

Assemblies

ARCH257 Winter 2024
Meetings Tue/Thu 8:30–11:20am
Jan 11–Feb 22
Instructor Jono Bentley Sturt
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Above: GC Chairs within GC Prostho
Museum Research Design Centre

Kengo Kuma, Kasugai-ishi, Japan, 2010

Architecture is a medium and discipline which, once one begins studying it, tends to defy expectations of a simple, singular definition. With that being said, many, or even most architects would agree architecture is far more than simply “buildings,” but might be considered more broadly as the study of “the built environment.”

In this iteration of the Assemblies module we will embrace and interrogate the second word of that phrase—how things are *built*.

If architecture serves to shape the interactions of material, bodies, and cultures within space, we must gain both an abstract understanding and an embodied intuition of how materials can be arranged and brought into stable relationship with one another. Simply put, **we will be building things.**

In this 7 week course, we will work in the Wood Shop in Taubman College, learning a range of ways to understand and shape wood as a material, with the end goal of creating structures that support the human form. Each student will work iteratively to develop a wood stool as a means of exploring proportions, understanding structural connections, and developing precision in physical craft to attain an intended result. Our focus will be shaping wood for joinery with no metal fasteners, and we will operate primarily through physical iteration, as opposed to scaled or abstracted means of operating like drawing or modeling.

Studio members may be required to purchase wood, protective equipment, and maintain a limited number of hand tools to participate in this studio.