

Dear Students,

I am excited to begin our woodworking adventure together in the “Woodworking for Women – Foundations of Woodworking” class! Woodworking is an awesome skill to have. From fixing things to designing and creating them. There is so much you can do once you have an idea how. I myself cannot imagine NOT having custom furniture anymore.

Over the course of the class, we will be building a bench tote (a small wooden tool box with a handle) and make our own little hardwood cutting board. You will be introduced to most essential machines in a wood shop and I will also show you how to do some of the tasks by hand. Since precision takes practice, we will use the machines and power tools for our project, but there will be some time to familiarize yourself with doing similar tasks by hand at home.

### **Logistics and Things to Wear/Bring:**

- Please do your best to be on time and to attend all sessions.
- Wear layers, since it can get chilly in the shop as you are observing and then warm as you get into working on your project.
- Wear closed-toed, comfortable shoes. There is a bunch of standing while working and we don't want things to fall onto your toes or shavings/saw dust getting into your shoes. Similarly, long pants are recommended.
- Wear clothes comfortable for working, or an apron – whichever works for you.
- If you have long or unwieldy hair, please wear it tied back or wear a cap. It's a safety issue. The same goes for your upper clothing, please no floppy strings on hoodies, loose shirt sleeves, etc.
- If you need glasses to read, you will need glasses to do woodwork.
- We will provide safety gear such as earplugs, earmuffs, dust masks and safety glasses.
- Due to the time constraints of the class, we will not take any “official” breaks. There is of course the opportunity to take your own 5 minutes to sneak to the restroom, drink water, or snack if needed.
- If you are on some sort of medication that could impair your reaction time, please let me know.
- Put your cell phones on silent and leave them in your bag unless you want to take a picture.
- At the beginning of class, please let me know if you are left-handed (I am, too, and might have some tips), and if you are a bleeder or on bloodthinning medication (just in case).

### **A Bit about Me:**

Right after high school, I did an apprenticeship as a cabinetmaker in Germany. This was an apprenticeship program in a big shipyard with a strong union. There were 8 students per year. The year before me had 2 girls, my year had 2 girls, and the year after me had one. However, my female colleague and I were the only two girls in the entire county that year, due to stigmas surrounding women in woodworking.

For many years, I worked as a graphic designer and later Art Director for print and online media, then, through my love of sailing and traditional wooden boats, I found my way back to the wood shop. I have been working as a wooden boatbuilder in the San Francisco Bay Area. I'm self-employed, working on a project basis for several boatyards, the SF Maritime Museum, and private clients. Most of the time I am

the only woman. There's more of us out there, but instead of leading yards, or working in them, most women boatbuilders I know work in education, running youth programs for non-profits or museums. I too have done all that, but always as a side job. So, funny, that now after 15 years in the yards, crawling under boats, I envision my semi-retirement to be teaching. After relocating to Santa Cruz, I am thrilled to have found Cabrillo and be able to share my knowledge.

No matter why you signed up for this class, I hope you carry away not only your tote and cutting board, but an excitement to build more, learn more, and feel confident around power tools, shop machinery, a thing that needs fixing, and - most of all - people who think they need to tell you how to do something or not do it at all.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach Extension at 831-479-6331 or [extension@cabrillo.edu](mailto:extension@cabrillo.edu).

See you soon!

**Inka Petersen**