

Patrick Johnston

Study Desk

REFLECTION STATEMENT

For my 2021 HSC major work, I wanted to build an item that I would be able to hold onto and cherish post-school, whilst challenging myself along the way building on my skills from Year 11. This is why I decided to build a study desk. My goal was to encapsulate a wide range of design features and joinery techniques into an item I am proud of, whilst displaying a high level of craftsmanship to the marker.

The design process started in October of 2020, where many ideas and concepts were brainstormed, sketched, and prototyped. I then came to my final design which was inspired by Sydney woodworker Darren Oates who uses elegant, curved oak legs for his hallway tables. This led me to my final design of the large American Oak curved leg supporting my tabletop, compared to a conventional design style. The curved leg was no doubt the most difficult aspect of my desk, taking up almost an entire term, but also was the most rewarding part. The thin American Oak strips allowed me to showcase the natural colour and grain of the timber, creating a harmonious and appealing design. This was coupled with American Walnut for the desktop and drawer fronts, which created a contrast of timber species, and the two woods completed each other well.

Unfortunately, due to COVID I had to make some design modifications, but this allowed me to spend more time producing my desk to the highest possible quality. This saw my shelving unit removed but I was able to place my drawers on an angle, displaying a greater timber ability and skill set compared to a traditional rectangular drawer. I was then able to include an inlay with the American Oak to contrast with the Walnut drawer fronts; this allowed me to incorporate additional design features which made for an attractive finish across the drawer fronts.

Through the entire construction process I aimed to uphold a high level of craftsmanship and diligence in all aspects. This saw me in the workshop for over 10 hours a week including study periods, as well as before and after school. Although my HSC major

work was a time-consuming process, I knew it was critical to utilise all time available to complete it to the highest possible standard.

Overall, I couldn't be happier with my desk. It has exceeded all the expectations set out last October and is most definitely an item that will be held onto post-school. My desk allowed me to apply my timber knowledge and skills that I will be able to reflect on from my time at Riverview.





