johnston casuals

FURNITURE

Internship

Summer 2022

Internship Brief

Johnston Casuals Furniture has been utilizing wood, metal, upholstery, and glass to make American handcrafted contemporary furniture for over 40 years. Johnston Casuals Furniture has, in their catalogue, over 2,000 different items with many different options for most of them. Located in Wilkesboro, North Carolina, Johnston Casuals utilizes the nearby High Point furniture market to show samples of these options to generate sales necessitating the next production cycles. During my internship at Johnston Casuals it was my goal to learn as much about the mass production of metal furniture as possible. Johnston Casuals does all of it's furniture production in house and works with many designers, nearby and elsewhere, to bring new content to market. Working in these facilities led to more than a general understanding of every aspect of the company's production phase.

Before working at Johnston Casuals Furniture I had no knowledge of welding, had never done more than simple machining of metals, and had never deconstructed metal forms. I enjoyed learning the functions and processes of the many machines used in the J.C. facility to create metal furniture. I am now a more than adequate MIG welder who understands many cutting, drilling, bending, and reproduction machines and methods and how they're applied to metal furniture making. I have my time at J.C. to thank for that.

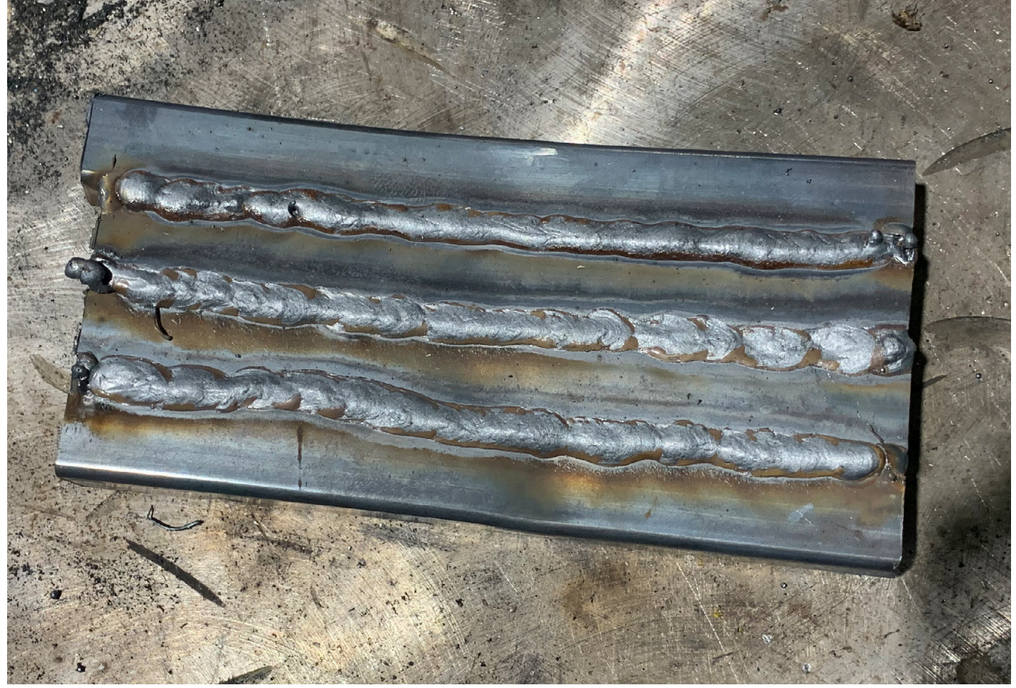
The excellent production staff were extremely welcoming and always more than willing to stop what they were doing to help me understand any part of the furniture production process. This allowed me huge opportunities for growth of knowledge. Many even encouraged my taking a turn at what they were doing, gifting me growth of experience.

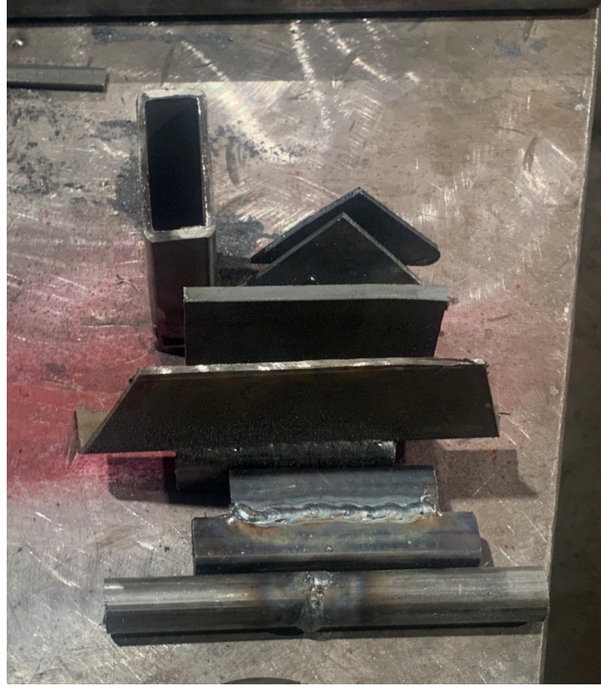
At Appalachian State I've taken courses that prepared me for some of the processes and tools I utilized at Johnston Casuals Furniture. I've been formally taught basics of metal working machinery and even how to use CNC and laser cutting machines. I have also been taught how to design and draw furniture to scale for orthographic blueprints. My work in this shop greatly expanded my knowledge of these procedures and tools. I learned from my mentor at the company, Chris, how to read the wide variety of blueprints sent in by the various designers. He also taught me how to build up from them to a functional prototype and finally to a jig and cut-list to be used for commercial production.

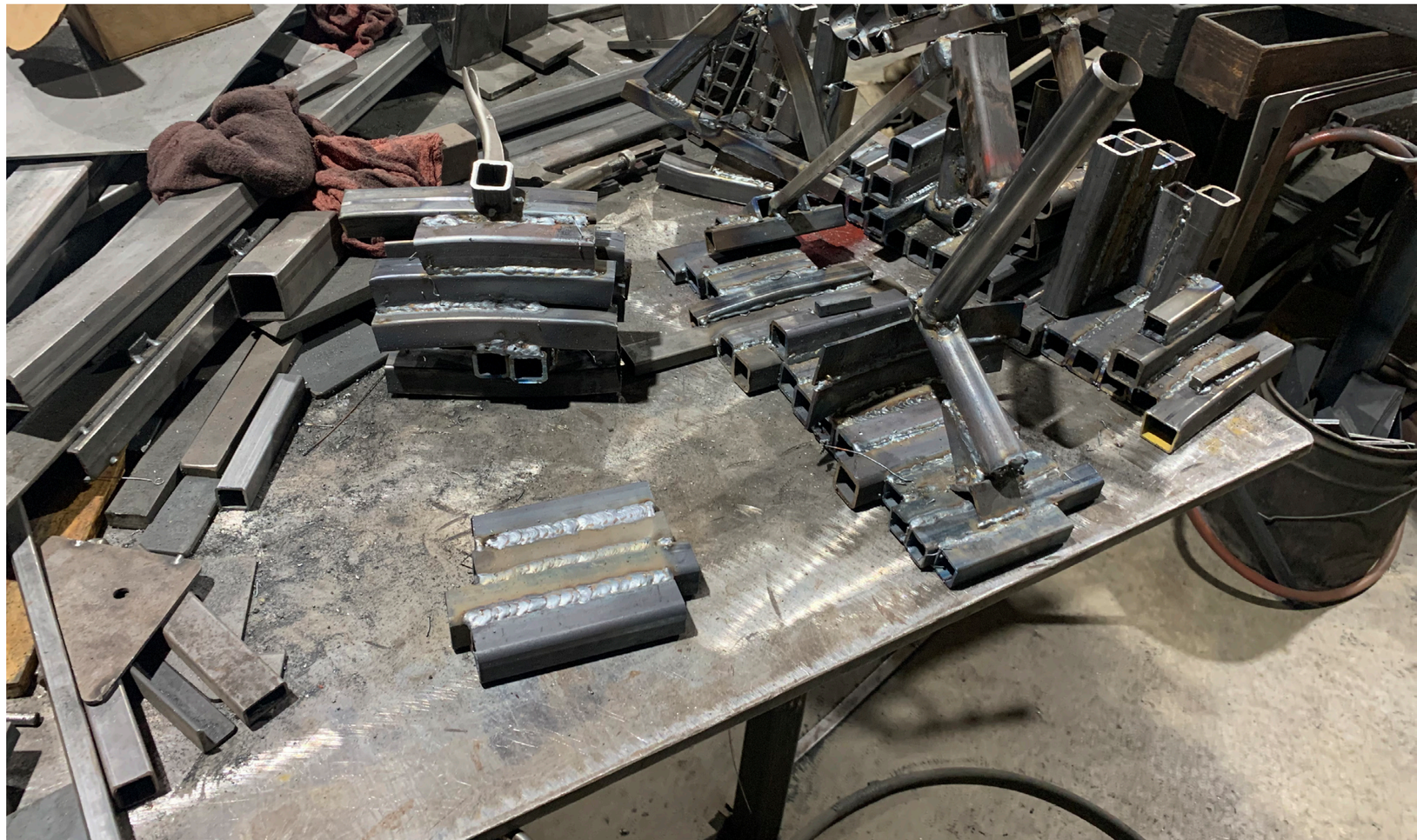
Learning to Weld

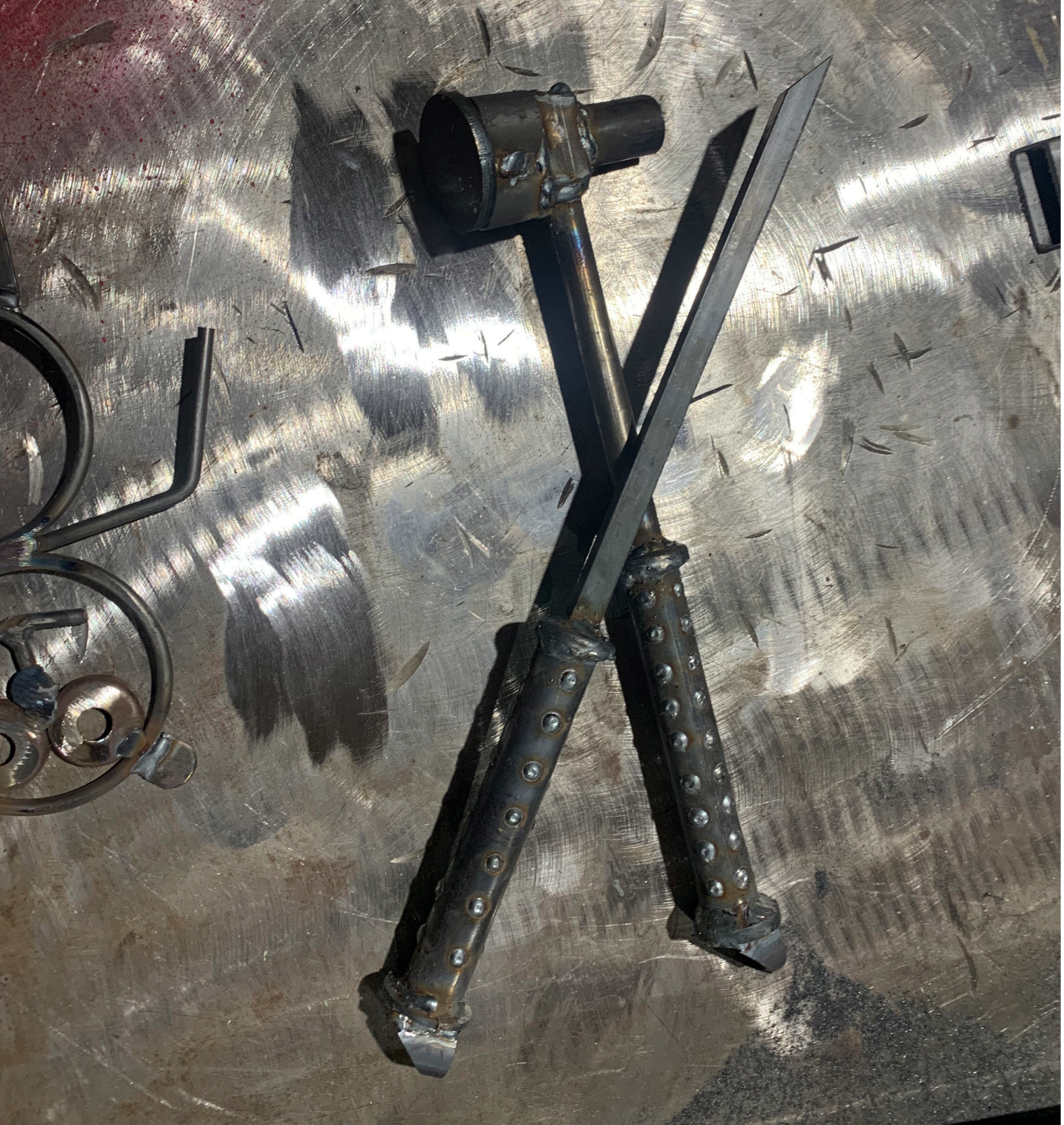
I spent my first few days of this internship simply learning, through trial, error, and gentle guidance, how to weld.

I was turned loose on the scrap pile and quickly learned to make small pieces of metal into big pieces of metal.







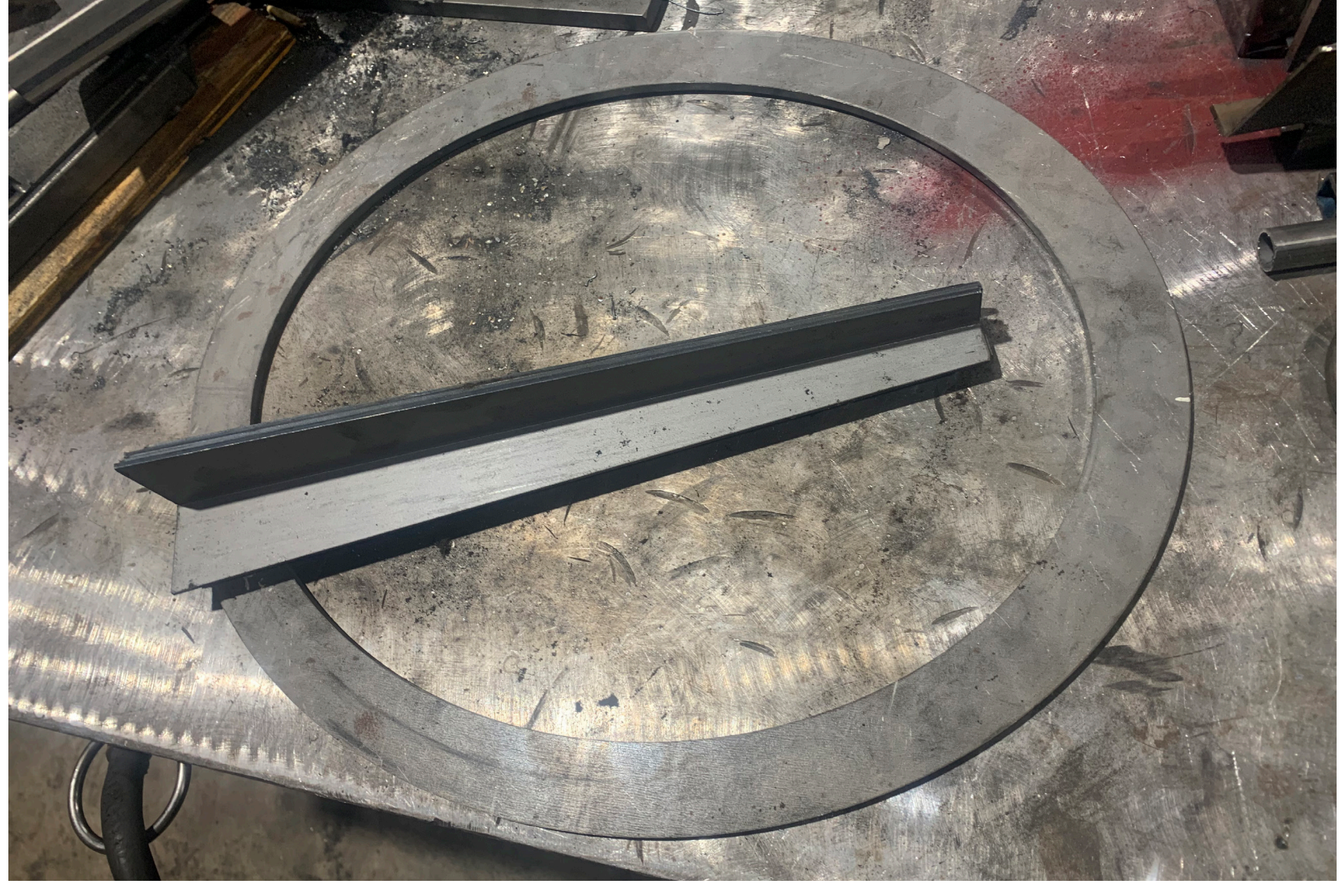


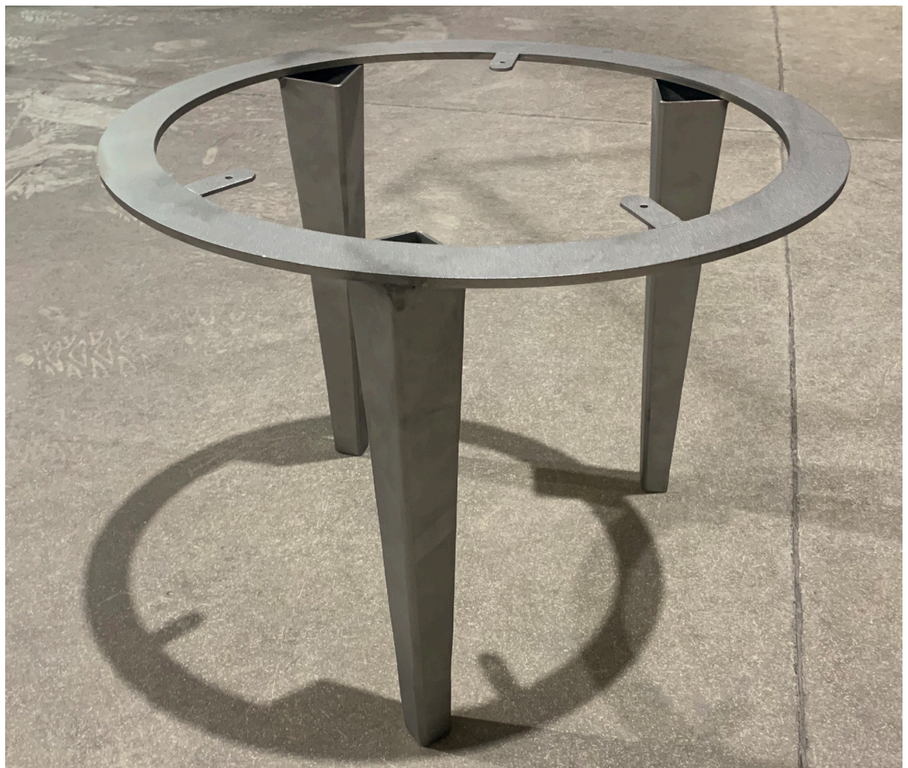
Tools

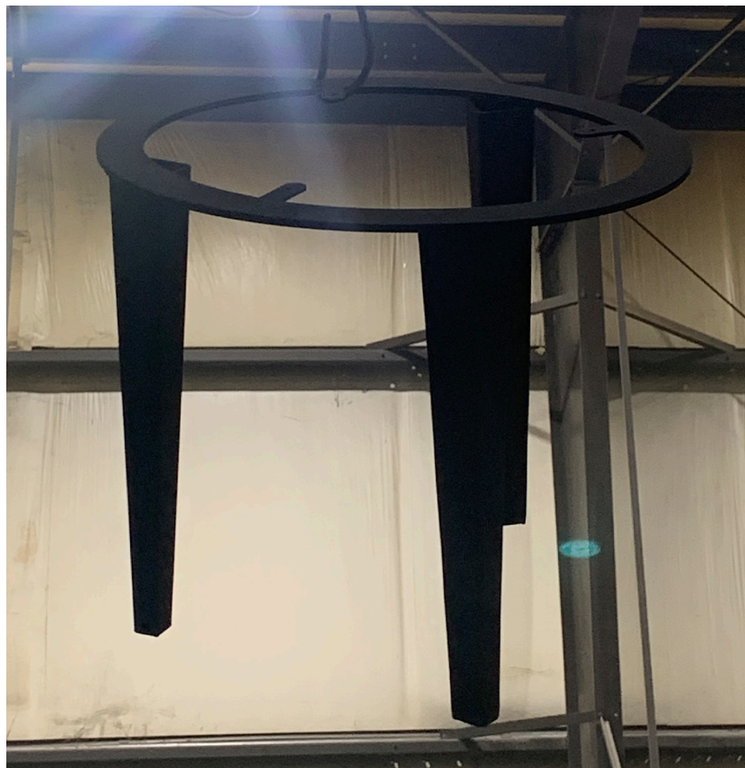
After learning to weld I made a couple metal workers essentials. A hammer and a pry bar. Both came in handy throughout the rest of the internship.

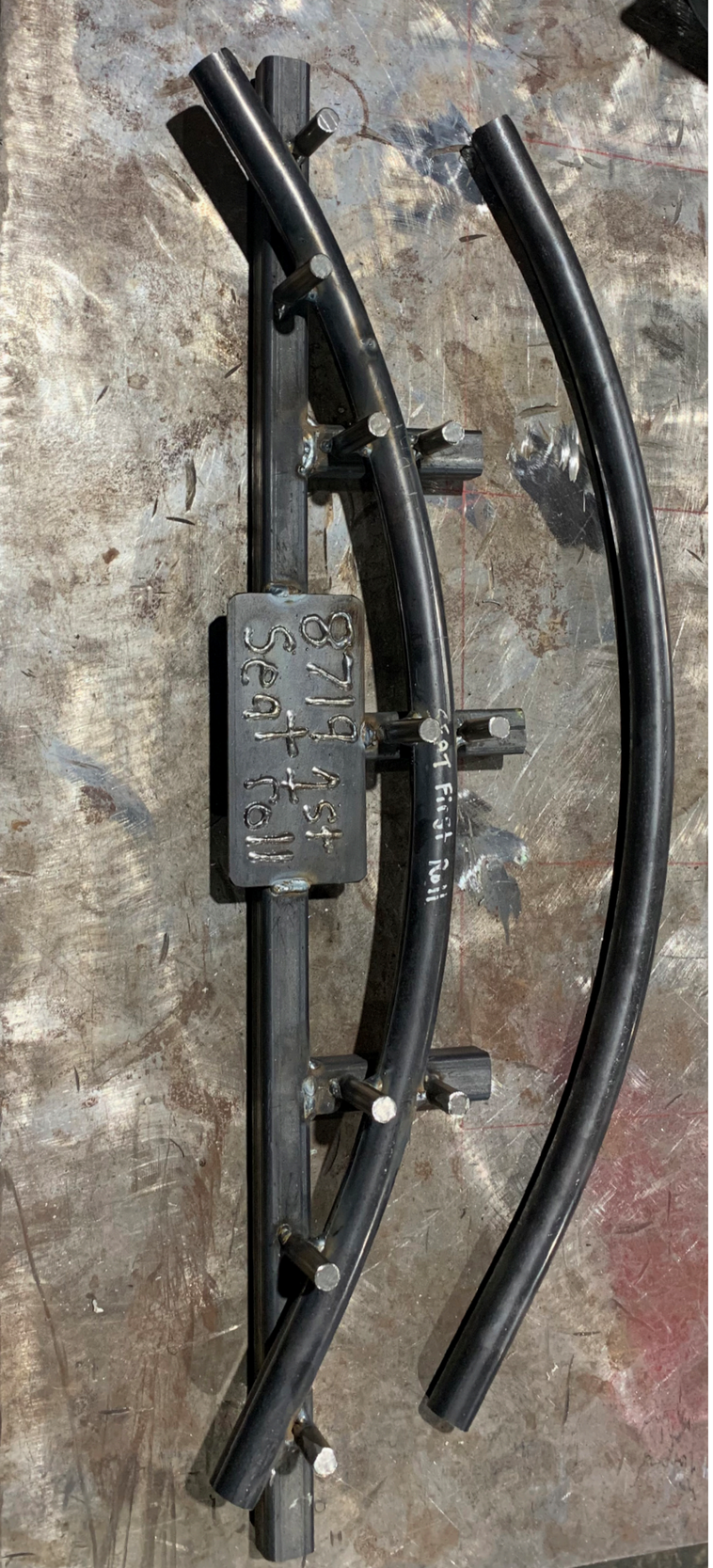
Table Base

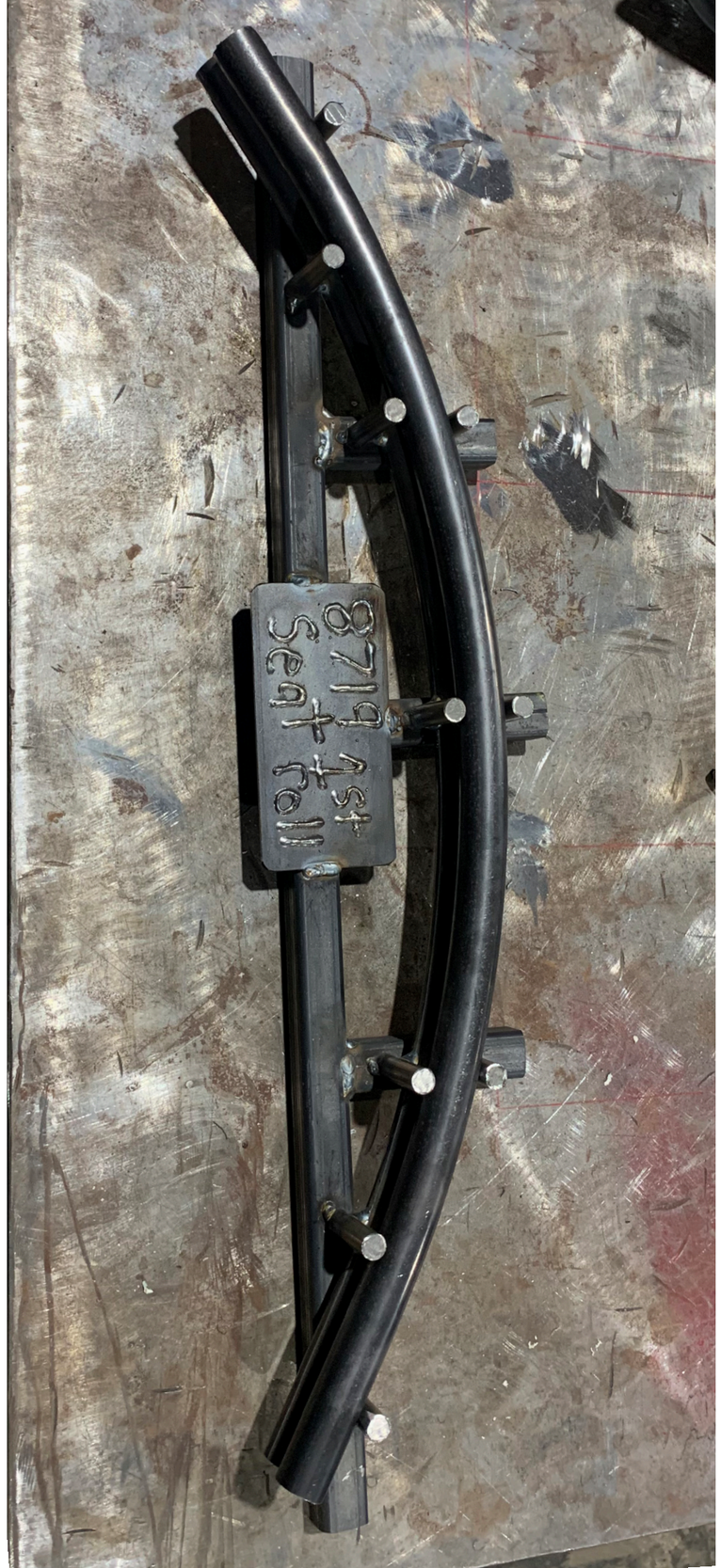
My first piece of furniture made at Johnston Casuals Furniture; a 3 legged table base made of scraps and finished through powder coating.







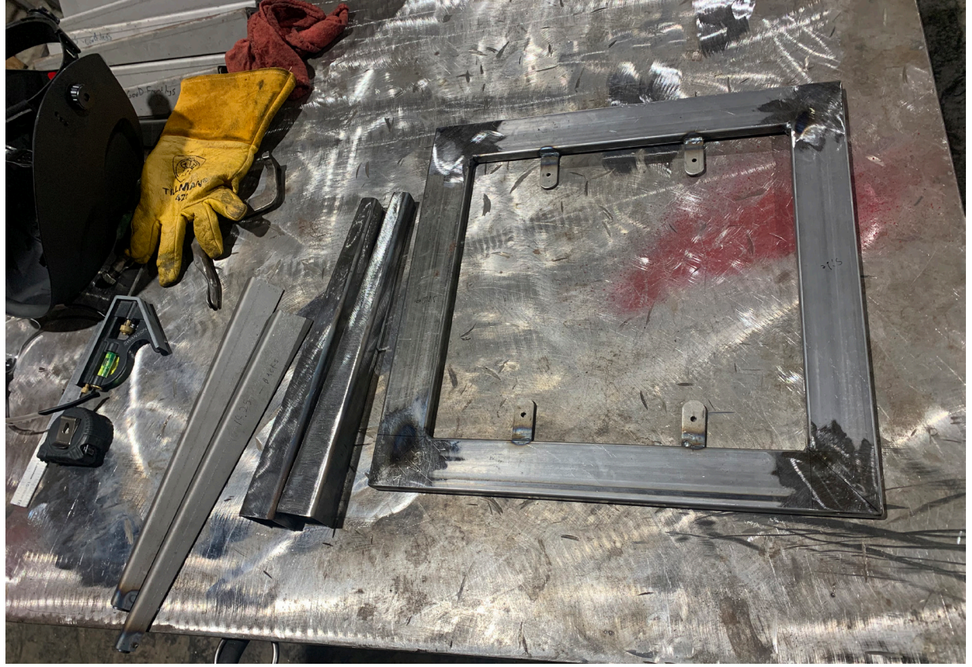




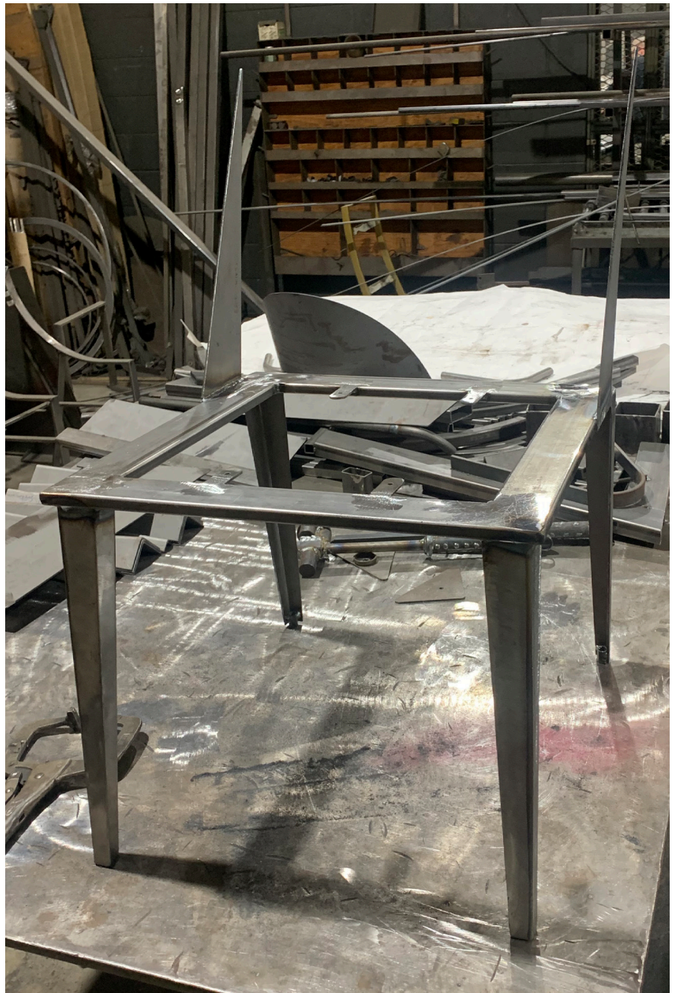
Bending Jig

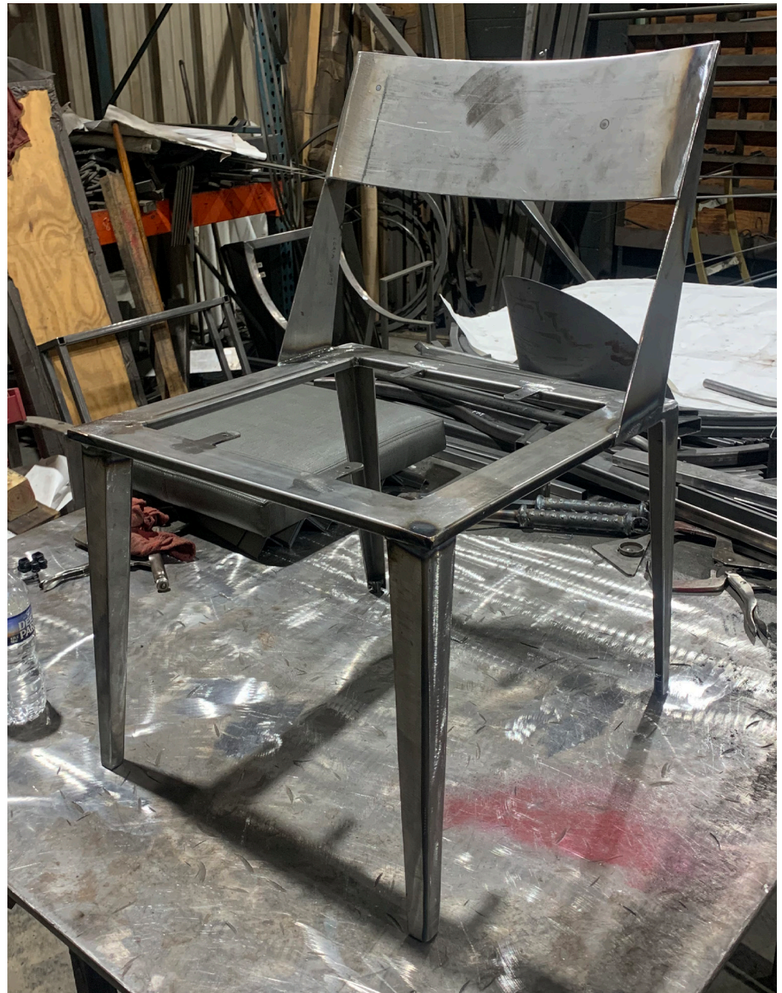
This jig was created to ensure a specific piece of a specific bar stool in the J.C. catalogue is always bent to the right degree. This jig is and will remain part of the commercial mass production of this stool.

Dining Chair

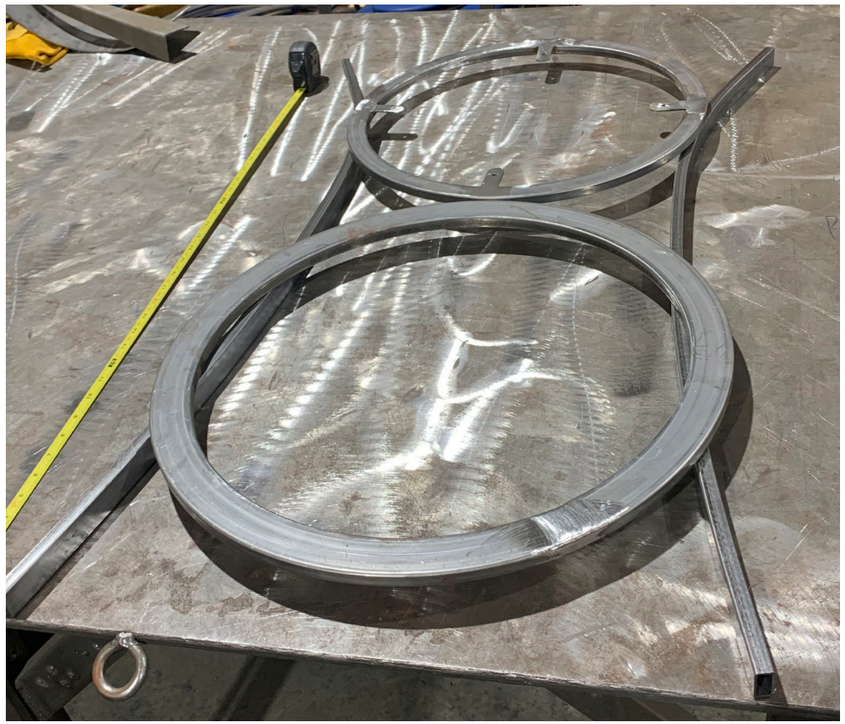


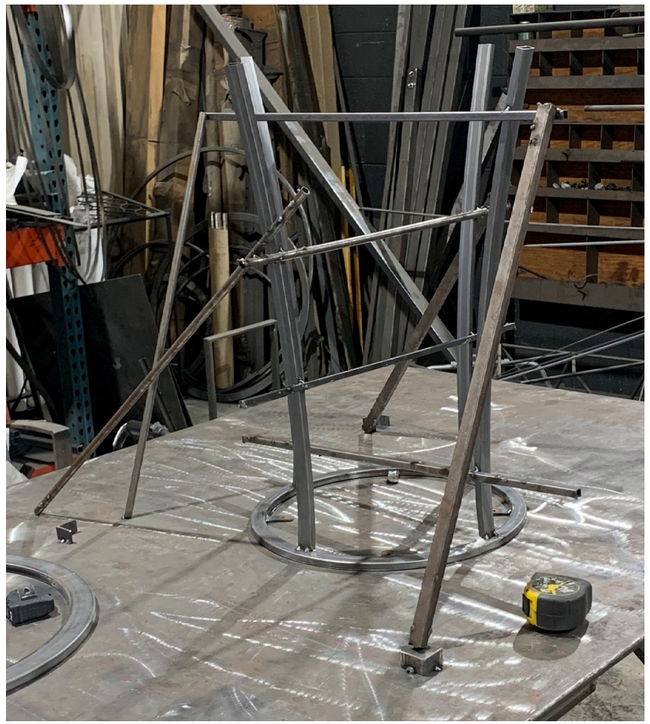
My first piece of furniture made at
This is my design and production of a full scale dining chair to be completed with upholstered seat. Fabricated from shop found scrap and completed through powder coating. This is the first full scale functional chair I have produced. It sits, finished, at my office desk. Base made of scraps and finished through powder coating.

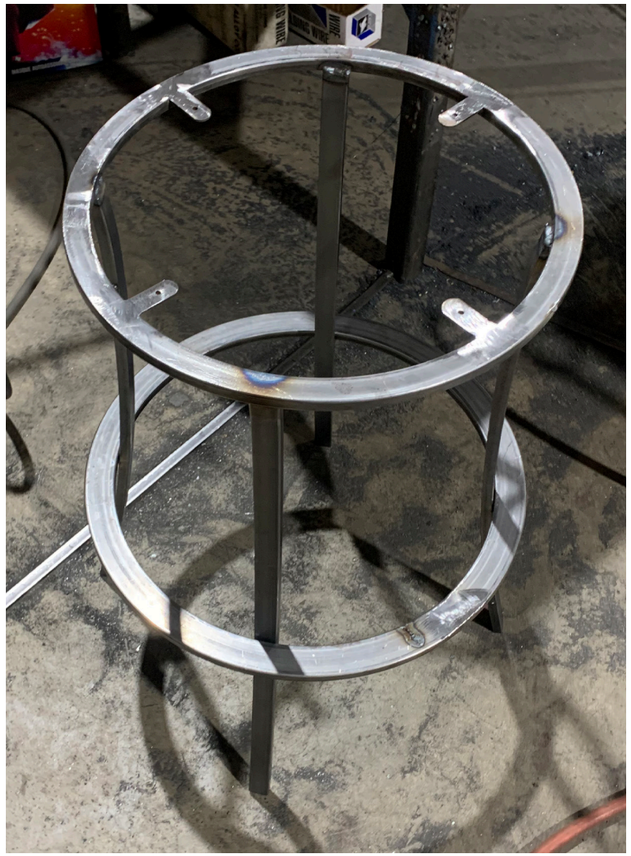


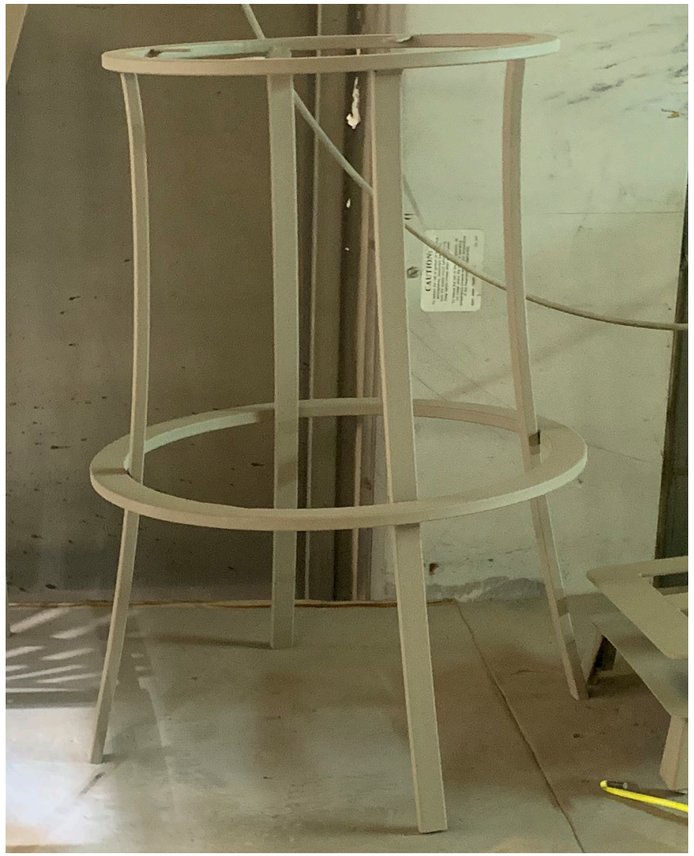


Bar Stool





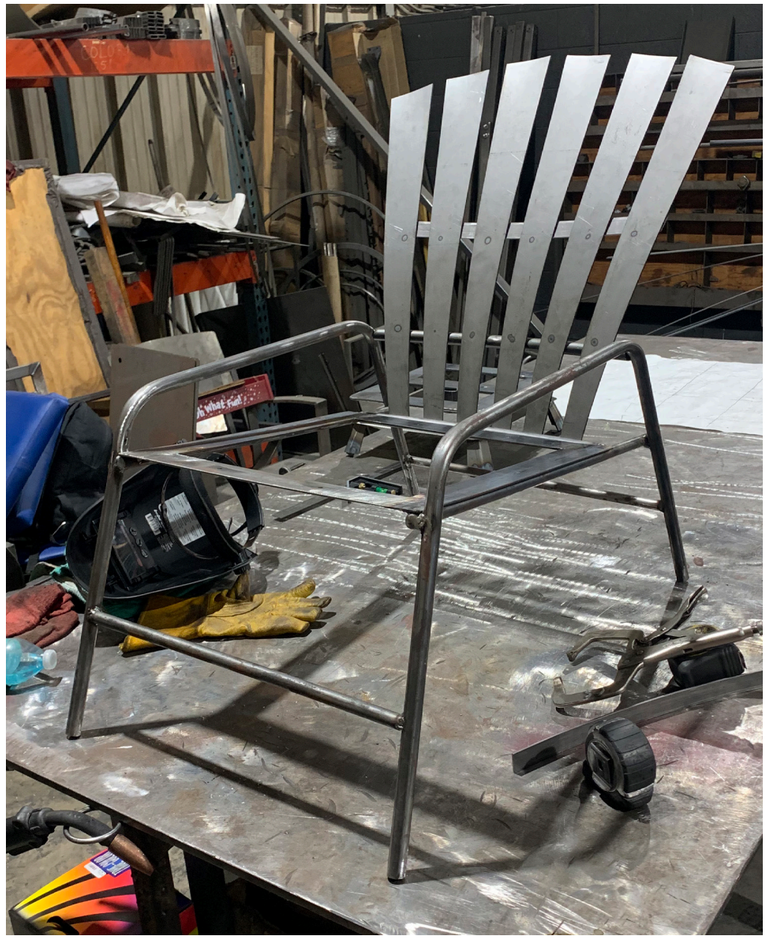


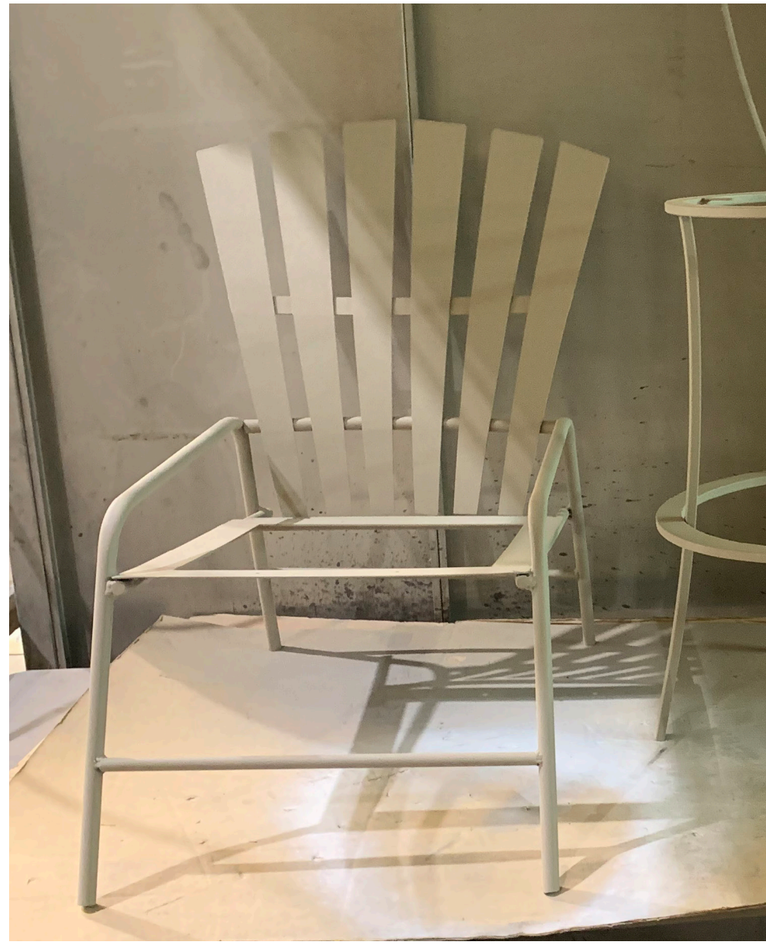


This is my design and production of a full scale bar stool to be completed with upholstered seat. Fabricated from shop found scrap and completed through powder coating. Also shown is the “scaffolding” used as I ensured the chair came out square.

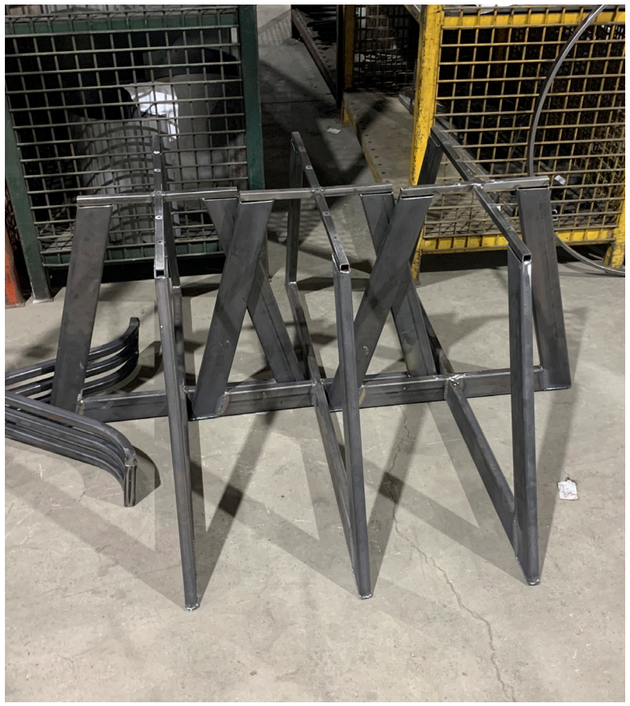
Loungirondack

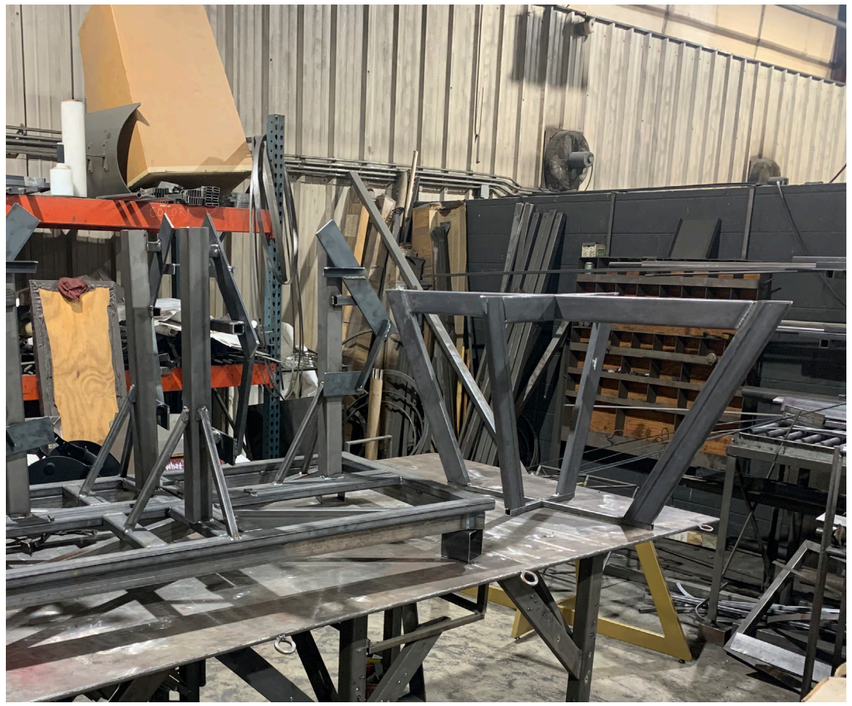
This is my design and production of a full scale lounge chair to be completed with upholstered seat. Fabricated from shop found scrap and completed through powder coating.

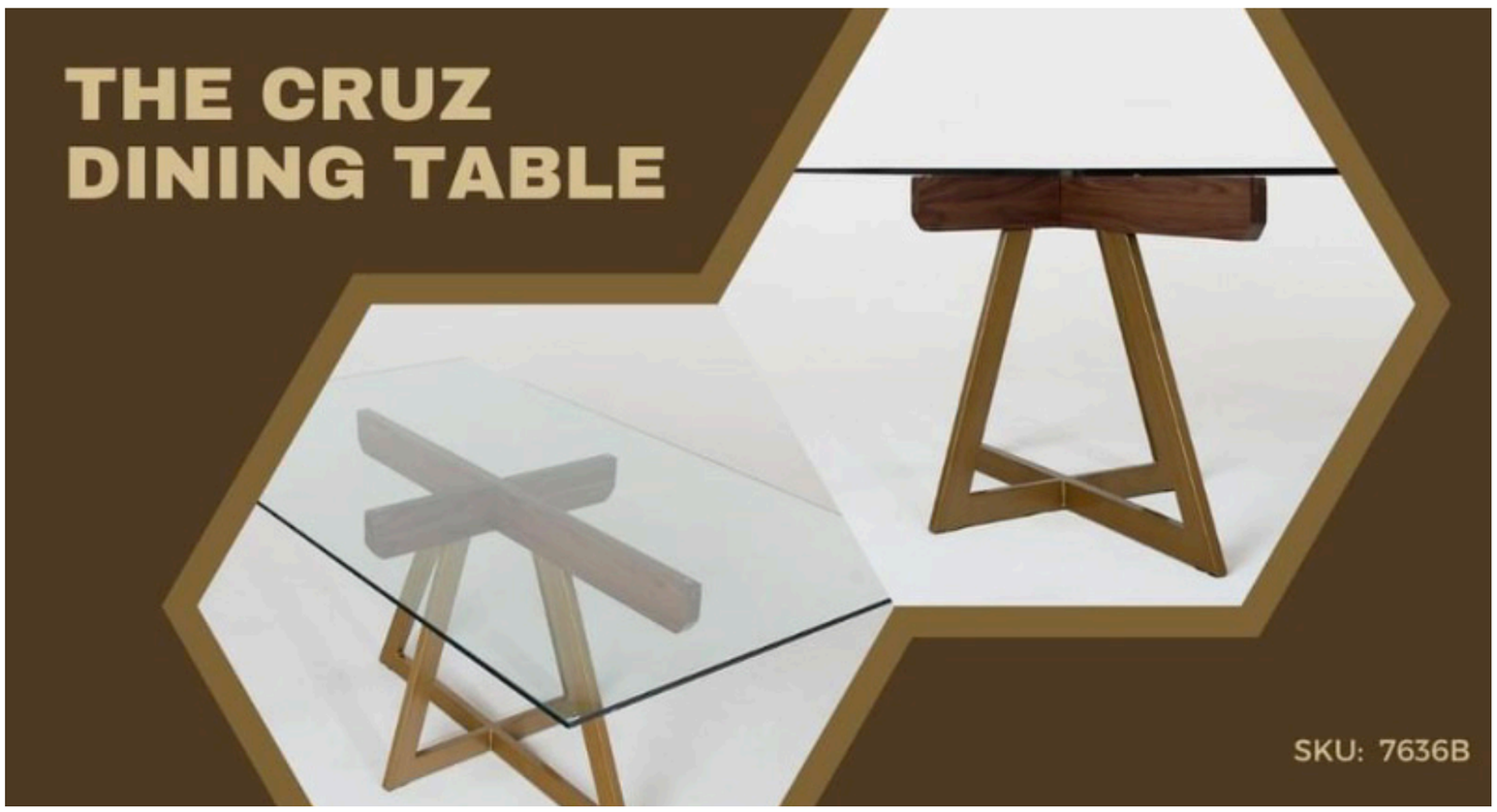




The Cruz Table







I was tasked with referencing the sample of the Cruz Table sent to market alongside it's drawings to generate a functioning and tweaked prototype. I then used this prototype to generate a jig for the mass production of this table. I then used this jig to create three units to complete a sale.