

Yestermorrow Design/Build School Woodworking Certificate Program

Yestermorrow's 11-week Woodworking Certificate program is designed to give amateurs and aspiring professionals a solid grounding in woodworking and furniture-making techniques, led by Yestermorrow's talented and nationally recognized faculty.

Skills learned in the program include design and drafting, wood selection and preparation, joinery, traditional hand skills, sharpening, power tool techniques, and finishing. The curriculum has a strong focus on the integration of design in the woodworking process, part of Yestermorrow's core philosophy of design/build.

The Certificate begins with an analysis of trees and the wood they produce, an overview of felling and milling practices, and an introduction to the tactile essence of working with green wood. The program then moves into the realm of Cabinetry, in which students become oriented to the tools of the woodshop and basic principles of wood movement and layout. Additional program segments include Beginning Furnituremaking, Traditional Handtool Chairmaking, Joinery, Boxmaking, Care & Repair of Shop Machines, Small Scale Design/Build, Intermediate Furniture Techniques, and Wood Finishes. The program culminates in a two-week studio where each student will design and build a piece of his or her own choosing.

The Certificate will be led by Program Director Justin Kramer – furniture designer, woodworker, sculptor, and educator. Other instructors include Steve Skonieczny, Randy Taplin, Andrew Russell, Kim Winkle, Joel Taplan, and other guests.

This year's program will be offered twice: January 31st through April 15th and September 4th through November 18th. Classes are generally scheduled 9am-5pm Monday through Friday, with some occasional weekend shop days and evening lectures/shop time.

All experience levels are welcome; however we recommend that absolute beginners complete one of Yestermorrow's introductory furniture classes (Intro to the Woodshop, Powertools for Women or Boxmaking) or an equivalent class or training program prior to enrolling. Tuition for the program is \$7800 plus a \$300 materials fee. Food and lodging are additional costs. Depending on what independent projects students choose, there will be additional costs for purchasing wood as well. A variety of [lodging](#) and [meal](#) options are available on campus and in the nearby community. Please contact us for more information and to apply or see the last two pages of this packet.

Course Descriptions – exact dates and instructors subject to change

Winter Woodworking Certificate: **January 31 – April 15, 2016**

Fall Woodworking Certificate: **September 4 – November 18, 2016**

PROGRAM WELCOME Sunday Evening - 1st day

Introductions to program instructors, fellow students and program outline.

WEEK 1

Welcome Day (Monday)

Harvest and Mill Your Own Lumber (Tuesday-Wednesday)

This course will provide an overview of methods and options for small scale sustainable harvesting and wood production. The bulk of the course will be live demonstrations with emphasis on the variety of considerations at every step of the process. Methods of felling, skidding, and sawmilling will be presented. Discussions will include everything from woodlot assessment and management, harvesting logs for lumber on a small scale, building with materials from one's own woodlot, purchasing a sawmill, and building with fresh cut green lumber.

Traditional Handtool Chairmaking 1 (Thursday-Friday)

In this segment, students will begin the process of making a two-slat ladderback chair from an oak log using centuries old tools and techniques. We will begin by splitting out rough parts using wedges and a froe and shaping the fresh green wood with a drawknife and shaving horse. We'll return to this project later in the Certificate program, when we will complete the back posts, slats, and weave the seat.

WEEK 2

Traditional Handtool Chairmaking II (Monday-Thursday)

Continuing on the work we began in Week 1, we will steam bend the back posts and slats and we'll cut slat mortises with a hammer and chisel. Mortise and tenon joints will be carefully sized and kiln dried so as to create a virtually indestructible joint. Finally, we will weave the chair's seat using shaker tape.

Shop Tours, Justin Kramer (Friday)

WEEK 3

Joinery/Boxmaking/Sharpening (Monday-Friday)

Whether you are crafting a picture frame, table or chair, you need to know how to join the pieces in a strong and durable way. This workshop will teach you how to hand-cut mortises, tenons, dovetails, miters, rabbets, dadoes, sliding dovetails, box joints and more, and to utilize those skills in the context of making a variety of boxes of your own design. We will use both hand tools and power tools and will discuss the merits of each. Focus will be on accurate layout and careful cutting to achieve a perfect fit. Students will also learn the basic steps of sharpening hand tools, with a focus on chisels and hand planes.

WEEK 4

Beginning Furniture Making (Monday-Friday)

Students will delve more deeply into the how's and why's of woodworking, the use of hand tools, and the concepts of joinery. Demonstrations and discussions will supplement hands-on learning as students each build their own one-drawer end table. Learn to edge, join, and glue boards; lay out joints; cut tapered legs; join rails to legs with mortise and tenon joinery; make breadboards; and fit, join, and make a drawer.

WEEK 5

Veneer and Solid Wood Cabinetry (Monday-Friday)

During this week, students will be introduced to the process of making cabinetry utilizing a combination of solid wood and veneer. Veneer offers a wide variety of available patterns, textures, figures and colors. Students will learn about the bandsaw and how to prepare it to resaw veneer from solid lumber, and how to use a veneer press and other strategies for pressing the panels that they create. Other topics covered will include miter joints with hidden finger-joined tenons, adjustable and fixed shelving, and hanging and trimming doors. Students will each build a small carcass with a frame and panel door, and veneered front and back panels.

WEEK 6

Cabinets as a Profession (Monday-Friday)

This segment will focus on building custom cabinets in a professional cabinetry shop environment. Using a combination of plywood for the carcasses and hardwood for the faceframes, we will build and install cabinets for a real client. We will break into teams and tackle the process with an eye toward efficiency and precision, reflecting a real world shop situation. Along the way, we'll touch on topics including cabinet design, budget estimation, lay out and measurement, door and drawer styles and options, selecting and utilizing hardware, and finishing and installation strategies and techniques.

WEEK 7

Care and Repair of Shop Machines, Dave Spooner (Monday)

A poorly tuned up power tool makes it difficult to turn out good work, creates safety problems, and can damage or prematurely wear out expensive machinery. In this course, the basic cleaning, lubrication, and adjustment of all of the most common woodworking tools will be thoroughly explained. The machines covered will include the table saw, band saw, jointer, thickness planer, chop saw, and drill press. In addition to basic maintenance, we will discuss topics like blade choice for saws, along with how to make a few simple tools and jigs that will make tuning and adjusting your machines easier.

Design/Build Practices (design focus) (Tuesday-Friday)

The process of design/build depends upon the relationship between desires and constraints, and the creative navigation of the tension between the two. This segment

aims to immerse students in the design/build process by demanding the creation of a unique piece of furniture while grappling with a single, yet significant restraint; the use of one (and only one) sheet of Baltic Birch plywood. Through drawing, modelmaking and full-scale construction, each student in the class will develop a design of their choosing, taking it from concept to finished project. Along the way, we'll learn basic design techniques as well as a variety of conventional and not-so-conventional construction techniques, with the goal of developing a set of skills that can be applied to projects at any scale, and with any materials. We'll also explore the unique properties and unexpected possibilities of plywood as a material.

WEEK 8

Design/Build Practices (build focus) (Monday-Wednesday)

See previous week description

WEEK 9

Advanced Woodworking (Monday-Friday)

Through a series of demonstrations, lectures, and practice exercises, students will expand their skillsets and design/build repertoire as they learn a variety of advanced woodworking techniques. Topics will include lamination (regular, tapered, split, and free form), compression steam bending, lathe techniques including off-center turning, upholstery, tambour door construction, and more. We'll also dig deeper into the design/build process, exploring the importance of full scale drawings and template making, and the continued search for inspiration. During the week, students will design their projects for the upcoming Design/Build studio, doing material studies, joinery samples, research and development, models, mock-ups, and jig/form creation, ultimately presenting their design proposals to the group for feedback.

WEEKS 10 AND 11

Design/Build Studio, Randy Taplin (Monday-Friday)

In this culminating two week "practicum," students will design and build one or more pieces of furniture to completion, with ongoing instructor support. The Design/Build Studio provides an opportunity for students to bring together the skills they've learned to this point, and continue to push into new areas, as well. Numerous instructors will participate, adding the dynamism of varied viewpoints and areas of expertise.

Last Day

Shop clean-up/Presentations/Graduation, Guest Jurors (Friday)

To Apply

The Woodworking Certificate program is limited to 8 students to ensure a small student-to-teacher ratio. Applications are accepted on a rolling admissions basis. Upon review of their application and interview, the Program Director will confirm their acceptance into the program.

Costs

The Woodworking Certificate is a comprehensive 11-week program and includes tuition for all the courses listed above, including 2 weeks of individual studio time to design and build a project. Tuition is \$7,800 plus food and lodging. A \$300 materials fee covers materials for all projects except those built in Small Scale Design/Build and the Final Design/Build Studio. Material costs in these two classes are dependent upon the individual project designs of each student, but it can be expected that additional material costs will total between \$300 and \$800.

What to Bring

Students in the Certificate Program **must** bring the following tools and items. If you have questions about brands or details, the Program Director will be happy to confer with you in advance of the program.

- 12" starret square
- 6" hook rule
- 4-6 quality chisels
- 12' small tape measure
- one block plane or #4 plane
- marking knife
- Japanese saw
- combo sharpening stone
- eye protection
- ear protection
- comfortable, closed-toe shoes to wear in the shop
- notepad/notebook
- water bottle
- camera (recommended)

On-Campus Lodging

Yestermorrow's four double [dormitory rooms](#) feature lots of natural light, ample closet space, interior and exterior doors, views of our wetlands, and two twin beds. In addition, they share bathrooms with hot showers, coin-operated washers and dryers, an internet-connected computer, and hall phones. Linens and towels included.

Dorm \$25/night (reduced rate for Woodworking Certificate Students)
Total Lodging Costs, weekends included – \$1,925 (76 Nights)

Off campus options are available as well:
<https://yestermorrow.org/campus/lodging-options>

We are also happy to help students locate short term (monthly) rentals in the community. Please inquire.

Meal Plans

All of our [meals](#) are prepared right here on campus with as much local and organic foods possible.

Community Meal Plan (3 meals per day): \$30/day
Commuter Meal Plan (lunch only): \$10/day

Total Meal Plan Cost, weekends not included
Community Meal Plan - \$1,650
Commuter Meal Plan - \$550

Students also have the option of preparing their own meals in our on-campus, self-service kitchenette which is fully equipped for all of your cooking needs.

Life at Yestermorrow

Yestermorrow Design/Build School is a vibrant, creative environment nestled in the rural heart of the Mad River Valley. Our campus is surrounded by 2 ski mountains and a multitude of snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, ice skating and other winter sport opportunities. We are also a half hour drive from Montpelier and one hour from Burlington.

Waitsfield and Warren are fully equipped with grocery stores, a health food store, banks, a pharmacy, a local movie theater and a selection of restaurants and watering holes / local music venues.

We encourage you to contribute to life at Yestermorrow by bringing along reading material, musical instruments, games, and other hobbies or forms of entertainment that you would like to share.

Program Withdrawal Policy

A \$1,000 deposit will secure your place in the program. The remainder (\$7,800, plus \$300 materials fee, plus any meals and lodging expenses) will be due one month prior to the start date of the program. If you cancel your enrollment at least one month prior to the class start date, your deposit will be forfeited, and any other payments will be refunded. If you cancel your enrollment within one month of the start of class, your deposit will be forfeited, and the remainder of the class fee will be held as a credit to be used on a future class. If you cancel your enrollment within 48 hours of the beginning of class, all fees will be forfeited.

Scholarships and Work Trade

Yestermorrow offers a number of scholarship opportunities for students. Our goal is to make our classes affordable for everyone who is interested. We encourage all scholarship students to participate in our work trade program, although we can sometimes make exceptions (in the form of tuition grants) for people who can demonstrate that work trade is not a viable or adequate option for them. Work trade credit is calculated at \$10 per hour of work on campus, and must be completed prior to the start of the class to which it is applied. The maximum amount of work trade which can be applied to the tuition is 100 hours, or \$1,000. Please contact us to request a Scholarship Application or visit <https://yestermorrow.org/learn/registration/financial-aid>

Scholarship for Vermont Residents

Residents of the State of Vermont may be eligible for assistance through the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) Non-Degree Grant Program. The application process takes two weeks to a month, and funds are limited. Please contact VSAC in Winooski, VT at 800-642-3177 for more information or visit www.vsac.org and click "grants" on the right side.

Contact Us

If you have further questions about the Woodworking Certificate, please contact:

Katie Tomai, Student Services Coordinator: 802-496-5545, katie@yestermorrow.org