ROJECT& Hand-me-down Lamps

FUNDING

Frank Ratchye Futures Fund for Design Research advised by Lucas Hitch

PARTNER

Benni Guo

YEAR

Graduate Studies: Carnegie Mellon- Architecture Fall 2024

EXHIBITION

Cozy Corner Bookstore Shadyside, Pittsburgh



Clip Lamp with Paper Shade Handcut: Pinewood, Watercolor Paper C.Laux, B.Guo

The flexibility of the lamp base allows for iteration and customization of the shade over time.

MULTI-GENERATIONAL FURNITURE DESIGN

Furniture, a part of our daily lives, holds memory and meaning. It is a pinnacle of family affairs and is often passed down from generation to generation. We tell stories about furniture; who was connected to the piece, when it was found, and why it is important to keep around. Grandma's set of china, from her fine china cabinet, which was passed down to her from her Grandma, holds meaningful memories. Despite functioning as decor, we remember the special occasions and dinners where they were ornamentally placed on the table for the happiest of dinners.

Cheaply-made furniture is preferred by many because it can be easily replaced and holds little to no sentimental value. It is simple to understand in terms of construction, but minimal in personality. For college students, this is the perfect form of furniture, something that can easily be disassembled and discarded. To many, the cheaply-made furniture is simply a placeholder for something bigger and better. However, this brings into question the waste created from these discarded items. Waste is unavoidable: however, it can be minimized and repurposed for another day. Through this project, we hope to tackle furniture waste by creating value within a lamp that holds deep sentimental value. The lamp is passed on, and while at times cousins may break it, it is fixed together on an occasion, marking a new memory within the heirloom.

We should be able to make furniture that transcends time and is customizable for each individual who inherits the design. It should be accessible and low-cost for everyone to enjoy. It should be respected, easily mendable when it breaks, and adaptable to suit its function. The design should be simple and understood by its users. When Uncle John passes down the lamp, he is passing down more than just a lamp, he is passing down stories, knowledge, and connections. When the lamp breaks, it's still fixable with the knowledge that Uncle John has shared. We propose creating simple furniture that people understand without compromising compelling fun design.



1 Clip Lamp with "Milk Carton" Paper Shade

Part of the process was testing all lamp types at a one-to-one scale. The process was then iterated on to create a number of similar style bases and shades.

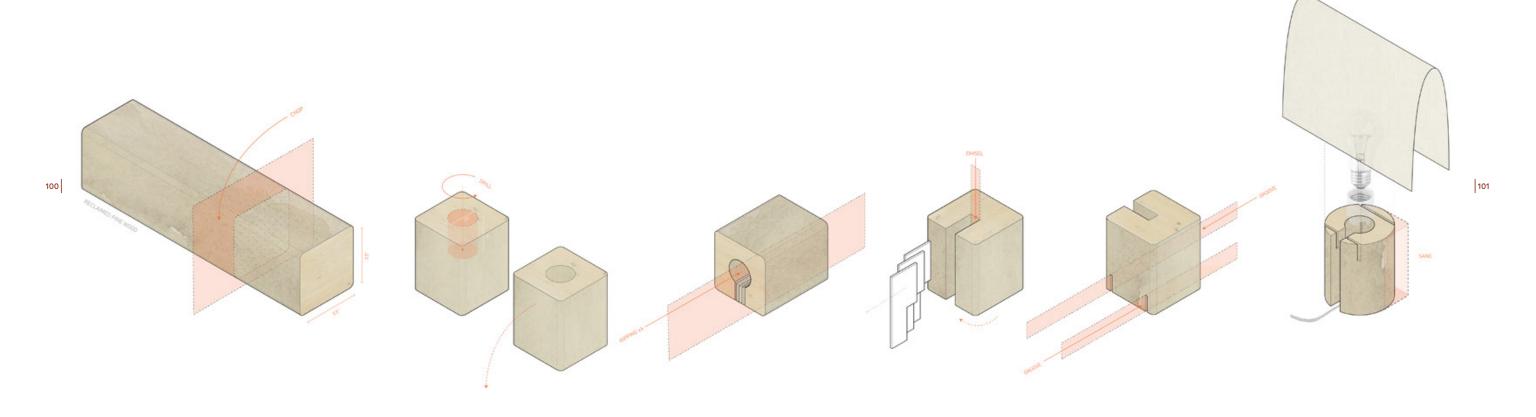
Clip Lamp Base

The final exhibit for the work was help at the Cozy Corner Bookstore in Shadyside, Pittsburgh.





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Clip Lamp with Paper Shade Fabrication Process Drawing C.Laux

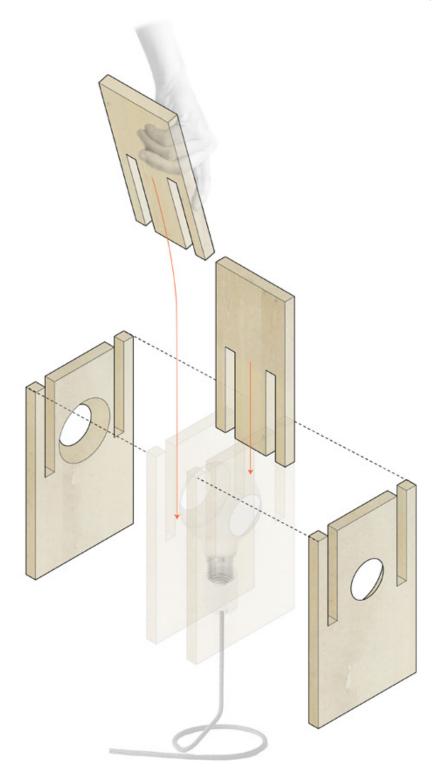


2 Clip Lamp with "Milk Carton" Paper Shade Sketches [8"x5"] C.Laux

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1 Clip Lamp with "Milk Carton" Paper Shade Handcut: Pinewood, Wax Paper C.Laux, B.Guo







Nest Lamp Construction Process Drawing C.Laux

2 Nest Lamp CNC milled Baltic Birch Plywood C.Laux, B.Guo

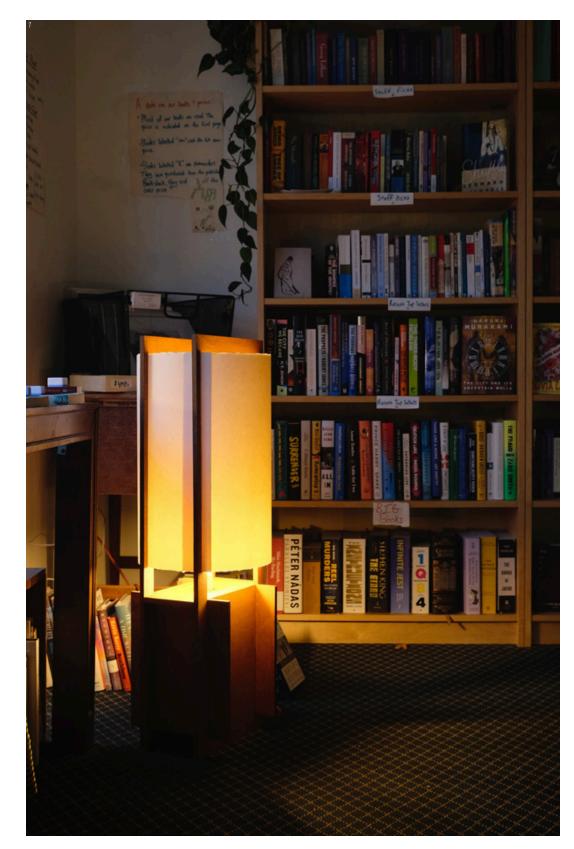
3 Nest Lamp and Clip Lamp with "Tube" Shade Hand cut (Clip Lamp): Pine wood, Recycled Rice Paper with Twine C.Laux, B.Guo

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C.Laux

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2 Hitch Lamp Shade Slit Detail CNC milled Baltic Birch Plywood with Watercolor Paper, Edison Bulb C.Laux, B.Guo

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Hitch Lamp Construction Process
Drawing
C.Laux

2 Hitch Lamp CNC milled Baltic Birch Plywood, Layered Recycled Paper Shade C.Laux, B.Guo

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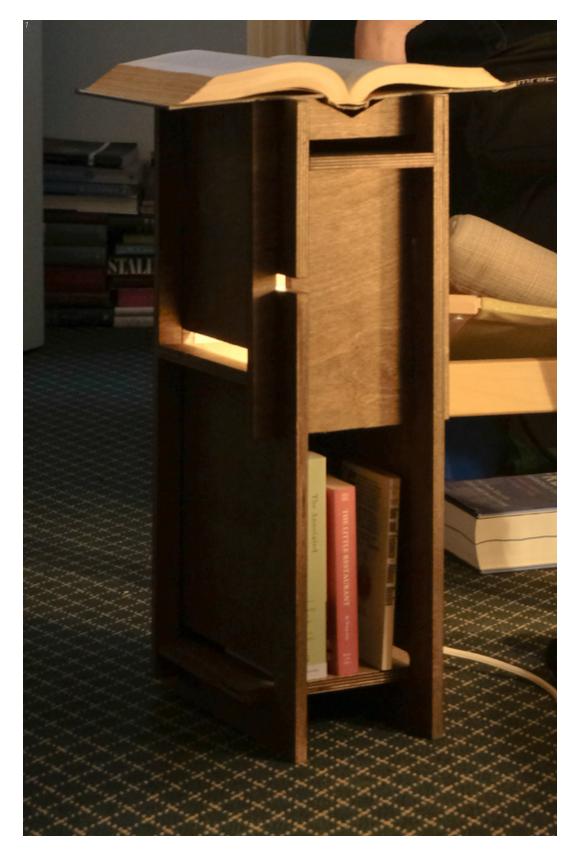
C.Laux

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Selected Work

The Cozy Corner Book Lamp CNC Milled Baltic Birch Plywood C.Laux, B.Guo

2 Abraham Lamp CNC milled Baltic Birch Plywood C.Laux, B.Guo





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