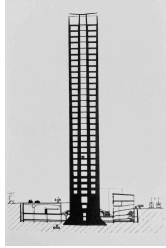
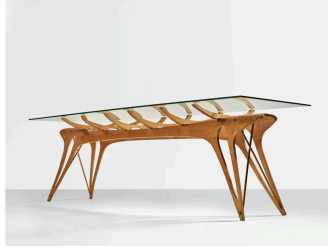




Ponti, Superleggera



Ponti, Pirelli Tower



Molino, Table for Lattes Editor



Molino, Casa Altopiano Di Agra

## From Paul Bunyan to Gio Ponti: the economies, efficiencies and ecologies of laminated form.

### Overview

This course is based on a “guided” thesis model. The overlying argument is developed by the teaching faculty, (see rationale below). Students will be collaborators, testing the thesis premise to determine whether it is true or false. The design argument is meant to be rolled out split over two terms. The first part of this course takes place at the scale of furniture and will be developed during fall Thesis Seminar (Arch 660) portion of the curriculum. Researching postwar Milanese architects students through techniques of lamination and shaping will translate the design of a common chair that is not made of wood into one that is. After building a chair students will test its structural integrity and determine methods to scale up their design to that of a building.

During the second winter term, the Thesis Studio (Arch 662) portion of the course, students will travel to Milan to see first hand both the furniture and buildings of postwar Milanese architects, this time translating concrete structures into timber buildings of their own design.

### This Thesis Studio course is based on four premises introduced last term:

1. Furniture is a model of architecture. The design and making of furniture offers architects the opportunity to test form, structure and construction methods at a reduced scale and cost.
2. Timber is precious. Preciousness can drive innovation in timber design.

3. Material scarcity leads to innovation in form  
Material efficiency leads to innovation in form.

4. From joint to mono-block

By analyzing concrete construction techniques architects can rethink laminated wood furniture methods at the building scale.

### Travel

In the winter term we will be traveling to Milan, Italy. The current travel dates are: February 23 to 28, 2024. This is the week prior to Spring Break. Students will be expected to make up for any missed coursework. The estimated total cost of travel is \$2,000 per student. The Taubman travel fund typically awards \$1,500 toward student travel. In past years this covered all hotel and airfare expenses as well as all group entry fees and guided tours.