



At New Zealand's premier furniture design school, we teach the fine art of design with a purpose.

We aim to craft contemporary designers and furniture artists from students who come to us with a creative spark and a desire to make beautiful, useful things...

#### Shape up your future

Just like designing fine furniture, inspiring fine furniture designers requires design skill, innovation and technical finesse - the building blocks of our two-year diploma course.

In our programme, you'll forge a personal design aesthetic and unleash your creativity in solid form, gaining a unique skill set with immense application in today's 'better-by-design' world.

We'll support you to make the most of your studies, providing a balance between theoretical knowledge and practical application so you gain real-world skills and respected qualifications.





Do you seek the creative freedom to design and make beautiful bespoke furniture?

Our diploma programme is designed to provide you with the skills and knowledge to do just that.

#### **A tradition of fine design**

The values of the past continue to be an inspiration for today's best furniture artists, and our School has long been in the business of helping furnish the workshops and design studios of the world.

Our flagship qualification, the Diploma in Furniture Design and Making, draws on this rich tradition, delivering it via our progressive student-centred approach, in superb high-tech facilities using top teaching expertise.

Be inspired by those who have gone before you and our passion for fine furniture design.

Our diploma programme teaches you the synergistic process of design and fabrication - how to take solid timber furniture concepts and craft them into reality.

As the name suggests, you'll be equipped to become a designer-maker in any number of specialist design and furniture-based fields...

#### What will I learn?

Unique to the Southern Hemisphere, our two-year diploma offers students practical, hands-on experience with talented lecturers who are themselves qualified furniture makers. With practical craftsmanship making up 80% of the course, you'll enjoy a collaborative learning environment with your tutors and peers, in some of the finest modern workshop facilities around.

Not only that, to ensure your design craft becomes a viable career, you'll undertake business studies (computing, communications, and marketing), equipping you with the skills to run your own business or contribute in a wider sense to an existing one.





Our graduates can be found in design studios, galleries and workshops around the world, employing their designer-maker skills in any number of creative fields:

Opportunities will open up for you in almost any environment where design flair and fabrication skills are valued...

#### **Who will I be studying with?**

Our intimate class groups (14-18 students) are stimulating and diverse - with anyone from school leavers, to established artists looking to hone skills in another medium, to hobby woodworkers seeking design skills.

No particular pre-entry qualifications are needed, just a creative spark, a passion for design and a desire to create beautiful objects.

#### **What qualifications will I obtain?**

Two years of successful study with us will allow you to graduate with a UCOL Diploma in Furniture Design and Making (Level 5).

If you complete your Year One papers, but struggle with the full programme of study, you can still apply to receive a Certificate in Furniture Design and Making (Level 3).

Our unique diploma course is designed to provide an understanding of the entire design process - from concept idea, to design, to fabrication, right through to showcasing the final product.

Our emphasis on practical learning means your study programme is a two-way process - a conversation in which you and your lecturers and peers are actively involved...

The Diploma in Furniture Design and Making (Level 5) is a two-year, seven-paper (240-credit) programme of study delivered at UCOL's Palmerston North campus.

**Year 1**

In your first year we'll cover the foundation design, furniture and business communication skills that your second (and final) year of study will be built upon.

**Year 2**

In your second year, along with adding to your skill set, we'll assist you to find a work experience placement with a furniture business, or with a self-employed furniture maker.





In year one of your two-year course of study, you'll complete the following three papers:

**Design Drawing 1**  
(20 Credits)

A valuable foundation paper that teaches you the nuts and bolts of drawing, technical drawing, sketching, and colouring techniques - all crucial skills for the furniture design process.

You'll also learn how to make scale mannequins to assist in idea development and increase your knowledge of human proportions - elementary skills in functional furniture design.

**Paper Level:** 2

**Co-requisite:** Furniture Practice 1 & Communication and Basic Business Skills

**Furniture Practice 1**  
(90 Credits)

A hands-on foundation paper, where we support you to develop your safety awareness, first aid skills and professional practice in the workshop; and allow you to gain a range of skills in timbercraft and the use of hand tools, portable tools and fixed machinery.

You'll become familiar with timber types and products and their application and learn about joints and components in furniture construction. By the end of the paper, you'll be developing and implementing your new-found skills in the planning and construction of actual furniture pieces.

**Paper Level:** 3

**Co-requisite:** Design Drawing 1 & Communication and Computer Skills

**Communications & Basic Business Skills**  
(10 Credits)

Setting you up with the all-important communication skills you'll need to apply for jobs and run a small business, this paper teaches you time management, business document preparation, bookkeeping basics, client management and business communication skills, along with an introduction to computer system basics.

Your tutors will help you apply communication theory and practice in various professional settings, developing your basic research skills and information presentation techniques.

**Paper Level:** 3

**Co-requisites:** Furniture Practice 1 & Design Drawing 1

In year two of your two-year course of study, you'll complete the following four papers:

**Design Drawing 2**  
(21 Credits)

This paper focuses on expanding your base technical drawing skills, sketching skills and knowledge of colouring techniques to enhance your ability to use drawing in the design process.

We introduce you to Computer Aided Design (CAD) for 2 and 3 dimensional modelling of your design ideas, and give you the opportunity to apply the design process and principles to various 2 and 3 dimensional projects.

**Paper Level:** 4

**Pre-requisites:** Communication & Computer Skills, Design Drawing 1, Furniture Practice 1

**Co-requisite:** Furniture Practice 2, Communication and Computer Skills

**Furniture Practice 2**  
(85 Credits)

The ultimate paper for those who like 'making stuff', here you'll apply and expand on the knowledge, craftsmanship skills and techniques learnt in Furniture Practice 1 to prototype and create your own works.

The emphasis is on design practice and the application of the design process, so we put you to the test in a project where you actually work with a client to create a piece of furniture on commission.

**Paper Level:** 5

**Pre-requisite:** Furniture Practice 1, Design Drawing 1, Communication and Computer Skills

**Co-requisite:** Design Drawing 2, Business and Computing Skills

**Introduction to Marketing for Small Business**  
(7 Credits)

This second year paper gives you a broad introduction to the principles and techniques of marketing that you'll need when running a small business.

You'll learn how to analyse and confirm potential markets for product/services and determine an effective business marketing strategy.

**Paper Level:** 5

**Introduction to Small Business Management**  
(7 Credits)

It's not only marketing skills, but money management skills that you'll need when running a successful small business (or being self-employed). In this paper you'll gain an understanding of what's needed to gather and analyse financial information, and assess business opportunities and financing options.

It will also introduce you to the basics of intellectual property rights and ethics in business relationships.

**Paper Level:** 5



Fine furniture design is a unique blend of the beauty and elegance of the natural world, and that created by the human imagination.

Building a life in furniture design means different things to different people. Here are some of our students' stories...

**Stu Brown**  
(2nd Year Diploma Student)

"Taking this course is my creative stepping stone..."

After 15 years in the building and cabinet making trade, Stu Brown was looking for a qualification that would allow his creative side to flourish and take him in a new direction career-wise: "Thinking ahead, I'd love to work for a design firm - producing ideas for others to fabricate for a change."

Stu's search for the just-the-right-course led him back to his home town and UCOL's Fine Furniture School, where he found he could credit his trade experience against the first year of the Diploma and head straight into developing his professional design skills in Year 2 of the programme.

**Joshua Norris**

(2nd Year Diploma Student)

"Our tutors are so passionate about furniture, they get us all fired up too..."

With his final study year drawing to a close, 18 year old Joshua Norris now has his sights set on carving out a career for himself as a fine furniture designer-maker. "With the help of my tutors, I've slowly managed to set myself up with a workshop at home, and hope to be able to work from there in the future."

Joshua was inspired to sign up for the Diploma after talking to tutor Danny Reilly at a UCOL open day: "He was pretty passionate about the what the course could offer and I just liked building stuff!"

The art of building stuff has taken on a whole new twist for Joshua thanks to the Fine Furniture School. "Just get along and do it!", is his advice to any school leavers considering the course.



**Cath Watson**

(2nd Year Diploma Student)

"For me it's an opportunity to learn a new medium and master another craft, applying it to my art..."

Wanganui glass artist Cath Watson swapped casting for carving when she changed to the Fine Furniture Diploma part-way through her glass studies. Cath's work features in sculpture gardens and exhibitions around New Zealand. "Working with wood is very forgiving compared to glass" says Cath, "and it allows me to create on a larger scale than with glass alone."

Cath also has plans to utilise her new woodworking skills for more personal gain, renovating the family home and creating made-to-measure furniture for those difficult to fit out spaces: "I think these are great skills for a woman to learn, and the course is very achievable for those who don't want to study full-time".





### Occasional Table

**Furniture Artist:** Richard Morris  
(Diploma Graduate - 2008)

A signature piece for ex dairy-farmer turned furniture maker Richard Morris, this striking table scooped first place in the 2008 National Woodskills Festival...

Delicate blonde tones of black poplar are interlaced with darker swamp rimu on the table surface, and in the sweeping curves of the steam-bent legs. Oiled and then lacquered, and braced with stainless steel, the tabletop appears to float above its curved base on stainless steel pins.

Despite viewers likening it to a coffin or nautical theme, Richard says the design simply arose from a sketchpad doodle shape he liked and then executed with finesse using local timbers. Finesse that earned him the coveted top award at the Woodskills Festival, and has since inspired him to set up his own business RJM Furniture Design in Whangamata.

**'What lies within'  
Memento Cabinet**

**Furniture Artist:** Mark Gilbert  
(Diploma Student Project - Yr 2)

'What lies behind us and what  
lies before us are small matters  
compared to what lies within us.'

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Bewitchingly named, this memory box designed by the artist for his wife invites you to delve a little deeper. Peeking out through the cabinetry doors are the red jarrah handles of the keepsake drawers within, alluding to the family treasures, tokens and mementoes housed therein.

Formed from several varieties of locally-grown eucalypt timber, oiled and held aloft on a stand braced with four elegant curved supports resembling steel bridge spans, this piece won a Highly Commended placing at the 2009 Kawerau Woodskills Festival.

"My wife is patiently waiting to make use of her gift - it's been on show for so long and has another exhibition at Te Manawa Museum to attend before it returns to her!"





UCOL exists for one reason: to help people succeed in life. We recruit lecturers who are industry-experienced, love the areas they teach in and know how to pass on the passion.

UCOL's style is down-to-earth. We're here to get the job done - and the job is helping you build the skills and confidence to get out there and succeed in your chosen area...

#### **UCOL Palmerston North campus**

The Furniture Design School is based at UCOL's stunning architecturally-designed campus in the heart of vibrant and youthful Palmerston North.

The local Manawatu region combines the charm of rural New Zealand with the picturesque provincial appeal of Palmerston North city (affectionately known by the locals as 'Palmy').

#### **Student City**

With a population of 78 000, Palmerston North has long been known as the 'Student City' of the North Island - for around 40% of the city's residents are studying something! Palmy loves its students. It's cheap and easy to get around, accommodation is plentiful, rents are affordable and you'll find all the shopping, dining or entertainment you could ever ask for.

#### Daniel Reilly - Programme Leader

A respected industry professional that his students describe as having a 'contagious passion' for furniture, Danny has set many new designer-makers on their path to success.

With 30 years in the furniture and related trades, including 15 years experience as a Leading Hand and six years managing his own business, Danny knows what students need to make a new career their own.

The driving force behind UCOL's new showroom displaying student's work at the Square Edge Arts Centre in Palmerston North, Danny knows the value of exhibition work and exposure in jump-starting budding careers.

"We want to support our students to earn a living from fine furniture making, after supporting them in their study. It's all part of our responsibility as educators to help them with the next step."



#### Andrew Halewood - Lecturer

Respected for his ability to motivate and lead his students, Andy's broad industry experience and sound knowledge of the furniture trade means he can deftly coax students' creative dreams into reality.

Andy joined UCOL as a lecturer in 2001, after working for Laucombe Design furniture makers in Foxton. He maintains vital contact with the industry, and is an acclaimed designer-maker himself.



Throughout your exciting and challenging two-year learning journey, we aim to make your study as enjoyable, interesting and instructive as possible.

This course is an investment in your future, so we've designed the study programme to provide you with the best value possible.

Please check our website [www.finefurniture.ac.nz](http://www.finefurniture.ac.nz) for the current fees and course start dates...

#### What do my fees cover?

Included in your Year 1 fees are a range of items needed in the practical component of your Diploma, including personal safety equipment, and basic woodworking and workshop hand tools.

Included in your Year 2 fees is the course textbook: **Collins Complete Woodworker's Manual**. (revised Ed). (1997). By A.Jackson and D.Day.

#### Timetable

Your actual subject timetables will be issued to you on the first day of the programme.



Have we inspired you? Are you tempted?

To find out more about the Fine Furniture Diploma and the Furniture Design School please get in touch...

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fill out an online request form - we'll send you  
whatever information you need.