

# SYLLABUS 570

ARCH 570  
SPRING 2023

THE CHAIR PROJECT DESIGN-BUILD  
PROF ELIZABETH C ENGLISH

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO  
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

## Instructors

Elizabeth English

Email: [english@ecenglish.ca](mailto:english@ecenglish.ca) or [ecenglish@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ecenglish@uwaterloo.ca)

Either email address is fine but please do not send the same message to both (Please put "570" in the subject line of all course-related emails sent to me)

Phone: 504 717 5098 (US cell – you can text me on WhatsApp)

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/6834142471>

Office: Room 2017

Office hours: TBA. Monday evenings, or by appointment on other days

Philip Beesley

Email: [philip.beesley@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:philip.beesley@uwaterloo.ca)

Available for crits and reviews during class hours on specific days:

May 24 & 31; June 7, 14 & 21; July 12

Heinz Koller

Email: [heinz.koller@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:heinz.koller@uwaterloo.ca)

Contact by email to request an appointment, available most weekdays

Michael Sims

Email: [mcsyms@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:mcsyms@uwaterloo.ca)

Contact by email to request an appointment, available most weekdays

## Class Hours

Wednesday 2-6 pm & sometimes later for crits or reviews depending on need

Room 3003 (The Loft)

Typical schedule (times are approximate):

2-3 pm: lecture for all students

3-5 pm: meet with half of class and 5-7 pm meet with other half of class; or

3-7 pm: meet with half of class (section A or B) on alternating weeks; or

3-7 pm: on crit days, be there 20 minutes ahead of time, stay just for your crit

## Teaching Assistant

Yannik Sigouin

Email: [ymsigouin@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:ymsigouin@uwaterloo.ca)

Office hours: Monday 6-8 pm or by appointment; meet in the Loft Gallery

## Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the School of Architecture is located on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee peoples. The University is situated on the Haldimand Tract, the land promised to the Six Nations that includes 10 kilometres on each side of the Grand River. (See references here:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/engineering/about/territorial-acknowledgement>)

## Course Description

Chairs have a unique history as a testing-ground for architectural ideas. The scale of the chair, and the chair as an archetypal furniture object, are useful as an important starting point for exploring ideas of inhabitation, of material detailing, of paring away excess. All of the potential of architecture for profound expression through material is condensed here. The project also gives students the opportunity to interrogate the social nature of a chair,

questioning what it means to sit, the physical configuration of a sitting posture, and the cooperation, even contortion, of the body that occupying a chair requires. The term-long assignment is to design, construct and explore the behaviour of a folding or take-apart wooden chair inspired by a client of the students' choice.

Students are expected to work on their Chair Projects in pairs. There are such clear advantages to working with a partner on this project that student partnerships are required except in exceptional circumstances, about which you must speak with the instructor. Course assignments have been developed over the years to guide the project through the steps of research, conceptualization, design development, analysis of structural behaviour, construction in the woodshop, presentation of the built chair at a formal review and documentation of the entire process in a printed booklet.

**Learning Objectives**

The Chair Project course was developed with three primary learning objectives: First, to create opportunities for students to work hands-on with an easily-workable structural material -- this enhances understanding of material properties, joinery, and real-life physical limitations. Second, to make structural analysis and calculation personally applicable and non-abstract -- the chairs created in ARCH 570 become the basis for a structural analysis component of the course; because the analysis is directly applied to an object of their own creation, students invariably become much more engaged in the process. Third, to give students the satisfaction and sense of accomplishment that comes from taking a small project from conceptualization to physical realization -- and because of the limited scale, students are able to test high-concept design and fabrication ideas. Pushing the boundaries of what constitutes a chair is a valid response to this assignment.

**Course Requirements**

Comprehensive descriptions of course assignments and review requirements will be shared in LEARN as the assignments are formally issued.

**Project Booklet**

The final project booklet documents all aspects of your work during the term. The due date for the final booklet has been determined to coordinate with other end-of-term deadlines. More comprehensive information about the project booklet requirements will be distributed during the term. Submission of the final booklet in both physical hardcopy and digital form is required.

**Course Assessment**

Final marks will be calculated on the following basis:

Client Research & Manifesto	10%
Concept Sketch Pin-up & Crit Attendance	5%
Mid-Review	10%
Final Design Review	15%
Built Chair Review	20%
Analysis	15%
ID Panel	5%
Final Booklet	20%

**Course Platforms**

The tools we plan to use in this course to deliver, organize and share course content are as follows:

LEARN for posting of course documents and assignments, for submission of all student work, and recording and release of grades.  
MS TEAMS for informal scheduling and communication.

**Course Schedule**

The Course Schedule is detailed on a separate page accompanying this Syllabus

## BOILER-PLATE

<b>COVID-19 Special Statement</b>	Given the on-going situation around COVID-19, students are to refer to the University of Waterloo's developing information resource page ( <a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/">https://uwaterloo.ca/coronavirus/</a> ) for up-to-date information on academic updates, health services, important dates, co-op, accommodation rules and other university level responses to COVID-19.
<b>Fair Contingencies for Emergency Remote Teaching</b>	To provide contingency for unforeseen circumstances, the instructor reserves the right to modify course topics and/or assessments and/or weight and/or deadlines with due and fair notice to students. In the event of such challenges, the instructor will work with the Department/Faculty to find reasonable and fair solutions that respect rights and Workloads of students, staff and faculty.
<b>Late Work</b>	<p>Assignments that are handed in late will receive an initial penalty of 5% on the first calendar day late and a 5% penalty per calendar day thereafter. After 5 calendar days, the assignment will receive a 0%.</p> <p>Only in the case of a justified medical or personal reason will these penalties be waived. For verified health concerns, please discuss this with your instructor before submitting a <a href="#">Verification of Illness Form (VIF)</a> to the Academic Services Coordinator and Associate Director, in the Undergraduate Office. Personal extenuating circumstances need to be communicated to your instructor who will coordinate with the Undergraduate Office as needed. This is not the same as the AccessAbility Accommodations or the <a href="#">short term absence</a> process.</p> <p>Information on COVID-19 is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>CAAB Student Performance Criteria</b>	The BAS/MArch program enables students to achieve the accreditation standards set by the Canadian Architectural Certification Board as described <a href="#">here</a> . This course addresses the CACB criteria and standards that are noted on the Accreditation page of the School of Architecture <a href="#">website</a> .
<b>Mental Health Support</b>	<p>All of us need a support system. We encourage you to seek out mental health supports when they are needed. Please reach out to Campus Wellness (<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/">https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/</a>) and Counselling Services (<a href="https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services">https://uwaterloo.ca/campus-wellness/counselling-services</a>).</p> <p>We understand that these circumstances can be troubling, and you may need to speak with someone for emotional support. Good2Talk (<a href="https://good2talk.ca/">https://good2talk.ca/</a>) is a post-secondary student helpline based in Ontario, Canada, that is available to all students.</p>
<b>Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Commitment</b>	<p>The School of Architecture is committed to foster and support equity, diversity and inclusion. If you experience discrimination, micro-aggression, or other forms of racism, sexism, discrimination against 2SLGBTQ+, or disability, there are several pathways available for addressing this:</p> <p>A) If you feel comfortable bringing this up directly with the faculty, staff or student who has said or done something offensive, we invite you, or a friend, to speak directly with this person. People make mistakes and dealing them directly in the present may be the most effective means of addressing the issue.</p> <p>B) you can reach out to either the <a href="#">Undergraduate office</a>, <a href="#">Graduate office</a>, or Director (<a href="mailto:DirectorArchitecture@uwaterloo.ca">DirectorArchitecture@uwaterloo.ca</a>). If you contact any of these people in confidence, they are bound to preserve your anonymity and follow up on your report.</p>

C) You can choose to report centrally to the Equity Office. The Equity Office can be reached by emailing [equity@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:equity@uwaterloo.ca). More information on the functions and services of the equity office can be found here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/human-rights-equity-inclusion/about/equity-office>.

D) [Racial Advocacy for Inclusion, Solidarity and Equity \(RAISE\)](#) is a student-led Waterloo Undergraduate Student Association (WUSA) service launching in the Winter 2019 term. RAISE serves to address racism and xenophobia on the University of Waterloo campus with initiatives reflective of RAISE's three pillars of Education and Advocacy, Peer-to-Peer Support, and Community Building. The initiatives include but are not limited to: formal means to report and confront racism, accessible and considerate peer-support, and organization of social events to cultivate both an uplifting and united community. You can report an incident using their [online form](#).

## AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES

<b>Academic Integrity</b>	In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check the Office of Academic Integrity <a href="http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity">www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity</a> for more information.]
<b>Grievance</b>	A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <a href="http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm">http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm</a> . When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.
<b>Discipline</b>	A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check <a href="http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity">www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity</a> ] to avoid committing an academic offense, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, <a href="http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm">www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm</a> . For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, <a href="http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm">www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm</a> .
<b>Appeals</b>	A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 (Student Petitions and Grievances) (other than a petition) or Policy 71 (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) <a href="http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm">www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm</a> .
<b>Note for Students with Disabilities</b>	<a href="#">AccessAbility Services</a> , located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with <a href="#">AccessAbility Services</a> at the beginning of each academic term.