



SUPERNATURAL: Furniture Exploring the Traditions and Potential of Wisconsin Forestry

May 7 – June 4, 2004
Wisconsin Academy Gallery; Madison, WI

June 11 - August 12, 2004
Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center, Ashland

WISCONSIN'S FORESTS provide for our state in abundance. They serve as a magnificent backdrop for the natural beauty of our landscape. They generate products that improve our daily lives. They support our economy through high-paying jobs, tourism and recreation. Our forests are the foundation of a rich history and the promise of a bright future for Wisconsin.

To promote an appreciation for our forests and all they provide, Master of Fine Arts students, visiting artists and faculty from the wood/furniture area of the UW-Madison Art Department created these pieces, which mimic the forest's ability to be both beautiful and functional. Most were fashioned using undervalued species and wood products from the Forest Products Laboratory.

In celebration of 100 years of sustainable forestry in Wisconsin, this exhibit is a collaboration of the wood/furniture area of the UW-Madison Art Department, the Wisconsin DNR Forestry Division, the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory, and the Wisconsin Academy Gallery.

GIZO CHAIR Alaskan yellow cedar

Hayami Arakawa

The wood used in this piece was harvested from trees that were already dead, representing an under-used resource. The components of the chair are hollow, generated by fastening four thin pieces of wood together. Japanese timber framing techniques were employed to create this piece because Alaskan yellow cedar is often used in Japan.



been used for thousands of years by people of all cultures.

The sonoboard, a modern product engineered here in Wisconsin at the Forest Products Laboratory, drastically contrasts the character and style of the traditional, generic blanket chest form. In essence, the attempt of this piece was to celebrate the union of innovation and tradition through the common medium of wood. By joining these two very different components together, the piece is intended to pay homage to the way humans throughout history have creatively used this wonderfully adaptable medium.

THE FOREST: Past, Present and Future 2004 plywood, canvas and paint

Renee Gouaux

Plywood was chosen for this piece for its expressive qualities of pattern, movement and color variation, as well as its ordinary status as a common building material. Plywood was

invented as a way to maximize the use of a tree and to create greater tensile strength in a larger, thinner format known as sheetgoods. The panels were laminated in a vacuum press using commercial sheetgoods in order to include the artist's own painted fabric hinges and arrangements of the plywood.

The three-dimensional folding form of this piece echoes the expanding and contracting two-dimensional patterns on each panel. With its flexible fabric hinges the piece itself can be expanded or shrunk like a folding screen. The presence of viewers completes the piece when their images are reflected off of the mirror-like surfaces of the wood.

TELESCOPING BENCH Laminated veneer lumber, wooden I-joists, and cabinet door rollers

Matthew Hebert

This piece was inspired by the goals of engineered wood products, and works as a visual metaphor for the idea of stretching a resource to its limit. The

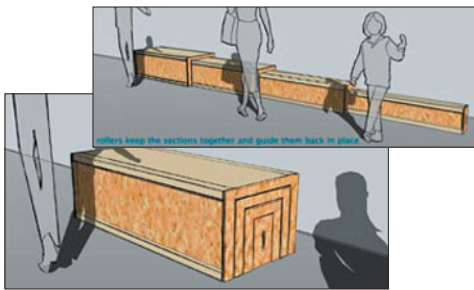
BLANKET CHEST

Cherry, sonoboard, and paint

Isaac Arms

The structural design and construction of this chest is based on technology and composition of shape that have



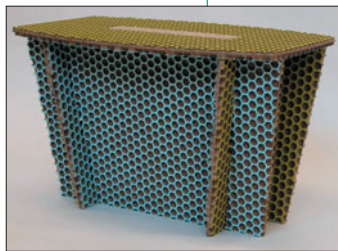


sections of the bench diminish and can be seen as adult- or child-sized, which emphasizes the importance of managing our forest resources intelligently so they may continue to provide for future generations.

EARLY GREEN AND BABY BLUE and Masonite Brown and Milky White (two stools)
sonoboard

Barbara Holmes

The goal for these pieces was to accentuate the inherent qualities of the sonoboard product while creating a furniture item that could be easily mass-produced. These small storage stools/tables come together using slotted panel construction (common in knock-down or KD furniture) for ease in assembly and disassembly. The panels are treated with color on both sides giving the stools a dual-tone that can be changed by simply pulling the panels apart and reversing them in a number of combinations. Disassembled the stools/tables can be packaged, shipped, moved, or stored in flat stacks to economize space and shipping costs. Options in shape, size, and color combinations could easily be offered and would give consumers the opportunity and satisfaction of customizing their own product.

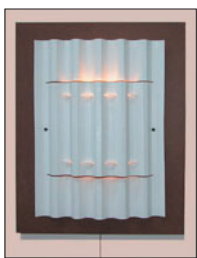


UNTITLED (wall sconce)

Pressed board made with recycled envelope stock and recycled cardboard

Barbara Holmes

This wall sconce was created using pressed



boards formed at the Forest Products Laboratory.

HEAVY white oak, and cherry

Tom Loeser

The white oak was crushed in compression using testing machines at the Forest Products Laboratory. They withstood 20,000 pounds of compression before buckling, but they are still more than strong enough to support a seated person. The visual pun of this stool implies that someone awfully heavy had a sit-down and produced these dramatic results.

RELIQUARY FOR A WHEEL plywood and steel

Mark Sauter

The purpose of this piece is to pay homage to the artist's use of the wheel



in his work. Laminating the plywood together shows the interesting linear qualities the material has when it is cut at an angle.

SEAT wooden bar stool, paint, and pine needles

Mark Sauter

This piece was created using elements that the viewer can easily identify, but that have been manipulated in some way. Using common materials that we are surrounded



by, but changing the context in which they are used, gives the viewer an opportunity to walk away with a different definition of that material.

MALECITE-GUN SURFBOARD

birch bark, foam core, black poplar veneer stringer, commercial fin box and fin



Roscoe Straker

A fascination with the qualities of birch bark and research into its uses became the inspiration for this piece. The artist learned about Native American birch bark canoes and saw many parallels between the canoe and the surfboard, including the functional aspects of their similar shapes and the close relationship between the user and the watercraft.

The name 'Malecite-Gun' describes the fusion of these two types of watercraft. Malecite is the Native American tribe who created the most beautiful and functional style of canoe. Gun is derived from the "Big Gun" surfboard, a large board used to hunt large and dangerous waves.

RONCIVERT CHAIR ash, steel, and leather

Stu Sherwood

This piece is a modern twist on the traditional form and elements of a Windsor chair. One of the ideas behind modernism is using materials in ways that show their properties; here, the piece demonstrates the bending properties of ash.

