

Create your future

A young oak sapling with several lobed leaves growing in a grassy field. The leaves are a vibrant green, and the sapling is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image. The background is a soft-focus green field of grass.

Collective workshop spaces at Woodschool



Top : Front of the workshops at Ancrum
 Middle : Oak in the round ready for the saw
 Bottom : Beech and elm air drying in the yard

One of the aims of Woodschool is to increase the amount of low to mid grade timber that is processed locally. Another is to bring our creative talent pool of designer / makers into contact with this greatly undervalued and underused resource.

The hardwood timber market and the demand for product for these markets is constantly changing. Price, volume, species, quality, dimensions and product are amongst the variables affecting this changing scene.

Usually only the largest woodland owners of the region sell their hardwoods regularly throughout the year. The norm being small parcels purchased sporadically, generally timed with unmanaged felling. 80% of the hardwood felled in Scotland is exported for conversion to be bought back as again as boards or finished goods. This is leading to a huge **ECONOMIC AND ECOLOGICAL IMBALANCE**.

Improved value added return however can only be achieved by allowing the people on the ground to get on with the process of **RE-ESTABLISHING A WOODLAND CULTURE**. The development of higher value niche products is generally considered a way forward. Any new planting could then be done in the context of growing timber for specific end use and get the future balance right.

An opportunity exists at Woodschool to become part of a **GROUND BREAKING COLLECTIVE** looking at how we can enhance the value of low-mid grade hardwood and the value of designer / makers in our society. Home grown timber and home grown talent is a house motto that requires a **COMMITMENT** and an **UNDERSTANDING** that you could be part of.

This is not an idea or concept that has happened overnight. It has taken us ten years to build a core group of over twenty makers that now work in local timbers. We presently have six resident designer /

makers working in a collective and stimulating environment making wooden product from kitchens to cathedrals. The emphasis is always on **QUALITY OF WORK AND DESIGN**.

There are no rules at Woodschool but a **SENSE OF REALISM** exists that enables the right people to develop in a sheltered business environment for as long as they want. Woodschool is looking to lease a further two bench spaces to suitable furniture makers, sculptors or environmental artists who want to work with others.

The workshop is situated on a local estate near Jedburgh. We work out of an old grey agricultural shed with portacabins bolted on to it, in an eclectic mix of buildings. We have built it all ourselves over the course of the last ten years. It may not look much but we've sweated blood over it.

We are not grant funded so have to rely on profits to pay for the purchase of new equipment and structural improvements. So makers are expected to give some time on keeping the place up and running. It gives a **SENSE OF OWNERSHIP** to the makers and has helped shape the creative and shared core values for the collective.

In the **Workshop** we have

- Spindle Moulder, Cross Cut Saw, Rip Saw, Bandsaw, Dimension Saw
- 16" planer, 24" planer, Morticer, Sander/ Thicknesser
- Spray Booth, Full dust extraction
- Comprehensive range of power and hand tools.

Above the workshop in the **Design Studio** all makers have access to

- Individual desk space, Drawing facilities
- Photographic equipment



- Computer facilities
- Client consultation area
- Internet access and Web master

Amongst the **other facilities and services** on site we have

- Greenwood working facilities
- Wood-mizer mobile sawing facilities
- Air & Kiln Dried timber supplies
- Trade discount contacts
- Fund raising searches
- Product development awards
- Marketing support & small business skills
- Collective event and exhibition organisation
- High workshop footfall by visitors and clients
- Fully manned gallery space at Buy Design

BENCH FEES

Woodschool bench fee is fixed for two years at £300.00 + VAT per month. Heat, light, water, rent, rates, machinery maintenance are included in this fee.

All consumables for power tools, oils, finishes etc that are used for individual commissions and jobs must be paid for by the bench occupier.

Woodschool takes a 15% commission on all work that has been a direct result of an introduction through Woodschool or one of its clients.

GET REAL !

It is hoped that all prospective bench occupiers bring work to sustain themselves for at least two - three months of settling in time. Time to get your rich auntie

to commission a piece !

We have found the first six months to be the hardest for any new maker coming to Woodschool. The level of support given to anyone coming here is complementary to his or her work or needs. Woodschool is a unique relationship between maker and “management”.

We hold regular workshop meetings and **DISCUSSION, CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM and INPUT COMES FROM ALL AROUND YOU.** This is a place for self development and an opportunity for self expression! It's important that all the makers here contribute to the running of the collective and in keeping new ideas coming forward.

Nobody is making an absolute fortune yet but there are plenty of opportunities to meet new and interesting people and explore the many commercial and private possibilities from within our growing network. Our customer base and portfolio is varied.

The resident makers have designed and made for restaurants, offices, and shops, worked on many private commissions, prototyped for architects & interior designers, worked with restoration builders, landscape architects, public institutions and local authorities. We have worked with specialists in textiles, glass, metal, stone and reclaimed materials.

PUBLICITY

Woodschool has had a fair amount of attention from the media. Not just because the collective is unique but because our work is different, **WE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY** and **WE ARE HUNGRY!** We have links with export development, further education, design houses, architects, many other makers and a growing marketplace that is looking for lifestyle furniture and fittings.

Top : Keith cutting on our Wood Mizer
Bottom : Graham at his bench in the workshop



Top : Tom in the machine shop
Bottom : In the design studio area above the workshop

We have very close contact with other makers and organisations in Europe and Japan. Our network is strong in the environmental, forestry, design, technical, self build, timber processing, educational, business and retail sectors.

We have won awards for environmental best practice, sustainable development, product design, small business encouragement, social and craft enterprise. So we have had loads of independent opinion and validation endorsing our work.

You don't have to be the best designer in the world, to join the team here, it's hoped that you have a good making knowledge and skills base. But most of all it's hoped that you have a commitment to our core values and aspirations.

A PLACE TO STAY

We will try to help with accommodation wherever we can. We work in a rural area of the Scottish Borders. The other makers all live in nearby estate cottages or travel from Edinburgh. Ancrum is our nearest village 2 miles, but we are only 1 hour from Newcastle and Edinburgh, 2 hours from Glasgow so we're out in the sticks a bit, but we have a **QUALITY OF LIFE** that you won't get anywhere else. Woodschool is set in a wooded landscape just for inspiration !

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF !

You are invited to come and visit. In fact this is an important part of the selection process for us and you. It's not the management that you have to convince, it's the other makers. After all it's them that you will be working alongside most of the time. This is a **MIXTURE OF TALENT AND TEMPERAMENT**. But we have all got one thing in common - a love of wood and a thirst to find the many possibilities for its

use and continued role in our society.

If you want for information, would like to visit please contact :

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E: enquiries@woodschoolltd.uk or visit either of the websites to give you a flavour of what we do here.

[www : woodschoolltd.uk](http://www.woodschoolltd.uk)

[www : buydesign-furniture.com](http://www.buydesign-furniture.com)



Top : Grant assembling seating for Dumfries hospital
Bottom : One of our stand displays at Home Show exhibition



Top : Crossing Furniture for St Marys Cathedral
Bottom : Reception Desk for Royal Botanic Gardens



Top : Table and chairs out of Woodschool range for private client
Bottom : Woodschool range in Cafe Cossachok refit, Merchant City, Glasgow



Top : buyDesign our gallery space on site
Bottom : Chair detail from Woodschool range



Top : Grant & Stuart with product



Top : Tom working on Douglas fir seat