

 New Zealand
Centre for Fine Woodworking

New Zealand's premier furniture making,
woodworking & design school.



FURNITURE MAKERS' PROGRAMME PROSPECTUS

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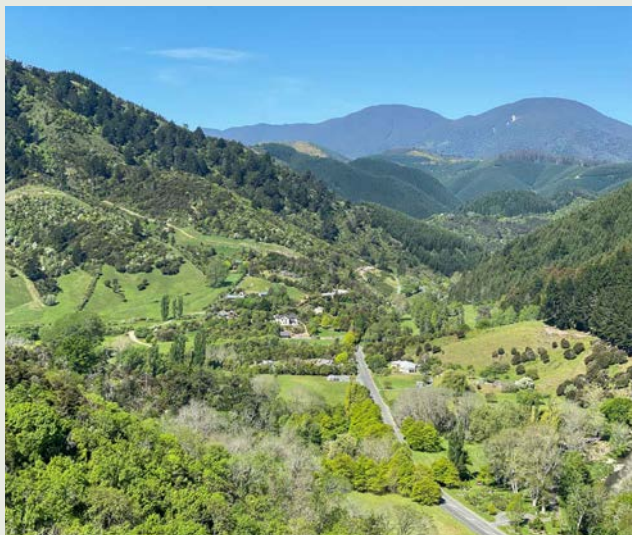
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WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR FINE WOODWORKING



The Centre for Fine Woodworking Trust is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to teaching the highest level of fine woodworking available in New Zealand.

The school was granted charitable status in 2008 in recognition of the importance of preserving and passing on the time-honoured skills of fine woodworking and furniture making to future generations of craftspeople.



The school is located in the beautiful Nelson region, nestled into the hillside with a stunning view of Tasman Bay and the western ranges, just a 10-minute drive from town.

Nelson is a region of diverse natural beauty attracting visitors from far and wide, and is well known for its beautiful climate, good fresh food, fine wine, craft beer, world class walks & cycle tracks, stunning landscape and vibrant creative community. We are happy to work with you in finding suitable accommodation as well as other non-woodworking activities to make your stay a memorable experience.



WELCOME TO THE CENTRE FOR FINE WOODWORKING

The creation of our school of excellence was the culmination of many years of teaching woodwork by its founder, John Shaw who had formal furniture-making training both in the UK at Rycotewood College; he then was awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study at the College of the Redwoods in California under the guidance of James Krenov.

From small beginnings back in 2005, well over two thousand students have since passed through our doors to attend one of our short courses, workshops or flagship 32-week intensive Furniture Makers' Programme.

Our reputation has steadily grown to a point where we are now acknowledged and respected alongside other more well-known international woodworking schools.

The school has two bench/classrooms, as we run an extensive and varied short course programme

at the same time as the Furniture Makers' Programme. The small but mighty team of staff, tutors and trustees have worked tirelessly over the years and are all dedicated to sharing their skills and knowledge with our students. The school and the atmosphere is intimate and friendly. Our goal is to become known as "the best little woodworking school in the southern hemisphere"

Each year we invite an eminent maker/tutor to teach a term of the programme in their area of expertise to give students a different perspective and a wider wealth of knowledge to tap into. This varied and diverse range of tutors gives students a broad perspective and understanding of the many different approaches to fine woodworking. Places on the programme are strictly limited and early expressions of interest are recommended.

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INTRODUCTION



The Furniture Makers' Programme is a 32-week intensive course designed and developed by practising furniture makers and teachers intended for the serious woodworker.

The course provides an unparalleled opportunity for students who want to get to grips with the essence of fine furniture-making with an emphasis on the mastery of traditional woodworking skills and processes.

The course broadly speaking has two aims; firstly, to teach students to become proficient in a wide range of technical woodworking disciplines, and secondly, to give students the skills, understanding and confidence to design and develop their own work.

By the end of the programme, each student will have created a collection of work which will be the foundation of their own portfolio, with all exhibition work being professionally photographed. For some it will provide a firm foundation from

which they may go on to build careers in the field, either through setting up their own workshops or initially taking their experience to work alongside other established designer/furniture-makers. For others it may be used to enormously enhance the pleasure they get from their own personal woodworking practice.

Either way, the time you spend here with us will undoubtedly be a life-changing and enriching experience.



INTRODUCTION

The 32-week Furniture Makers' Programme is split into four eight-week blocks offering students over 1100 hours of face-to-face tuition.

The focus of the early part of the course is for students to develop hand skills, accuracy and gain confidence and competence in using the fundamental wood-working machinery.

This is taught in a natural progression, led step-by-step with close tutor contact. As the programme progresses there will be more freedom for students to challenge themselves and make their own design and constructional decisions in producing work which clearly shows the extent to which their skills, personal approach to fine woodworking and design style has developed.

The class hours are Monday—Friday with instruction available from 9.00 a.m.—4.30 p.m. and each student is allocated a bench and toolkit befitting that of a fine woodworker for the duration of the course.

The pace of the course is intensive and therefore students are required to make full commitment to the entire programme and full attendance is crucial. Workshop access outside of these teaching times is allowed later in the programme as students' competence increases.

The Furniture Makers' Programme does not offer a formally recognised qualification. It is a highly individualised process, and is as much about extending students' creative potential as it is about accumulating technical mastery. The style of teaching here is all experiential and students are encouraged to document their learning in the format of their choice.

The school has an extensive library of books available to students on all aspects of woodworking, furniture making and design.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 1

INTRODUCTION TO FINE WOODWORKING

Students will initially be introduced to traditional woodworking joinery which will include timber preparation using careful hand-planing, marking-out using knife and square or marking gauge, and the use of saws and chisels to bring joints together to fine tolerances. Through the set projects students will learn the sharpening, care and use of the critical woodworking hand-tools, as well as becoming familiar with a range of traditional woodworking joints in their various applications; principally widening joints (i.e. joining boards), mortise and tenon, bridle and half-lap, and dovetails.

For sharpening, the school has a range of high quality wet-stone grinders & ceramic wet stones, and students will learn how to make the process efficient and straightforward.

Each student is allocated a traditional European-style workbench complete with both front and end vices, which will become as much of an essential tool as any other.



CLASSIC CABINET MAKING

Building on lessons from the first projects, students will be taken through all the processes involved in dovetailed carcass construction, frame and panel building, door/lid making, fitting

and hinging. The use of both hand and machine skills will be taught as appropriate, and techniques for assembly and glue-ups will be thoroughly explored.

COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 1



UNDERSTANDING WOOD

Starting with trees, wood is a hugely complex and variable material, with innumerable different species and rich with historical and cultural associations.

Working it finely has been an ongoing tradition in almost every culture and era, and the school is dedicated to passing on some of those skills and the deeply felt sense many of us have of the preciousness and qualities of this remarkable material.

Different species, whether broadleaf or coniferous, tropical or temperate, all bring different qualities

to the picture. For all its variety however, there are universal characteristics that the woodworker must learn how to deal with. The milling, seasoning and storing of wood, understanding grain, wood movement and how moisture affects timber are just a few of the topics that will allow students to become proficient in their evaluation and appropriate selection of wood.

The school has good stocks of timbers, and students can either purchase timber from the school or directly from commercial lumber-yards in Nelson & Christchurch. The tutor will help students select the appropriate timber choices for their individual projects.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 1

TOOLS & MACHINERY

Each student is provided with a toolkit comprising what we feel is the fundamental bench kit for a fine woodworker and they tend to live on or near the bench and become very familiar and personal items.

HAND TOOLS

150mm & 300mm Steel Ruler
Veritas 20 tpi Rip Saw
Veritas 16 tpi Cross Cut Saw
Set of 6 "Two Cherry" Chisels
Hammer
150mm/6" Square
Shinwa Sliding Bevel
Insize 100/4" Digital Callipers
Veritas Wheel Gauge
Veritas Block Plane
Wooden Marking Gauge
Card Scraper
Marking Knife
No. 6 Plane

MACHINERY

Jointer
Thicknesser
Bandsaws
Table Saws
Drill presses x 3
Milling Machine
Spindle, Edge and Thickness Sanders
Routers
Spindle Moulder
Orbital Sander
Domino & Biscuit Cutters
Skill saw
Jigsaw
Cordless drills

If you have your own version of these tools or tools that are similar do bring them with you, although for people travelling this isn't always practical. Everything you need is here but if you only bring one tool it should be a steel plane No.5, 5½ or 6.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 1



Machinery allows woodworkers to achieve great and easily repeatable accuracy and removes much of the repetitive and physically demanding work involved in processing wood. Our machine room has been designed and equipped to offer students a working environment similar to what could be achieved in a home or small workshop.

Each student will be taken step-by-step in turn through the safe and efficient use and understanding of each workshop and hand-held machine, and guided through best practise for optimum health and safety. Appropriate clothing, footwear, respiratory, hearing & eye protection will be a minimum requirement for anyone entering the machine room. Students will be thoroughly assessed throughout the programme as to their competency level before they are able to use the machinery independently.



After the initial set projects for handwork have been completed, students will be introduced to joint-cutting and machining options and will always be encouraged to find the best and most appropriate method, using either hand or machine skills, for whatever woodworking application is needed. A wide range of jigs and fixtures to facilitate machining processes will be covered as the year progresses.

COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 1

DRAWING & DESIGN

Sketching freehand is an invaluable aid to developing ideas quickly and fluidly. It is usually the first stage of the design process as well as the way to communicate ideas and concepts efficiently.

Throughout the programme classes will cover a variety of drawing techniques. Students will from the outset create a visual diary to collect and explore design ideas. The limited time available will mean that students are expected to do further design research on a self-directed basis outside of class hours.

Technical drawing skills will also be covered so that students can move on from sketches to plans and elevations which are of great assistance to the making process.

However, the emphasis will not be on having fully completed technical drawings (i.e. blue-prints) prior to the making process beginning.

Models and mock-ups will also be encouraged as ways of developing design ideas into 3D. Spatial awareness and sensitivity to form is usually an evolving process and to fix designs on paper too soon is often unhelpful.

Contextual studies will be an ongoing informal part of the course throughout the year, and the school has an extensive library which students will be encouraged and directed towards. Knowing something about the history of furniture making is all part of the essential knowledge base for aspiring woodworkers.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 2

TECHNIQUES FOR CREATING CURVES

This is an area of great creative interest to almost every woodworker, as wood is inherently so well suited to being formed into curved shapes.

The students will learn the following:-

- Demonstrations / discussions of the various methods of allowing wood to bend — steam-bending, kerf-bending, hot pipe bending and laminating
- Methods for drawing different types of curves - radius and free form
- Laying out curves and transferring them to patterns & jigs

Steam-bending and laminating, in particular are both major technical areas of expertise and students will have numerous opportunities to get to grips with these techniques both in fixed projects and through incorporating them into their own designs.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 3



SEATING & CHAIR MAKING

This will be a major focus as it is perhaps the most challenging area of furniture-making. It is certainly a very rich and complex area of design to explore.

Not only do appearance and structural integrity have to be considered, but also the interaction with the human form as well - Is it comfortable and does it give the right postural support?

Seat options alone are a huge area, and students will have the opportunity to try sculpting seats from solid wood, moulded ply, upholstering with fabric or leather and a variety of woven material.

Students will be highly encouraged to consider the basic ergonomic and structural requirements and then have the opportunity to develop their own seating design as a major project for the year. Plans, mock-ups and material selection will be developed in close consultation with the tutor. For the purposes of this project, chairs and seating may be considered as both one-off sculpture or as prototypes for small-scale production.



COURSE SYLLABUS - TERM 4

FINAL PROJECT - DESIGN & MAKE

In the final eight weeks of the programme, students will design and produce a work or series of works that will give expression to the development of their own design awareness and individuality.

This will be the opportunity for students to not only utilise the skills they have already learnt but to greatly expand on them. Together, these pieces will form the major focus for the end-of-year exhibition of student work, which will be held in a gallery space in Nelson at the end of the programme.

Browse the Gallery Page on our website for a selection of work from previous Furniture Makers' Programmes.



ENROLMENT & COURSE FEES

Expressions of interest in the Furniture Makers' Programme can be made at any time during the year, and wherever possible we would recommend you organise an informal visit to the school.

Places are strictly limited so early application is recommended.

To apply for the Furniture Makers' Programme please download and complete the application form and return it with a covering letter and/or resume with full details about your background, your specific interests in woodworking and your goals. This information is the most important part of your application; however, please do remember that no previous woodworking experience is required to attend this programme, so the details you share with us of your reason to enrol, your commitment and goals for your woodworking future should be well explained. Please also attach any images of your work to support your application if applicable.

Your application needs to show us your full commitment to this intensive programme and you will also need to give two character references to support your application.

We will then contact you to confirm whether your application has been successful and if so, will offer you a place on the programme.

The next step in enrolment is that you will then be required to pay a course registration fee of \$350 which will hold your place firm until the 25% non-refundable deposit of the full course fee is required. You then have time to make plans and arrangements with the safe knowledge that your place has been allocated to you.

Priority is always given to those students completing the entire programme. If there are any remaining places available only then will we consider offering places to anyone wishing to enrol for individual parts of the course who have the prerequisite skill and/or experience.

**2022 PROGRAMME –
22ND AUGUST 2022 7TH MAY 2023
COURSE FEE \$25,750**

A 25% deposit of the full course fee is due for payment on 15th April 2022 with the balance of the course fee paid in full by 1st June 2022.

The course fee does not include the cost of timber but does include the cost of consumable materials i.e. glue, sandpaper, screws, etc.

As students are given a choice of timber options for their individual project these costs are calculated and invoiced throughout the programme.

**2023 PROGRAMME –
3RD APRIL – 1ST DECEMBER 2023
COURSE FEE \$25,995**

A 25% deposit of the full course fee is due for payment on 1st December 2022 with the balance of the course fee paid in full by 1st February 2023.

The \$350 registration fee is not included in this course fee and is non-refundable

CENTRE FOR FINE WOODWORKING TRUST - FURNITURE MAKERS' PROGRAMME

TERM	COURSE TITLE	PROJECT & SKILL BUILDING DETAILS
TERM 1	Hand Skills & Introduction to Hand & Machine Joinery	Skills acquired: Introduction to hand plane, sharpening, basic joinery including mortise & tenon, dovetail, tongue & groove. Timber identification, characteristics, shrinkage and movement. Introduction to woodworking machines including best practice and health and safety in the workshop.
	Carcase Construction, Cabinet Making, Frame & Panel	Skills acquired: Advanced dovetailing, , introduction to frame & panel, hinge fitting, finishing techniques. Introduction to power tools. The project undertaken will take students through sketching, a full size working drawing to the finished piece.
	Drawing & Design	Skills acquired: To develop skills and confidence in drawing to facilitate the creative process as well as a means to communicate and assisting with furniture design concepts and solutions.
TERM 2	Drawer Making	Project: Drawer making and fitting. Skills acquired: Steambending, laminating, vacuum pressing & veneering, router joinery, hand-shaping in the round.
	Steam Bending & Laminating Curvature – Design & Make Occasional Table	Project: Self-designed Occasional Table. Skills acquired: Exploring a variety of techniques using curved elements, building on and reinforcing skills gained in Term 1. Design and create an occasional table.
TERM 3	Chair Making / Seating	Open design project – chair, bench, lounge or other type of seating. Skills acquired: The process of drawing and design, model making, mock-up and final construction, including other components such as upholstery, Danish cord etc. Ergonomics – comfort, structure, strength and appearance.
TERM 4	Design & Make	Project: Open design project – final piece or pieces of work Skills acquired: Final pieces are undertaken in the last eight weeks where students challenge their ability in terms of skill and design to produce a piece of work to the highest standard which clearly shows the extent to which their skills, personal approach to fine woodworking and design style have developed.
	Exhibition of Student Work	Details of exhibition dates to be finalised

This as a guideline only and subject to minor changes

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much woodworking experience do I need?

Students who attend the Furniture Makers' Programme come with a range of woodworking skills—from those who have absolutely no experience to those who have some intermediate skills. The programme starts at the very beginning of the skill base for fine woodworking, with small class sizes allowing students to work at their own pace with ongoing opportunities for individual advice and tuition. Students move through the programme under the tutor's guidance and supervision to becoming increasingly self-directed and confident in their work.

What tools do I need to bring?

Each student is allocated a bench space and tool kit for the duration of the programme. Unlike many other schools, we do not expect students to bring a full toolkit with them; however, students who do already own their own hand tools are encouraged to bring them, but for international students this is, of course, not practical. Tutors are happy to assist and advise students who wish to purchase their own tools throughout the course. Students do however, need to bring with them their own Grade 5 earmuffs, safety goggles and respirator.

Is there anything else I need to bring?

Yes— A passion for fine woodworking and the motivation to become the very best at your craft. You need to be fully committed to undertaking this highly intensive programme and full attendance is required throughout the full 32 week duration. The teaching philosophy of the school is that students learn experientially through demonstrations, one-to-one guidance and practice. Students on the programme are expected to be self-directed, highly motivated and fully committed to every part of the programme.

Does the Programme offer a formal qualification?

We have chosen not to offer a formal qualification, and there are many reasons for this but fundamental to our philosophy is the belief that it is the quality of the student's work which best reflects his/her ability.

All tuition takes place in the class workshops and the learning takes place at your bench, in the machine room and in your visual diary. Small class sizes ensure students have individual attention from dedicated and specialised tutors who are committed to teaching the skills involved in designing and making fine furniture.

The school's international reputation is based on the quality of student work; students graduate not with a piece of paper but with the beginnings of a portfolio clearly showcasing the high standard of their craft.

Is there an age limit?

Students who attend the Furniture Makers' Programme must be a minimum of 17 years old to apply.

What are the teaching times?

Classes are scheduled from 9.00—4.30 Monday—Friday with a half hour lunch break. Over the duration of the course, this offers students over 1200 hours of tuition spread over 32 weeks. Over time students will be competent to safely use the machine room outside of class within the framework of the school's health and safety guidelines, and are expected to spend time outside of the classroom researching, sketching and designing.

How much does it cost?

2022 Programme - \$25570 with a 25% deposit required on 15th April 2022 and the balance paid in full by 1st June 2022.

2023 Programme - \$25995 with a 25% deposit required on 1st December 2022 and the balance paid in full by 1st February 2023

Please note that our course fees are not eligible for student loans through StudyLink.

Are there any scholarships available?

There is a database available at public libraries and online to library members called GivMe which is a search engine assisting students who are seeking funding from agencies who offer scholarships, awards and grants. If you apply for scholarships or are attending a course or workshop as professional development from your workplace we are able supply a letter of support to assist your application for funding.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can International Students enrol?

International students are very welcome here at the Centre for Fine Woodworking. We do not have a two-tier fee structure—course fees are the same whether you are an international student or a New Zealander. As the course is not a formally recognised qualification, international students are not required to apply for a student visa but can enter the country under a visitor's visa. The Centre for Fine Woodworking does not offer assistance to students in obtaining visas, as requirements vary from country to country.

Please visit the Immigration New Zealand website for full details.

How do I apply ?

Expressions of interest in the Furniture Makers' Programme are welcome at any time of the year. For your application to be considered you will need to complete the following process by sending us :-

- A completed application form
- A covering letter outlining your reasons for applying.
- Any images of your work you wish to include in your application
- Two written character references

On receipt of the above you will be contacted and advised whether your application has been successful and if so we will formally offer you a place on the programme. You will then be invoiced for the \$350 registration fee which will hold your place until the deposit is due. On payment of this registration fee you are agreeing that your 25% non-refundable deposit will be paid by 1st December 2020. The balance of the course fee will then be due to be paid in full by 1st February 2021. If the deposit payment is not made by 1st December, your place may be offered to another applicant.

International students will be required to show evidence that their visa covers the duration of the programme.

Applications can be sent by email to cfwoodwork@gmail.com or mailed to Centre for Fine Woodworking Trust, 465 Main Road, R.D.1. Wakapuaka, Nelson 7071, New Zealand.

What does the course fee cover?

The course fee covers all tuition, the allocation of your bench and toolkit for the duration of the course, and the cost of consumables such as sandpaper, glue, screws, etc. within reason. Timber, drawing materials and hardware (blades, hinges, etc.) are not included in the course fee and students will be invoiced for these at the end of each individual course. Timber costs vary greatly depending on individual choice, so as a guideline we suggest that students allocate between \$1500-\$3000 for timber and hardware costs throughout the programme.

Our course fees are in line with other international woodworking schools; however, unlike other schools we provide the toolkit and consumables.

Can I enrol for individual terms?

Priority is given to those students who are completing the full four terms. However, if places are available it may be possible to attend individual terms. If you have no previous woodworking experience you will be required to start at Term 1, otherwise to enrol later we would require evidence of your prior skill or learning.

Where will I live?

While we do not operate an accommodation placement service we are able to recommend a range of options and are happy to provide advice and assistance.

Some students prefer to book into short term accommodation for one or two weeks while they get settled, and then make a decision about where they would like to live.

The benefit of moving into short term accommodation first is that it gives students the opportunity to inspect facilities before making a long-term commitment. However, students who would prefer the security of having their long-term accommodation sorted out in advance may prefer to secure a place prior to arrival.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will I get to school?

The school is situated 12km north of central Nelson and there is no public transport available out to the school. Students will need to arrange their own transport and although initially we may be able to help organise a ride out to the school, we highly recommend that students are independently mobile. For those who may want to consider cycling, there is a designated cycle path for approximately two thirds of the journey from town to the school.

Need any help ?

Please feel free to ask for help—if you have any further questions or would like to arrange to visit, phone, Zoom or Skype call to discuss your application then don't hesitate to get in touch. We are a small friendly school and it is important to us that you make the right decision about enrolling on the Furniture Makers' Programme. We appreciate that to make such a commitment to attending this programme is significant, so please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss your application.

Contact details:-

email: cfwoodwork@gmail.com

Tel: (03) 5452674

Skype: Centre for Fine Woodworking Nelson
New Zealand