

WHAWHAU X TO BIND

Furniture Design Exhibition

Knowledge is power. Knowledge is privilege. Knowledge is political. With knowledge comes growth and with growth comes a better understanding of the society we inhabit, that being Aotearoa New Zealand. Knowledge is contested.

Throughout the 2021 SARC312/412 Furniture course at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, we have had to go through a process of contesting and unlearning the pro-colonial knowledge we have acquired within a westernised education system.

Whawhau means to bind together. As an elective course of third and fourth-year furniture design students we bring together the intergenerational knowledge that informs Te Ao Māori, the Living Pā project at Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington, and the true history of Aotearoa New Zealand. We do this with the aim of designing a piece of furniture for the Living Pā that encompasses Te Ao Māori and circular design. We thank Rhonda Thomson and Lincoln North for providing us with a brief; David Hakaraia for teaching us the importance of design narratives; Bobby Luke for educating us on whakapapa in design; Maibritt Pedersen-Zari for encouraging the use of biophilic design; Rebecca Kiddle for providing us with a correct history of colonisation in New Zealand and the continued impact this has on Māori today; Steven Almond for his understanding of circularity in design; and Natasha Perkins for her guidance, leadership and tautoko.

We expect to fail in our understanding of Te Ao Māori. As a predominantly non-Māori class we are at the start of our journey in engaging with a Māori world view and understanding our requirement as students to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The patience given to us in this process is appreciated. Ways in which students have interpreted the brief range from pragmatic to conceptual and so collectively, we present to you Whawhau/To Bind Together. This is an exhibition of our conceptual mahi as emerging furniture designers for The Living Pā project – a Living Building Challenge collaboration with Tennent Brown and Te Herenga Waka.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Victoria University of Wellington Te Herunga Waka
Ngā Tikanga me ngā Tukanga Waihanga Taputapu Whare
SARC 312 / 412
2021

The SARC 312 / 412 Furniture design course would like to thank everyone who shared their knowledge and expertise. Without the help of these people and businesses it would not have been possible.

Rhonda Thomson & Lincoln North of The Living Pa Project team.

Nat Perkins - Course Coordinator

Steven Almond

Dion Andrews

Graeme Crawley

Ken Howe

David Hakaraia

Laura Parker

Arthur Mahon

Moana Pointon

Dr Rebecca Kiddle

Caitlyn Lee

Bobby Luke

Phil Nelson

Hamish Morgan

Maibritt Pedersen Zari

Local Manufactures + Suppliers



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2021

