

## PROJECT 4: The Cube



### Project Description

The purpose of this design project is exploration of language and concepts of composition through the use of different types of material, in different sizes, and the joining together of these materials. As much as material and size will be important to composition, so will be the details of joinery. Joinery choices will allow further exploration and reinforcement of compositional ideas. The cube compositions will be explored in two iterations, and then documented in two-dimensional drawings to represent the compositional and constructed qualities.

Both cube designs will be generated from the following materials:

- 1" x 1" x 24" rods (basswood)
- 1/4" x 1/4" rods (basswood)
- 1/8" x 1/8" rods (basswood)
- 3/32" x 3" sheets (basswood)
- .060" x 12" x 24" plexi-glass sheets

### Cubes:

Create a legible 4" cubic volume using the above elements. Explore compositional unity based on your previous readings, projects and in class discussions. Along with compositional order, explore connection – connection of different wood profiles and of wood with plexiglas. No glue is allowed. Each chosen element must be notched, slotted or modified to receive others. Use at least three of the materials listed, including plexiglas (required). The cube composition must be viewable from all sides.

After an initial review, respond to the issues of composition and joinery discussed and create a new, 6" cube composition. This composition should achieve more complexity than your first iteration and the joinery details should be more developed and better crafted.

### Drawing:

Sequential section drawings allow a comprehensive two-dimensional view of the results of the 6" cube designs. These drawings provide a record of the design, and further describe its compositional qualities. Draw three sequential sections through the 6" cube through the same axis. Specific requirements for these drawings will be defined and explained in class.

Drawing supplies:

drafting vellum  
tracing paper

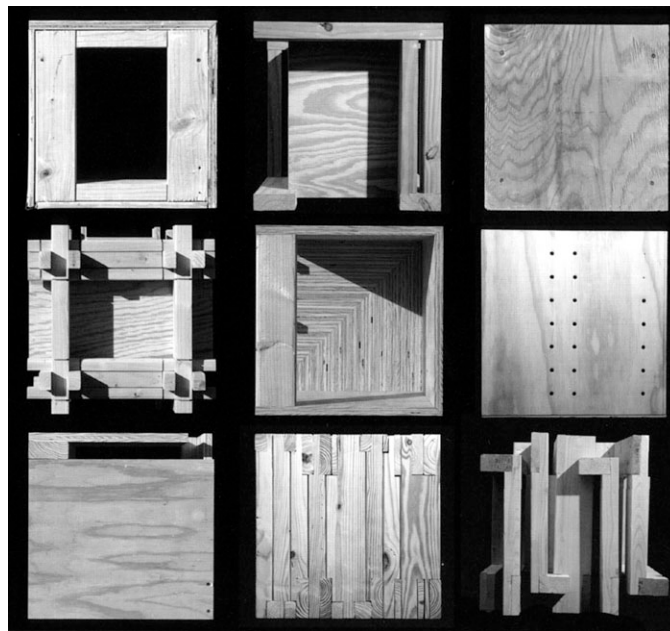
lead holder, pointer, leads  
drafting triangles

## Project Objectives

- Exploration and understanding of composition in 3-D design
- Exploration of materials and details in small-scale construction
- Application of a two-stage (iterative) design process
- Representation of a 3-D design in sequential section drawings
- Development of modeling and drawing craft

## Project Schedule

- Mon. 10/26 Introduce and begin Project 4 in class (design initiation exercises)  
Assignment: Acquire project materials listed above (replenish supply kit items as needed). Complete 4" cube composition (due Wednesday).
- Wed. 10/28 Review 4" cube composition and discuss second iteration.  
Assignment: Initiate 6" cube design, based on 4" cube ideas.
- Fri. 10/30 Individual crits. Work in class on 6" cube  
Assignment: Develop 6" cube design and bring to near completion for critique on Monday.
- Mon. 11/2 Individual crits on 6" design (in progress)  
Assignment: Complete 6" cube for Wednesday.
- Wed. 11/4 Review 6" cubes and initiate documentation drawings, based on class instruction and discussion. Start pencil layout drawings on tracing paper.  
Assignment: complete pencil layout drawings for Friday.
- Fri. 11/6 Review pencil layout drawings, and begin completed pencil drawings on vellum, according to instructions provided in class.  
Assignment: Complete section drawings for Monday.
- Mon. 11/9 **Review Project 4**: 4" cube, 6" cube, and drawings of 6" cube



images from *CUBE*, by David Morrow Guthrie