

under 45



Creating innovative furniture for manufacture Building links between Milan and Victoria

workshop

Marc Krusin

Victoria University/ISS Institute Fellow



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Marc Krusin graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University with a BA (Hons) degree in furniture design. After placements with Fred Scott in London, George Sowden in Milan and a brief professional experience in Leeds, he began his career in Milan collaborating as a designer with various studios. These include Piero Lissoni's office, where he is presently Design Manager and runs projects for clients of international reputation such as Alessi, Kartell, Flos and Wella.

In 1998 he co-founded the Milan based group Codice 31 with five other designers from varying ethnic backgrounds. The group's first appearance was at the 1998 Milan furniture fair's "Salone Satellite" exhibition for young designers and it has since undergone continual expansion and gained an increasing importance in the design world, collaborating with some of the sector's most prestigious companies.

In 1999, Marc exhibited his project "Doggy Bag" (a pinzer-scoop for dog excrement) with Opos in Milan. In 2000 his second project for Opos "Hook Me Up" (an elastic hook for clothes storage) was exhibited and the same year a selection of his lamps featured at the "Borderlight" exhibition also in Milan. 2002 saw his solo appearance at "Salone Satellite" and 2003 his first appearance with Oliver Layseca and their collaboration on a modular living system. Also in 2003 he participated in two cultural exhibitions during the Milan furniture fair: "Copper Connects Life" at the Italian Copper Institute and "PVC for life and Living" at the Torre Branca.

Marc is currently working with companies such as Bosa ceramiche, Fontana Arte, Pallucco, Caop d'Opera, Saporiti, Viccarbe.

Marc is the recipient of a prestigious, Victoria University/ISS Institute Fellowship sponsored by Victoria University.

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A significant and exciting initiative

The purpose of the design studio and workshop is to enhance the capabilities of those working in the Furniture Industry and related disciplines to:

- Use 'design' as a critical factor in all aspects of work from concept to production to retail and the consumer.
- Generate new ways of thinking and working so as to create innovative furniture for the domestic and corporate clients here and overseas.
- Develop communication between designers and those who manufacture such as cabinetmakers and joiners.
- Create an integrated design/production team approach.
- Work in collaboration, designers/manufacturers valuing the capabilities and skills of the other and working together to meet customers needs and lifestyle.
- Generating a concept through to a completed piece in scale
- Learn from the past and other contemporary cultures, in this instance Italy, then transpose those skills, knowledge and insights into quality, innovative Australian designed and made furniture for the local and international marketplace.
- Value-add to Victoria's timbers and manufactured local materials. Understand the characteristics and use of different materials in creating exciting combinations such as timber with metal.

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Suitable for... Project Sitting!

Furniture designers and designer/makers, master and emerging cabinetmakers, manufacturers and those who wish to explore 'furniture design and manufacture'.

About the workshop

Marc Krusin will share his expertise and insights through an Italian perspective and introduce participants to the history and context, theories and examples of Italian furniture.

A hands-on project has been designed to take participants from concept to creating a prototype suitable for manufacture encompassing design, innovation, construction techniques and materials.

To create a sitting object up to 45cm high. The other dimensions are negotiable including whether the object is one object, or one of a modular series.

Participants are to produce thumbnails, roughs and working drawings, which depict in scale, the sitting object's visual characteristics, physical properties and dimensions and make a prototype of a free-standing sitting object suitable for manufacture.

Theme

Outdoors

With the theme "at the water's edge" consider where this could be:

- In the snow, in the alps.
- By a raging river or a brook.
- By the sea, on a yacht, end of a wharf, while waiting in line, watching, or on a cliff, catching a fish, eating, talking, over waves, rocks, sand or barb wire.

Explore colour, space, textures

1. What

The concept of sitting isn't always just parking oneself at the dinner table or at the work desk - sitting is a far more extensive activity ranging from lying to standing.

2. Who

Sitting can be by oneself or with others. Variants relate to people's needs and desires and therein include considering different cultures, socioeconomic groups, gender, age and location...

3. Where

How many times do we sit down in a day... in a year? In how many places on how many seats? From a lounge chair to slightly more unusual seating environments where seats exist that are not just traditional four legged "chairs" - on a log, an exercise ball, steps outside a building or perched on a fire hydrant.

4. When

What do we use seats for, in what moments, during what activities and while experiencing which emotions?

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Showcase

Sitting objects may be selected from those made in the workshops and showcased.

Showcase and Celebrate

Design and innovation.

High level skill and knowledge.

Communication and collaboration

(designers•tradespeople•manufactures).

Intercultural insights.

Value-adding to Victoria's timbers and manufactured local materials to meet customers needs and lifestyle.

Venue and Date

To be determined such as at Melbourne Museum.

Guests

Representatives of key sectors of the Furniture Industry, government, education and training institutions, as well as those who participated in the workshops, will be invited to attend the exhibition opening.

Awards

Sponsors - to be advised. Four awards to be presented at the exhibition opening:

Innovative Design Award

Innovative Use of Materials Award

Construction Techniques for Manufacture Award

The Workshop 45 Award

Context

The sitting object is to be designed for external environments.

The sitting object is to take into consideration • life style • space in which it will reside • permanent, transportable or relocatable • other surrounding organic or inorganic objects • maintenance • choice of location such as outdoor cafe, ski restort, wilderness (desert, forest, alps, seaside).....

Prior to the workshop all participants are to develop concepts which will be presented to Marc at the first session for critique and discussion.

Venue

Victoria University, Newport Campus
80 Champion Road, Newport.

Date•Time

Friday 28 and Saturday 29 May 2004
from 9.00am to 4.30pm.

Materials

Timber will be the predominant material combined with metal in various forms.

Each participant will be provided with White Cypress Pine, 5 lengths of 38x100x1200mm long - all of which must be used in the sitting object.

Metal (two gauges of galvanised fencing wire and a 1200mm length of tubular metal of 16mm diameter and a 1200mm length of galvanised rod of 6mm diameter) will also be supplied to use as contrasting decorative or functional elements.

Brushes, screws, dowels, rivots, glue and nails and finishing products include soap and oils will be available.

Spot welding may be made available through the metals fabrication department. Participants do not require welding capabilities (VU staff will weld the objects under the participants directions).

Format

The program comprises lectures, demonstrations, group and individual discussion and a hands-on project.

Participants work in teams of two people.

Friday Introduce ISS Institute and Marc Krusin • Participants present concept drawing and model • Marc critiques concept and models and makes suggests/comments for further development or redesign • Participants rework concepts and produce drawings until the final concept is agreed • Participants experiment with materials and techniques. Commence constructing sitting object

Saturday Participants complete the sitting object.

Fee

\$290 plus GST, which includes the materials, use of equipment, course notes, morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch on both days. The fee is subsidised by ISS Institute and lunch and refreshments provided by Victoria University.

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Registration Form

Post, email or fax to:

Ms Carolynne Bourne, CEO ISS Institute
101/685 Burke Road, Camberwell 3124

Telephone 03 9882 0055

Facsimile 03 9882 9866

Email issi@pacific.net.au

Course Fee \$ _____

Payment Method:

- Cash (Pay directly at ISS office or by arrangement)
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Name _____

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Conditions of Registration

I hereby agree to abide by the regulations of the ISS Institute

Your Signature _____ Date _____

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