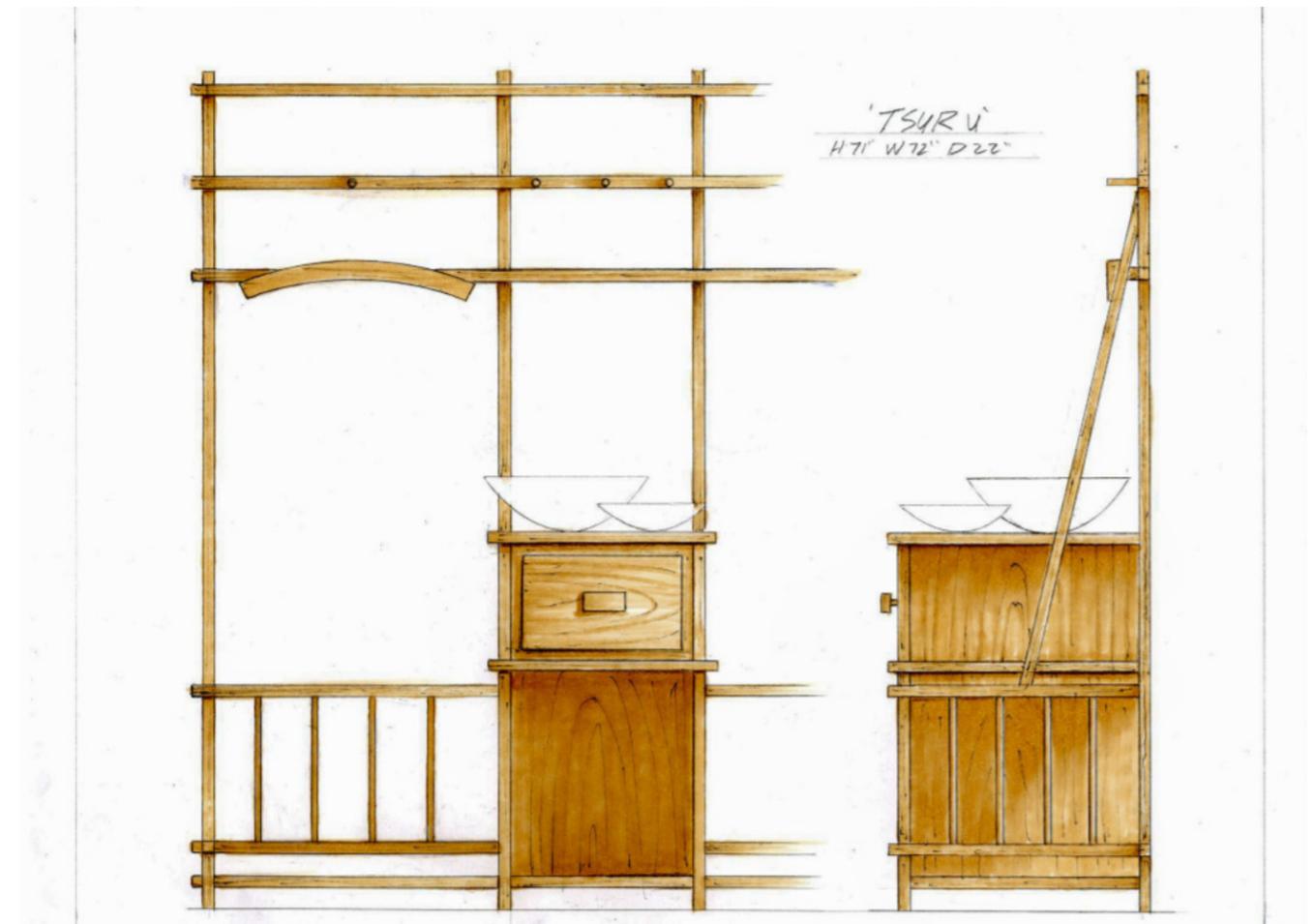


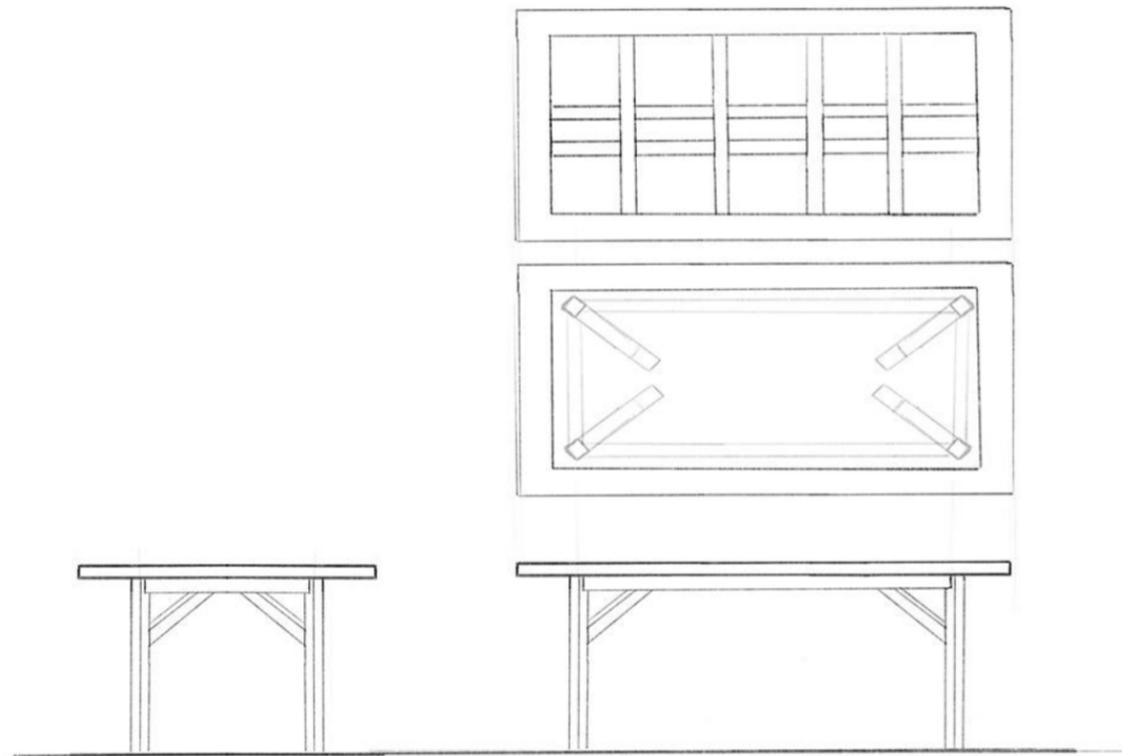
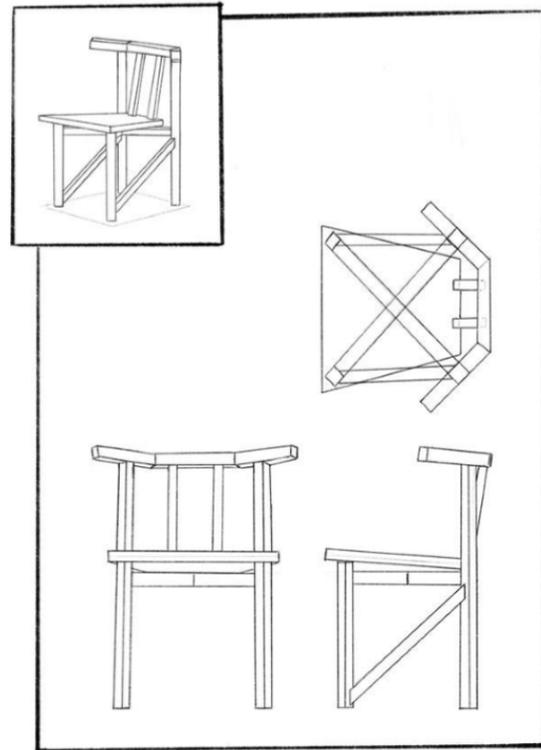
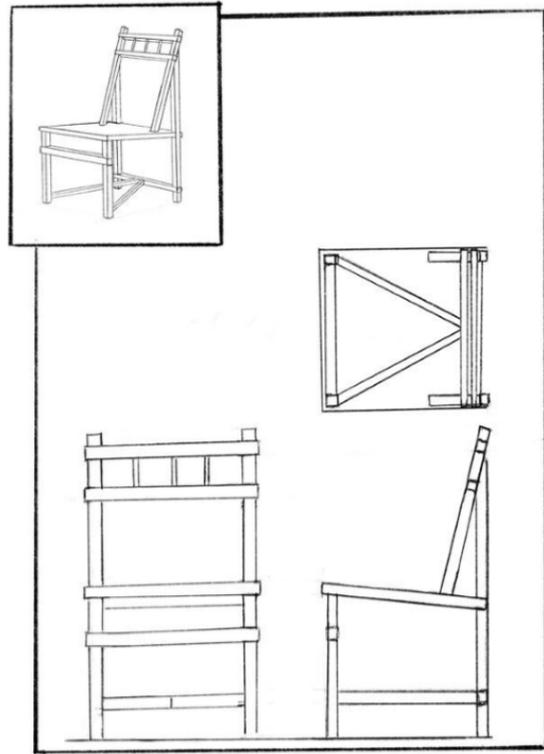
Heavily inspired by Japanese culture, architecture and traditional interiors 'Tsuru' expresses true balance and harmony. As an entryway piece, its openness and clean traditional lines makes Tsuru very unobtrusive letting it fit into a range of aesthetics and environments. Spanning 72" wide and 71" tall accompanied by 22" deep storage and seating Tsuru is to be used daily and to be apart of your life.

In Japanese, Tsuru means crane, a beautiful bird with long towering legs and a long neck that represents peace and tranquility in Japanese culture. Tsuru shares similar qualities to the crane, with its long vertical supports and light airy design looking almost weightless.

Tsuru features seating for two, with a built in single drawer storage cabinet in between. Low to the ground storage allows space for footwear to be stored and is easily cleanable and ventilated. Mimicking the back rail of a chair, Tsuru has two elongated wooden coat hangers, with a wooden toggle located beneath for addition hanging abilities. Five wooden dowels allow for hat and scarfs to be stored out in the open to dry.

After completing the 'Tsuru' design I was inspired to create a number of other designs in the same aesthetic. These designs included two chairs, a kitchen table, and a bar cart, all of which I designed, drafted and then CNC modeled in 1/4 scale.







Re-Imagined 'McKinley' Chairs

The founder of Kendall College of Art and Design, David Wolcott Kendall, designed a chair in 1894 which was a simple, upright with a curved front apron, cane back and seat and wide armrests. This chair became known as the McKinley Chair after President William McKinley ordered a number of them to put in the White House.

In 2018 Kendall celebrated its 90th anniversary, that year we also the created a pop-up park in the street in front of our campus. I was apart of the team designing and organizing the park, and as a side project I wanted to design and create all of the furniture that would go in it.

Among the furniture I created, I wanted to re-imagine David Wolcott Kendall's most famous chair, honoring Kendall's 90th anniversary. While on a budget, I wanted to create a set of lounge chairs and ottomans that took direct inspiration from the McKinley chair while using modern CNC machinery to produce them. This was a great experience learning different manufacturing joinery and CNC operations.



RAINIER

Subdued, natural, yet opulent designs add the perfect finishing touch to a home's décor. Featuring cool matte black metal punctuated by warm solid oak accents, the materials work in harmony to create a decidedly minimalistic and down-to-earth style. Displaying conviction to ergonomics, a sense of functionality and practicality, each piece is designed with organic curves that cater to the human hand and how one interacts.



Hardware Project

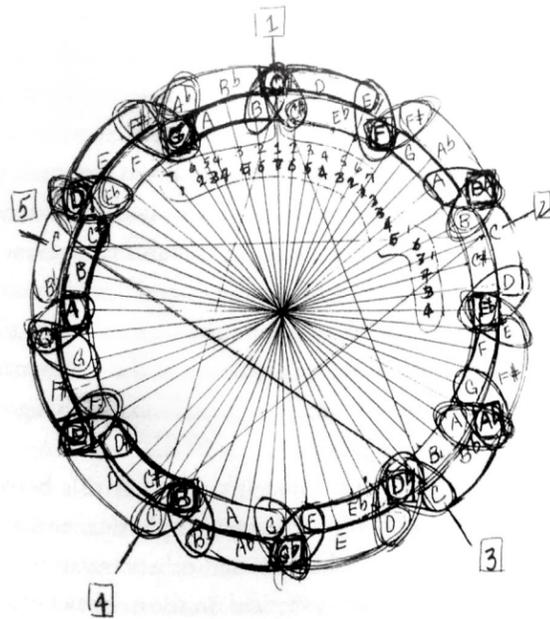


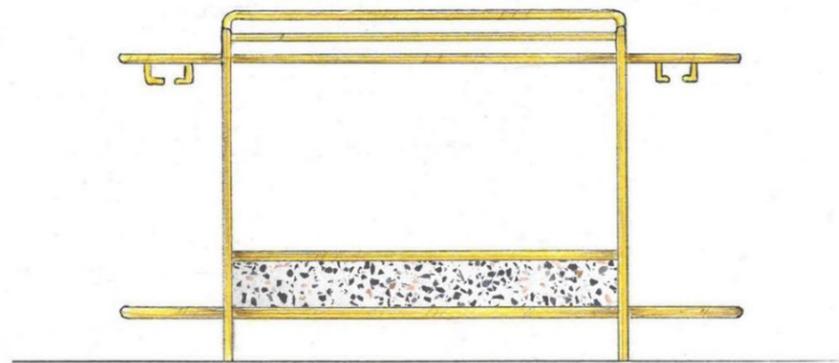
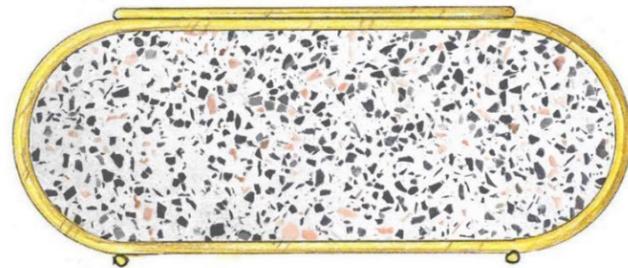
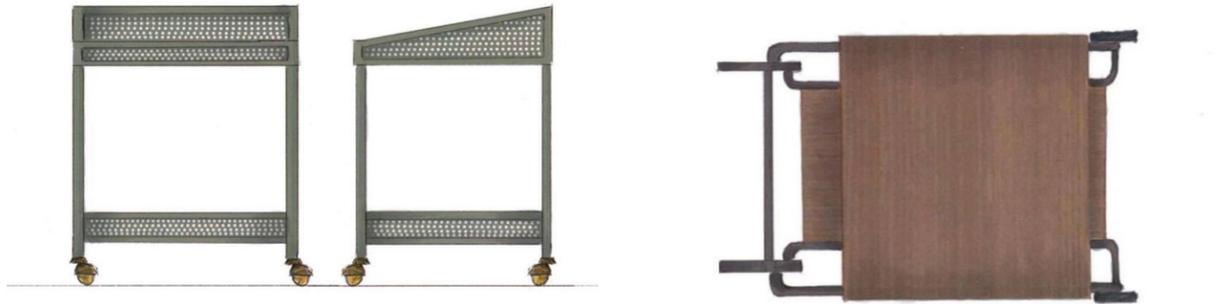
On this project we worked with Belwith, a hardware company located Grand Rapids Michigan. We were tasked to research current trends and create a inspiration board. I focused upon trends that revolved around matte black metal and natural wood tones, while being inspired by the Pacific Northwest. We were then to create a collection and render it on canson paper. I took it step further and prototyped a working collection and branded presentation board. We then presented and pitched our collections to Belwith and their designers. This was a great excercise in trend research, rendering and prototyping.

Coltrane Collection

Famous jazz musician John Coltrane created his own version of the Circle of fifths, which is a geometrical representation of relationships among the 12 pitch classes. Coltrane used this circle to create semi-tones and his famous "Coltrane Changes". Each of his song can be mapped out on his Coltrane circle, each change in the song creates its own path, creating geometric shapes. I then took these shapes and created a collection of cocktail tables, each corresponding to a different song. Pictured below, is a representation of his song Giant Steps, in the form of stacking tables. The circular table, with brass inlay on top represents drastic key changes in the song Central Park West, while the triangular table below represents the song Equinox.

This was my first time using Fusion 360 and keyshot. This was also a great exercise for finding inspiration in odd places.





'Trending' Bar Collection

This collection bar units came from my 'Trends' class. I was tasked with doing market analysis and research on current entertainment carts and cabinets. There were four major trends I found, which were glam, industrial, black with cane, and mid-century modern. For each of those styles I designed a smaller mobile cart with price point in mind, and a stationary or cabinet style bar for a higher price point.

For the industrial units I was inspired by old steel tanker desks and factory carts with old dusty green finishes.

With industrial and Mid-century modern trending I gained inspiration from the designer Jean Prouve, who's aesthetic fits both styles to create a set of Mid-century modern units featuring walnut and black metal.

For the matte black and cane units, I was inspired by an old tropical mailbox from the 1940s, with its soft curves and textures.

For the glam bar units I really focused on the trends of soft curves, pill shapes and thin lines.

Hammer & Nail



Hammer and Nail was a project I spear headed in my User Centered Design class. We were a group of three Collaborative Design students. We did market and consumer research, finding a portion of the public had a large interest in DIY projects and DIY culture. Finding pain points and opportunities we then created a business model that would fit into that market.

Hammer and Nail would be a furniture e-commerce platform and education tool that provides customers with an opportunity to customize pre designed furniture, learn the skills necessary to build it, and give them the materials and tools necessary to create their ideal piece. We aimed to solve our customer's DIY problem of lack of tools, knowledge, and confidence.

We ran surveys that got responses reaching over 200, and also performed detailed consumer product prototyping where we observed people customize their piece of furniture and watched them unpack and assemble the item to completion.

We entered the 2018 MWEST competition, a regional business competition with other colleges, winning 2nd place and peoples choice. This was a great entrepreneurial and team leading experience for me, inspiring me to participate in other competitions.



Considered Furniture

In 2019 I got a group of designers and students together to compete in a global sustainability contest called Wege Prize. Our idea was to provide a circular furniture company which shifts end life responsibility of bulk furniture waste from the user to the manufacturer. Our company would respond to a need for effective return channels for bulk furniture, capturing the perceived “waste” and directing it towards new revenue streams. Considered Furniture’s circular economy contends that raw material passed into the hands of a consumer as a product that does not exit our system as lost value. Rather, it remains in the system as an asset, returning to manufacturing to enter a new lifecycle, or is upcycled and returned to the environment as a positive nutrient.

During this competition we held over ten phone interviews with professionals in our field including IKEA product designers and IKEA’s Circular Design Leader. This project took a huge amount of effort that lasted over two semesters. It was great experience delegating and managing this entire design process and going into details on how a business works financially. We won second place and \$15,000 at WEGE Prize and we also competed in MWEST 2019 and won 2nd place with this same idea.

LIVING ROOM COLLECTION



PRODUCT JOURNEY MAP



side table
\$125.00



dining chair
\$75.00



dining table
\$425.00





The 1928 Collection 'ICFF'

As my 2020 thesis I wanted to get a group of designers together to create a booth for ICFF in new York. I gathered three furniture designers, two interior designers and one functional art student to be apart of the team. Together we came up with a concept/question of 'what does heritage look like in the modern setting?'

We came to this concept because at our school we are thoroughly taught historical periods of furniture, and we are known for that. So with this historical background, and participating in a 'modern' show, we decided to blend the two together. We did this by finding current trends, and then combining those trends with historical motifs and silhouettes.

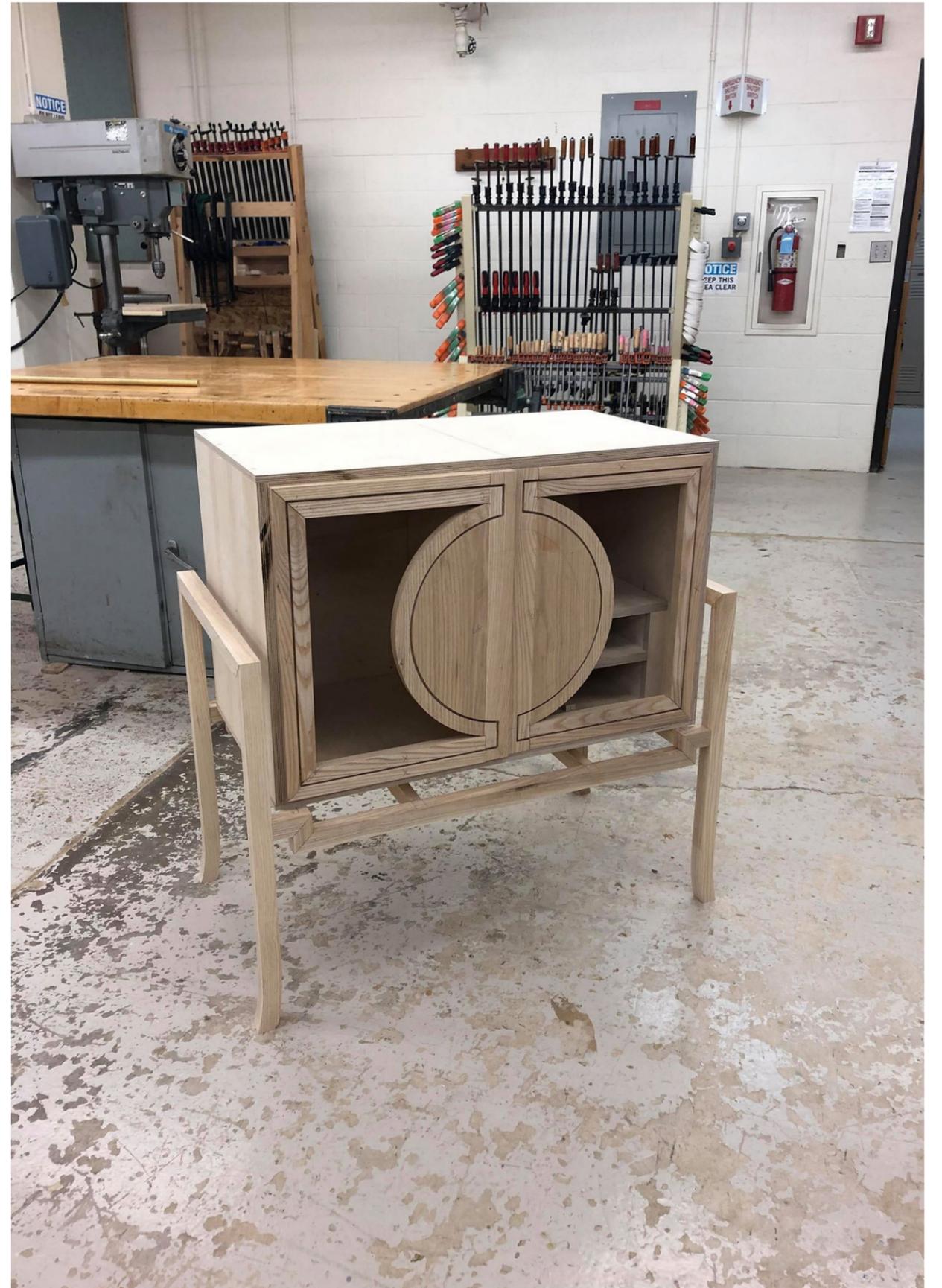
Since we are taking this historical approach we

reached out to local companies that have been in the furniture industry for over a hundred years to sponsor us.

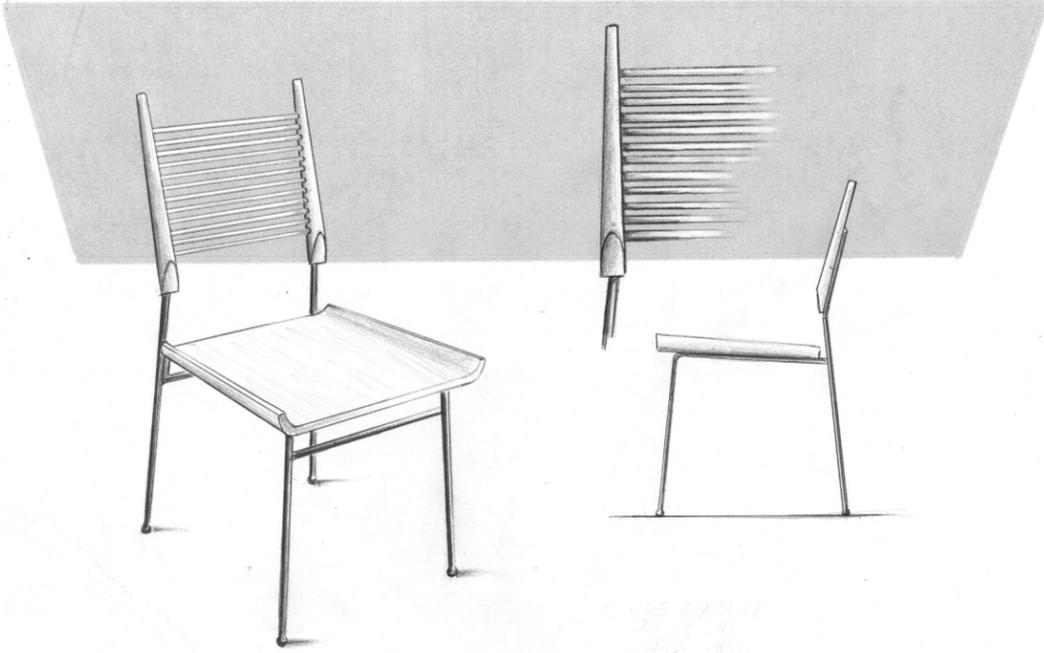
We decided to name this collection 'The 1928 Collection' due to the fact that was the year Kendall College of Art and Design opened its doors.

Overall this has been a tremendous learning experience in team and project management.

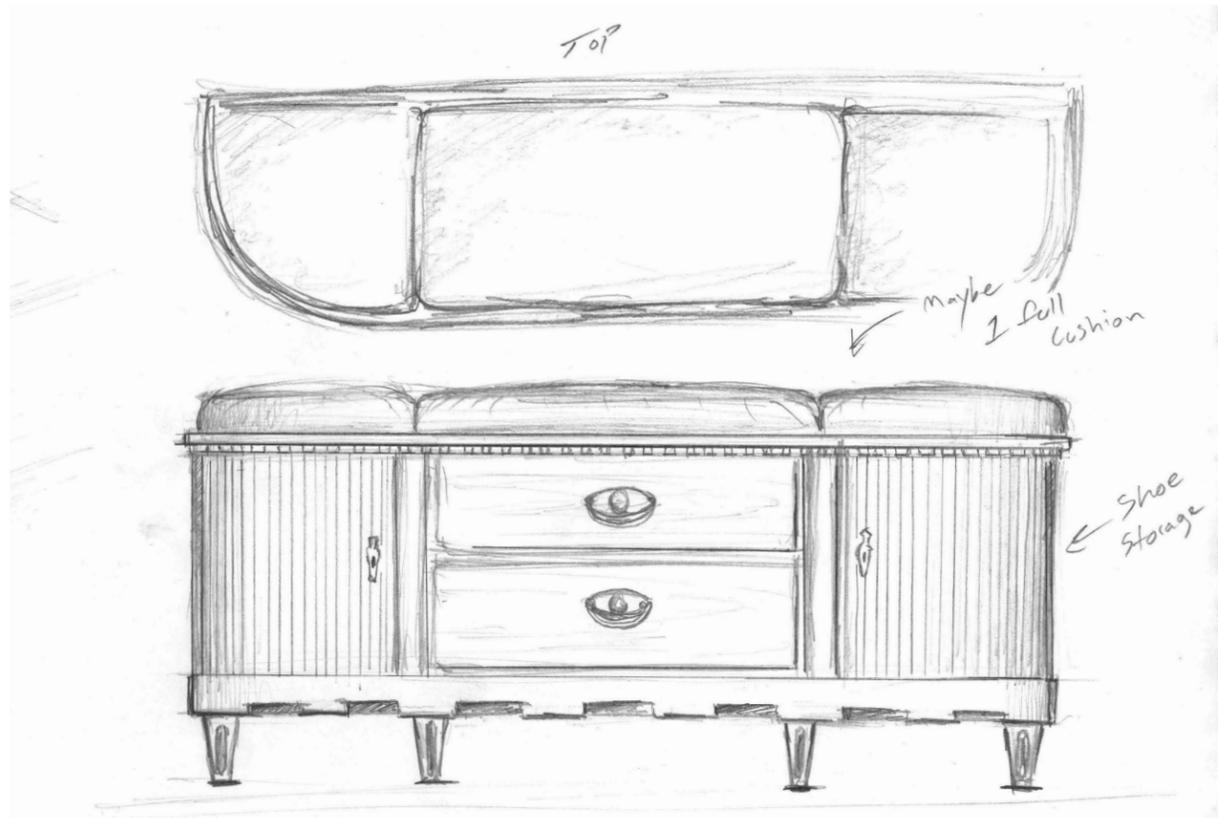




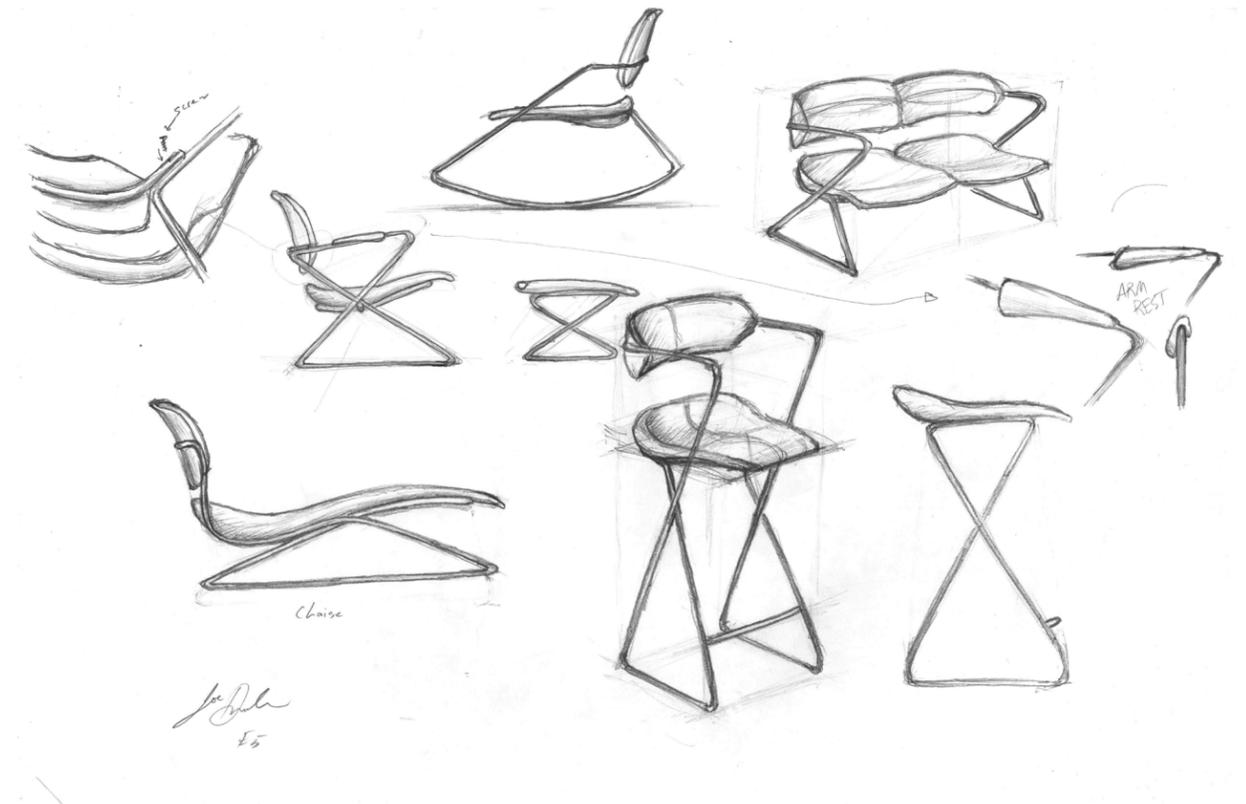
Furniture Studies



JOE DOMASKE OCT 14 2019 SPADE CHAIR



Concept Sketches



Built Furniture

