

Kai K. Gutschow

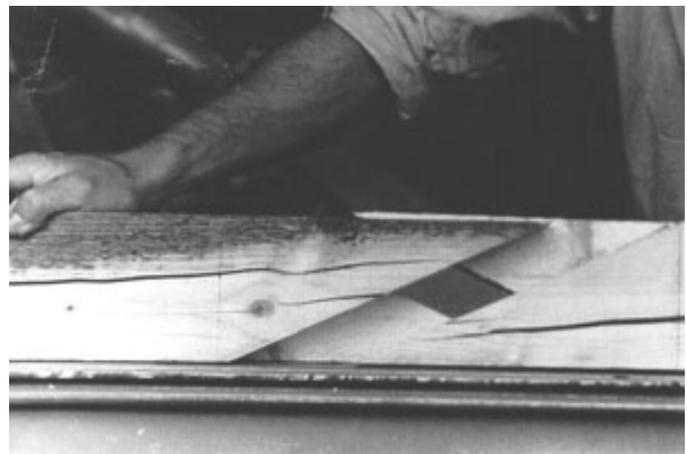
M.Arch/PhD

Craftsmanship: Select Projects

These design-and-build projects, and related explorations in construction, materials, assembly, and craftsmanship, constitute a kind of “learning by doing” research through which I developed a visceral knowledge of architecture and design. I rely on this hands-on experience and the knowledge gained for my studio design teaching and the “project courses” in architectural history I have taught. By craftsmanship I mean “workmanship using any kind of apparatus or technique in which the quality of the result is not pre-determined, but depends instead on the judgement, dexterity and the care that the maker exercises as s/he works” (Pye). Throughout these projects I am working to understand and exercise more control over the full creative process, shaping the design, the presentation, and the crafting of all aspects of the final product. Such first-hand craftsmanship experience is indispensable to the in-depth study and teaching of the built environment and the processes that shape it, including architectural history. An intuitive sense of materials, scale, assembly techniques, aesthetics, and their relation to the entire architectural design process is vital to becoming a responsible professional.

- Designing and crafting of Teahouse, in Mackenheim, Germany, 1987
- Designing and crafting of seminar and meeting room for Center for Environmental Design Research, U.C. Berkeley, 1990-1993
- Design and crafting of furniture, including walnut reading bench (guild-approved “Apprentice Piece”) 1998; cherry dresser and cherry writing desk, 1987-88; design of steel vitrine for architectural model, Nepal, 1990.
- Cooperative designing and crafting of “Vehicular Furniture” with Prof. Lars Lerup, for SFMoMA exhibit, 1990
- Research, design, and construction management of new benches and lobby in Patan Museum, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1990
- Curating and supervising of exhibition and student installation of “Taliesin Apprentices,” 1999

For a more and larger images of the work, as well as brief explanations of the projects, please refer to my professional website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/gutschow



Kai Making Joinery by Hand, Spring 1988