

## **Professor Marcia Lopes de Mello**

School of Architecture and Interior Design, Kendall Campus

**Topic:** "Me as a Chair for a Sustainable World"

### **Objectives**

To introduce Earth literacy to architecture and interior design students through a design assignment. The student will design a chair and then on an 11"x17" poster convey the original chair design that expresses his/her individuality for a sustainable world.

### **Definitions**

**Earth Literacy** as a field of study that, "explores the contemporary, scientific story of the origin, nature and function of the Universe from its beginning, through its galactic phase, its supernova events, the shaping of the solar system, Earth, life, human life and self-reflective consciousness as a single, unbroken series of events." (Thomas Berry)

Earth Literacy "provides a context for engaging a fascination and intimacy with a sense of place, a bioregional context for re-visioning our human meaning, direction and vocation." (Miriam MacGillis)

**Sustainable World** is a world in which people live within nature in a way that meets human needs while not degrading natural systems.

### **Procedures**

1. Reflect on envisioning a world you want to live in, discussing present environmental issues
2. Reflect on how you see yourself as part of the current reality of our planet Earth and look for solutions on how to minimize and/or stop the negative impacts on our natural systems
3. Select ways you could individually contribute to minimize some of the negative impacts on our natural systems
4. Considering your individual choices on how to minimize the negative impacts on our natural systems, select a material for your chair
5. Conceive the chair using the selected material as the material dictates the form and design of the chair
6. Select any medium of your preference to design the poster: photography, collage, drawing, painting, Photoshop, AutoCAD, etc.
7. In 150 words or less write a brief description of your chair and why it represents your design personal philosophy for a sustainable world.

### **Examples**

(1) Interior Design 1 student: Valentina Vivas (Fall 2010)

(2) Interior Design 1 student: Stephanie Mouawad (Fall 2010)

(1) Poster by student Valentina Vivas



(2) Poster by student Stephanie Mouawad

