

+316 383 20 143

merel232.ms@gmail.com

@let.the.bird.design

# Merel Schouten

Portfolio

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Selected Work,  
2021 / 2024



The 'Zero Waste Chair' embodies sustainability and flexibility with a subtle nod to Kees Dekker's 'No Waste Chair.' Constructed from a Scania waste bin, the stackable system provides a modular seating solution. The amount of available material determines whether the chair can transform into a bench. The industrial design, preserving the raw texture of the material, narrates the story of sustainability and a circular future. It's not just a functional piece of furniture but an expression of dedication to discovering new raw materials and promoting a sustainable lifestyle.







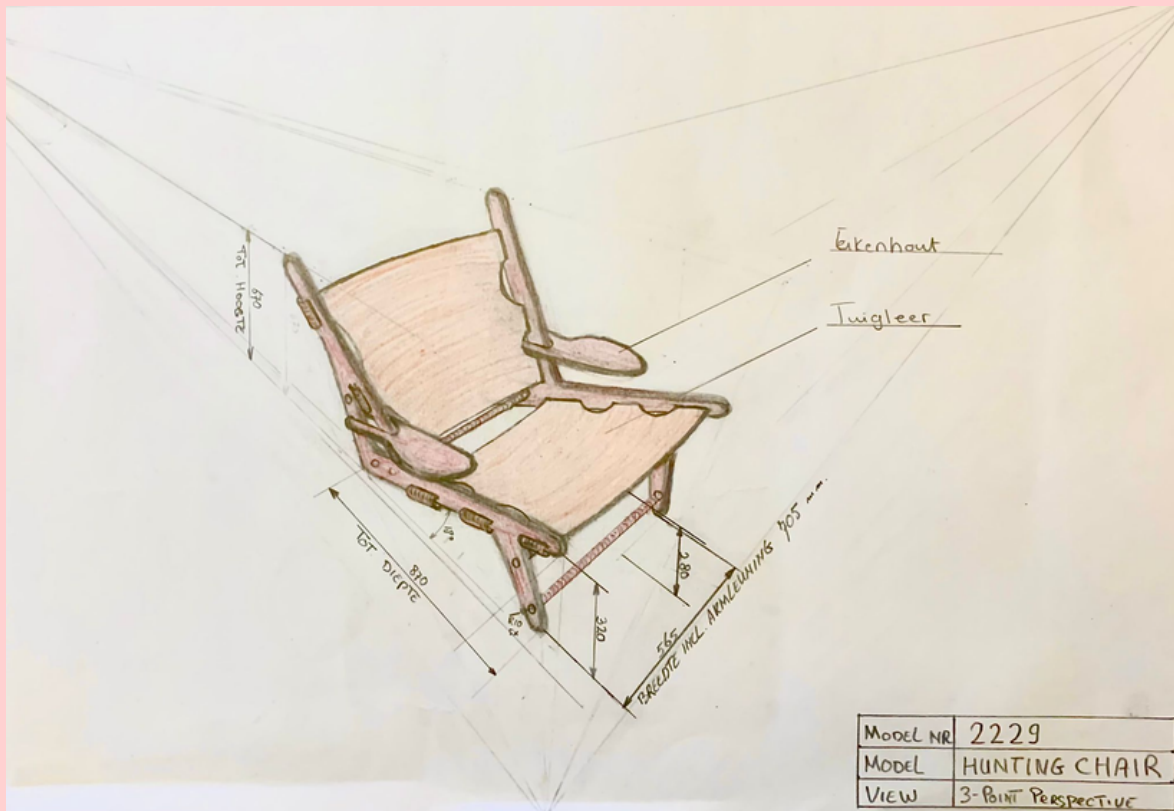
A table designed in collaboration with Museum Het Schip, inspired by the Amsterdam School architectural movement. The project concluded with an exhibition at the 150-year-old post office near Museum Het Schip in Amsterdam



A cabinet inspired by a form-focused assignment. The inspiration is drawn from the Carlton cabinet by the Memphis Group. It's a challenging yet educational project involving a lot of technical aspects







A future project involves preparing for the production of 'The Hunting Chair.' While I did not design the chair myself, I independently developed it from images to digital drawings. This serves as valuable practice in anticipation of my upcoming exam. The plan is to commence production of this chair during my third school year.







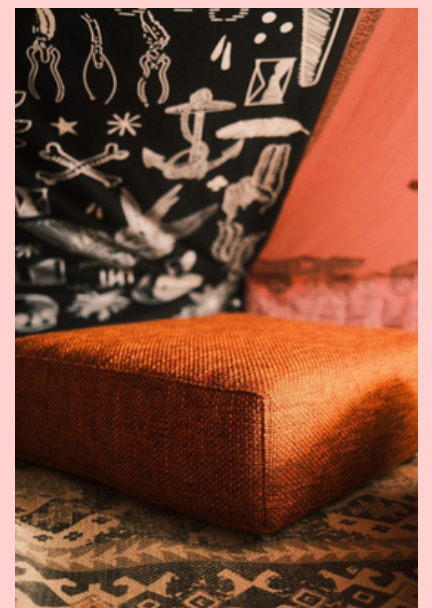
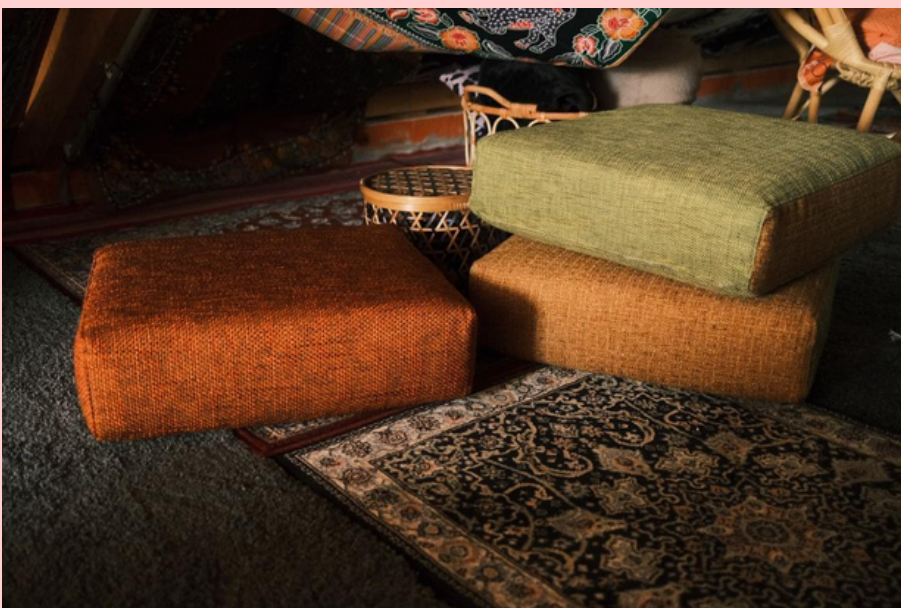
During my current internship, I am involved in both design and metalworking. I have become incredibly inspired by metalworking and thoroughly enjoy the process. It's so much fun to experiment with a new medium each time. Here are a few of the small experiments I have created.







During my internship as an upholsterer, I was tasked with replacing the foam in a customer's sofa. However, the existing foam was still in good condition and had plenty of life left. So, I decided to repurpose it by creating floor cushions for a friend's low attic. The mix-and-match fabrics were sourced from the remaining scraps of fabric from past projects of previous clients







"The one's trash is another's treasure." I love upcycling. I came across these chairs in the thrift store and instantly fell in love. After my internship as a furniture upholsterer, I utilized my new skills to breathe new life into these chairs.







A one-of-a-kind project crafted during my first year of study for my brother and his girlfriend: a unique surf and skateboard holder with a dual function as ambient lighting





For this project, I was asked to translate a artwork conceived by retired interior architect Hans Peters into a sculpture made of solid cherry wood. The original piece was crafted from foam and plaster. The layers of the wooden sculpture were created using a CNC machine.







From an old discarded Thonet chair to a unique lamp. The challenge in this project was to transform an old chair into a lighting object. The rounded shapes in the Thonet chair immediately inspired me to create a chandelier. The light sanded effect, finished with mahogany oil, revitalizes the wood and adds a touch of life to the piece



A wooden suitcase created as part of a product line development assignment. During this project, I explored the capabilities of the laser cutter, particularly in engraving on veneer.



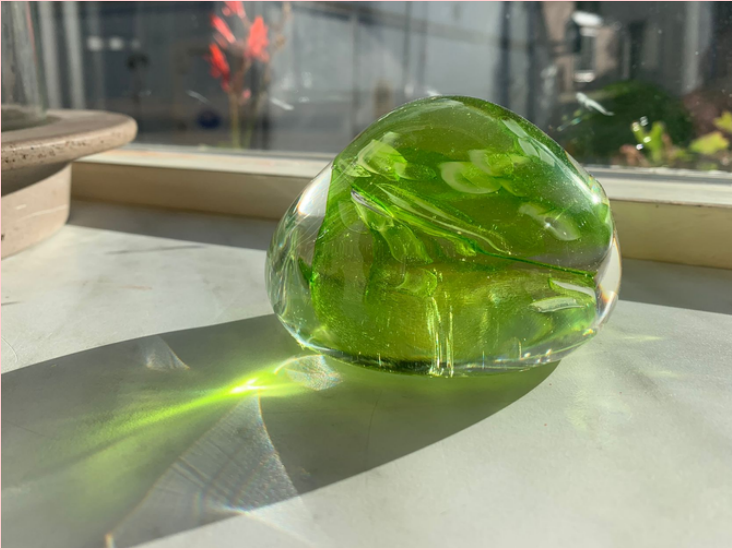




A music box crafted from walnut wood, featuring a self-made hinge and a lid with inlaid veneer inspired by the movie 'The Truman Show.' Throughout this project, I extensively utilized the laser cutter for both cutting the hinges and the veneer inlays.







At school, we frequently have the opportunity to participate in workshops, and one of my favorite workshops was glassblowing. The technique is incredibly challenging and not easily mastered in such a short period. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the experience as it allowed me to work with such a beautiful medium and gain valuable insights into the art of glassblowing.





My very first project:  
a serving board  
crafted from leftover  
wood scraps found in  
the bins at school

