



Above: *100 Chairs in 100 Days*
Martino Gamper, 2007

ASSEMBLY

ARCH257 Winter 2026

Instructor Jono Bentley Sturt
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Meetings Tue/Thu 11:00am–2:00pm
Art & Architecture Wood Shop

Wood Shop Staff Ken Kalchik
Carly Lowe

Architecture, as a medium and discipline, defies simple definitions when studied closely. While many architects agree that it concerns more than just *buildings*, it might be more broadly and accurately considered as the study of **the built environment**.

In Assembly we interrogate the second word of that phrase – how things are built – not as a construction class, exactly, but more as an opportunity to study how materials behave and can be shaped to support design intention.

This broader view of architecture's concerns should also encourage us to explore design at the scale of the human body—the micro-architecture of individuals' postures and positions in space, and the way this intersects with both culture and politics.

In this seven-week course, we will work with wood using the tools of our Wood

Shop to create structures that support the human form. We will work to attain both an abstract understanding (book knowledge) and an embodied intuition (hand knowledge) of how materials can be organized and brought into stable relationship with one another.

Each student will work iteratively to produce a body-supporting construct as a means to explore proportions, structural connections, and develop precision in physical craft to attain an intended result. We will focus on shaping wood through methods of *joinery*, and develop our work through orthographic drawing and physical iteration.

At the end of this module, each student should leave with a more intimate understanding of wood and its properties as a material, in the interest of supporting a human form.