

# Wooden futures?

exploring Norwegian birch  
Mega-map of (some) findings

Colored lines denote a line of thought through the exploration.

Some persistent questions in black, chronologically ordered

Notes on each week's pictures as they came to me

W 0



Manifesto: choosing visible wood is an act of ornamentation

Form "makes" ornament in wood  
Double-curved surfaces brings out "more" grain  
Form forms grain so much no one primary form captures it all - no "perfect" sample surface

7 (+2) double-diamond weeks

W 1



(Birch) wood is surprisingly ductile  
Thin yet strong - importance of grain direction & form

3 operations

Manifesto: small conscious actions makes you mindful about the decisions that makes a big impact

Is birch a non-wood?

(everywhere but invisible, never considered?)

W 2



3+2 operations

Manifesto: experiment to get out of a mindset, not validate one

The experiments can lead you in unexpected directions (even when they start simple and seemingly limited in scope)  
Bending/wet moulding as technique for joining  
Form from joinery

Wet moulding as method?

Stretching veneer materials in different ways until breaking

Threads in wood works surprisingly well  
Convex edge with semi-sharp edges for tactility  
Clamping/gripping surfaces important for production

W 3



4 operations

Manifesto: other materials are alright too

Is veneer a good material?

W 4



[2] operations

Benefits of operating within the biosphere (versus the technosphere)  
Material stretched beyond breaking  
Benefit of diagonal grain (for bending in two directions)

Manifesto: (occasionally) wood is not the answer

W 5



4+3 operations

Manifesto: if the answer is particle board you didn't ask the right question

Joinery forms product identity  
-visible joinery makes the product more divisive  
Made double sided for the opportunity of two "faces"  
No backboard saves material and packing volume  
Veneer is a scarce material

W 6



3+3 operations

Manifesto: trees do not grow into straight, square planks

Limits of traditional machines even with modern technologies  
Branches are (somewhat) predictable on paper, but needs wide margins in practice.

W 7



4 operations

Manifesto: patina over the gloss of newness, anytime

Metalless joinery

"Floating" on a generous fillet  
Toolmarks as texture  
Made-for-machine form?  
Un-photogenic taper  
Edges for patina



Manifesto: wood is a local material!

Grain works well with double-curved forms