

6. Making the Table and Chairs

The making process was conducted in Iceland between 29 March and 8 May 2004, in the workshops of the selected makers: [Gretar Thorvaldsson](#); [Fjolinir Hlynsson](#); [Geir Oddgeirsson](#). A time schedule for the making process is provided in Table 4, page 102.

The author shared the work with the makers, including [Thorhildur Thorgeirsdottir](#), who visited [Gretar Thorvaldsson's](#) workshop. The author, under the guidance of the selected makers, did most of the making work. During this part of the project the author captured with photography, video and sound recordings the continued experimentation and development of the design throughout the making process ([multimedia disc 7](#), making the table and chairs). The recorded media exposes the influence of the selected makers on the design and the creative making experience shared between the makers and the author.

After the table and chairs had been made in Iceland, templates were taken for the felted wool seat covers and tablemats to be made by Asa Hatun. These were made by Asa in the Faroe Islands and posted to the author.

Table 4 Time Schedule for Making the Table and Chairs in Iceland

DATE	Morning	Afternoon
2004		
28 March	Check in Glasgow airport 0915, FN:FI431, depart 1115	Arrive Keflavik Int'l 1225,
29 March	Meet and work with Gretar Mar Thorvaldsson.	Pattern making and casting workshop. Aluminium comp.
30 March	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
31 March	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
1 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
2 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
3 April		
4 April		
5 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
6 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
7 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
8 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
9 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
10 April		
11 April		

DATE	Morning	Afternoon
2004		
12 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
13 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
14 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
15 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
16 April	Pattern making and casting	Pattern making and casting
17 April	Rest	Rest
18 April	Rest	Rest
19 April	Meet and work at Geir Oddgeirsson Workshop. Tresmidjan Grein ehf.	Table top and other wooden non-steam bent components at Tresmidjan Grein ehf.
20 April	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.
21 April	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.
22 April	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.
23 April	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.	Timber components Tresmidjan Grein ehf.
24 April	Travel to East of Iceland	Travel to East of Iceland
25 April	Meet and work with Fjölur B. Hlynsson, Miðhús. Chair assembly, steam bending.	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair

DATE	Morning	Afternoon
2004		
26 April	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair
27 April	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair
28 April	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair
29 April	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair
30 April	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair	Fjölur B. Hlynsson at Miðhús. Chair
1 May	Rest	Rest
2 May	Rest	Rest
3 May	Travel West	Travel West back to Reykjavík
4 May	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete the table and chairs.	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs
5 May	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs
6 May	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs
7 May	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Complete table chairs	Tresmidjan Grein ehf. Pack into packing case and deliver to air cargo.

DATE 2004	Morning	Afternoon
8 May	Rest	Rest
9 May	Check in Keflavik Int'l Airport, 0500, FN FI430, depart 0720. Arrive Glasgow 1025.	

6.1. Method of Recording the Making Process

Due to the nature of this part of the project, it was unpredictable in what sequence things would happen, how they would happen, and how the design would be developed as work progressed. To capture this spontaneous design development in the hands of the makers, an unstructured method of recording in digital audio and visual media was used.

The formats used were digital photography, mini disc audio recording and mini DV (video).

The following areas, or events, in the design development and making process, were the key areas to be captured:

- Initial sketching, drawing and discussion of proposed design with selected makers, the emphasis being on their comments.
- Making full size drawings, models, experiments with the selected makers.
- Making the table and chairs, and any discussions on further design decisions.
- Talking about finished table and chairs or experiments.

The author, while recording the making process, considered the following points:

- While capturing the above it is the individual nature of each maker's working method or style that was to be recorded.
- The selected makers needed to understand the importance of the recording equipment right from the beginning.
- The use of the recording equipment, from the beginning, helped reduce camera and microphone shyness.
- The equipment must be to hand, set up and ready to record at all times during the making process.

- Predicting when an interesting moment might happen needed to be foreseen, in order to capture and record it successfully.
- Gathering evidence of a collective working method was an important part of the process which needed recording.

The video, photography and audio media capturing the shared making experience was used to make the presentation on [multimedia disc 7](#), making the table and chairs (DVD). The presentation is a montage of media, focused on exposing the shared nature of the making experience. When viewing this presentation the reader should note that the visual and physical communication between the makers, is the most relevant to the making process.

[The reader is now advised to view the multimedia disc 7, making the table and chairs \(DVD\).](#)

6.2. The Completed Table and Chairs

The completed table and chairs were shipped back to the author's home on the 12 May 2004, where an oil finish was applied. Images of the completed table and chairs can be seen on the [multimedia disc 3](#), and one of these is provided in Fig. 34.



Fig. 34 Completed table and chairs

Table is 153 cm in diameter and 71 cm high, made of Oak and Aluminium.

Over a period of 6 weeks the author, with a group of makers in Iceland, made the table and chairs (Fig.35). Through a series of shared making sessions in different workshops, the design for the table and chairs was resolved and made. This designing and making process was shared democratically between the makers and the author by the communication of ideas through physically making and experimenting and talking.