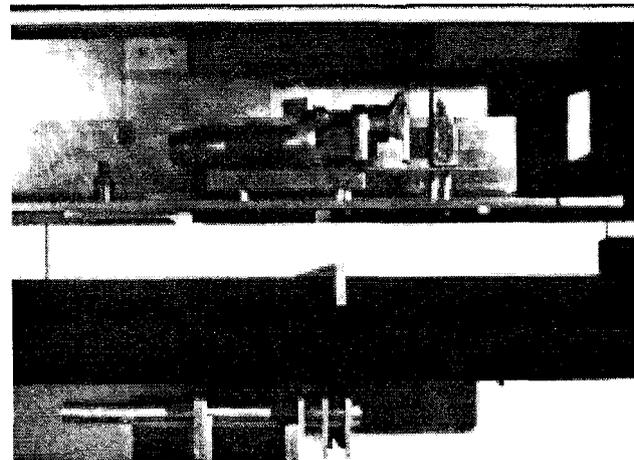
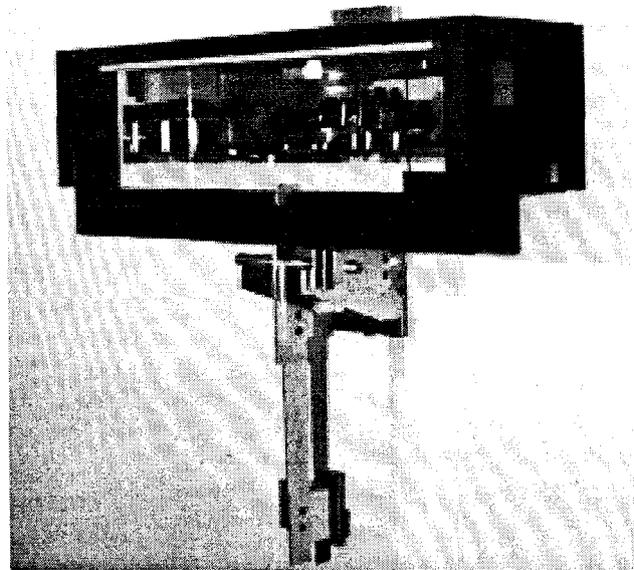


Boxing

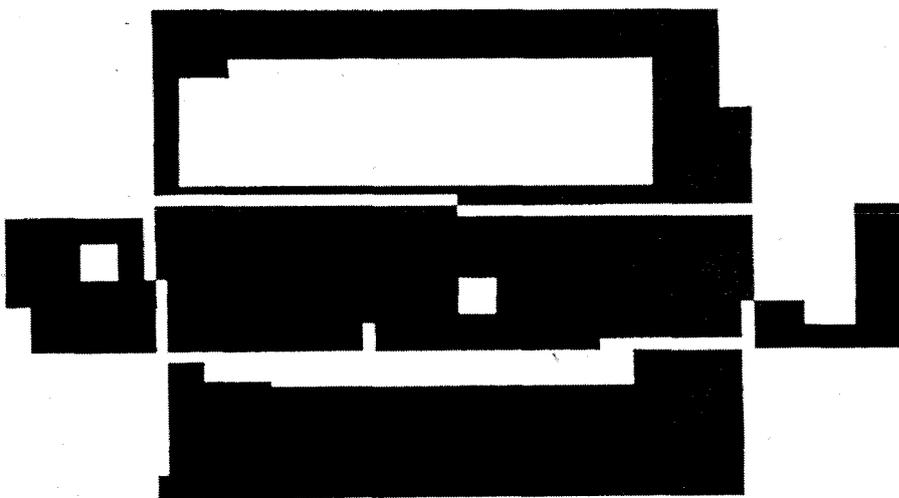
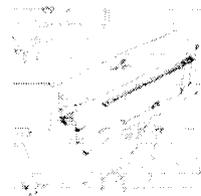
TIMOTHY STENSON
University of Virginia

The works depicted herein are successive commissions from one client. Included are a box, and a room; a case for the display of two antique wrenches, and an operator. Exploring potential overlaps in conceptions of furniture design and building design, these projects incorporate themes of housing and surface.

In the formation of both projects the distinction between inside and outside was of primary importance. For the tool chest this difference was articulated through the layered construction of the box, dyeing the outer ply of mahogany black, while leaving the inner ply of birch clear as a lining. The contrast between plies is exaggerated as each adjusts its configuration to the independent needs of inside and outside.



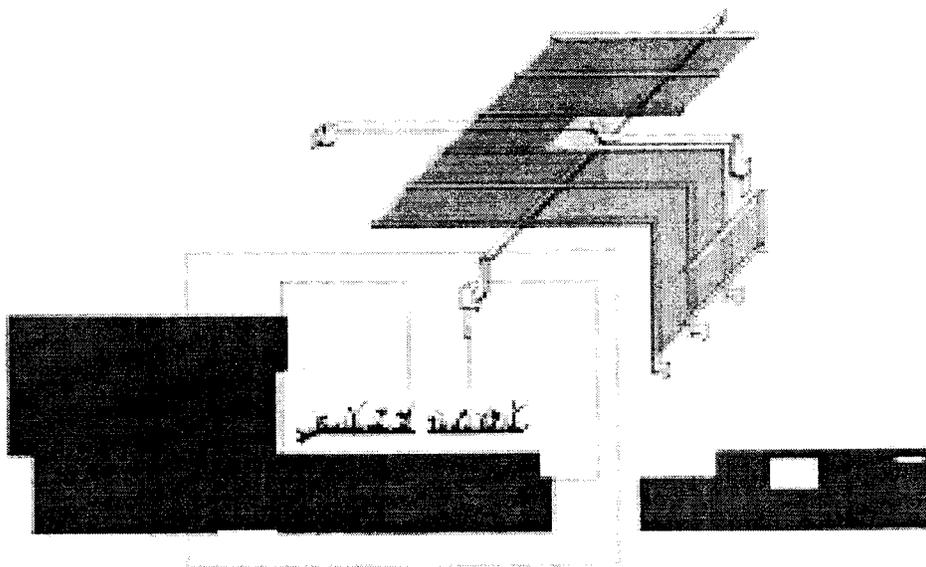
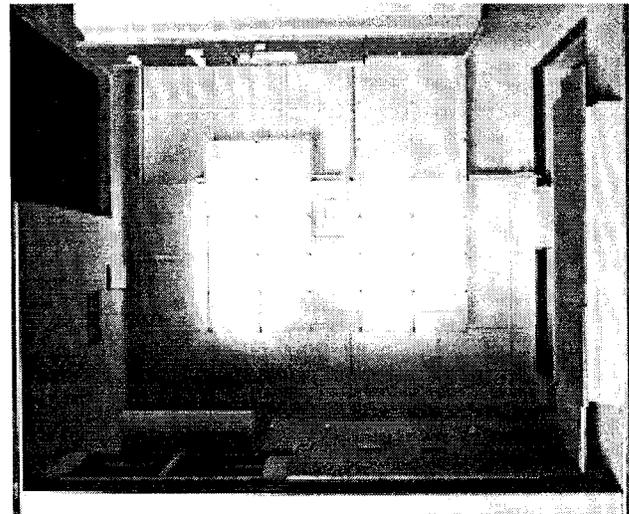
Figs. 1-4. Housing for two wrenches.



In versus out is also coincident with the relative positions of aluminum and wood, i.e. aluminum is contained within the interior volume of the wooden box. The intricacy and scale of the aluminum assembly invites the viewer to engage this work at close range, further engendering an intimacy within.

For the operatory project the presence of an exterior to be within was established by contrasting redundant material surfaces of enclosure against existing surfaces of painted drywall. These material faces include two planes of oil finished cherry, and one more of frosted mylar and perforated aluminum. Storage cabinets and planters are situated behind the cherry plywood. Counterposed to the cherry surfaces, the layered translucent panel is supported on an aluminum and wood framework. As there is storage held between the cherry panels and the existing walls, there is light and air held behind, and emitted through, the aluminum and mylar panels. The function of the operatory is housed within the space formed in the presence of these wood, plastic and metal surfaces.

Many questions and potentials of material assembly, structure, and syntax were variously encountered through the simultaneous processes of design and fabrication in this work. However, all decisions regarding these matters were brought to resolution via the primary critical agent of spatial intent. The function of housing and the desire for an interior are each, and both, issues common to the shifted and expanded conception of furniture and building design argued for herein. The two projects presented are then an attempt to employ this operative link predicated on an explicit spatial bias.



Figs. 5-8. Dental operatory.

