

Commercial Project

Megan Joyce

N0981130

BA(hons) Furniture and Product Design

Week 1 & 2

23rd September - 6th October

Commercial Project

BA FPD

PROD30004 - BA Furniture & Product

BENCHMARK

The Brief

Benchmark manufacture furniture from solid timber. We love the beauty, character, and warmth of this natural material. How can we utilise more of the felled tree, celebrating and making the most of this amazing material? It is important to understand the raw materials you will be designing and making with; we must as designers and makers look to the world for what regenerative materials are on offer and what is currently in our global woodlands for what materials we should be working with. There is increasing demand for uniformity and perfection; how can we celebrate the natural beauty and character of wood.

We believe that quality materials and thoughtful manufacture lead to long-lasting furniture, but design thinking is important to ensure the product is relevant and remains so for as long as possible. Circularity is essential; as we move to a circular economy, we need to consider what happens when products need repairing or adapting. We need to be thinking of their second and third life when designing for their first.

With longevity and sustainability in mind, and an understanding of the Benchmark brand, design a simple, small and useful piece of furniture made from timber that celebrates the natural material. Focus on narrative of species, timber selection or crafted construction to bring meaning and purpose to the final product.

<https://benchmarkfurniture.com>



Migo, designed for Benchmark by Pascal Hien

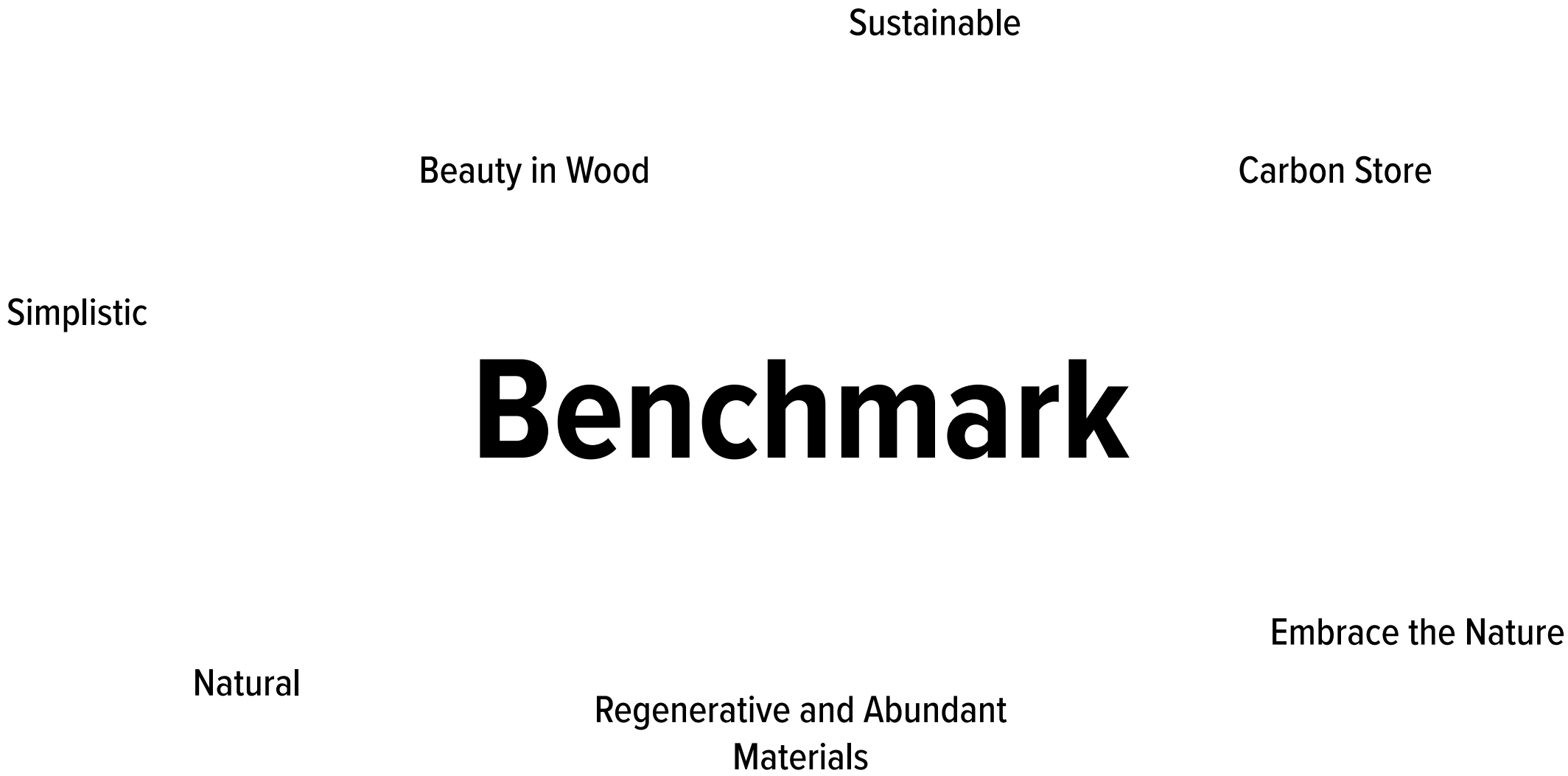
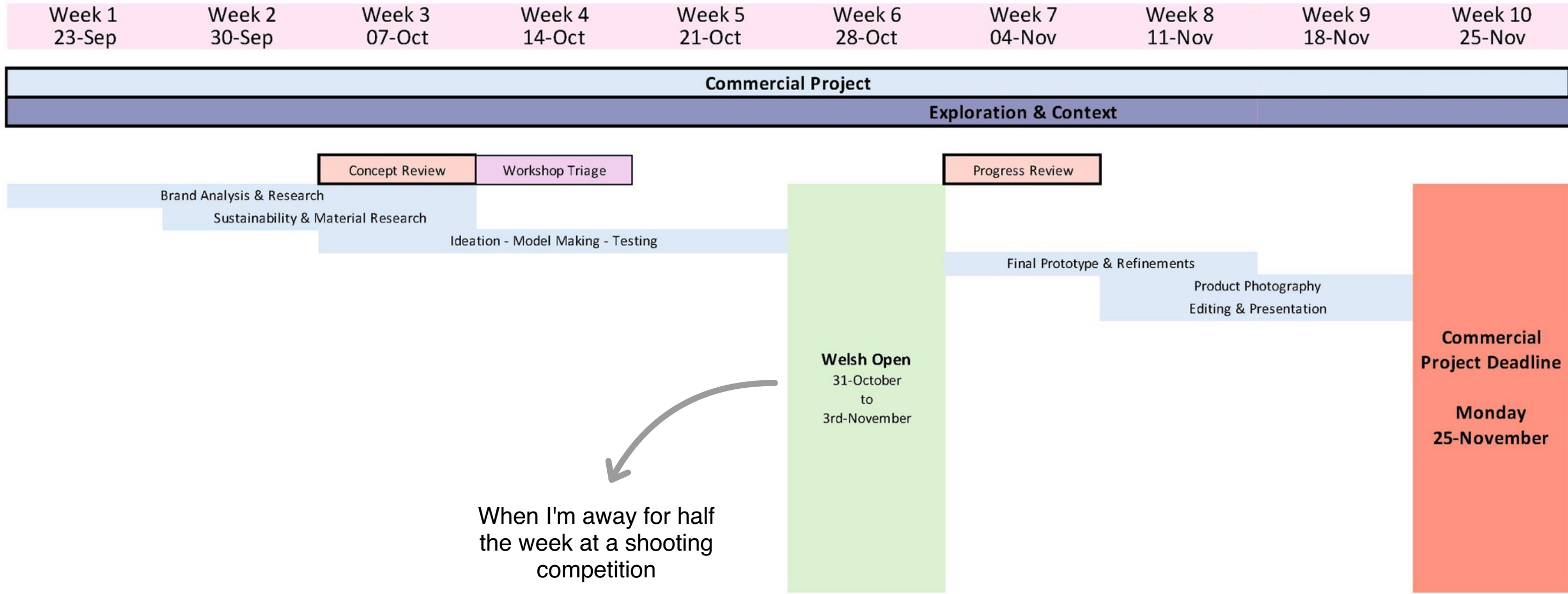
Initial Time Plan

A rough layout to try and plan weekly milestones to ensure I can complete the project.

I’ve kept the plan fairly open so I don’t get overwhelmed if I don’t stick exactly to the plan.

Also working on context and exploration at the same time.

Rough Weekly Plan:
Monday - Wednesday - Commercial
Thursday + Friday - Context



Benchmarks Story

The company has expanded from three people to a team of 70.
Every skilled craftsman cares deeply about the process and ensures that the care and attention that goes into creating each piece brings an integrity that cannot be replicated through a mass manufacturing process.

New technology and their facilities are highly invested in. There’s workshops for:

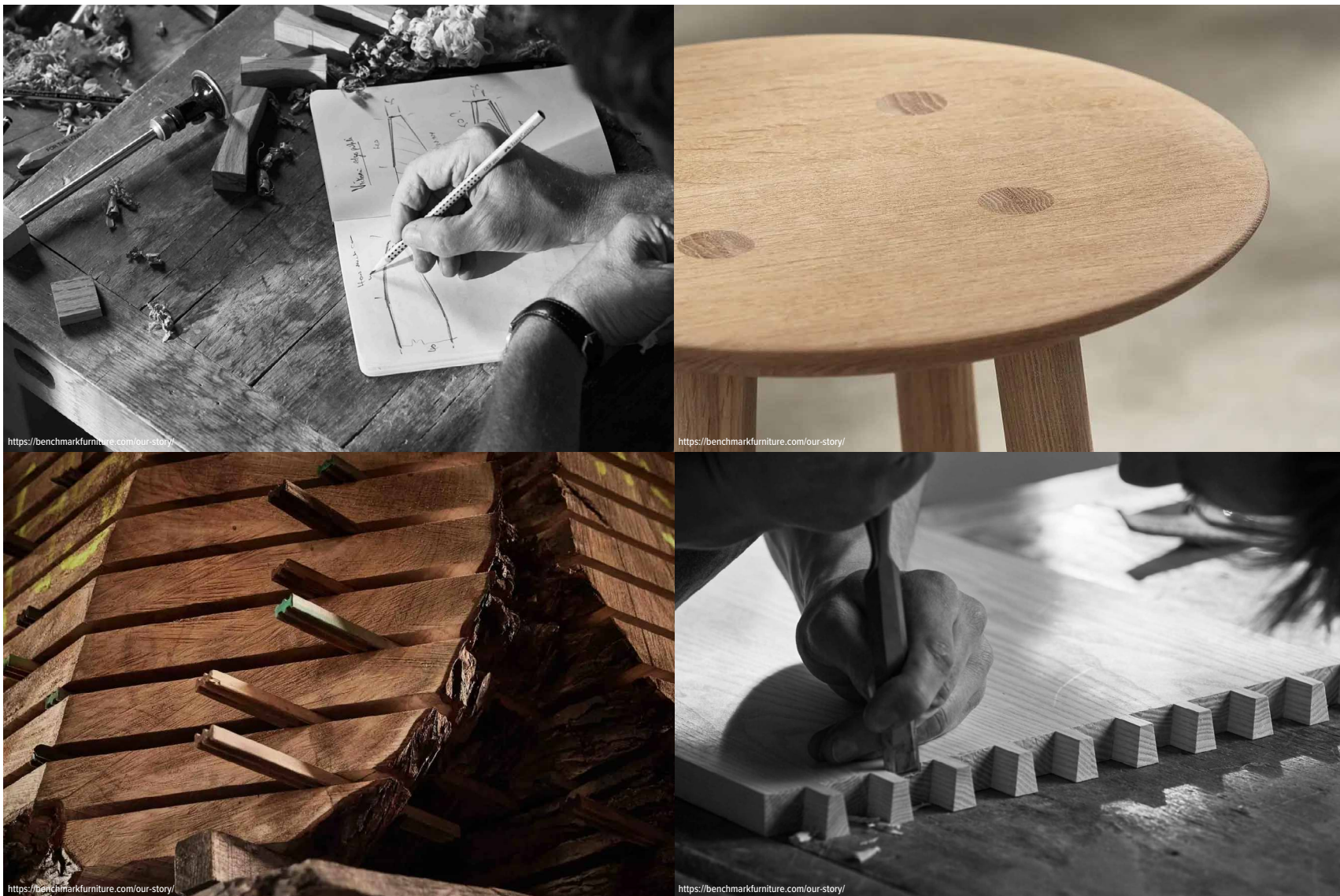
- Milling
- Cabinet Making
- Veneering
- Finishing
- Metal Working
- Upholstery
- 5-axis CNC Machine

The whole process can be contained and controlled by benchmark from the best materials to the final installation.

Every Piece is designed for functionality and lasting Beauty.

“Everything we make is designed and built to last, with the next 100 years in mind.”

“We are a company with a deep-rooted belief in the value of craft and craftsmanship.”



Sustainability

“We design and make for longevity”

“It is our mission to create furniture that makes a positive contribution to human health and the environment.”

“We believe that it is only when we consider the materials we use, the way we design, the quality of our making, how we manufacture and distribute, and what happens to our furniture at the end of its life, that we can create something that is truly Made WELL.”

DESIGNED FOR WELL-BEING

We draw upon the restorative power of nature to design and make furniture with health and well-being in mind.

Our non-toxic furniture is made with natural materials, colours and textures, soft profiles and nature-inspired ergonomic shapes, to create spaces that are more human, welcoming and personal.



A CIRCULAR MINDSET

We commit to keeping our furniture and joinery in use for the longest time possible.

We design and make for longevity – creating pieces that can adapt to changing needs, made with materials that can be easily refurbished.

We promise a lifetime of care – offering a Repair & Refurbish service and a Take Back Scheme where furniture can be returned to us when it is no longer needed for it to be refurbished, re-purposed or donated to charitable enterprises.

European Ash

Ash trees are tall and graceful , they often grow together forming a domed canopy up to 35m high. The bark of the tree is a pale brown to grey and it fissures as it ages. The trees can live to an old age of 400 years, this can be even longer if coppiced, the stems traditionally providing wood for fires.

History

Historically the Ash tree was thought to have medicinal properties and the wood would be burned to ward off evil spirits. In Norse mythology ash was the ‘Tree of Life” and the first man on earth was said to have come from an Ash tree. In Britain druids regarded the ash as sacred and their wands were often made of ash because of its straight grain.

- The heartwood is a light to medium brown colour with darker streaks seen throughout, this is sometimes sold as Olive Ash.
- Sapwood can be very wide and it tends to be a beige or light brown.
- It’s texture is medium to coarse similar to Oak.
- The grain is almost always straight and regular.
- Responds well to steam bending as well as gluing, staining and finishing well.
- Heartwood is rated as perishable/ only slightly durable in regards to decay. Ash isn’t resistant to insect decay.
- Ash is not listed in the CITES appendices or on the IUCN red list of threatened species

Threats

The main threat to Ash trees is Ash dieback (Chalara Dieback). Dieback is a disease caused by a fungus, Hymenoscyohus fraxineus. It causes trees to loose their leaves and the crown to die back, usually resulting in the trees death. If the disease cannot be contained or eradicated then tens of thousands of trees could die, changing the UK landscape forever as Ash is the third most common tree in Britain.

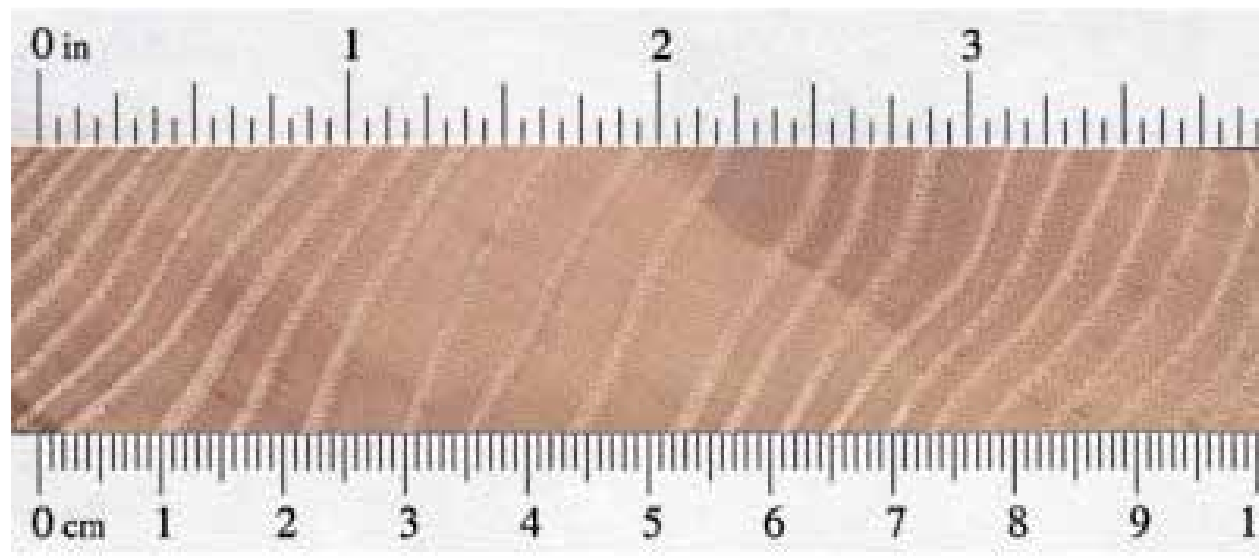


European Ash Turned

Megan Joyce N0981130



European Ash Sealed



European Ash Endgrain

8

English Oak

Oak trees supports more life than any other native tree species in the UK. It’s a very common tree in deciduous woods, especially in central and southern Britain, it’s so frequent that it’s been made the nations emblem.

History

The Oak tree was sacred to many gods including Zeus, Jupiter and the Celtic Dagda. Each of these gods ruled over thunder and lightning, Oak trees are often hit by lightning as they are the tallest living feature in the landscape. Druids practised rituals in Oak groves and cherished the mistletoe that grows on Oak tree branches. Oak is also linked with royalty, ancient kings and Roman emperors wore crowns of Oak leaves. It’s the emblem of many environmental groups such as the Woodland Trust.

Threats

Acute Oak decline and chronic Oak decline are serious conditions affecting Britain’s Oak trees; with several contributing factors linked to the diseases. Decline of mature Oaks first aroused concern in the 1920s and today most of the cases are in central, southern and eastern England. The Oak processionary moth is a non-native pest that’s been found in London, Surrey and Berkshire. It damages the foliage of the trees and increases the Oak’s susceptibility to other diseases. It’s also a risk to human health, the moth hairs are toxic and can lead to itching and respiratory problems.

- Heartwood is a light to medium brown, commonly with a olive cast though the colour variation can be fairly extreme. Sapwood is white to light brown and not always demarcated from the heartwood.
- Grain is straight with a coarse uneven texture, may have irregular grain depending on growing conditions
- English Oak has been rated as having a very good resistance to decay.
- Can react with iron (particularly when wet) and cause staining and discolouration.
- Responds well to steam bending as well as glue, stains and it finishes well.
- This wood species is not listed in the CITES appendices and is reported by the IUCN as being a species of least concern.

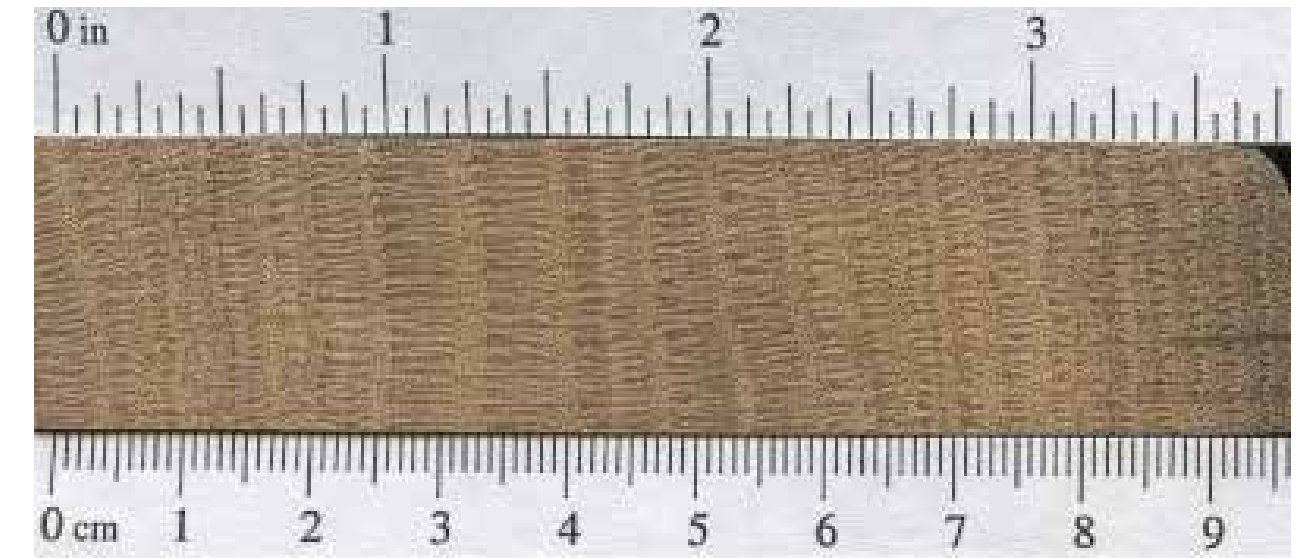


English Oak Turned

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English Oak Sealed

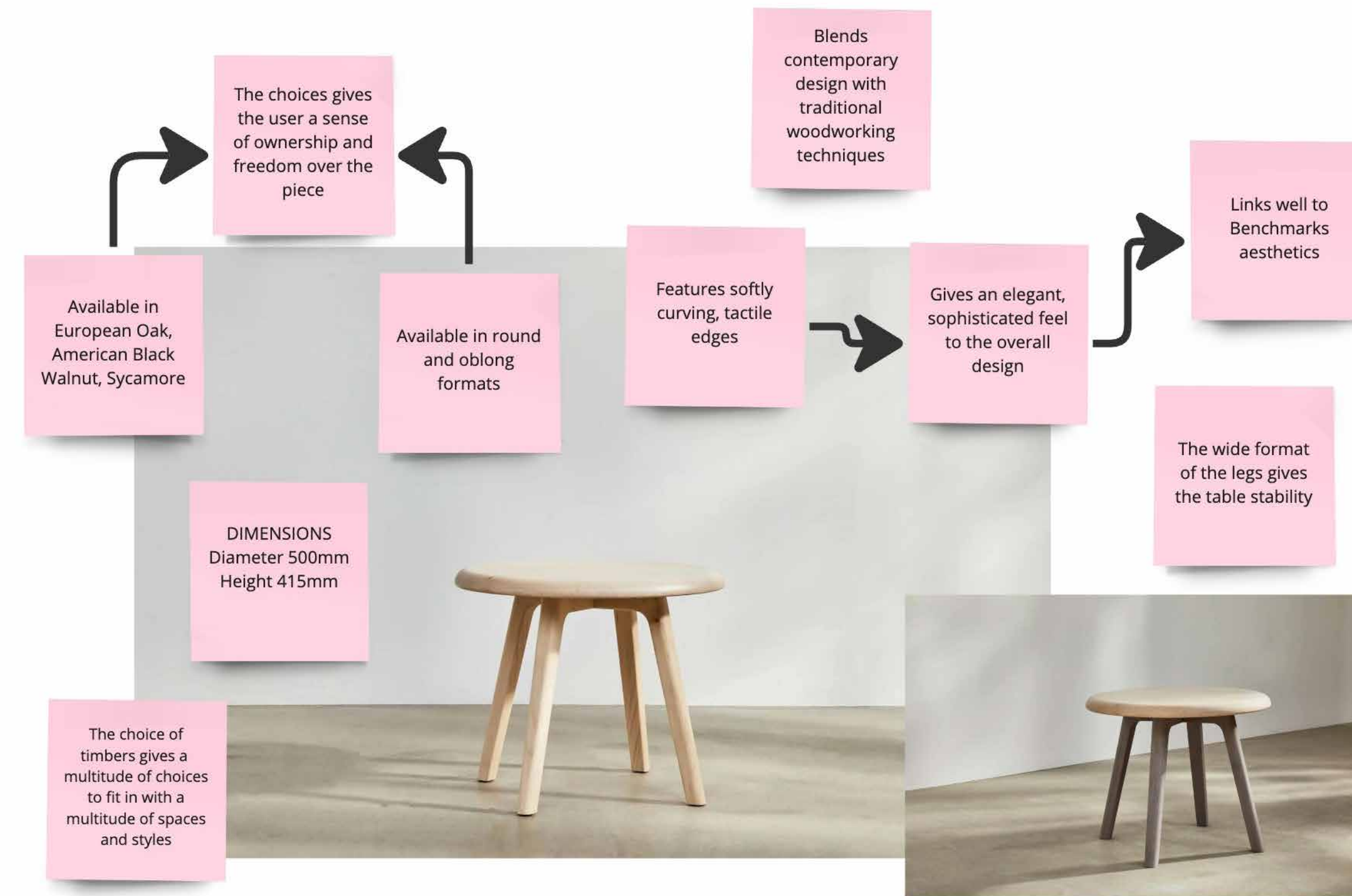


English Oak Endgrain

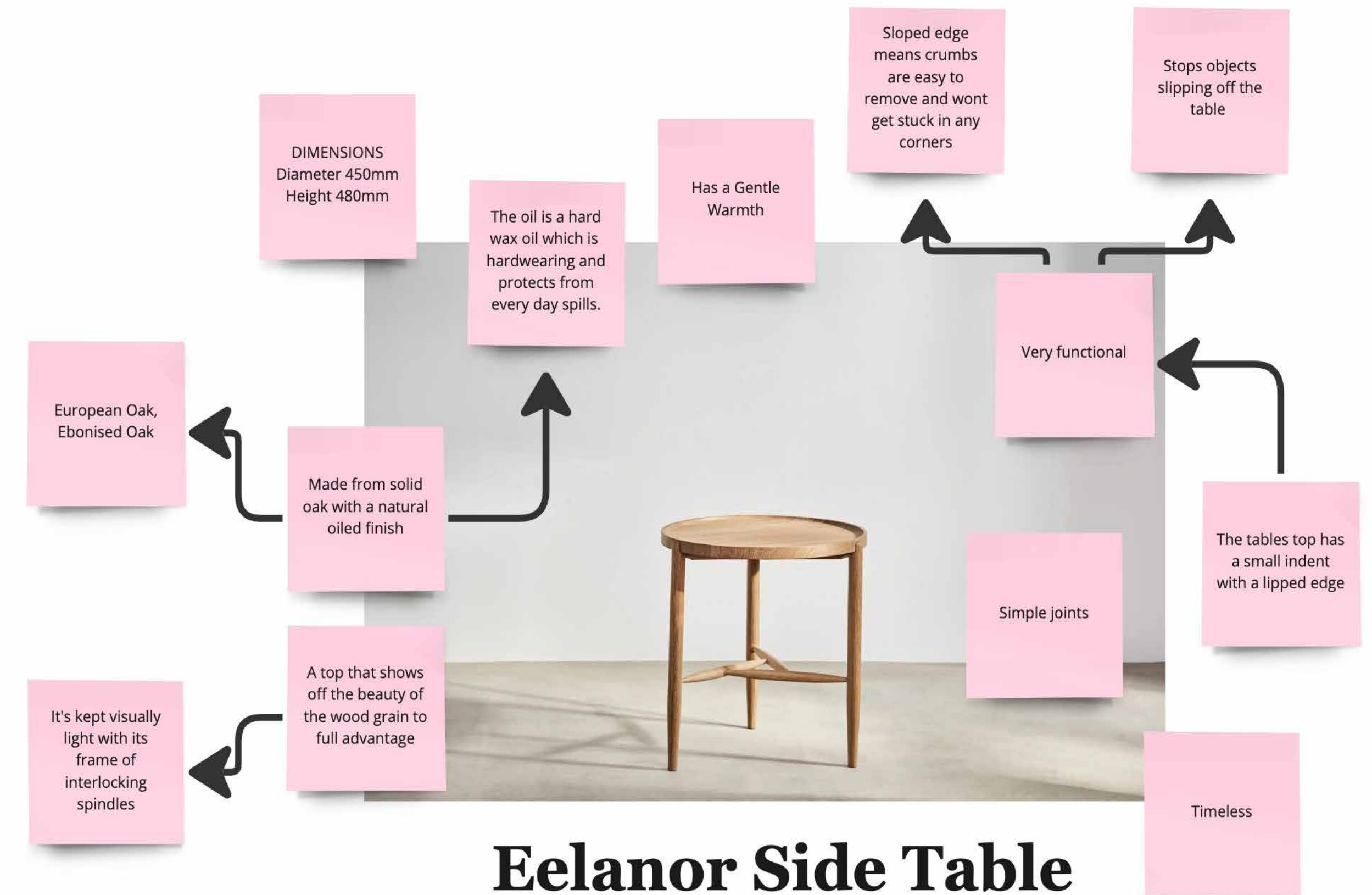
9

Benchmark - Side Table Analysis

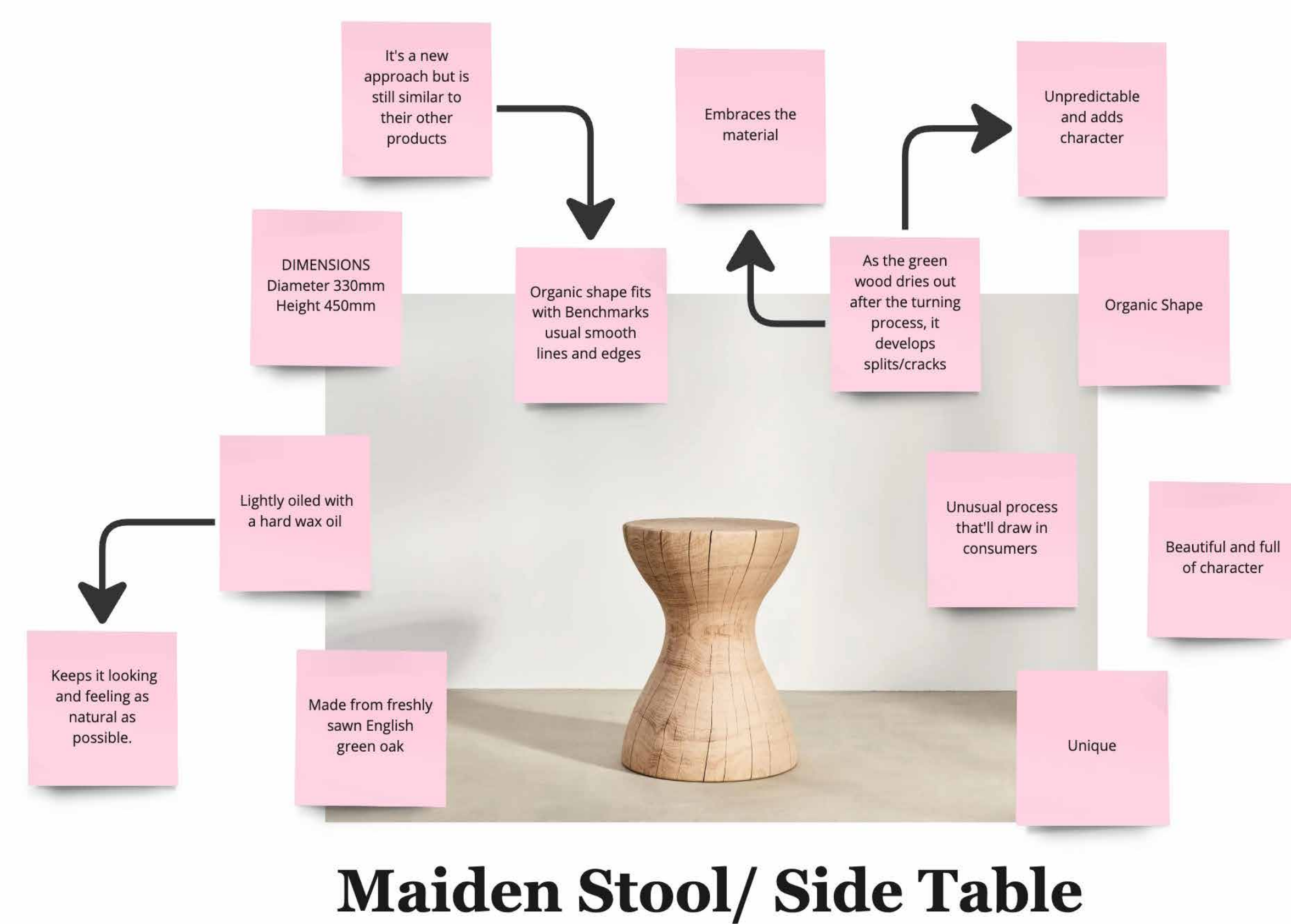
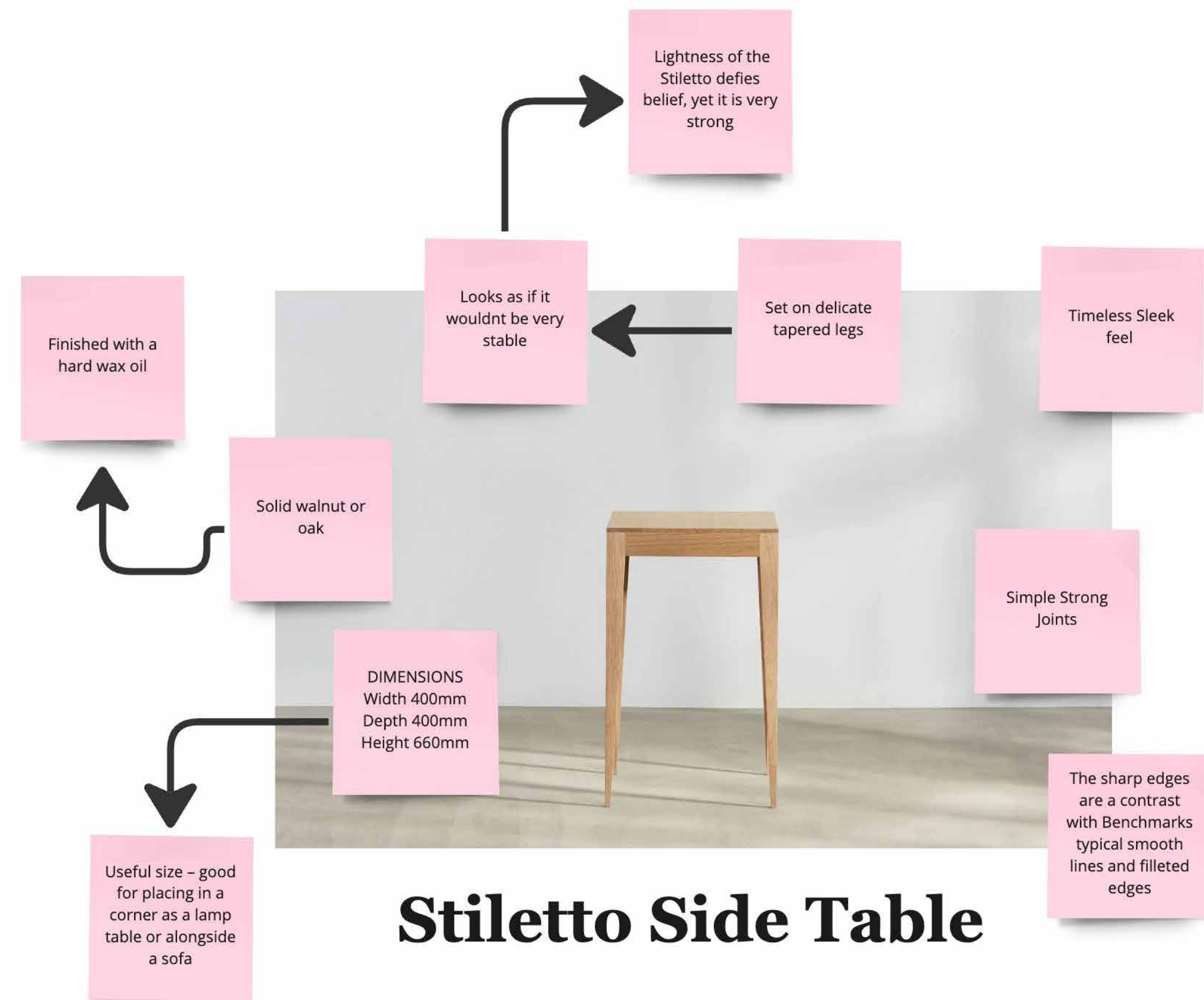




Sage Side Table



Eelanor Side Table



Circular Design

Circular design is the practice of creating durable, reusable, repairable and recyclable products that generate zero waste to support a circular economy.

Designers consider all stages of a products life-cycle and ensure that it is sustainable from manufacturing to disposal

Raw Material: What is the source material, and how can we extract it sustainably?

Production Specifications: Is the product reusable, repairable and recyclable?

Manufacturing Process: Is it energy efficient and does it generate any waste?

Distribution and Use: How much energy does it take to deliver and use the product/service? Where does this energy come from?

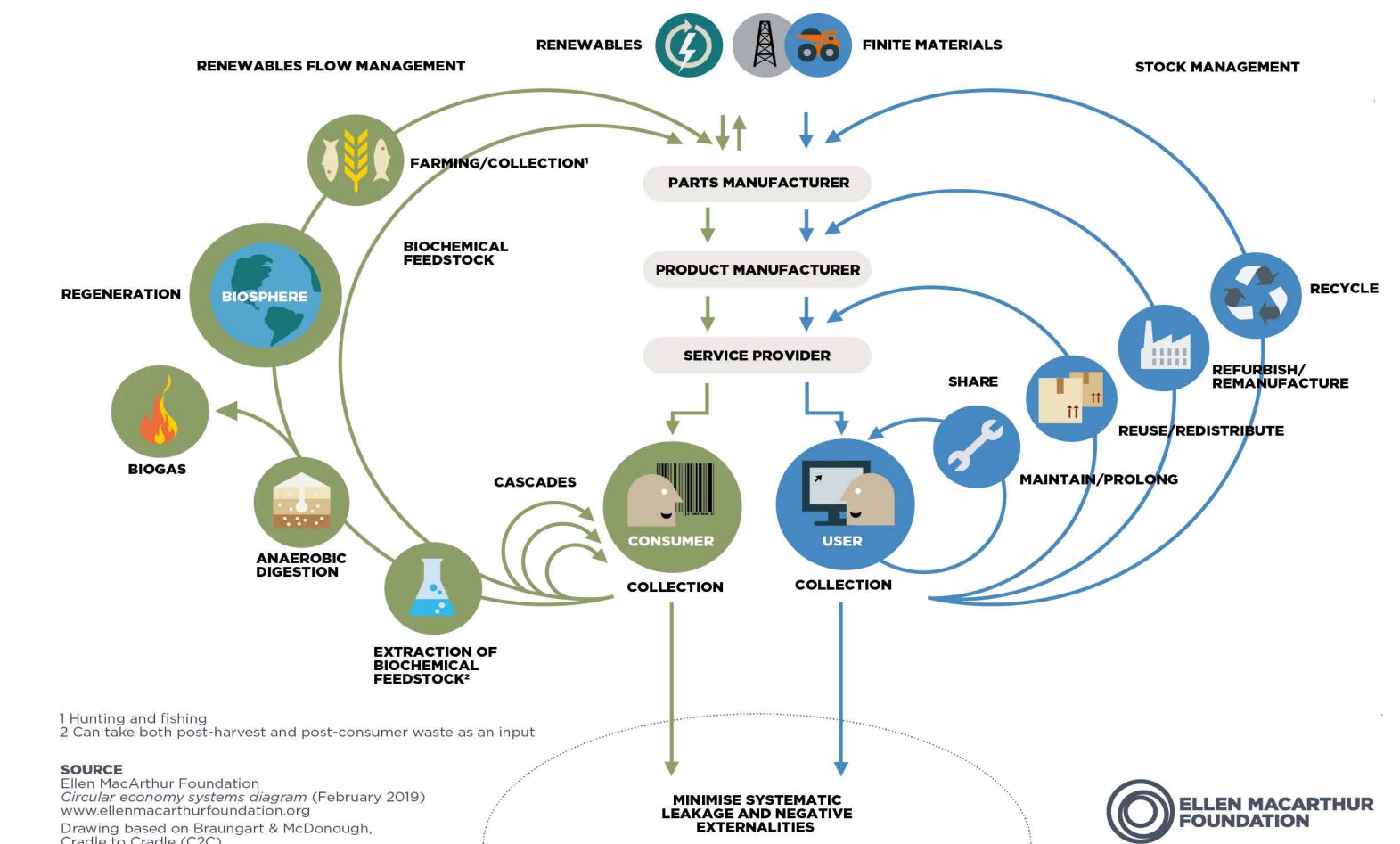
Disposal: Can the product be dismantled? Can we use the parts as is in the manufacturing process again? Can we return the raw materials to the earth?

Eliminate waste and pollution, including toxic substances that harm soil and water and reduce emissions. Everything generates waste, so we need to redesign everything.

Circulate products and materials at their highest value for as long as possible. Further recycling should not result in a substantially inferior product.

Regenerate natural systems by returning natural resources to the earth.

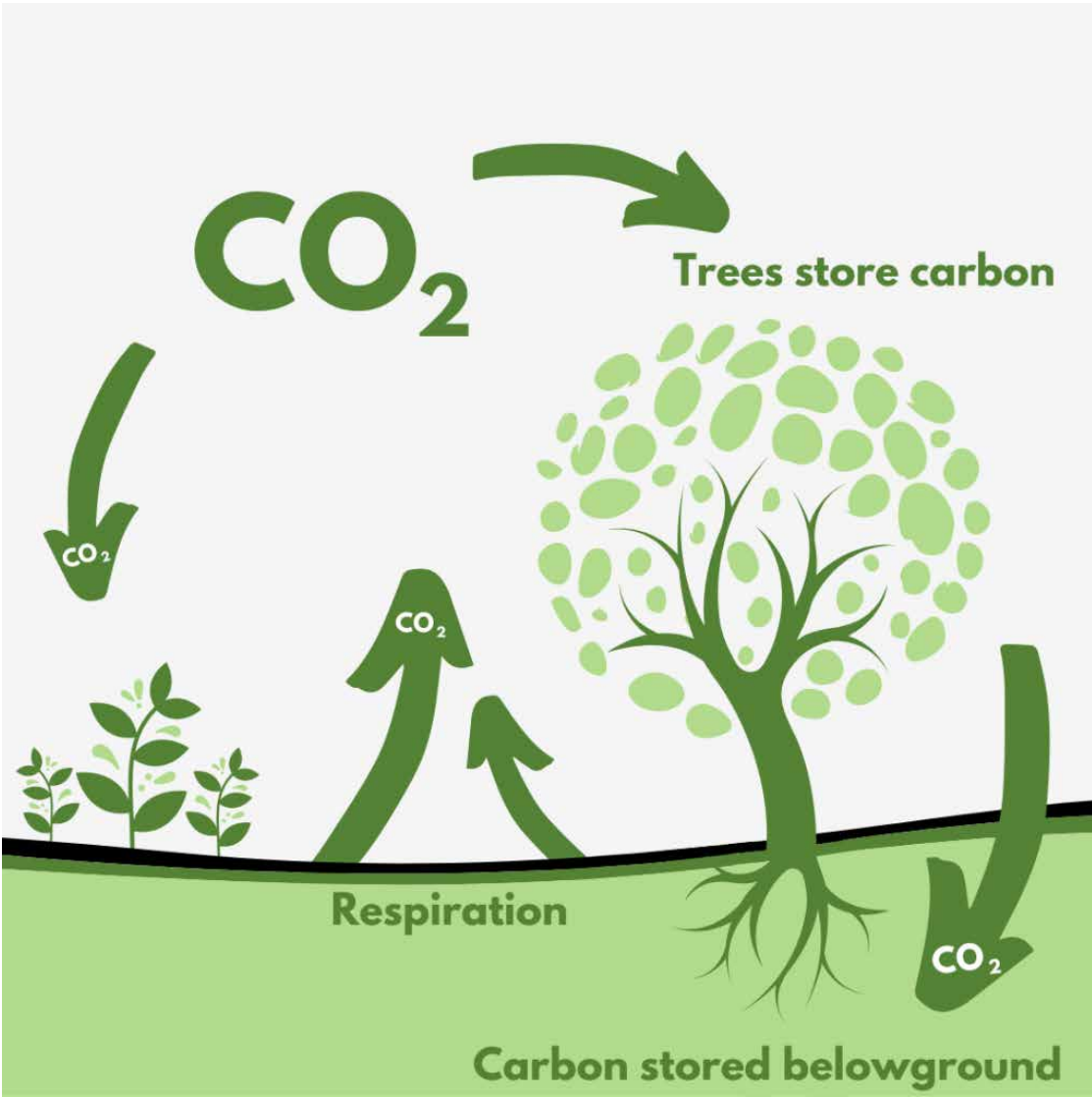
Learn about different materials and new techniques to manufacture. Shift from a product mindset to a **system mindset**. Transform business models from selling products to selling **services and experiences**.



Carbon Stores

Carbon sequestration is the capturing, removal and permanent storage of CO2 from the earth’s atmosphere. Around 45% of the CO2 emitted by humans remains in the atmosphere, which is a significant factor behind global warming.

Carbon sequestration can happen in two basic forms: biologically or geologically. Also, while it’s being encouraged artificially through various biological and geological methods, it also happens naturally in the environment on the biggest scale.



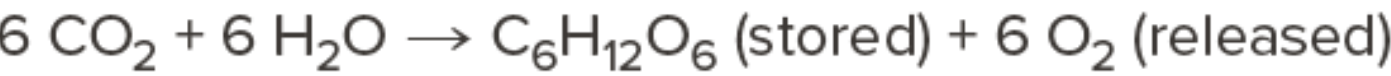
Type of Store	Description	Examples
Atmospheric	Carbon stored in the atmosphere primarily as carbon dioxide (CO ₂) and methane.	CO ₂ from respiration, burning fossil fuels
Biological	Carbon stored in living organisms and organic matter.	Forests, plants, soil, animals
Geological	Carbon stored in the Earth’s crust and fossil fuel deposits over millions of years.	Coal, oil, natural gas, limestone
Oceanic	Carbon dissolved in seawater or stored in marine organisms and sediments.	Phytoplankton, deep-sea sediments, dissolved CO ₂
Cryospheric	Carbon trapped in frozen soils and permafrost.	Permafrost in Arctic regions

Wood Specific Stores

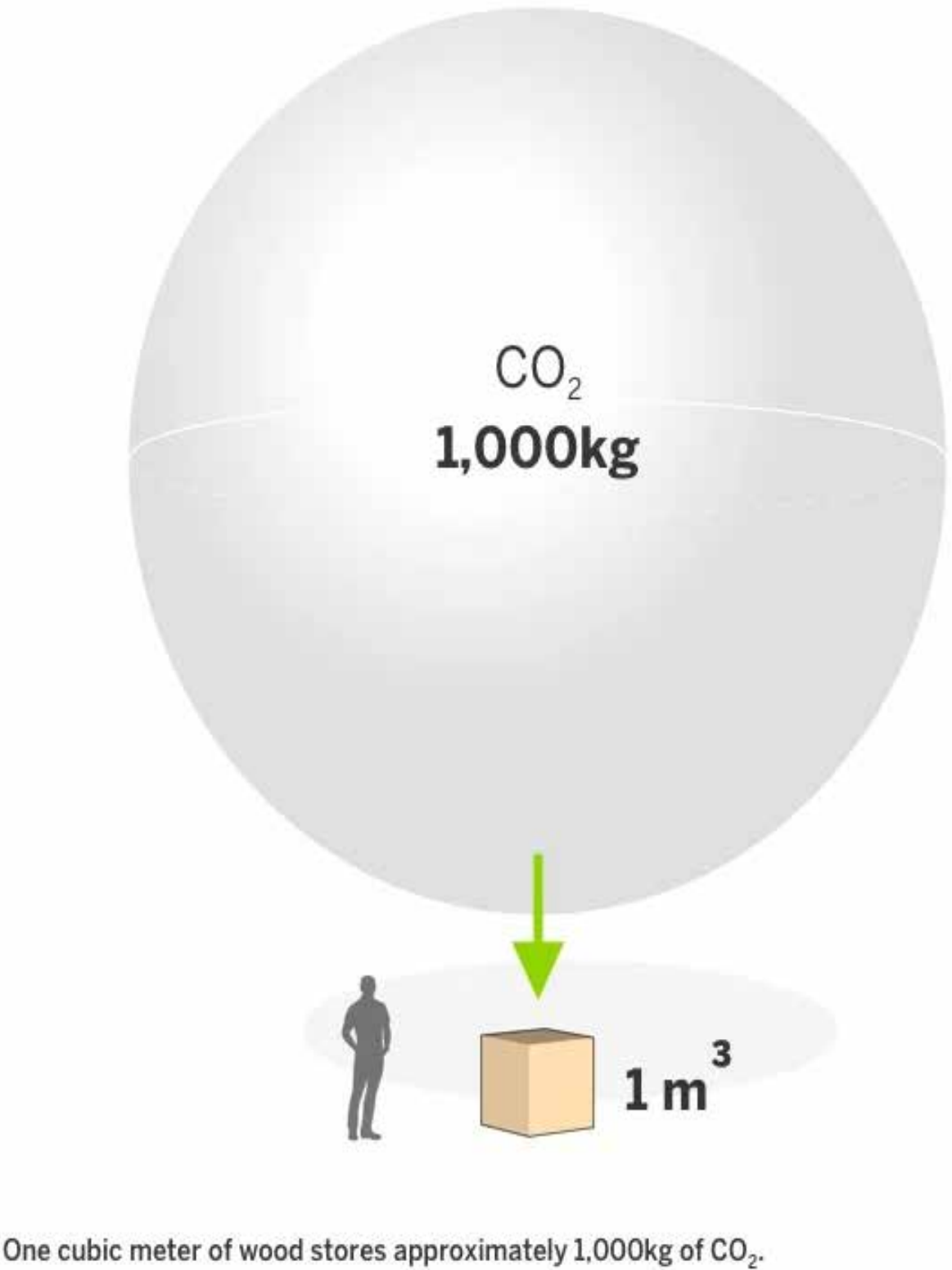
As a tree grows it absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, stores the carbon in its wood fibres and then releases the oxygen back to the air through the process of photosynthesis.

Carbon storage is a unique attribute of wood that doesn’t occur in other structural materials. It’s a natural process that’s available now, without any waiting for new carbon capture and storage technologies to be developed. This allows us to meet near term carbon reduction goals and transforming our built environment into carbon sinks instead of sources.

Although it varies by species, wood is roughly 50% carbon by dry weight. If you know the density of the wood in question, you can easily calculate its stored carbon.



Carbon dioxide isn’t stored in wood exactly. Carbon is stored in wood and if that carbon were released into the atmosphere, it would then combine with oxygen to form carbon dioxide.



Week 3

7th October - 13th October

Commercial Project

Benchmark Project Proposal

Proposal -

Design a small piece of furniture that can fit anywhere in the house and be a generational product, with a focus on function and sustainability as well as embracing and showcasing the beauty of solid wood.

Context -

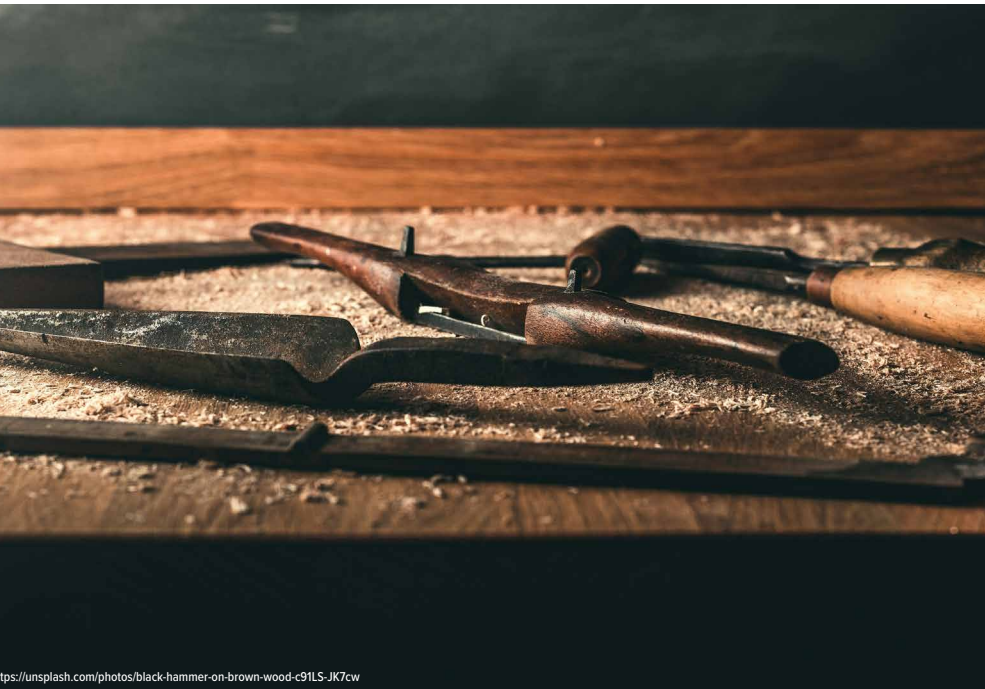
Currently the majority of products are designed to follow a current trend, meaning within a decade products are 'out of style'. Companies like benchmark are trying to move away from this idea and focusing more on circular design and sustainability. They do this by mostly ignoring current trends and designing pieces that use quality solid wood and celebrates the natural materials beauty.

Parameters -

- Focuses on solid wood, celebrating natural material
- Create a product that follows circularity principles
- A product that disregards trends and becomes generational

Keywords -

- Functional
- Useful
- Simple
- Natural Beauty

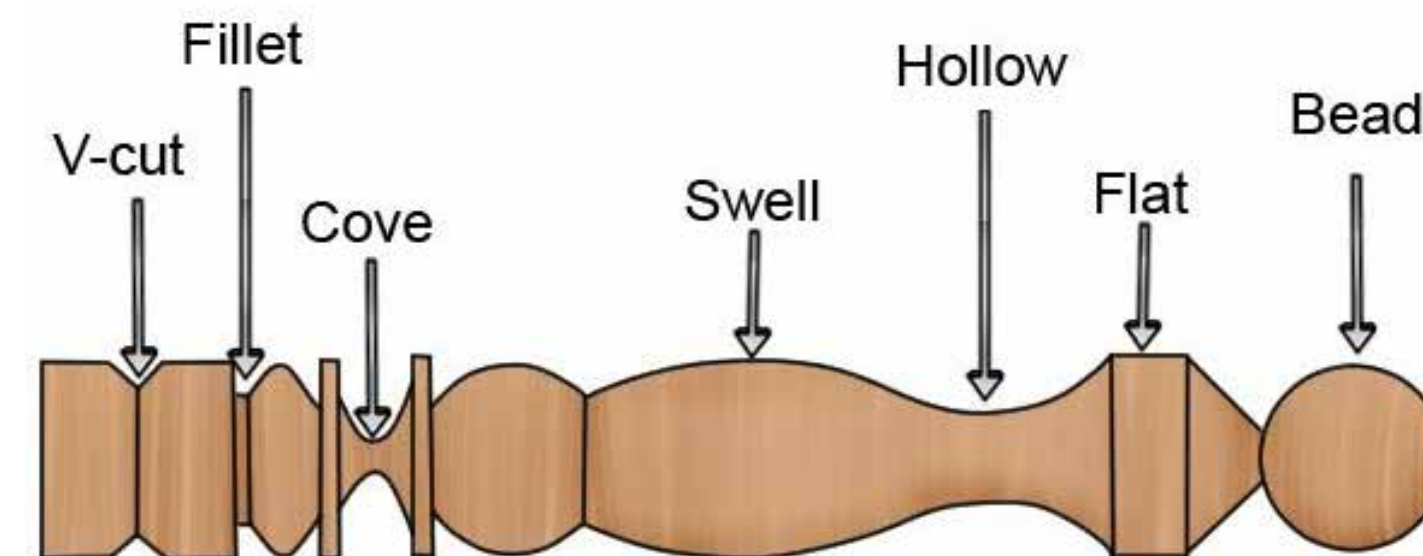
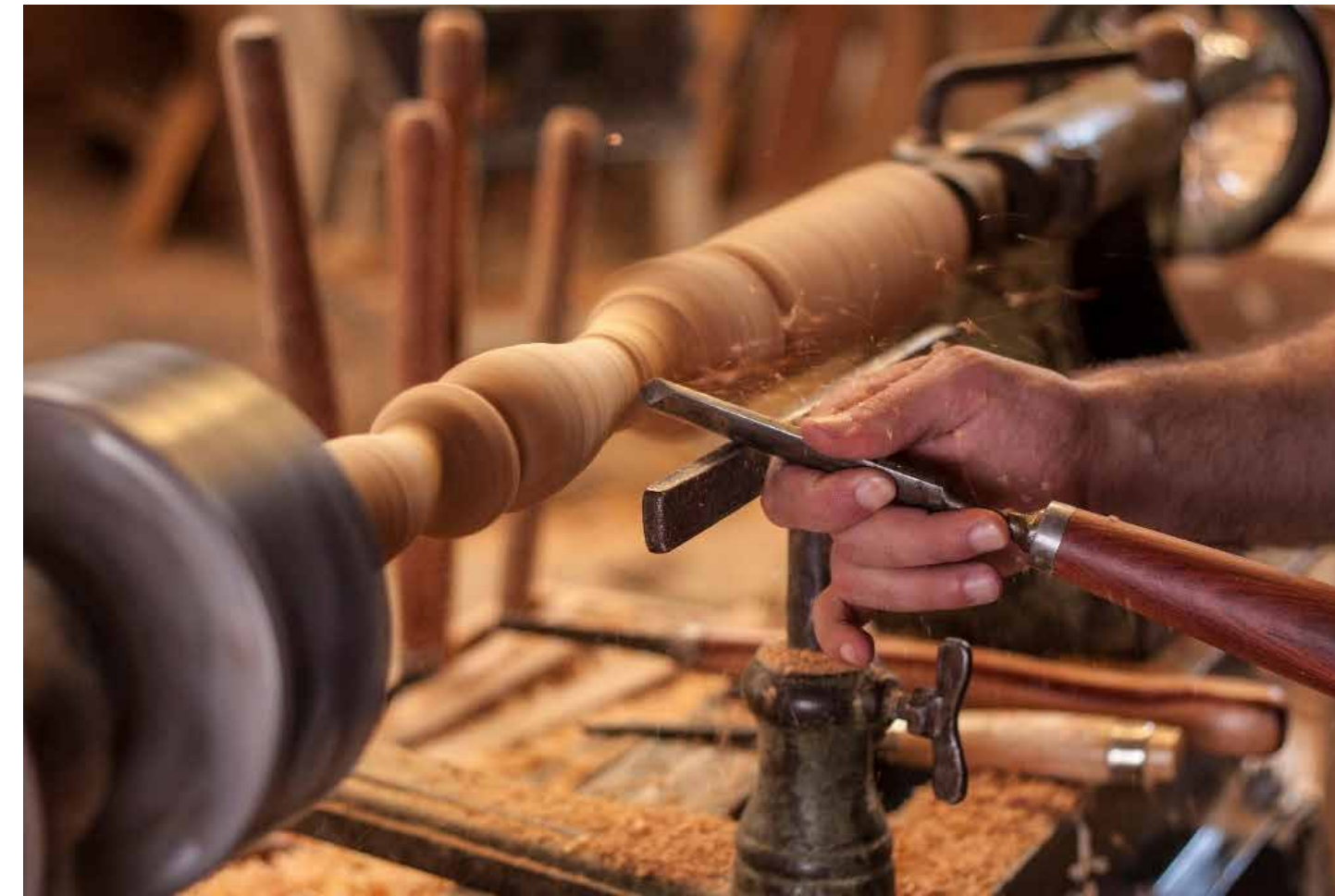


Wood Turning

Turning is the art and craft of using hand-held tools on a wood lathe to turn a piece of wood into an object, it dates back to the 12th century. The lathe is the tool used to rotate the piece of wood and they come in all shapes and sizes.

The craft has evolved over the years and started to incorporate other mediums as well as wood such as resin and acrylic. People have further built on this by adding paints, stains and other mediums of colours to enhance the natural grain of wood or hide it.

You can use all types of wood from exotics like Zebrano to domestic woods such as Oak, Beech and even Plywood. You can go as far as amalgamate a number of wood species together to create different effects.



Joined and Jointed

Joined + Jointed is a collective of celebrated designers and artisans brought together by a shared love of contemporary design and meticulous craft. Together they have created a collection of original, accessible and exclusive furniture pieces.

Samuel Chan's purpose - To turn new design concepts into beautifully made pieces of furniture using his artisan production knowledge, and to offer them to like-minded furniture lovers at sensible, attainable prices.



Cork Family

Small and Simple

Seen in
designmilk


Rounded Elements

Big personality

Dimensions
Width 330 mm
Height 490 mm
Depth 450 mm

Lazy Side Table - £700
Freshwest

Adds colour and charm



A side table and magazine hold

Seen in
COOL
PORTING


Back to basics with this simplest of forms

Eminently useful

Dimensions
Width 225 mm
Height 450 mm
Depth 225 mm

Mono Side Table - £515
Wales & Wales

Solid materials



Unique

A family of small tables turned from light agglomerate cork.

Interesting

Waterproof, rot proof, even termite proof material

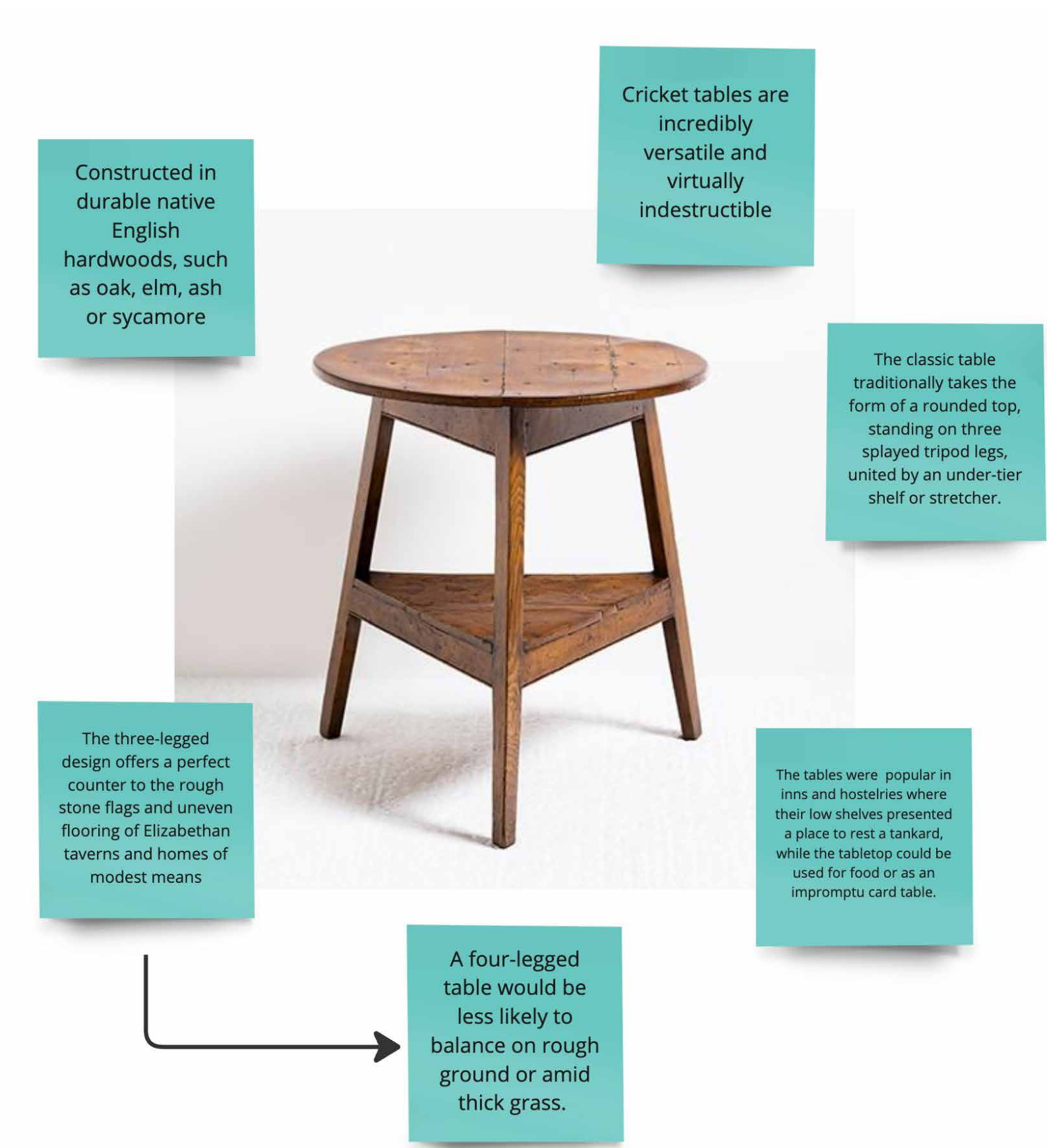
Makes use of a pressed cork granulate made with the waste material of the wine bottle cork stopper business



Nendo Tokyo Tribal Collection



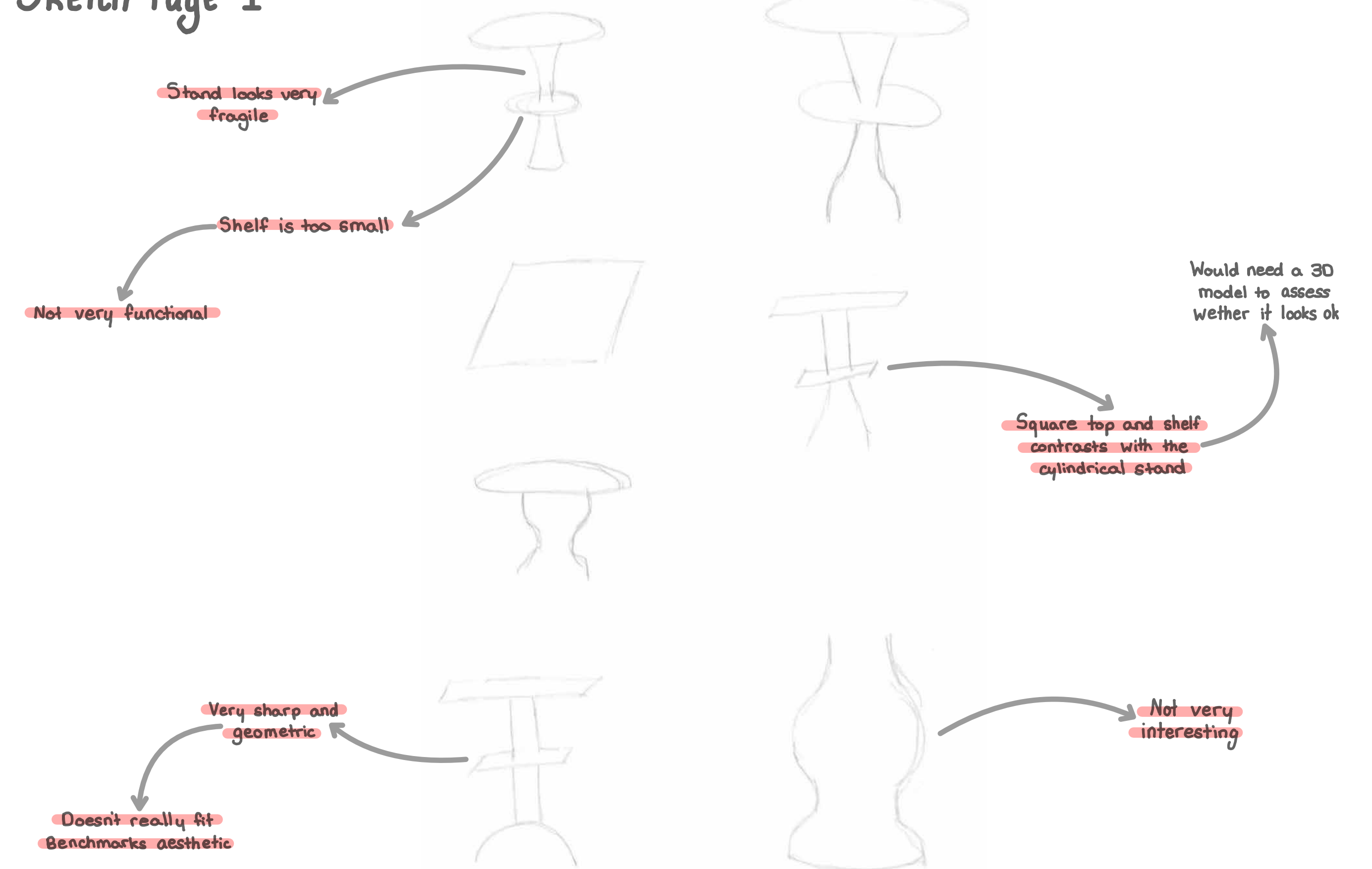
Cricket Table



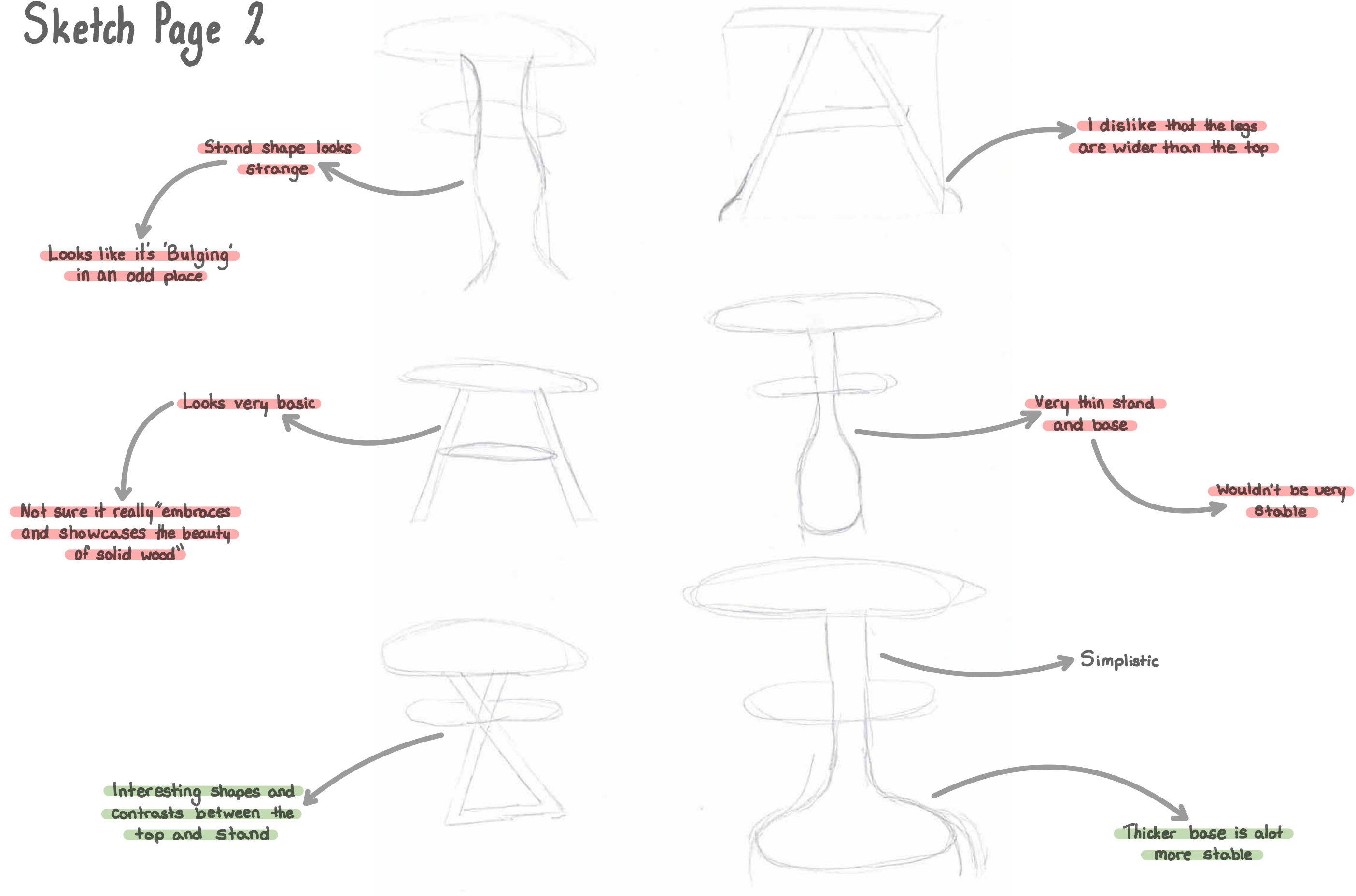
Week 4

14th October - 20th October

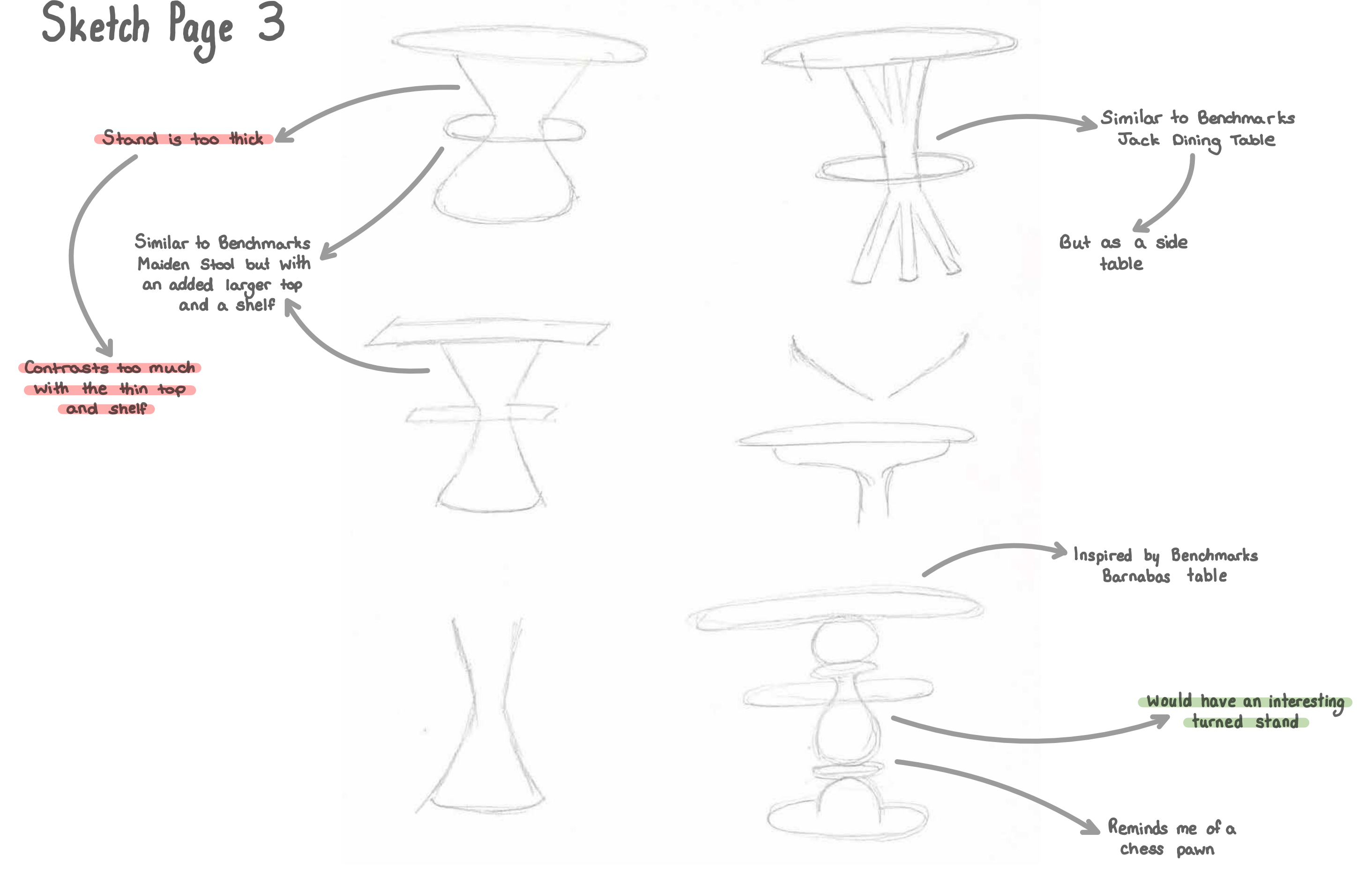
Sketch Page 1



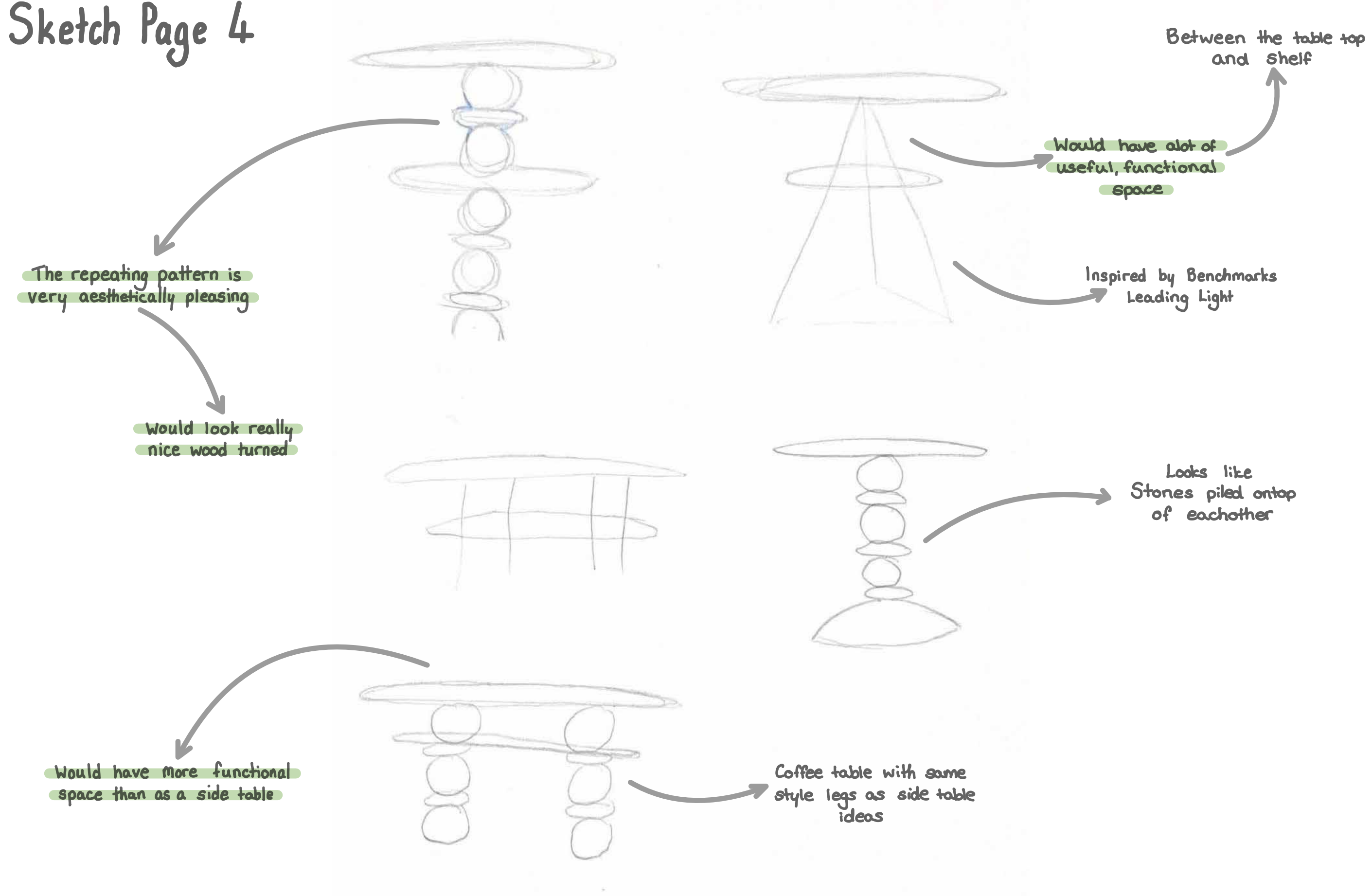
Sketch Page 2



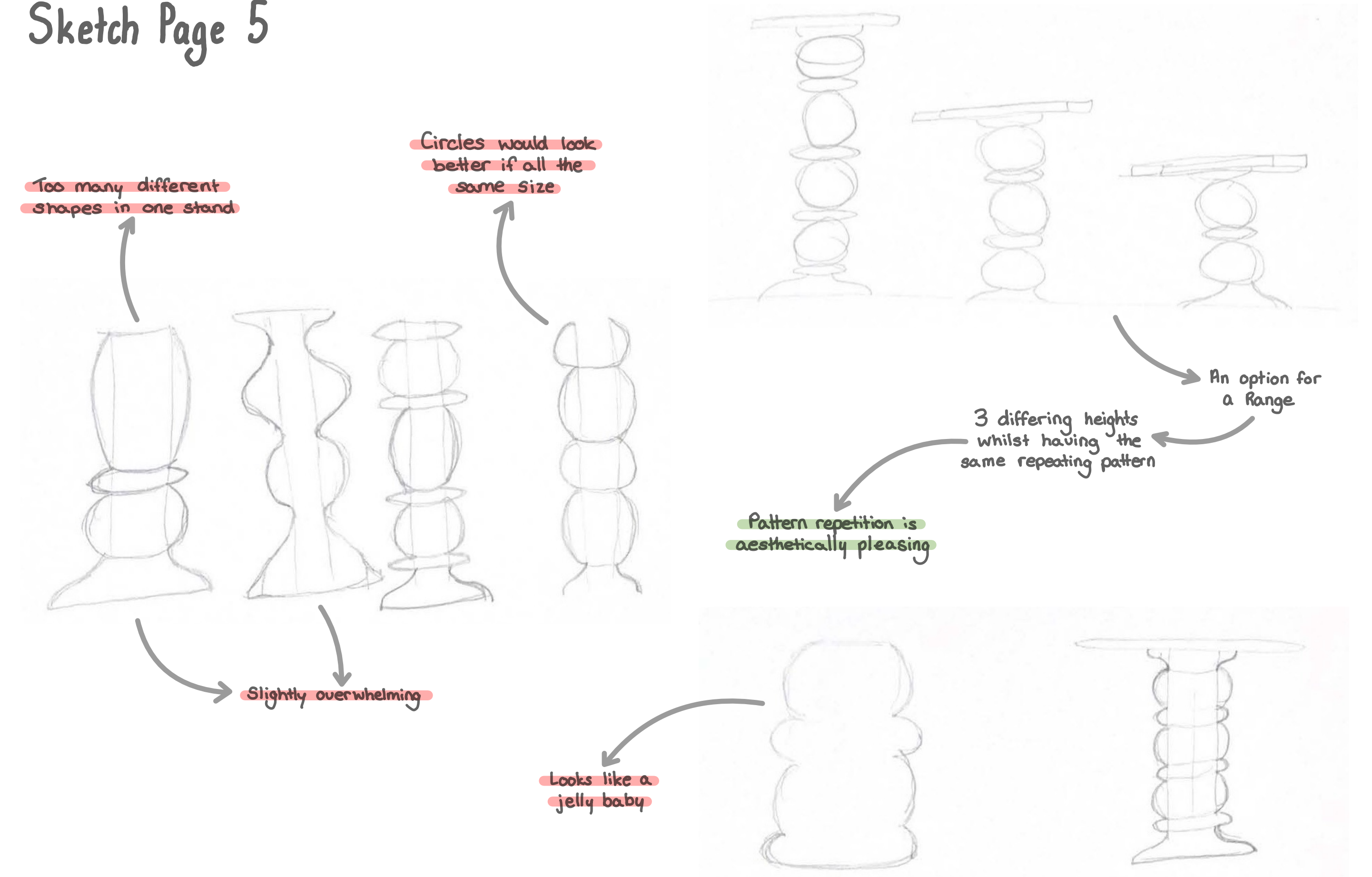
Sketch Page 3



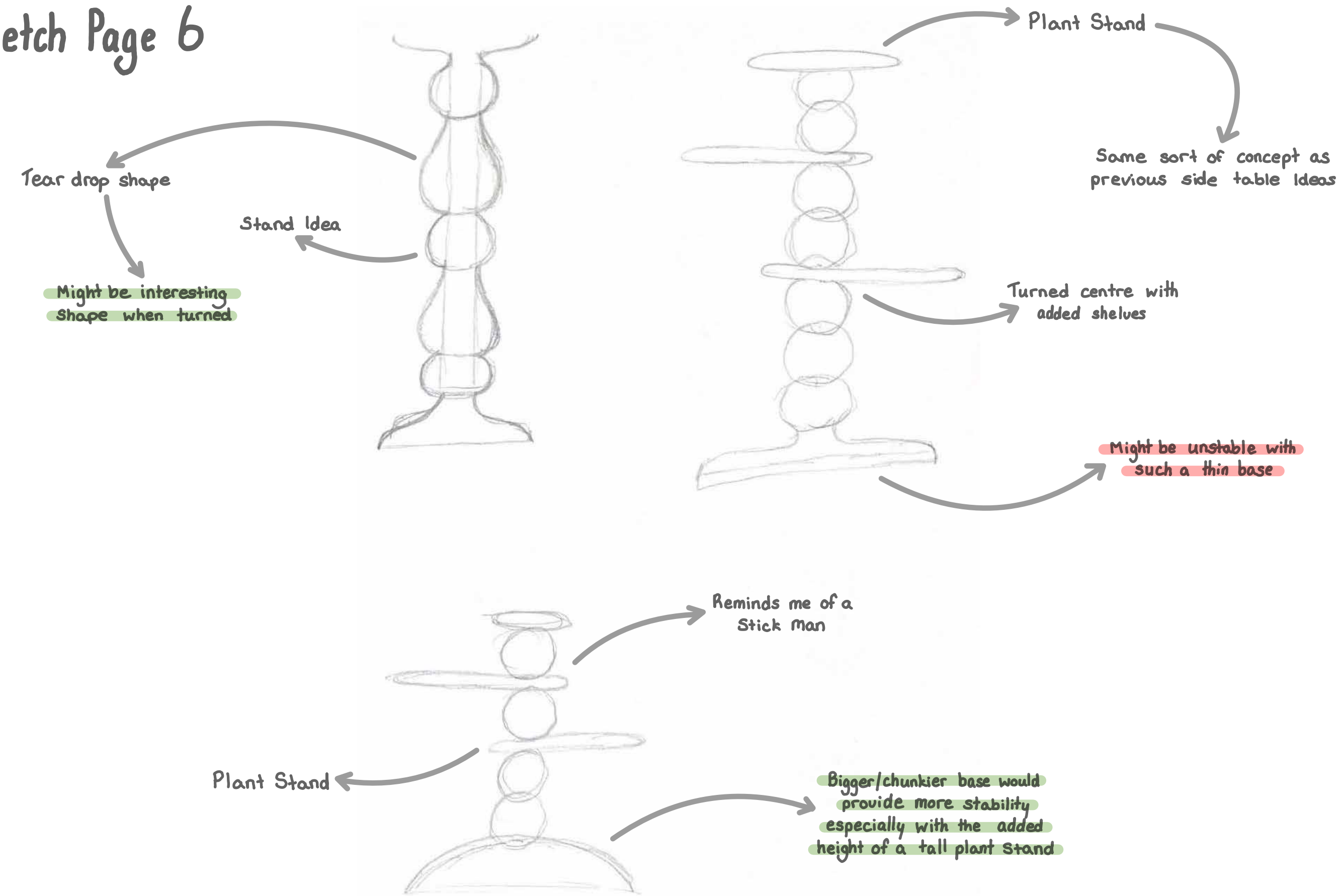
Sketch Page 4



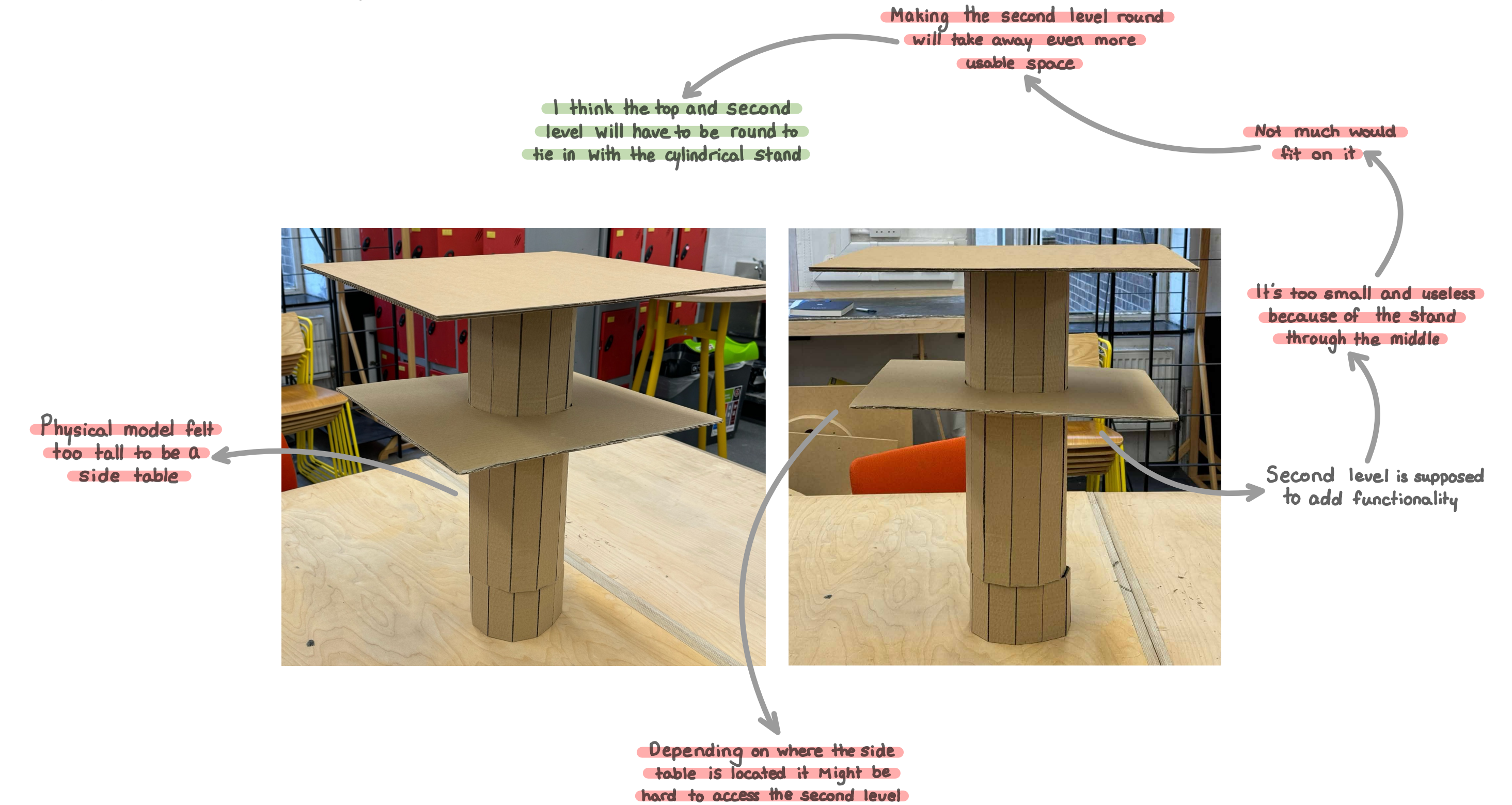
Sketch Page 5



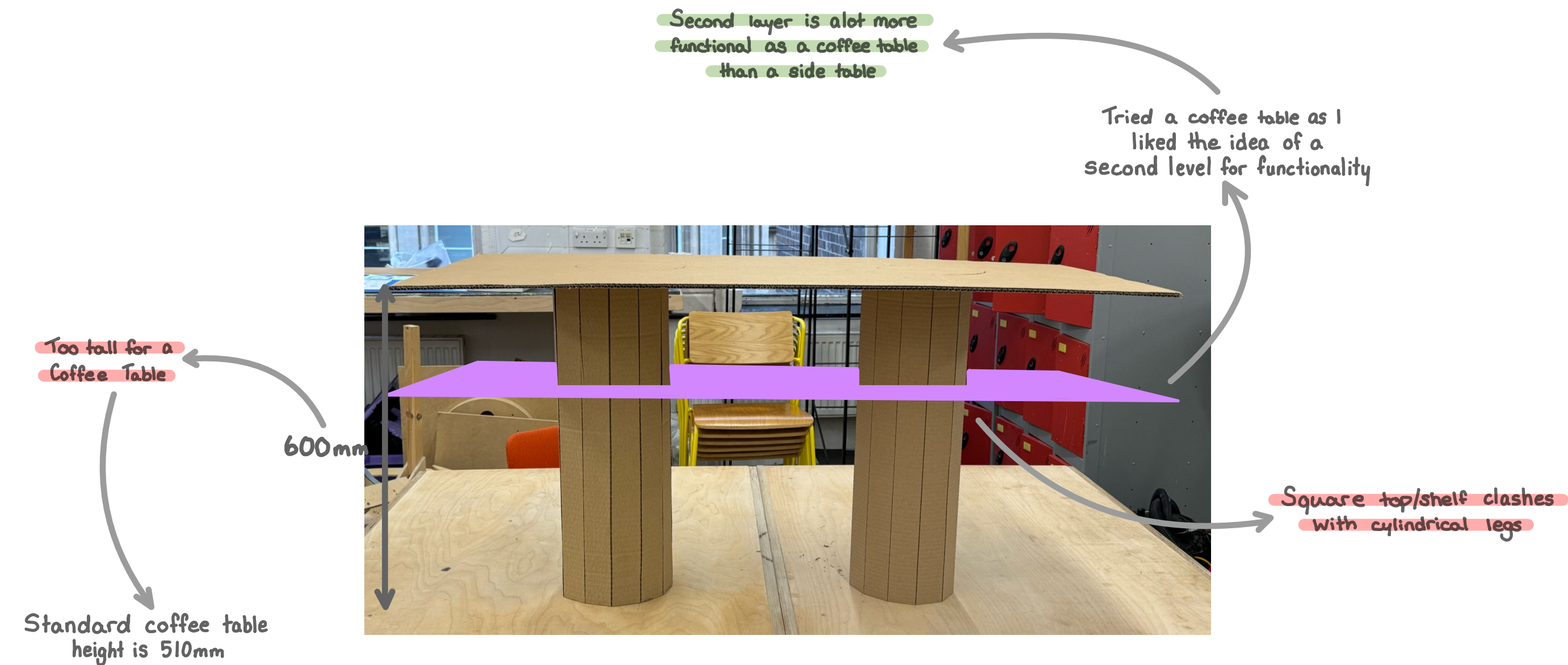
Sketch Page 6



Side Table Initial Model



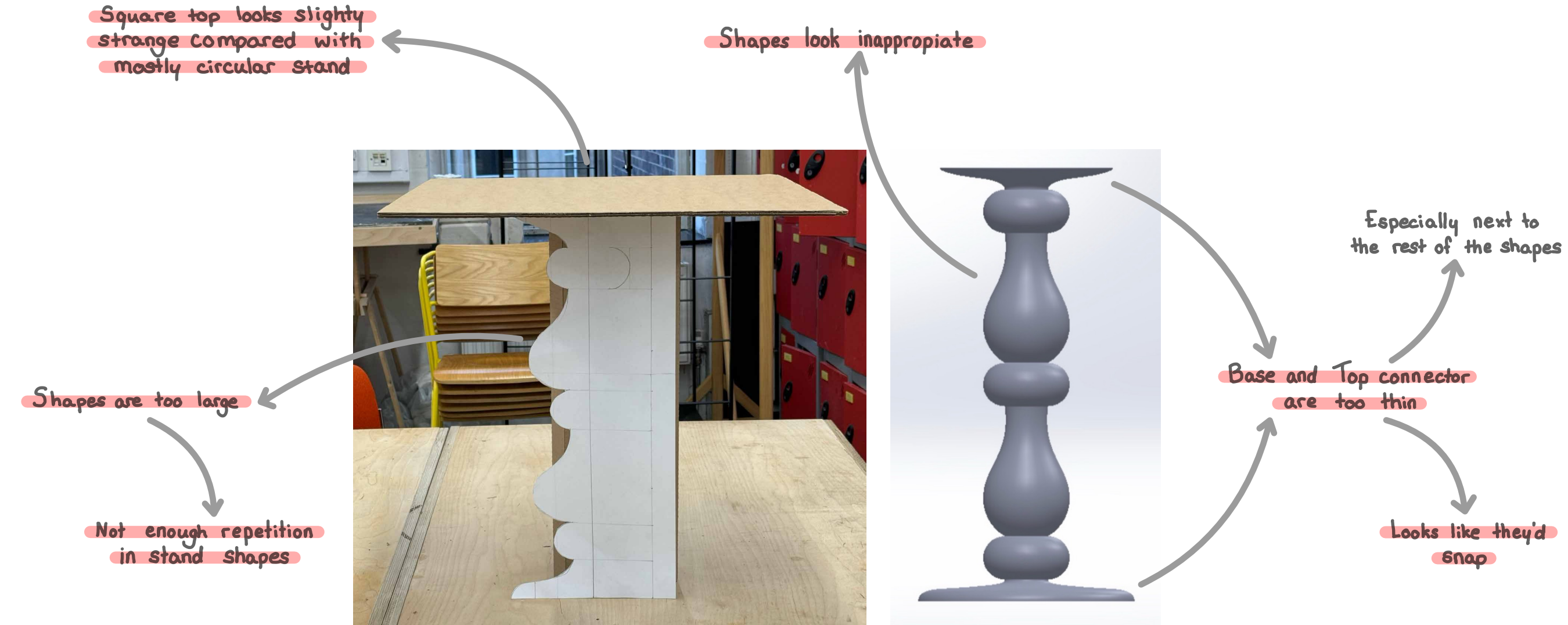
Coffee Table Initial Model



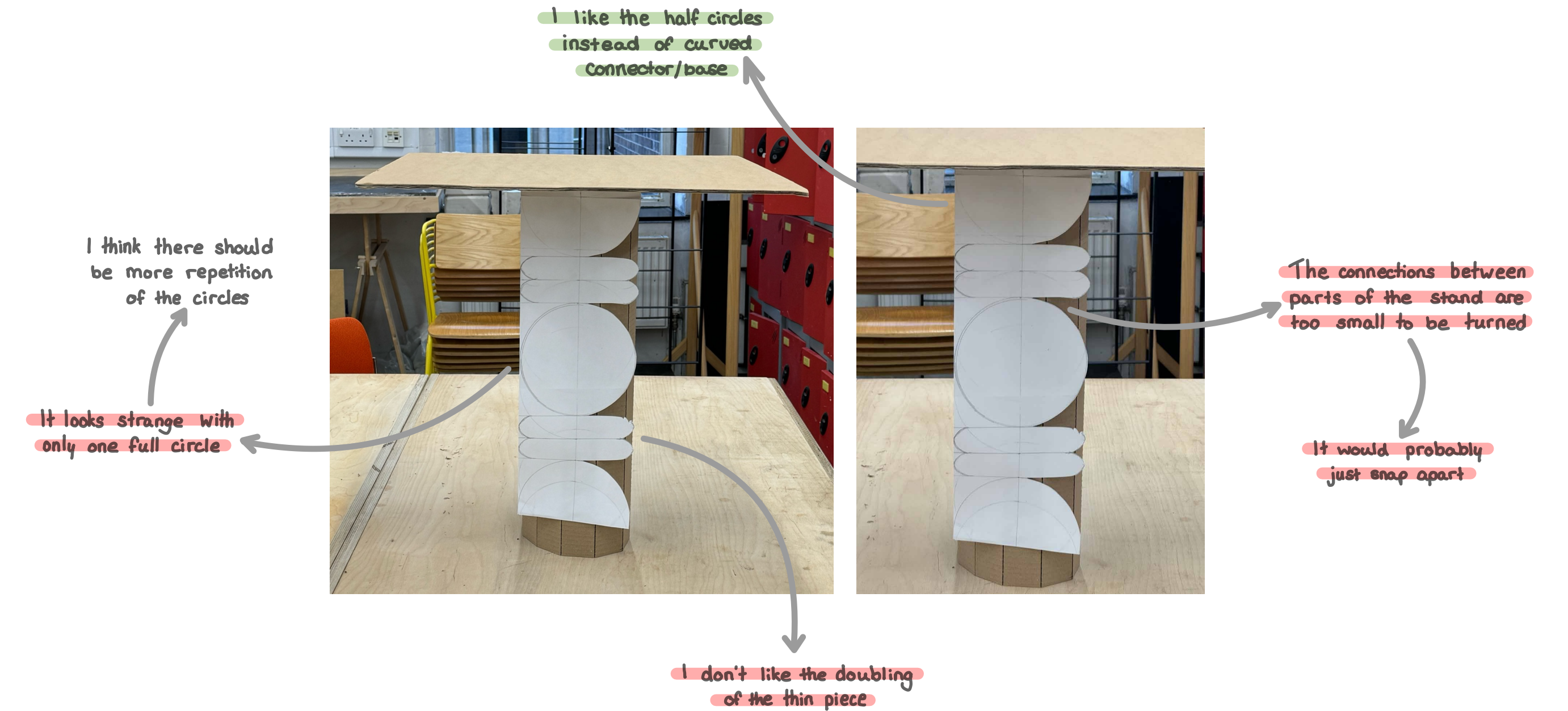
Base Idea 1



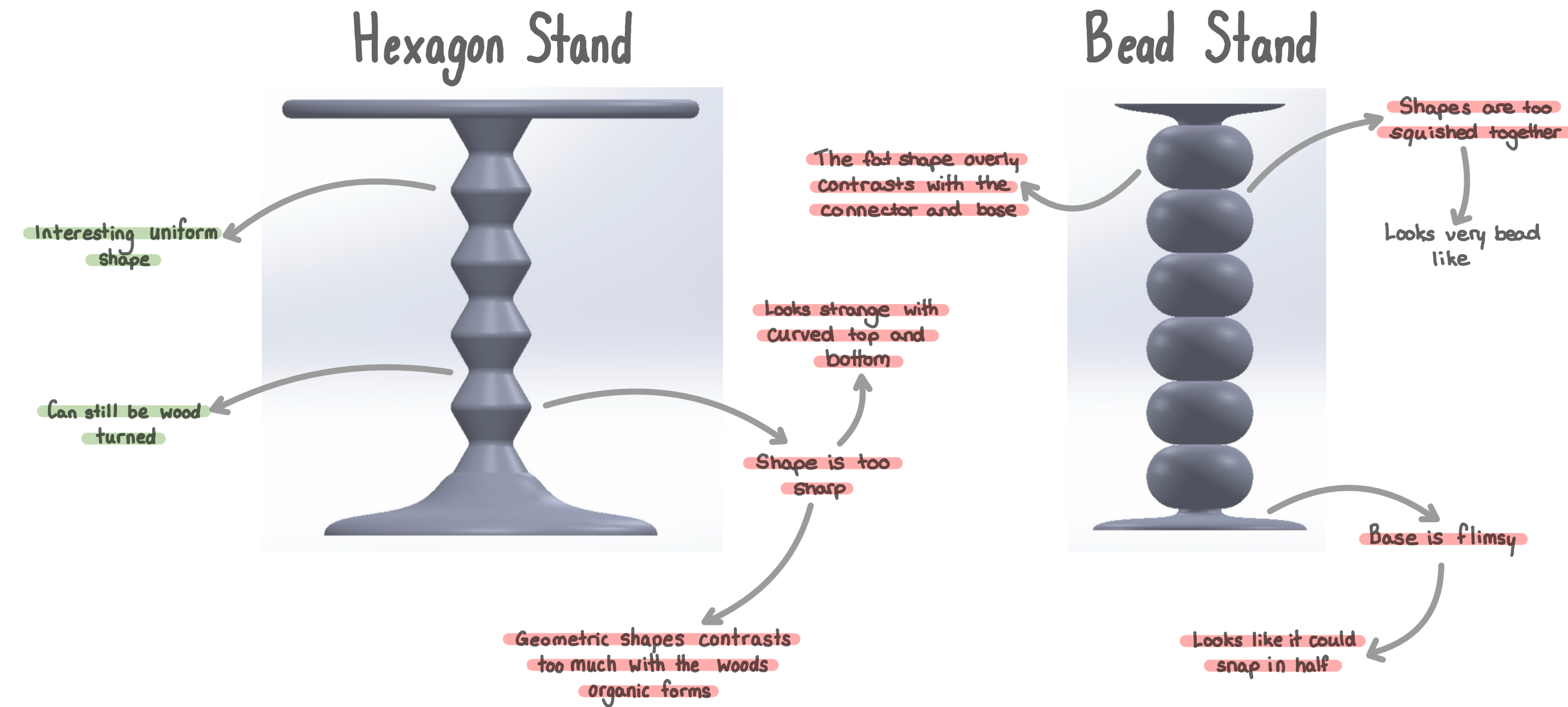
Base Idea 2



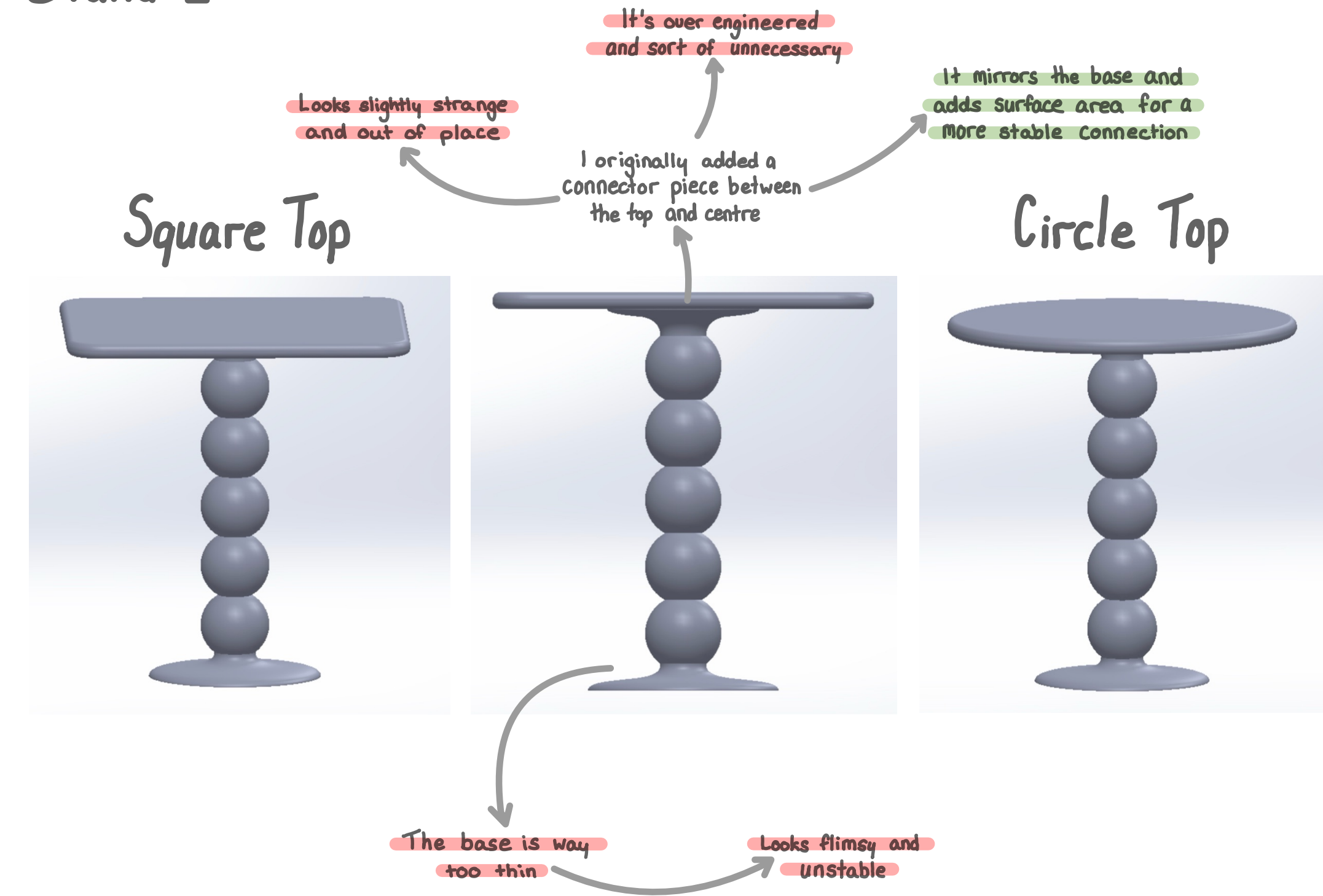
Base Idea 3



Base Idea 4 and 5

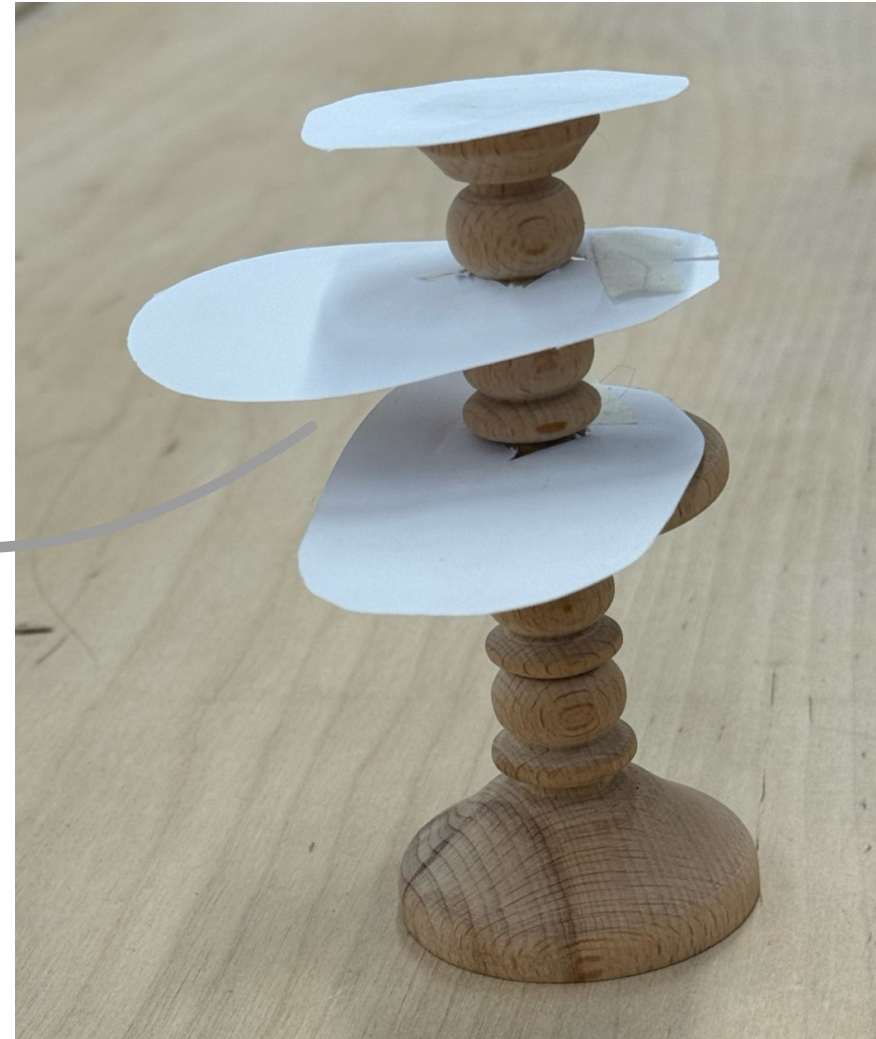


Sphere Stand 1



Plant Stand Initial Model

After I spoke to Madeline at the workshop triage she made me a small turned piece and it gave me some inspiration for a plant stand



The shelves can spin around the centre stand



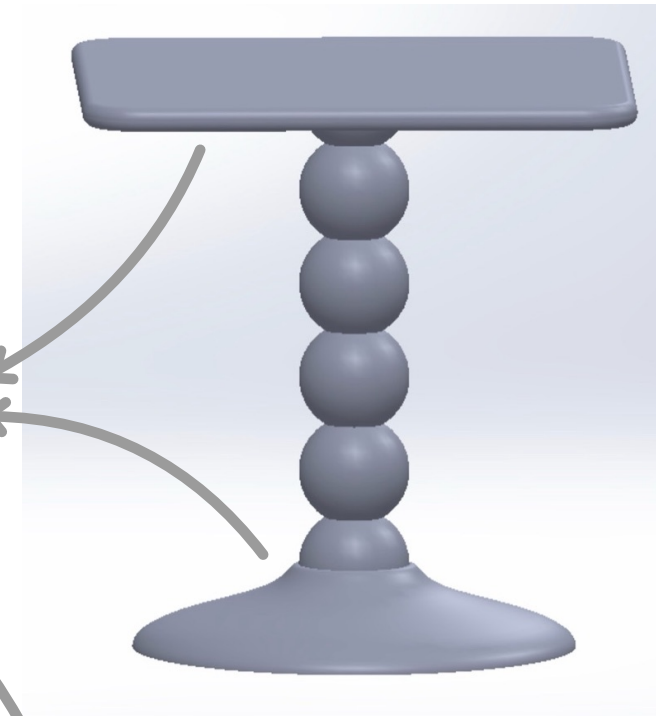
I really like how the wood grain is shown on the turned balls

It might be unstable from the different sized shelves

The dimensions look ok now but may not work in a full scale model

Sphere Stand 2

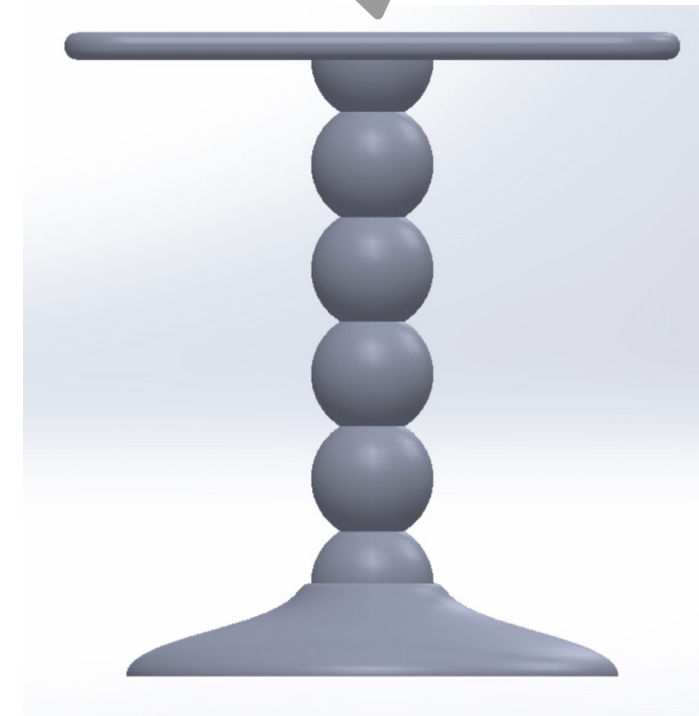
Square Top



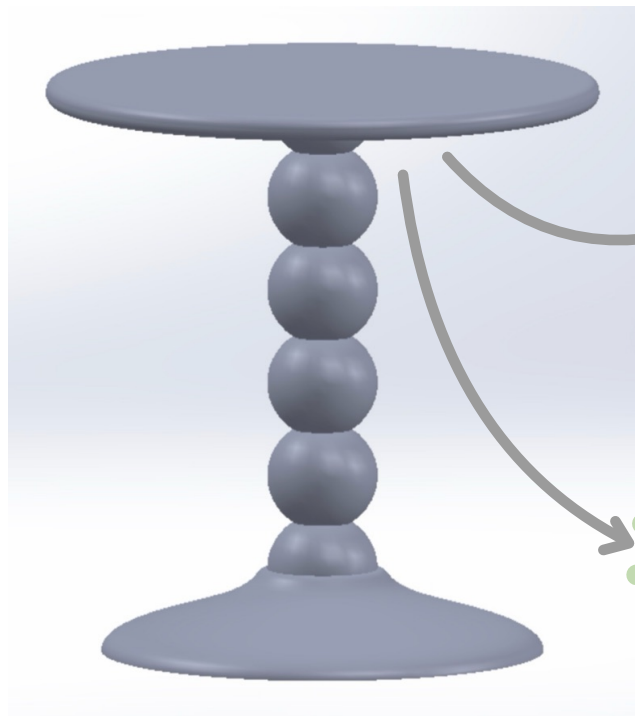
It's an interesting contrast between the square top, the spheres and the circular base

While it looks interesting I think the top should have a better relationship with the rest of the design

The flat surface of the hemisphere should be more than enough for a stable connection



Circle Top



It's currently just a flat surface and nothing else

The top isn't as functional as it could be

The circular top relates more to the rest of the design

Martin suggested that instead of just Ash I could use multiple types of wood

During my interim review with Benchmark, Martin seemed to have to have a lot of ideas about this idea

He wondered whether I could make the height adjustable

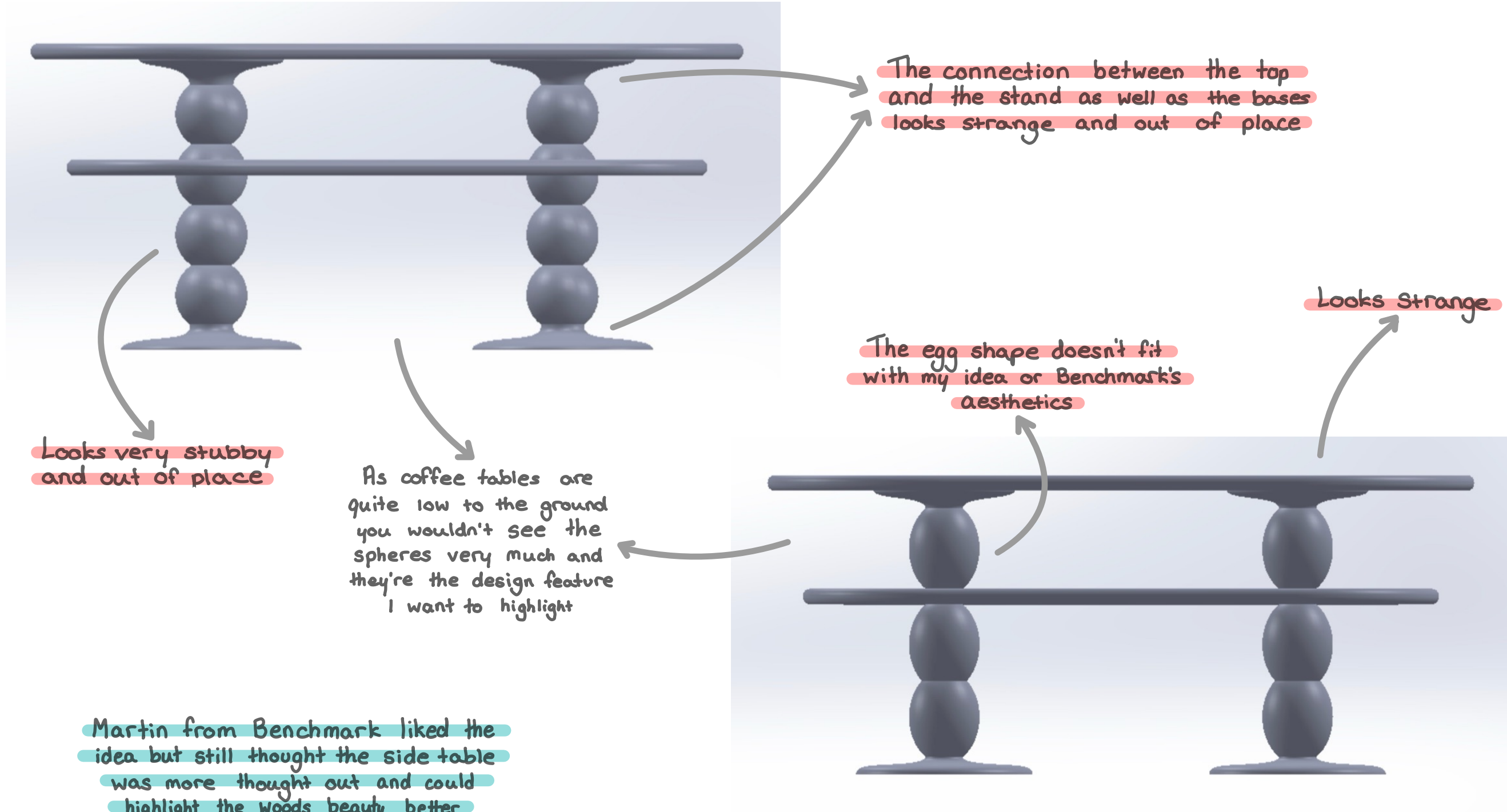
As this may best achieve my goal of showcasing the natural beauty of solid wood

As each sphere is a separate part and connected by a threaded bar so it can be rethreaded infinitely

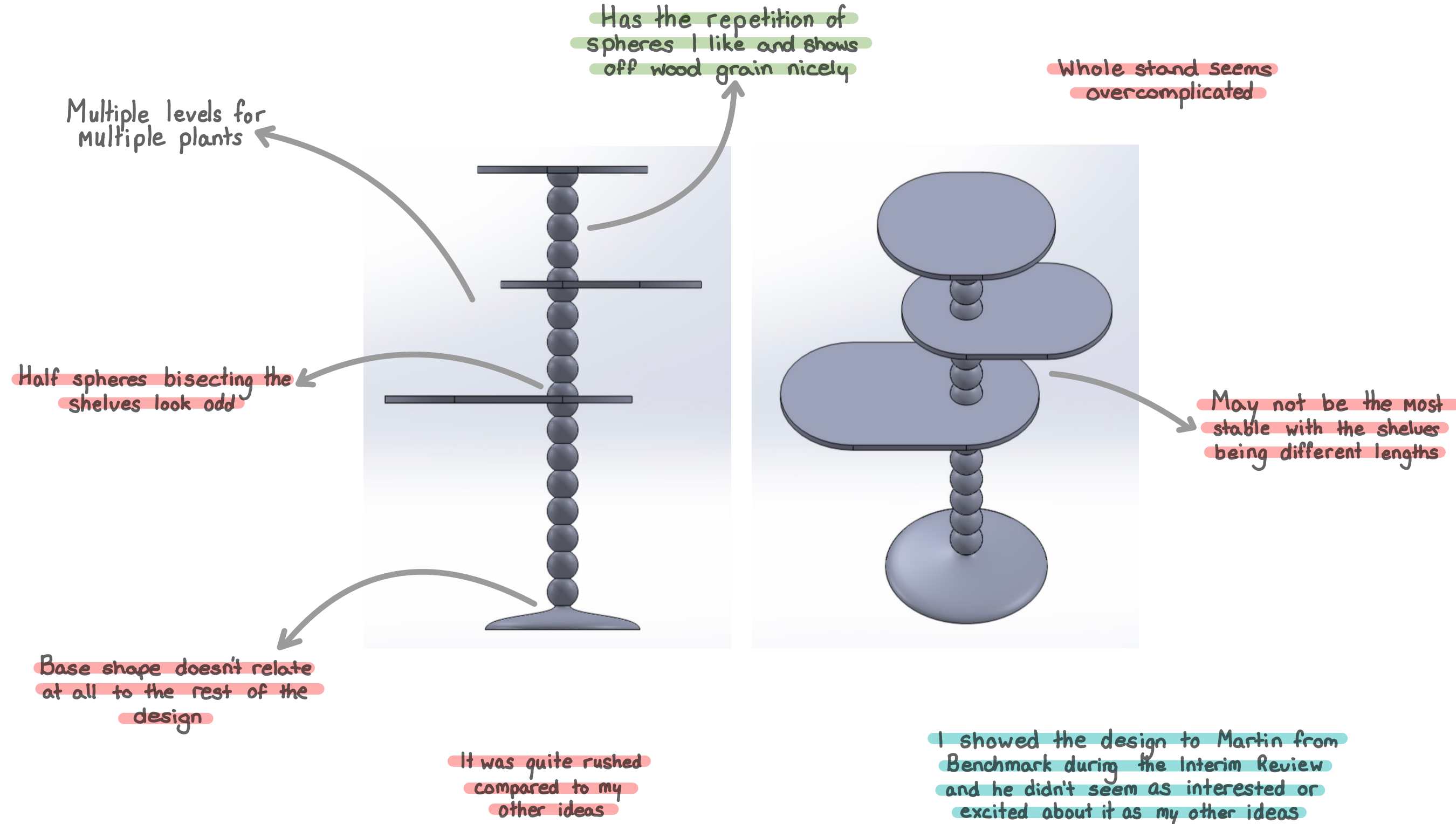
Coffee Table Ideas

I wanted to increase the functionality by adding a second layer

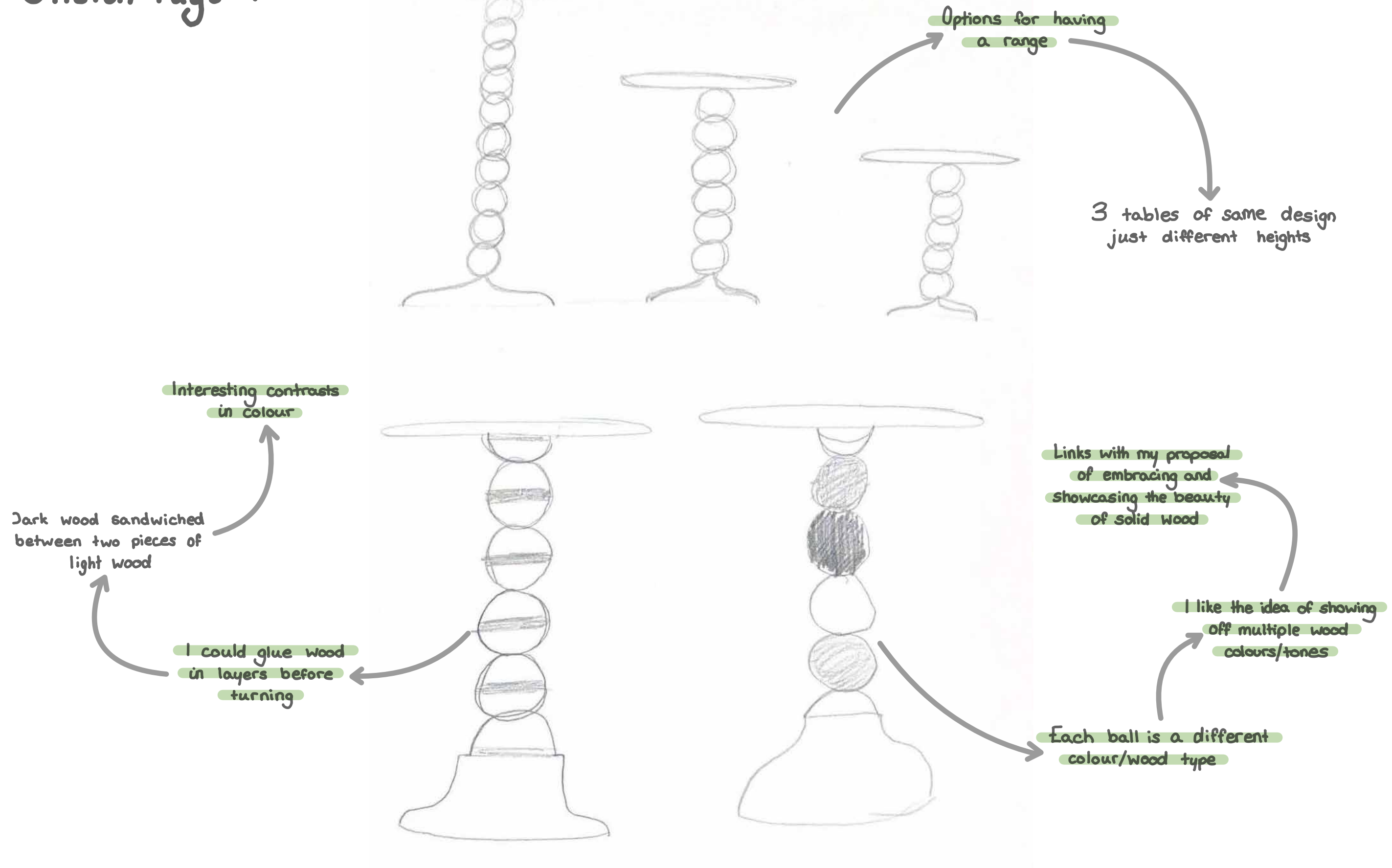
It didn't work with the side table so I thought a coffee table would work better



Plant Stand Idea



Sketch Page 7



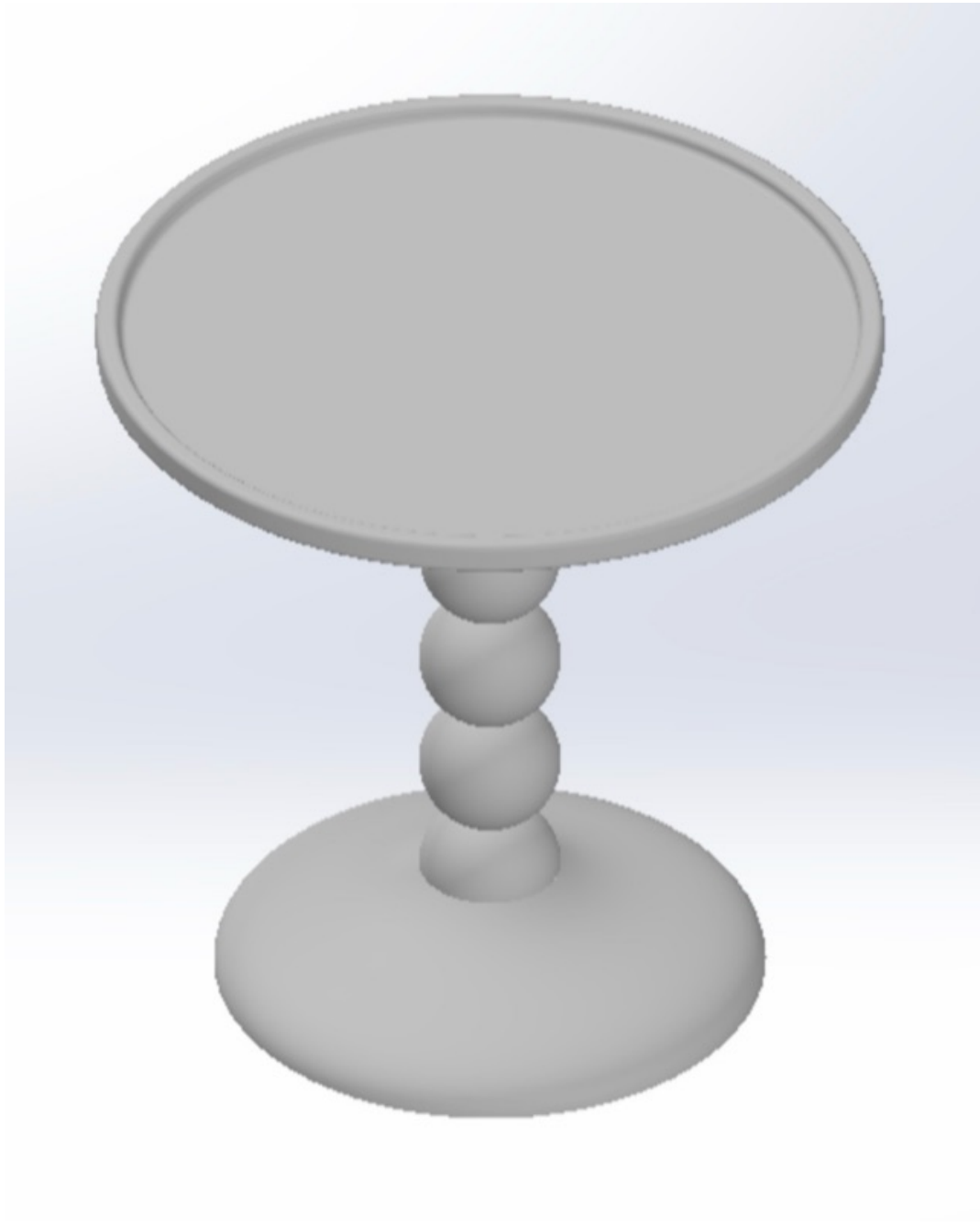
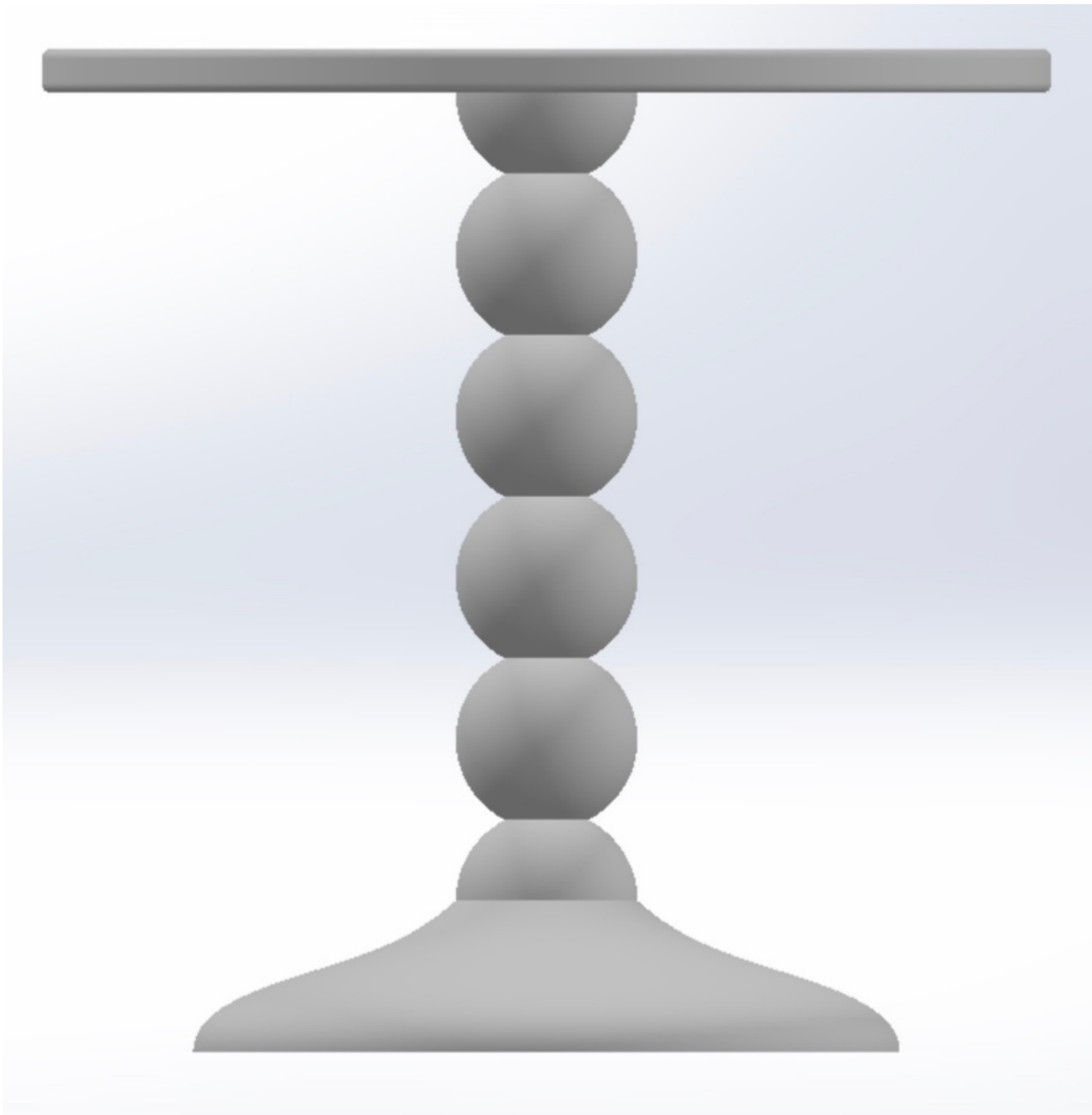
Reframed Brief -

Design a small piece of furniture that embraces and showcases the beauty of solid wood whilst still having a focus on function as well as sustainability

First CNC Model

My first full scale foam Model that I CNC'd. It's more accurate than my cardboard models and means I can accurately assess the dimensions physically.

It's especially helpful for the spheres which are hard to make and visualise in cardboard



Week 5 & 6

21st October - 3rd November

Full Scale Model Development

It's a rough model to vaguely see the shape of the turned centre pole

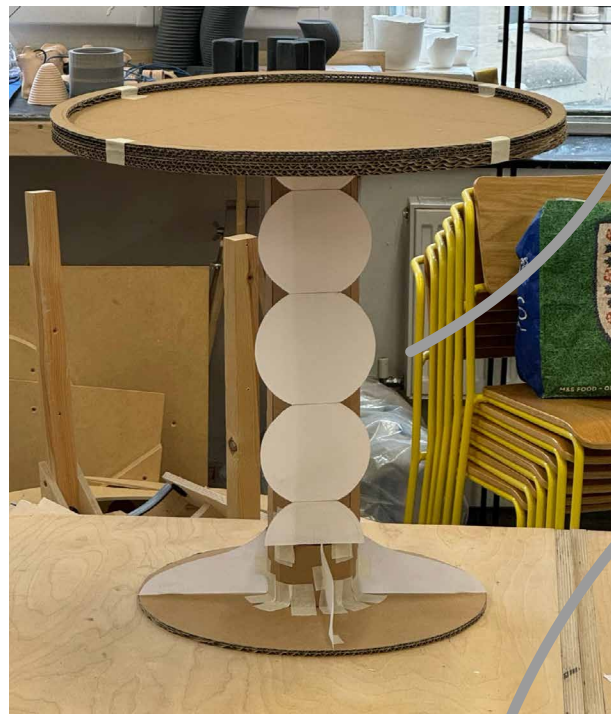
Looks like a caterpillar



Each sphere has a different diameter but the same height

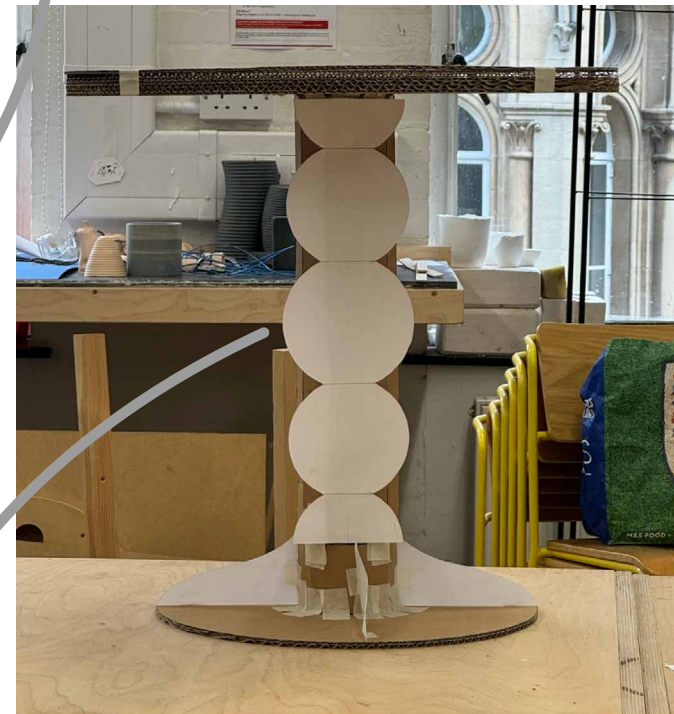
Looks too squished

Middle sphere is the biggest with the two either side being slightly smaller



The dimensions look strange

Middle sphere looks way too big



Full Scale Model Development

It's a rough model to vaguely see the shape of the turned centre pole

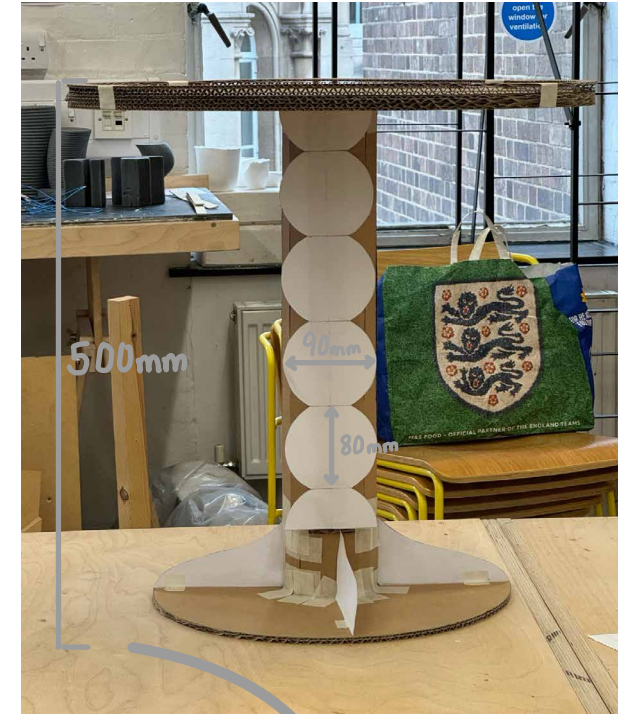
A smooth flow from rim to top

It should have filleted edges

All of benchmarks products have smooth, sleek profiles with filleted edges

Prevents crumbs/dust from getting stuck

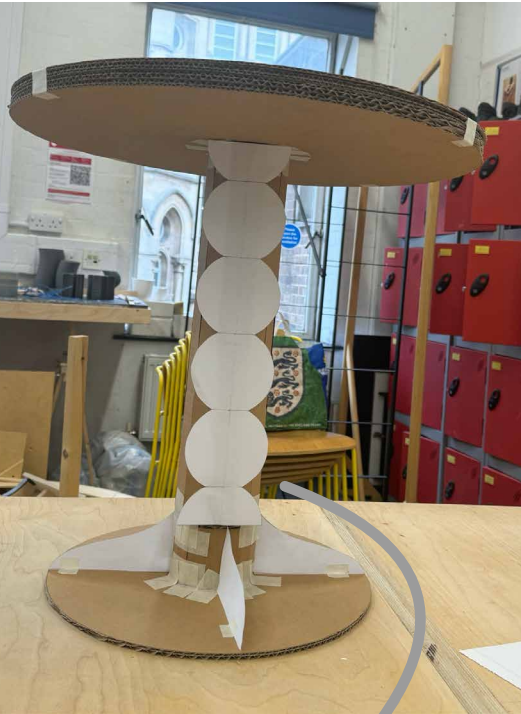
I like the raised rim of the tabletop



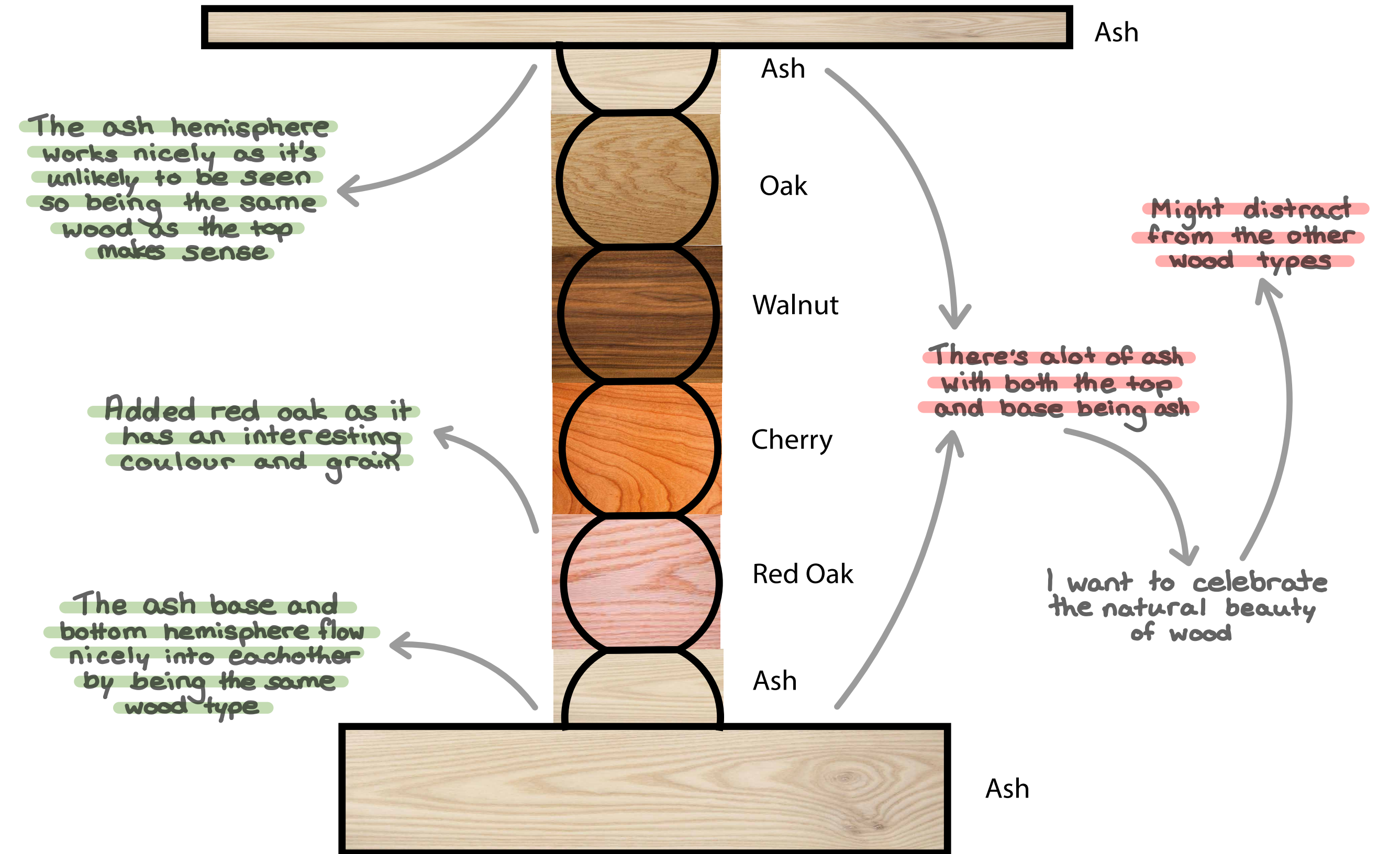
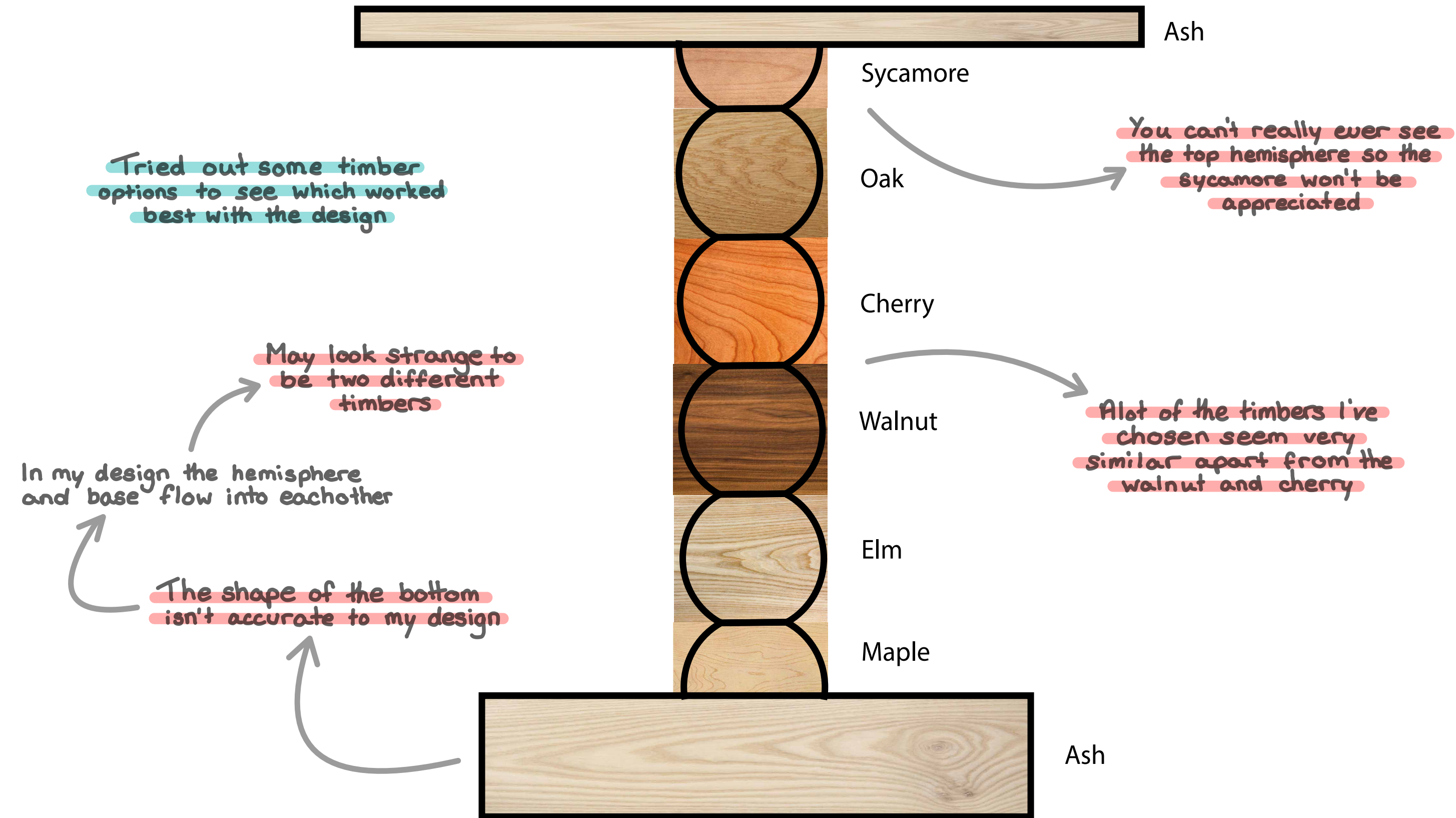
The overall height feels appropriate for a sidetable

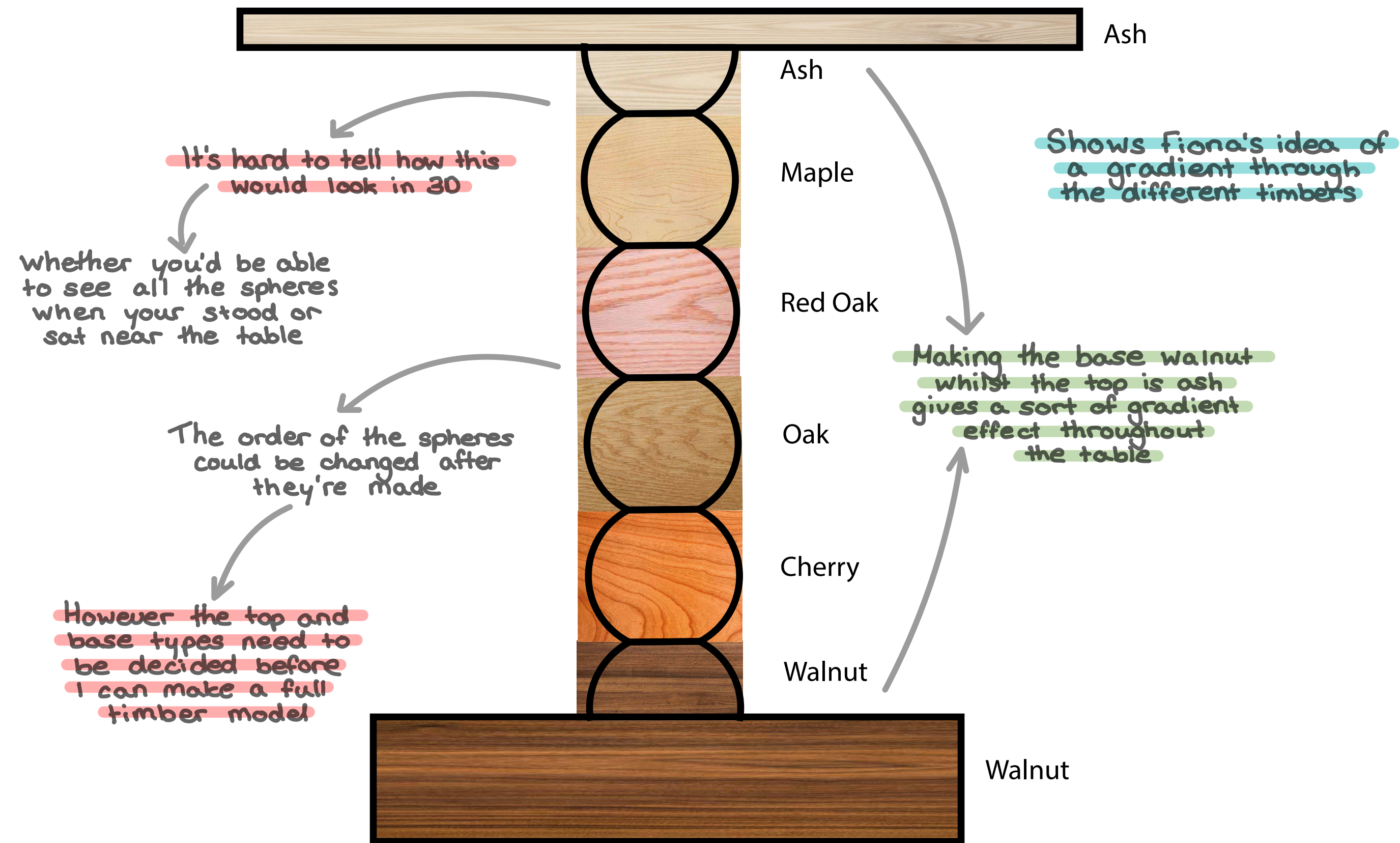


Gives a nice uniform aesthetic



I kept all the spheres the same size in this model





Ash Top and Base

Roughly painted to simulate the different wood types

Gives me a view of what the different wood types looks like from different angles



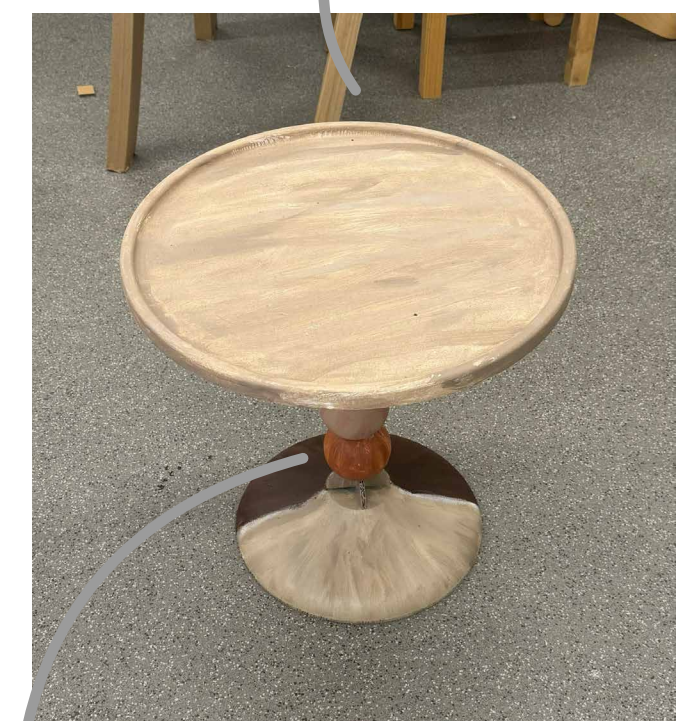
Low to ground



Sat on Chair



Me stood up (short)



Tall person stood up

It contrasts too much with the ash top

The walnut sphere looks a little strange from above when your stood up

You can't see the top sphere or two if stood up/are tall

Might be too much ash between the top, two hemispheres and base

I like the look of the differing wood colours/tones

The cherry sticks out too much against the ash

I'm trying to showcase different woods not just ash

Ash Top and Walnut Base

The half and half painted base and some spheres allows me to visualise two different options

The design feels more cohesive

No singular wood colour feels overwhelming

Or like it sticks out

You still can't see the top sphere or two if stood up/are tall

I like the colour gradient

The different colours/tones work even better together

Low to ground

Me stood up (short)

Tall person stood up

The top and look a little out of proportion for a side table

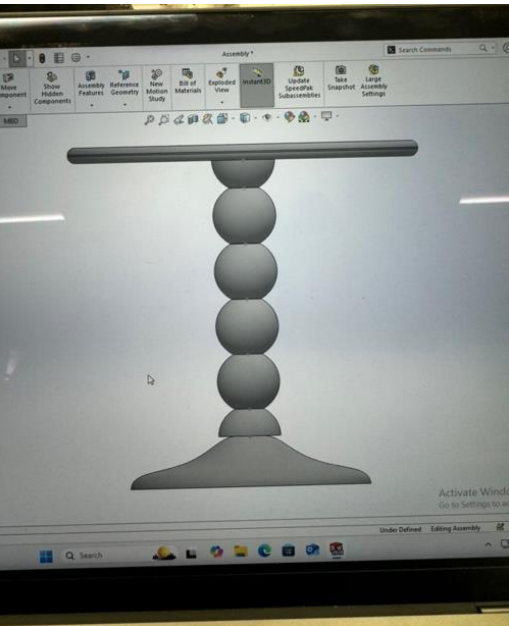
Showcases more woods than just ash

Theres six different wood types being shown



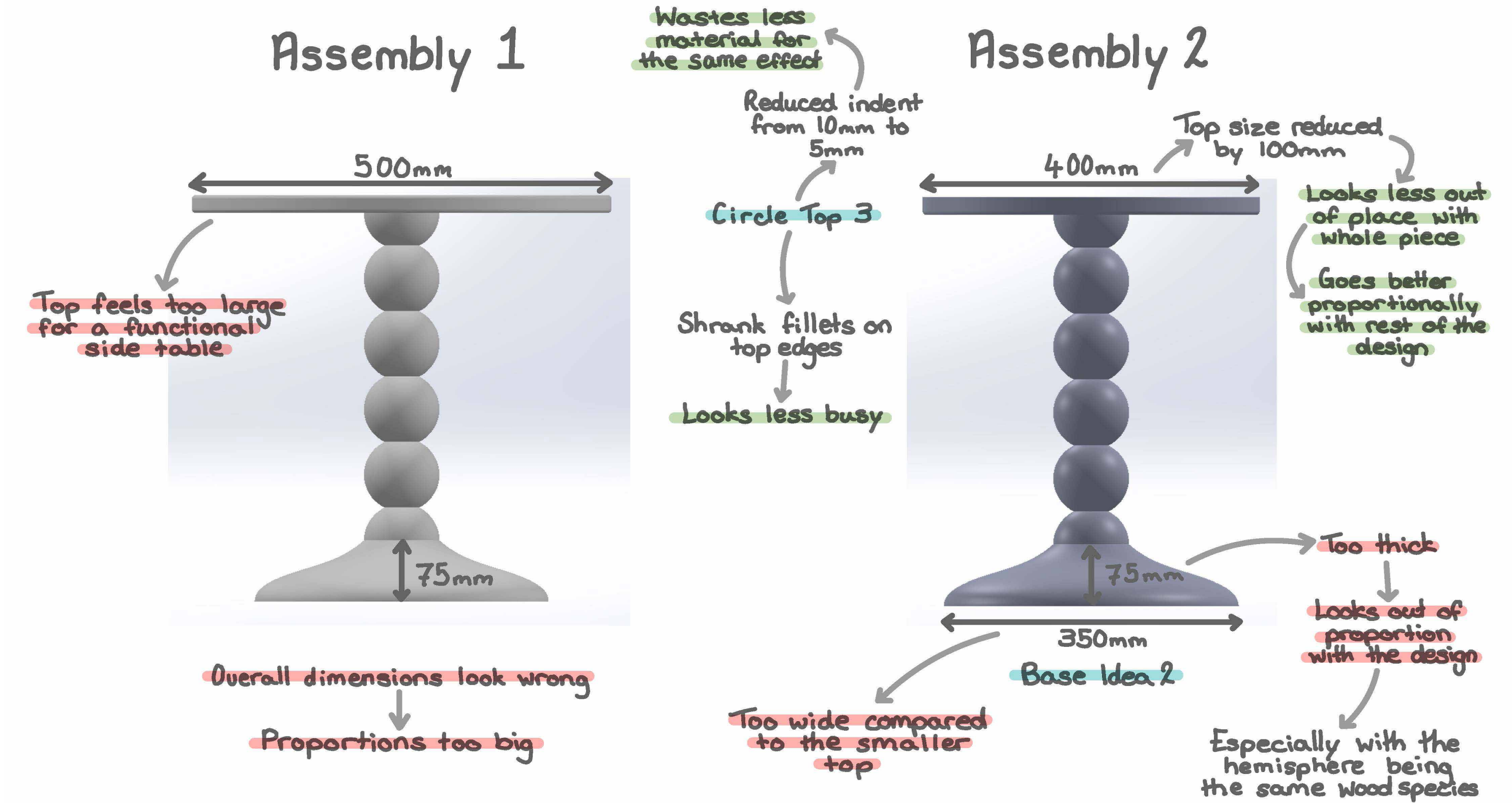
Parts List

Part	Quantity	Material	Height (mm)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)
Top	1	Ash	22	500	500
Base	1	Walnut	75	350	350
Half Sphere 1	1	Ash	40	90	90
Half Sphere 2	1	Walnut	40	90	90
Sphere 1	1	Cherry	80	90	90
Sphere 2	1	Oak	80	90	90
Sphere 3	1	Red Oak	80	90	90
Sphere 4	1	Maple	80	90	90

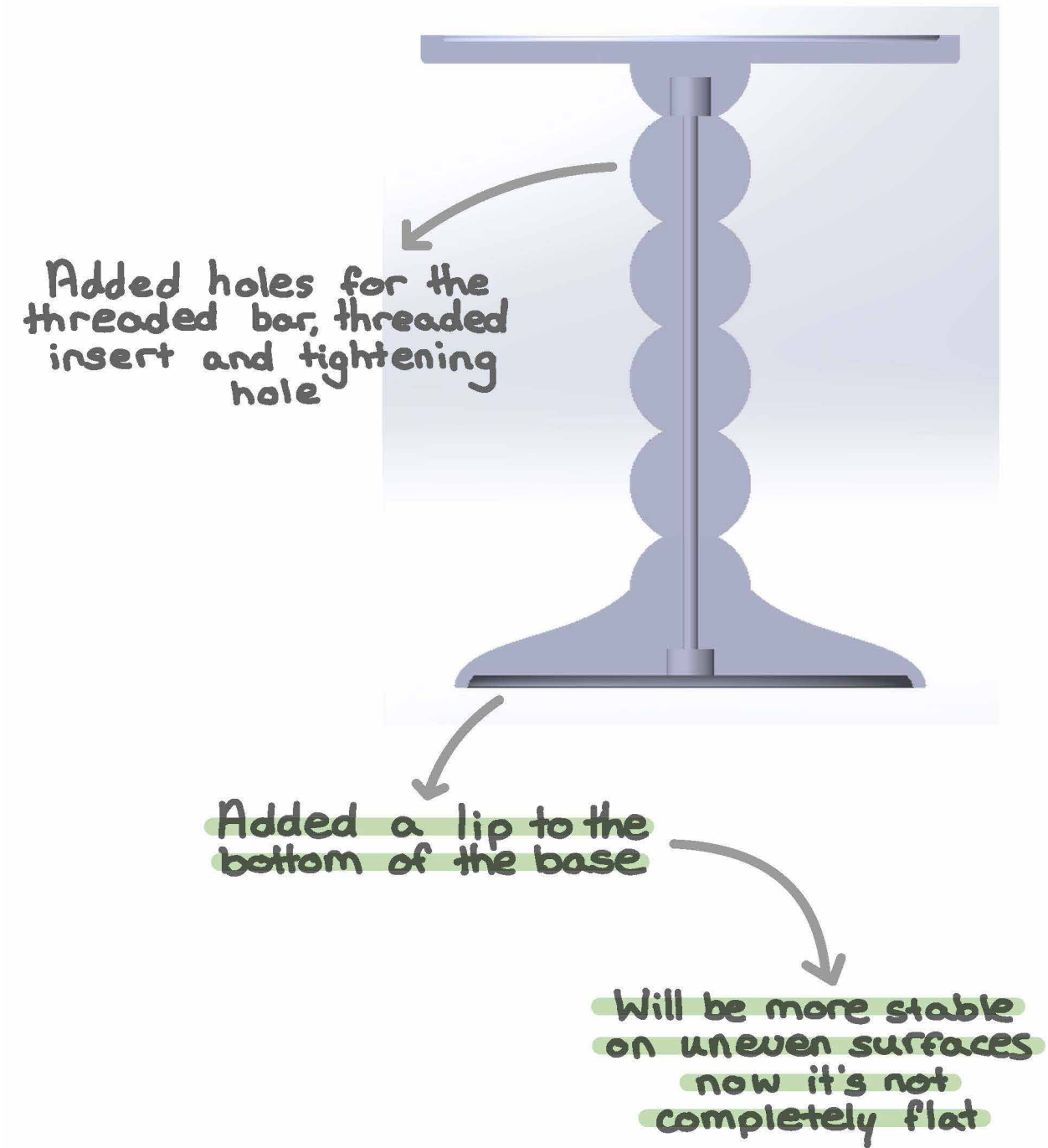


Week 7

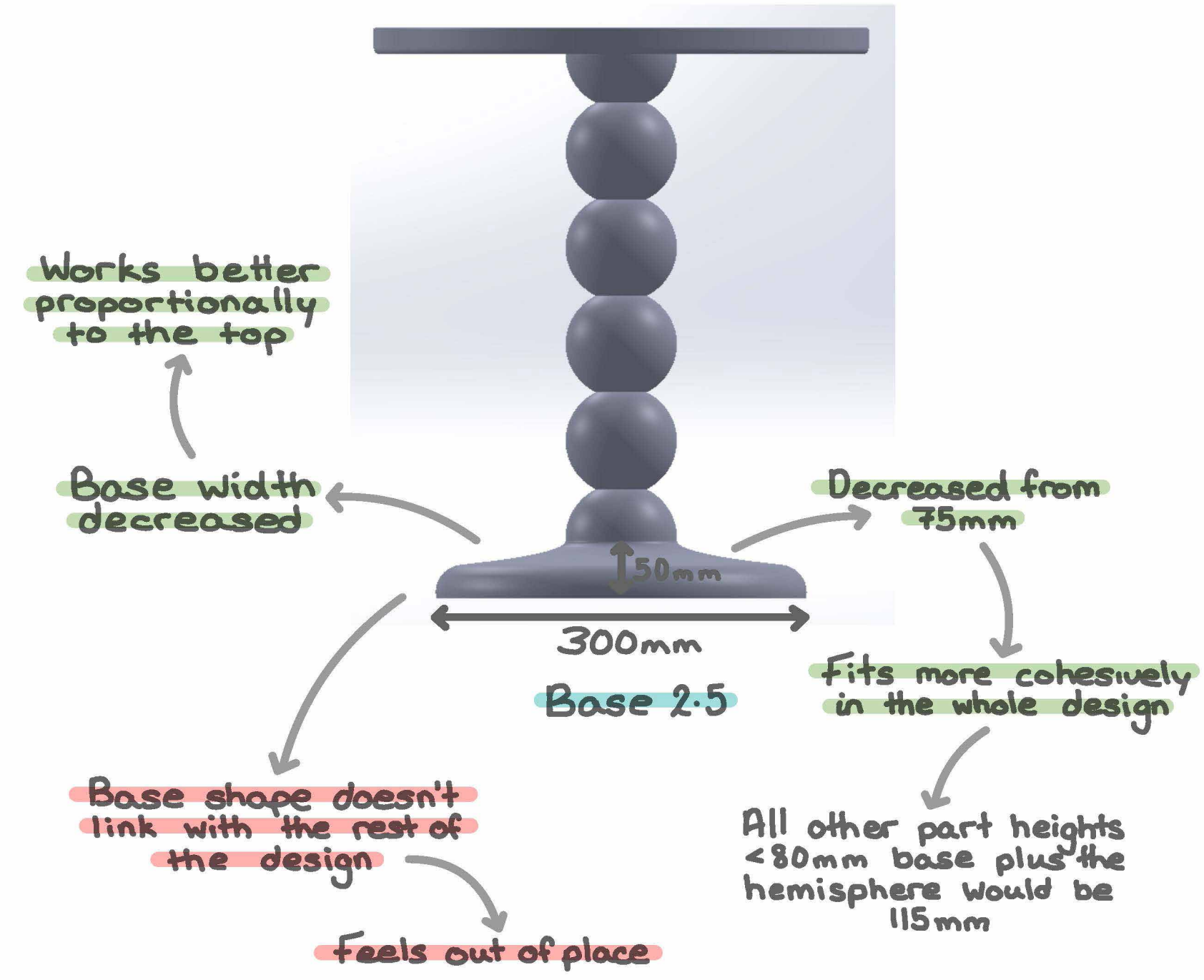
4th November - 10th November



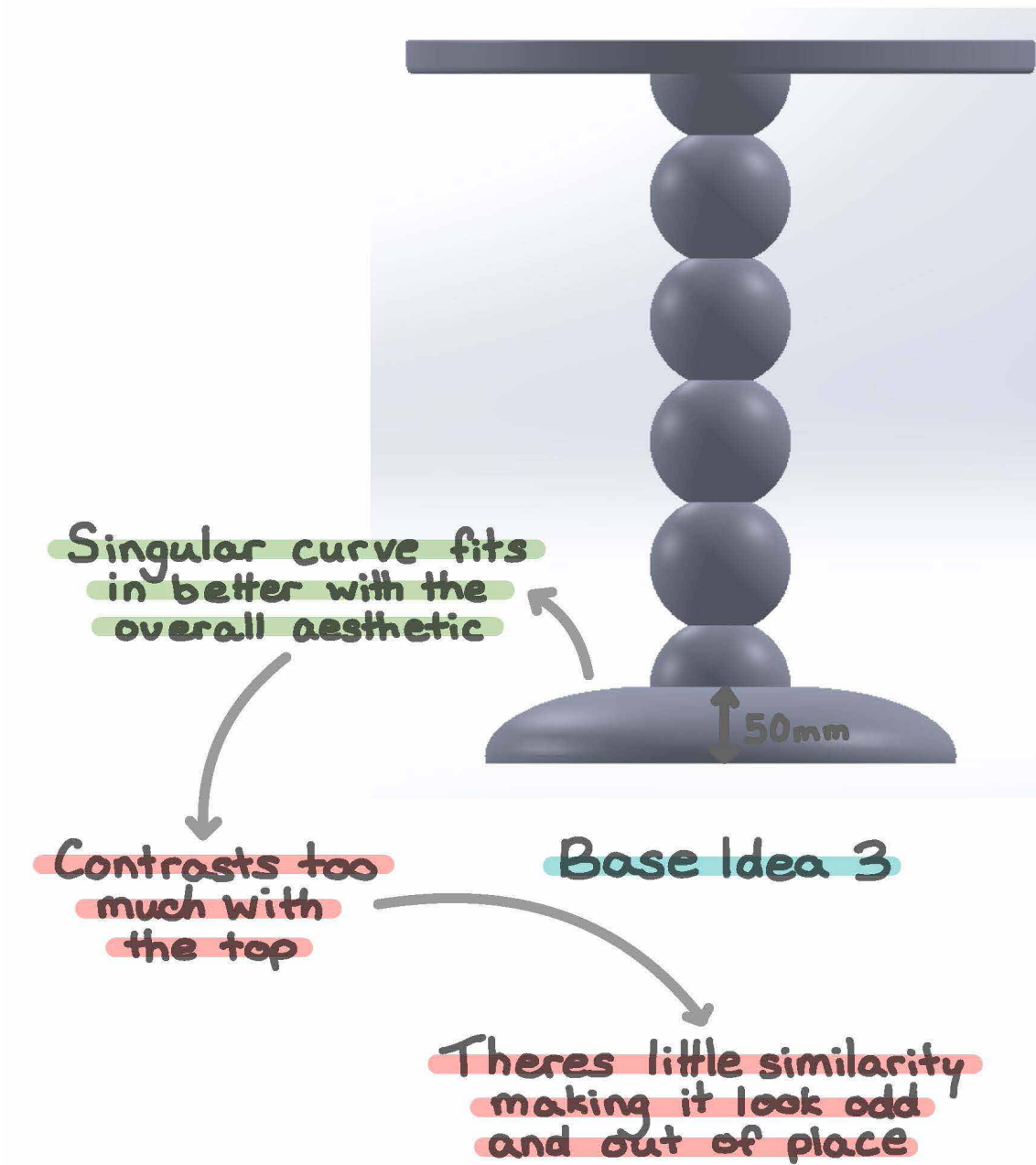
Assembly 3



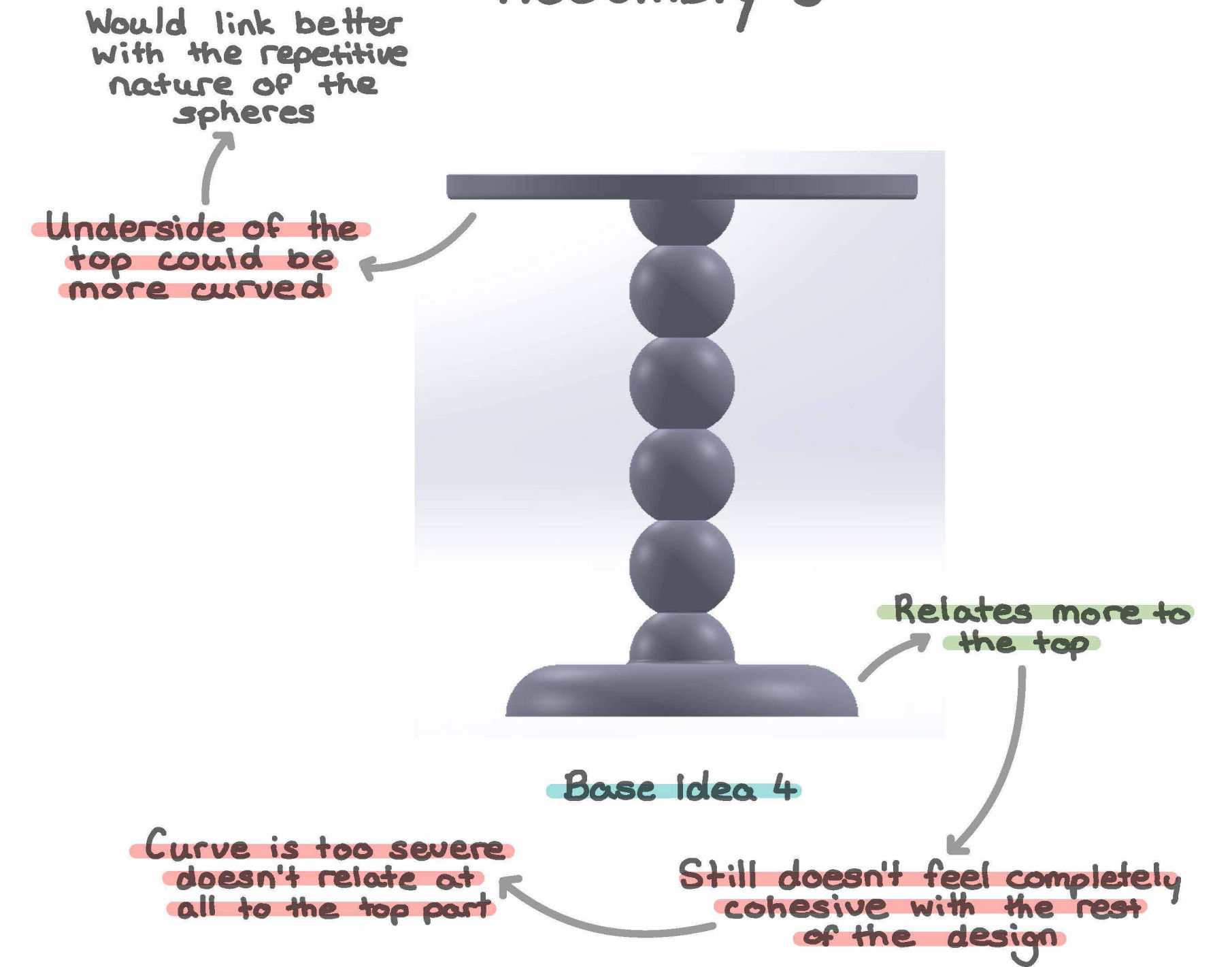
Assembly 4



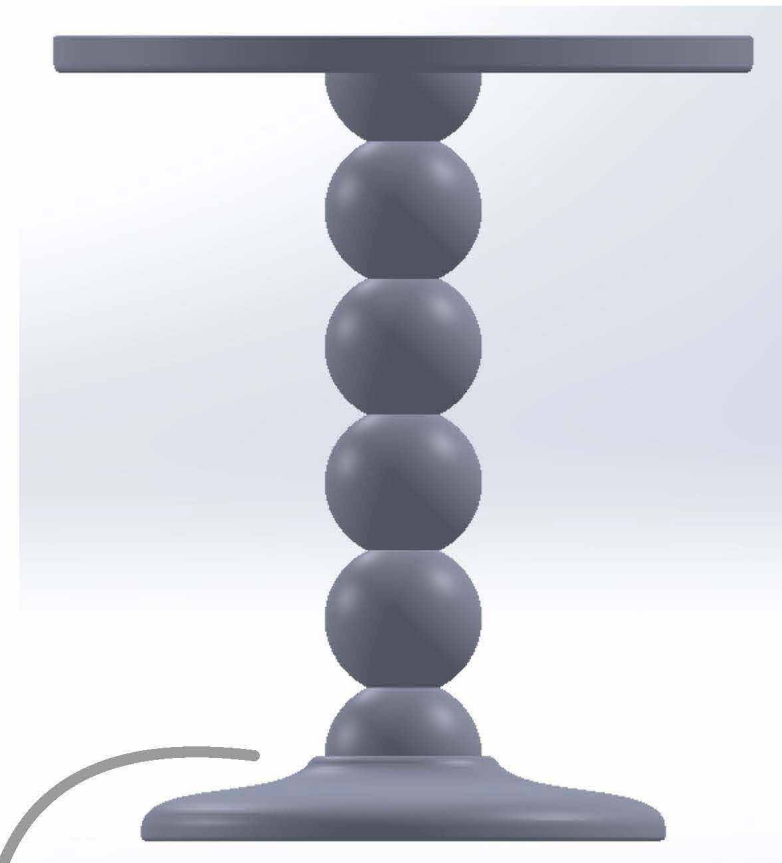
Assembly 5



Assembly 6



Assembly 7

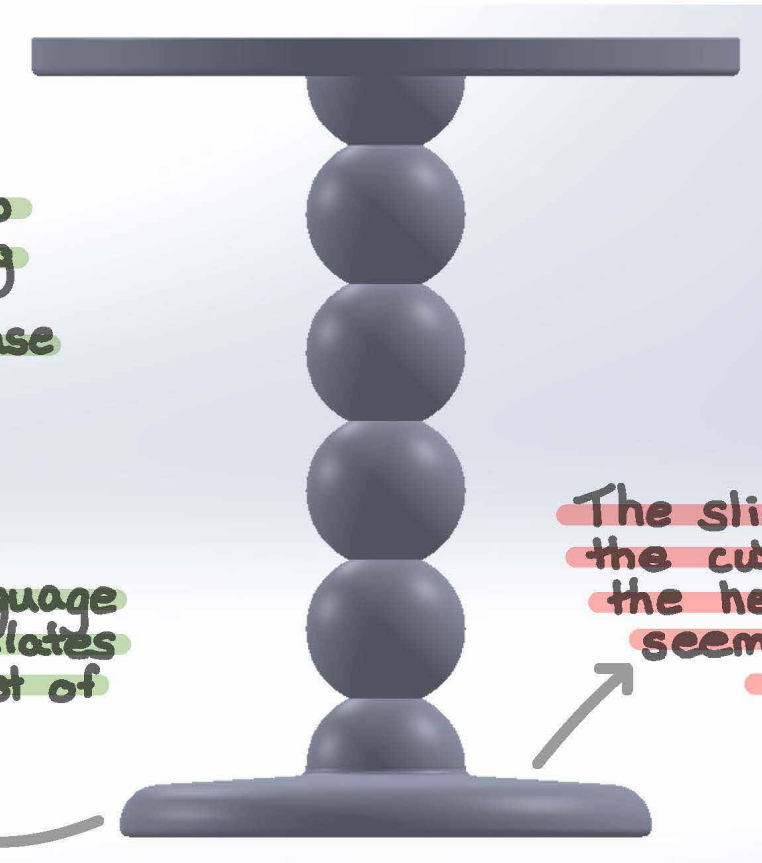


Base Idea 5

It's like the original base but with an added lip between the base and the hemisphere

Doesn't flow with the rest of the design

Assembly 8.1



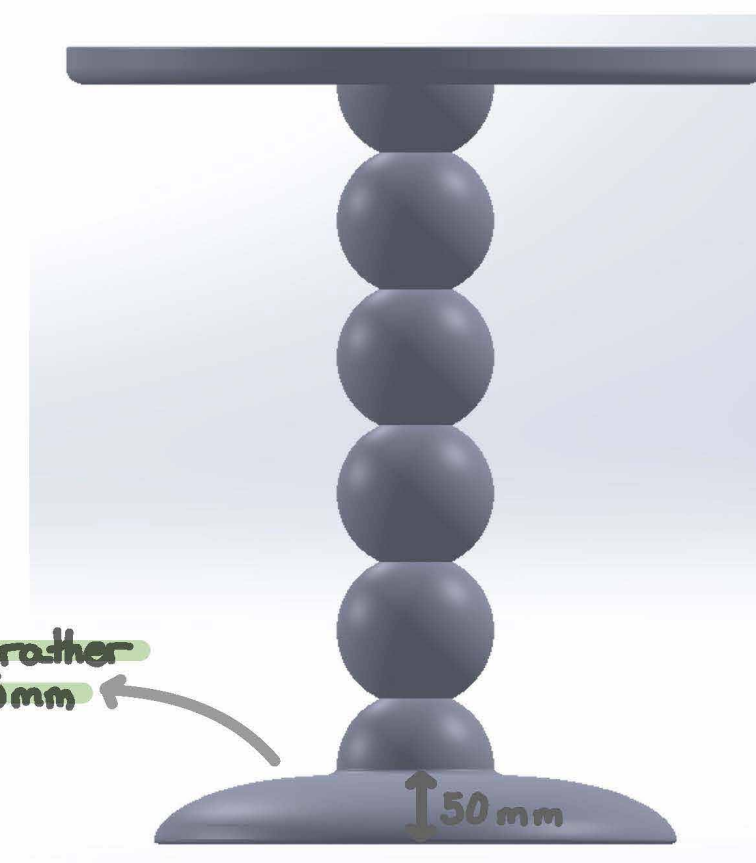
Base Idea 6

It mirrors the top whilst still looking stable and solid enough to be the base

The design language of the base relates nicely to the rest of the design

The slight angle from the curved edge to the hemisphere still seems a little out of place

Assembly 9



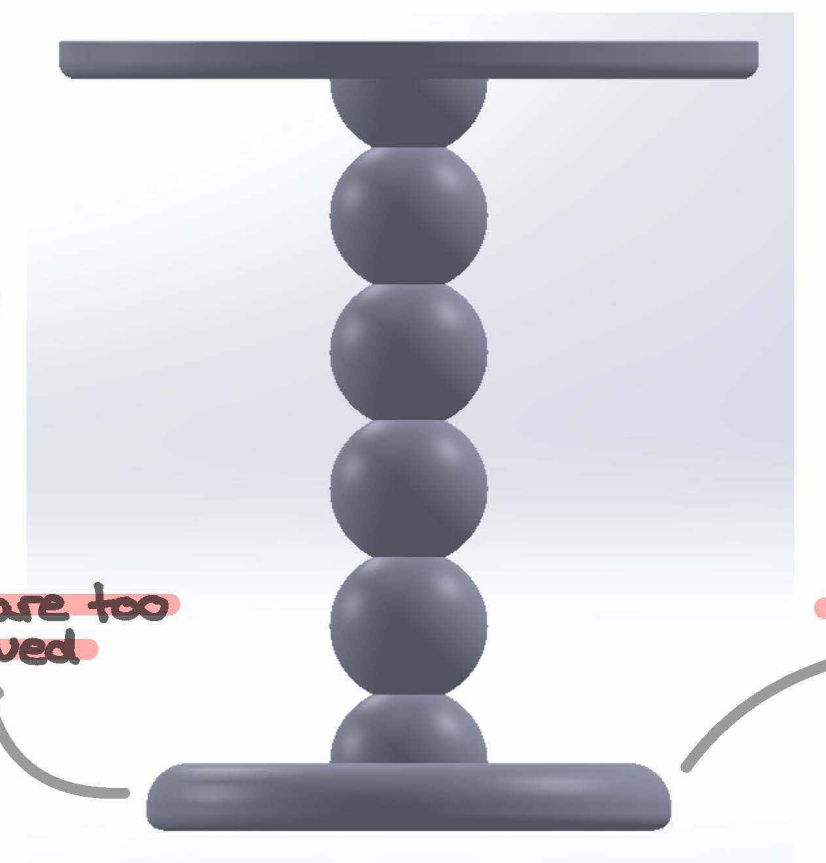
Base Idea 7

Only 50mm rather than 75mm

Shape still contrasts too much with the top

Looks bulky in contrast with the uniform nature of the whole design

Assembly 10



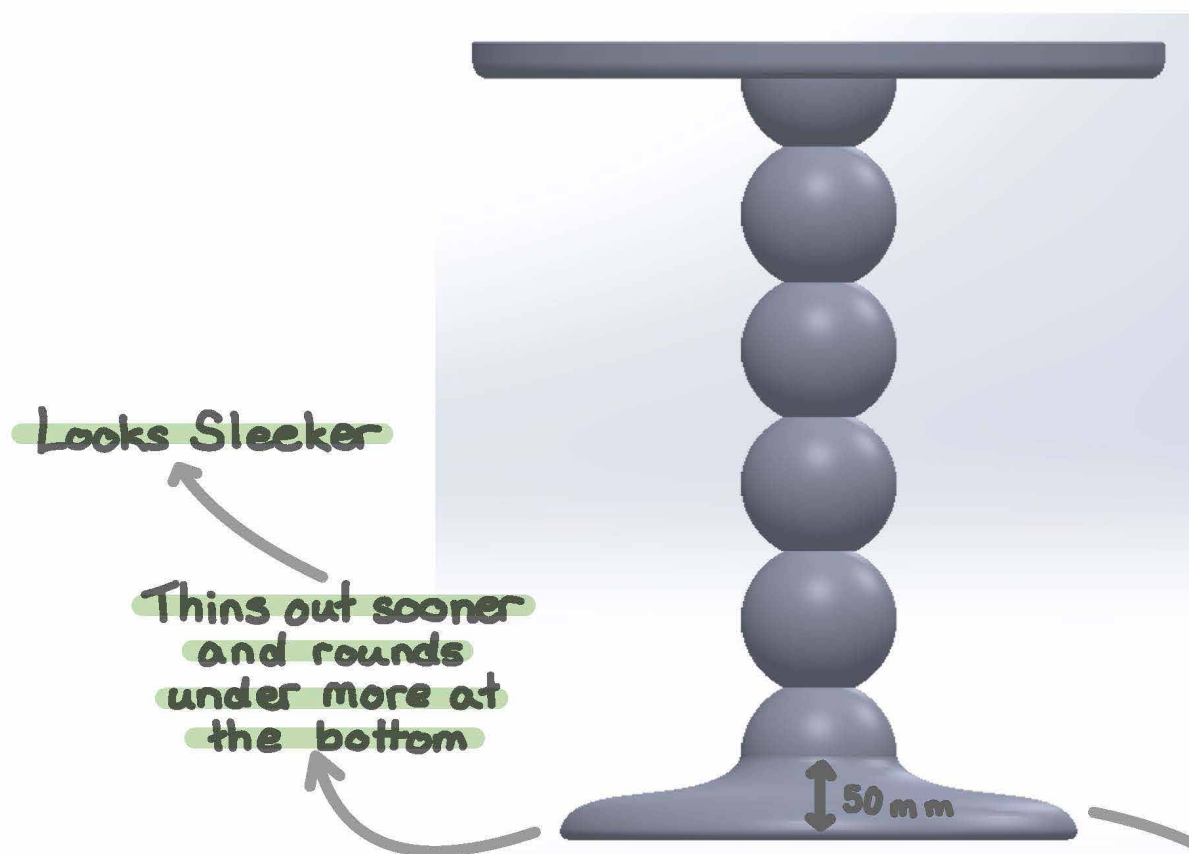
Base Idea 8

Looks very thick and out of place with the design's aesthetics

Edges are too curved

Reminds me of a doughnut

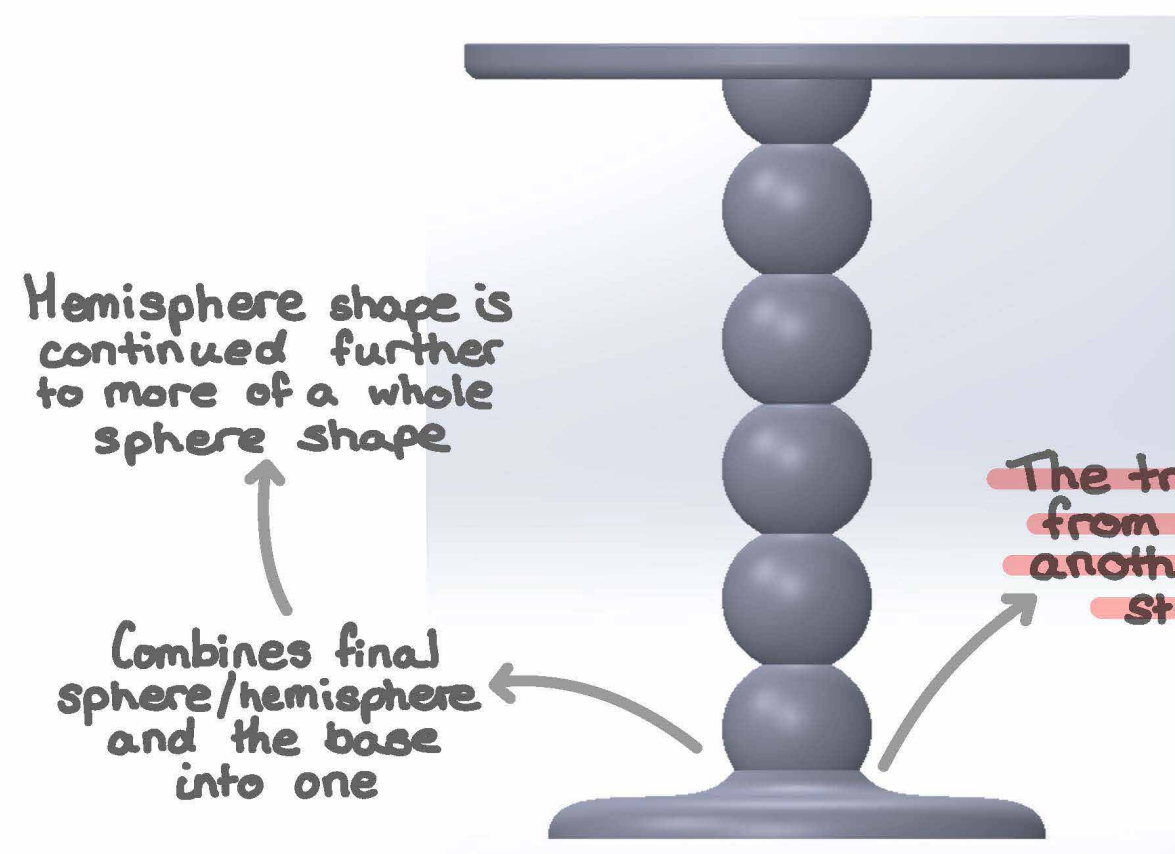
Assembly 11



Similar to original base

Shape still feels separate from the designs overall aesthetic

Assembly 12



Base Idea 10

Base shape still doesn't feel cohesive with the rest of the design

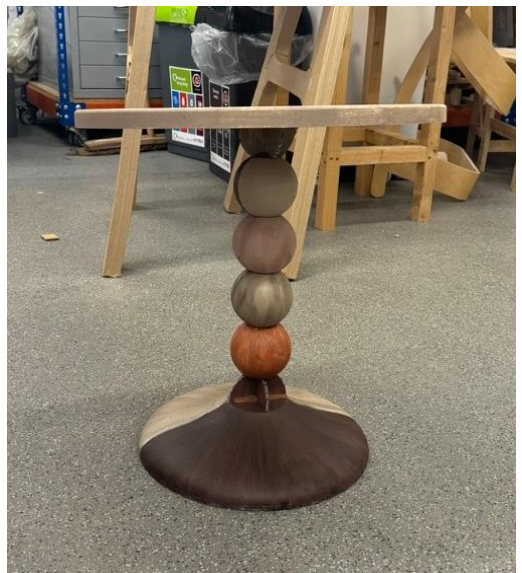
Final Parts List

Part	Quantity	Material	Height (mm)	Length (mm)	Width (mm)
Top	1	Ash	25	400	400
Base	1	Walnut	50	300	300
Half Sphere 1	1	Ash	40	90	90
Half Sphere 2	1	Walnut	40	90	90
Sphere 1	1	Cherry	80	90	90
Sphere 2	1	Oak	80	90	90
Sphere 3	1	Red Oak	80	90	90
Sphere 4	1	Maple	80	90	90
Sphere 5	1		80	90	90

I drove to Benchmark near Newbury to pick up my timber as they'd kindly offered to provide me and Paddy with the timber we required for our projects. Before I went to benchmark I hadn't made a final decision on the wood type for the fifth sphere.

Whilst I was there I had the chance to talk about my design with Wesley Cripps their design manager. I asked for his opinion on what wood would be a good fit for my fifth sphere, he told me about some brown oak they had for a project and that it would probably fit nicely with my design and the other timbers I had chosen.

As Benchmark was providing me with all the timber I wanted to ensure that I was using timber they could easily procure but that still fit within my design and the brief.



Gifted Benchmark Materials

Ash 1	1073 × 184 × 31	× 6	
Ash 2	821 × 100 × 71		
Walnut 1	1090 × 115 × 44	× 3	
Walnut 2	1044 × 100 × 48	× 2	
Brown Oak	807 × 109 × 52		
Oak	801 × 158 × 45	× 2	
Cherry	854 × 100 × 47	× 3	
Maple	1055 × 100 × 70		
Red Oak	1085 × 100 × 47	× 2	

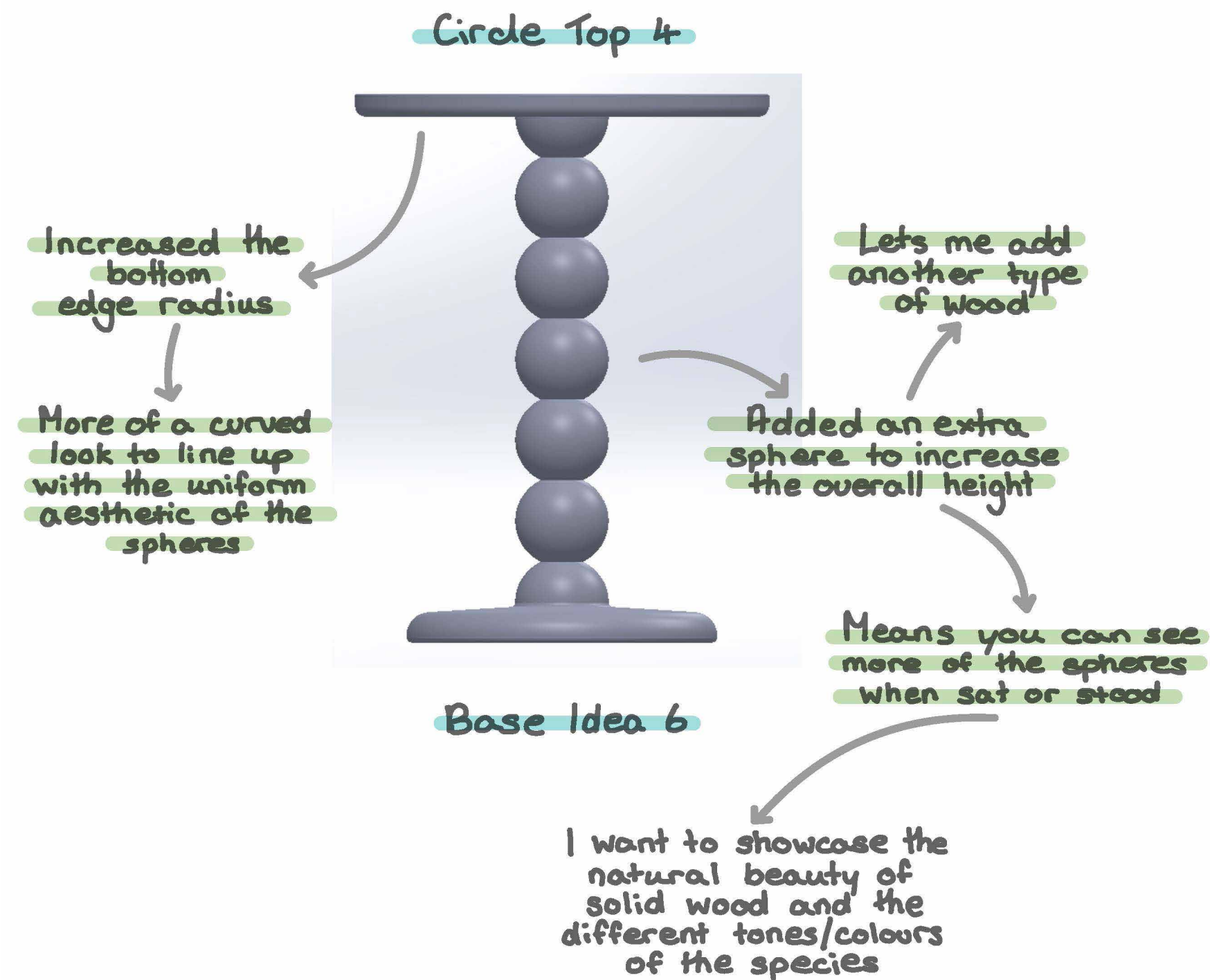


Timber Plan

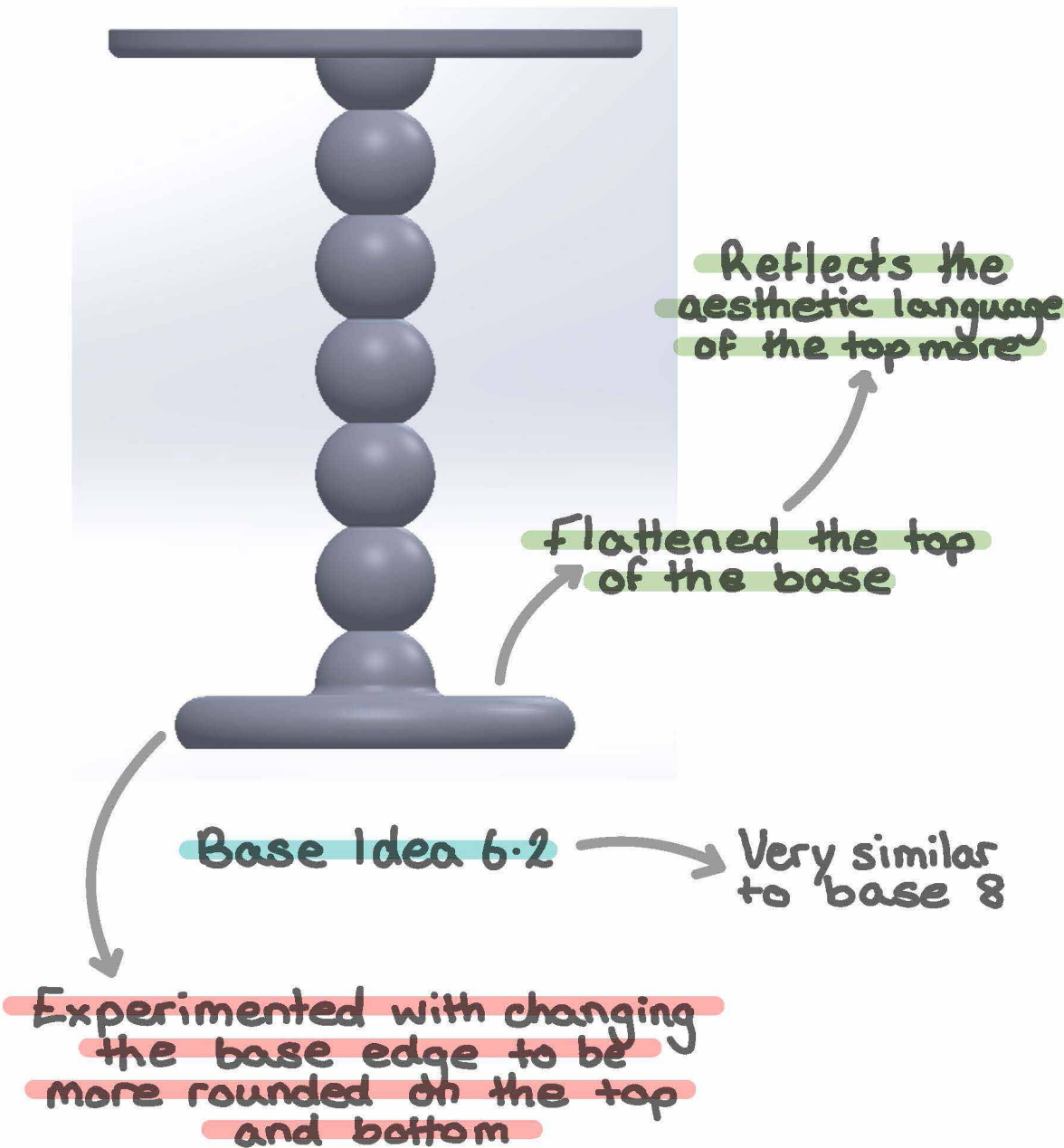
- Top - Ash
- Top Half Sphere - Ash
- Sphere 1 - Maple
- Sphere 2 - Cherry
- Sphere 3 - Red Oak
- Sphere 4 - Oak
- Sphere 5 - Brown Oak
- Bottom Half Sphere - Walnut
- Base - Walnut

Final Design Refinements

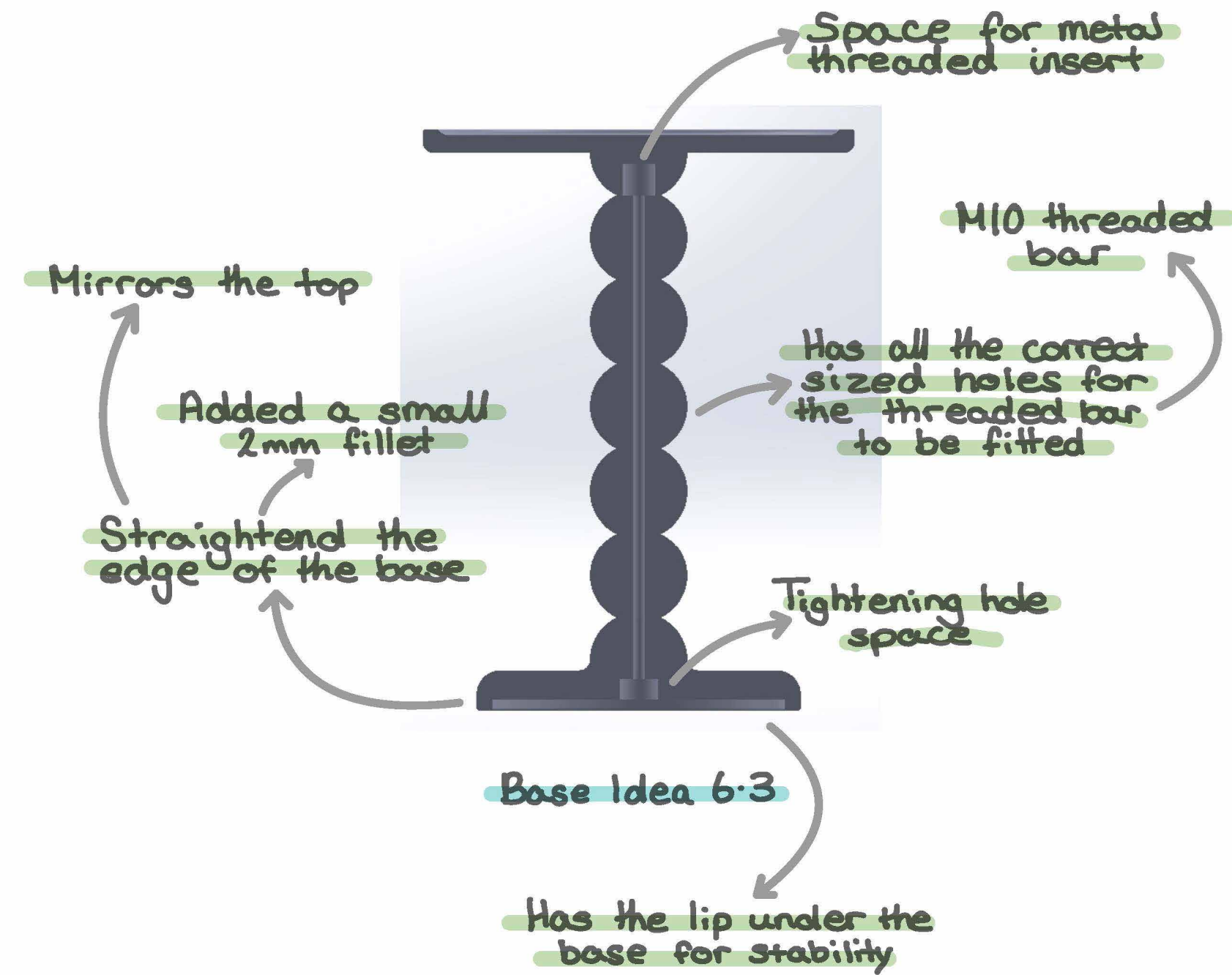
Assembly 8.2



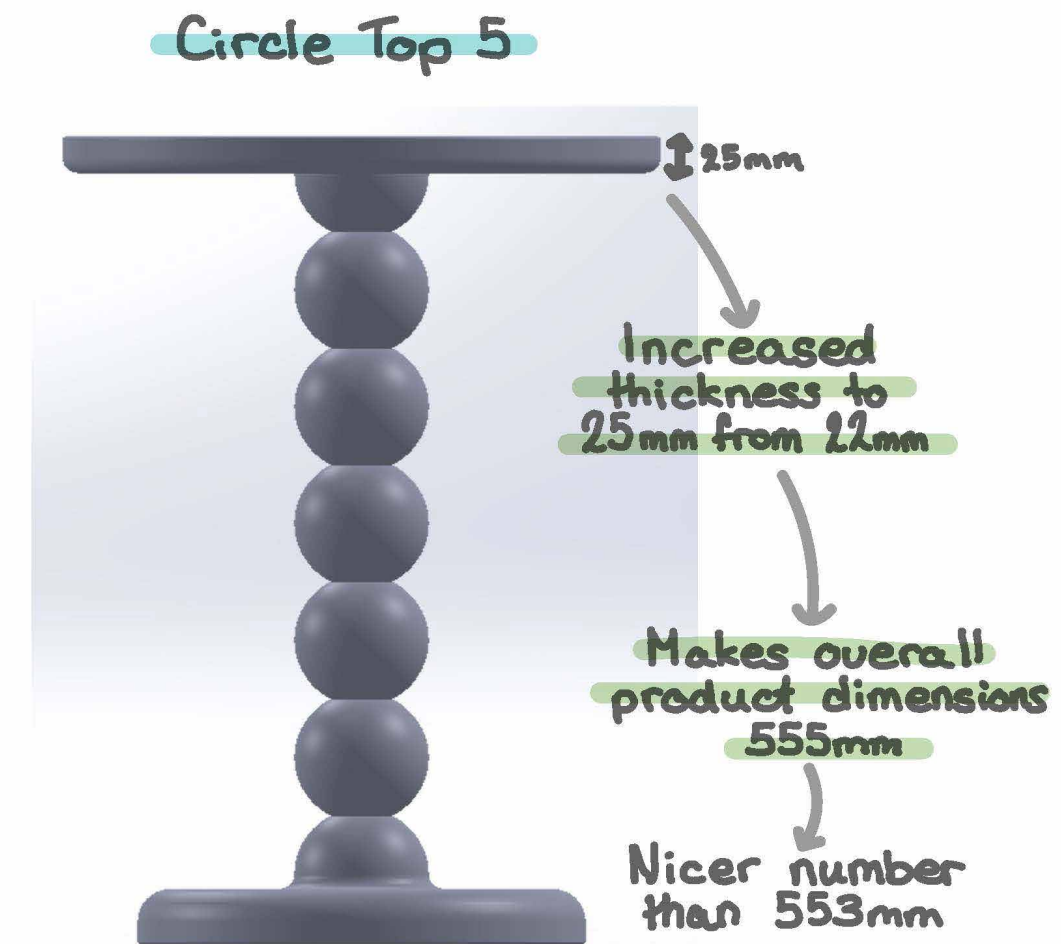
Assembly 8.3



Assembly 8.4



Assembly 8.5



Looks sort of like a mountain range

Choosing which ash pieces to glue together for a nice grain on the tabletop

These pieces looked the best next to each other

When choosing the grains I forgot to check the end grain directions so they weren't alternating



The darker grains all seemed to be on the same sides so it was hard to find pieces that looked nice next to each other whilst alternating the end grains

I'm using more of the middle of the boards as these have the nicest grain patterns



3 planks Glued

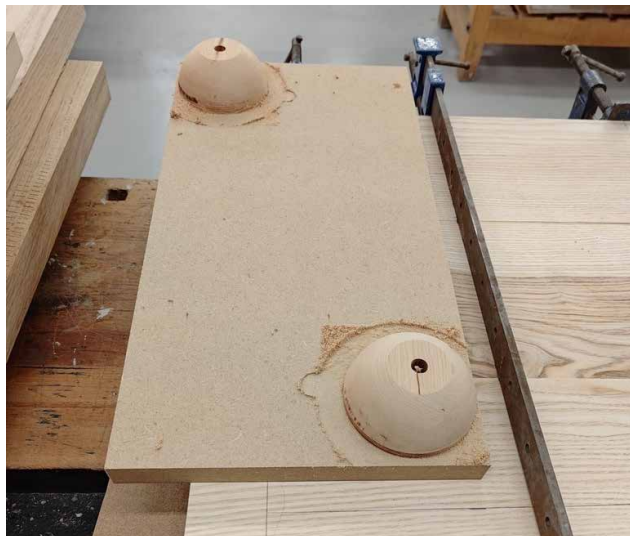


Week 8

11th November - 17th November

<div>Week 8</div> <div>Week 9</div>	✓ Week 8 and 9 Time Plan
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Add research from Miro into Process Doc
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Add initial ideas and cardboard Models into Process Doc
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Get rest of CNC'd parts, Glue and Sand them
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Test out oil samples
<div>Hopefully</div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil final prototype
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Fit Metal insert and threaded bar
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Render CAD Models
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> ↪ With different wood options
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos of final Model
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Sales Board
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing Methods
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Costings
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tech Pack
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Future changes/Improvements
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gantt chart → Analysis of time Management
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Think of Name

Spheres



The hemispheres in my design were able to be CNC'd in one go.

To make one sphere in the CNC they had to be done in two halves.
The wood was attached to MDF to prevent any sliding around while being CNC'd



The hemispheres had to be glued together to form the spheres in my design, it was quite difficult to glue the pieces together as they kept slipping when I tried to line the glued halves together to clamp them. With hindsight I should have made a jig to hold the pieces together whilst they were clamped and glued.
This problem would not occur in normal production as the pieces are designed to be wood turned. Turning the wood wasn't feasible with the university workshop and technician limitations; the technician that is able to wood turn wasn't comfortable with turning pieces that had been glued together out of multiple pieces of wood.

The spheres and hemispheres all required sanding for finishing, their spherical shape made them difficult to hold and sand. The spheres required significant finishing as the halves had slipped slightly during clamping and some glue had seeped out.

Threaded Insert



To attach all of the parts together I have an M10 threaded bar running throughout the middle. The most secure way to attach the bar was with a custom threaded insert in the top hemisphere, the hemisphere is then glued to the table top.

Base



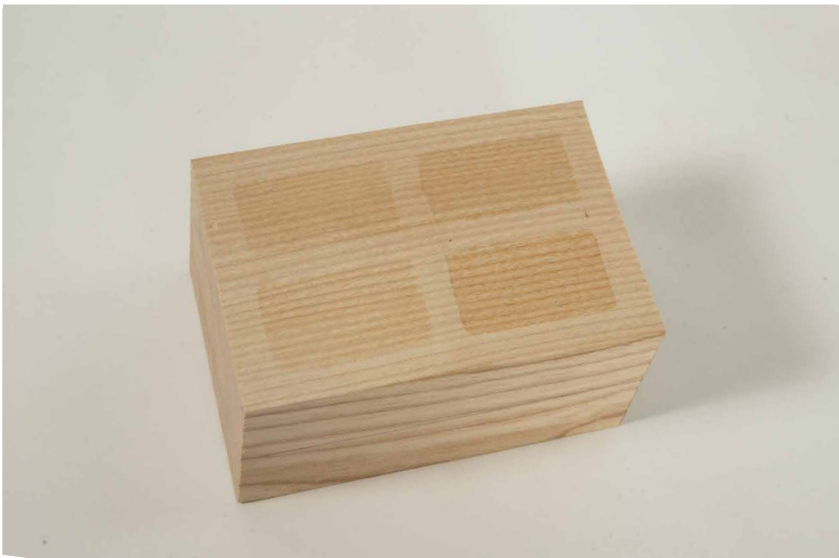
To get the right size for my base I had to glue four pieces of 100mm wide wood together for the right overall width, whilst three pieces may have been sufficient as my base is only 300mm wide I needed to leave a margin for the CNC cutter.
After it came out of the CNC I had to do a fair amount of sanding to get a smooth surface to oil, the CNC had also singed some parts of the wood and you could see a number of blade marks.

Top and Hemisphere



The best way to glue the hemisphere to the table top would have been with custom made jig sized to hold the hemisphere held the hemisphere in place whilst being glued and clamped, to keep everything central and prevent any slipping.
For my prototype I didn't make this jig as it would need to be CNC'd and with other students needing things for their projects time and resources were limited. I therefore completed the process manually, finding the centre of the table top and placing small markers to try and ensure everything

Osmo Top Oil Samples



Top Left - Satin
Top Right - White
Bottom Left - Matt
Bottom Right - Natural



Both the natural and white left a small white milky sheen on some parts of the darker woods (Brown Oak, Walnut)

Oiling Final Prototype



I decided to use Osmo Clear Satin Top Oil on my final prototype. It gives the wood a slight shine and doesn't have any white pigment unlike some of the other oils which would work nicely on the lighter woods but could give a strange milky film on the darker woods such as the Walnut and Brown Oak.

Product Name Idea

Benchmark often names it products after people that they know/mean a lot to them. Such as: Eleanor Side Table, Jack Dining Table and Victoria Bench.
When thinking of a name for my side table I remembered my first childhood pets, my family's cats Freddie and Charlie. They were a big part of my family and life before they passed away aged 18 and 19.
Freddie was a Calico cat, mostly white with black and brown patches all over. My side table with it's multiple colours from the different woods reminded me of Freddie's distinctive colouring.



Freddie Side Table

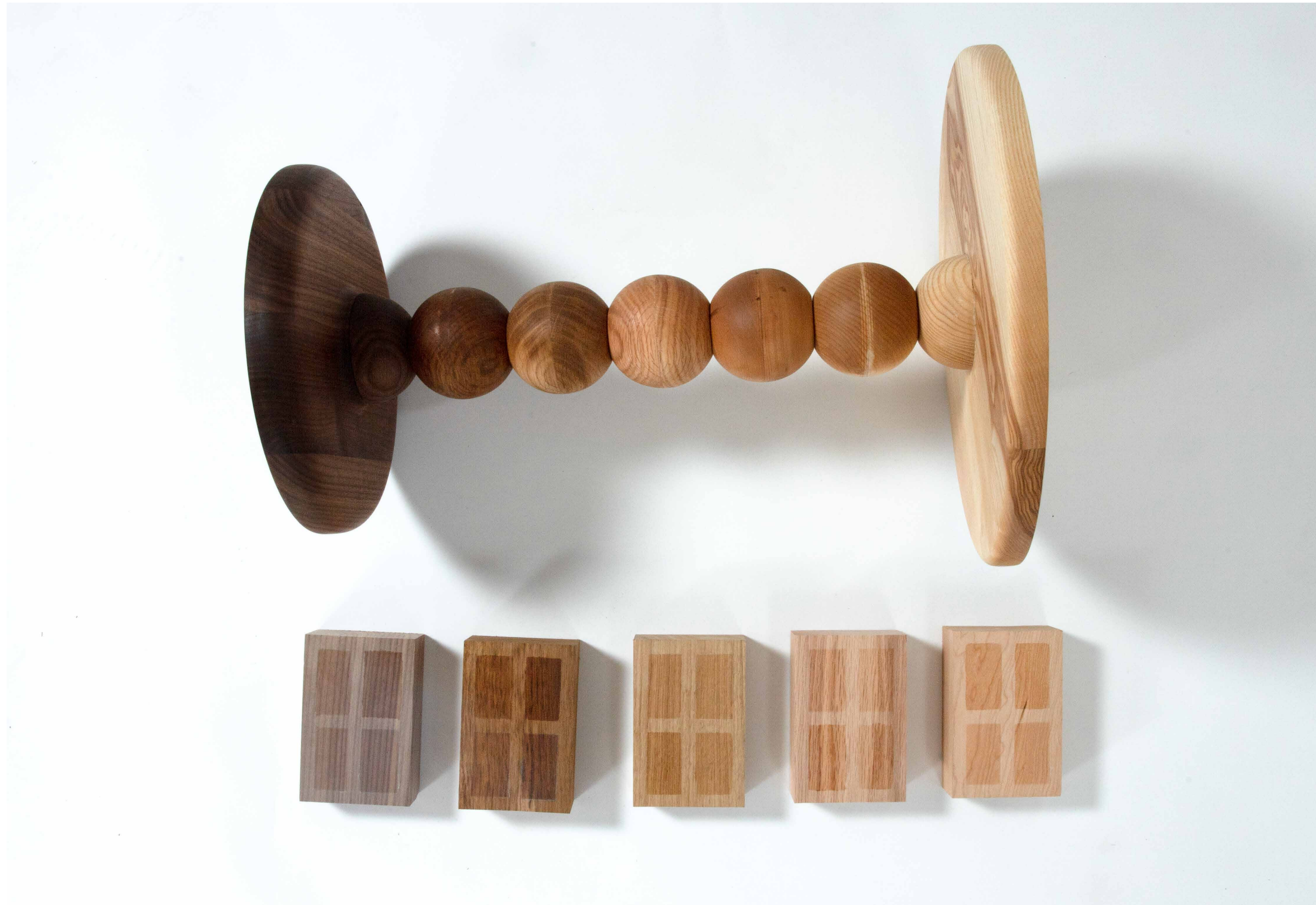
<div>Week 8</div> <div>Week 9</div>	✓ Week 8 and 9 Time Plan	End of Week 8
<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Add research from Miro into Process Doc	
<div></div> <div></div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Add initial ideas and cardboard Models into Process Doc	
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<div></div> <div></div>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gantt chart → Analysis of time Management	
<div></div> <div></div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Think of Name	

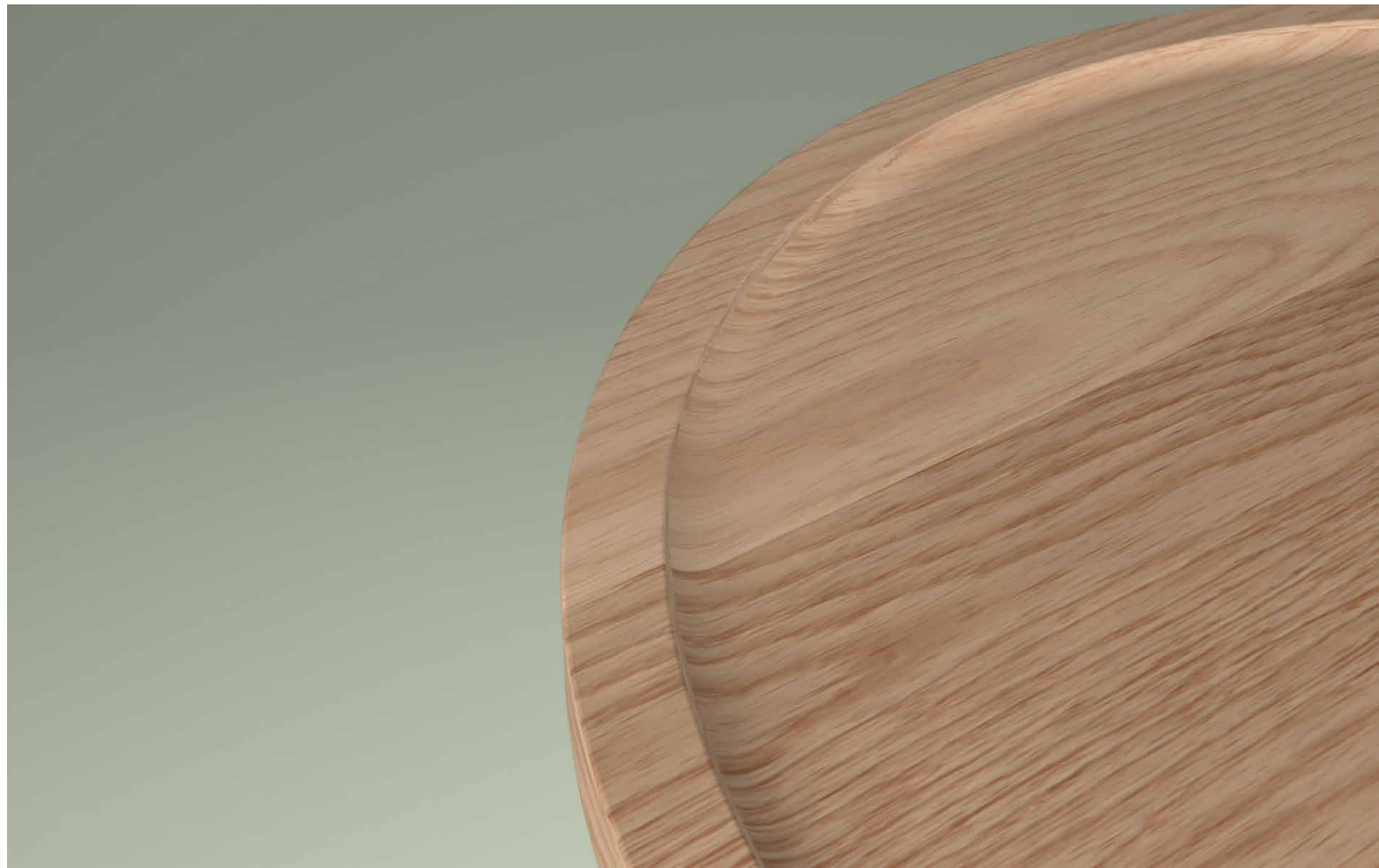
Week 9

18th November - 24th November

🕒	✓ Week 9 To-Do List
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▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Render CAD Models
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> ↪ With different wood options
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Photos of final model
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Benchmark Website
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing Methods
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Costings
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Tech Pack
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Future changes/improvements
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Gantt chart → Analysis of time Management
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation
▬	<input type="checkbox"/> Presentation







Industry Manufacture

Top

To manufacture the table top, firstly the wood would need to be glued and clamped together to get the overall width required for the top plus some extra for the CNC cutting edge. Once the glue has cured it needs to be planed flat for best results in the CNC. The CNC is necessary to make the indent in the top and curve the edges.

Base

For the base manufacture, three pieces of 125mm width wood will need to be glued and clamped together. After being glued it will need to be planed flat before getting CNC'd into the base shape.

Spheres & Hemispheres

Before gluing two 50mm pieces of wood together I would cut out half the hole for the threaded bar so that once the pieces are glued together the threaded bar hole would already be prepared. The spheres would be wood turned using a sphere jig. Turning shows off the wood grain the best and gives the smoothest results. Whilst on the lathe the spheres and hemispheres would be cut into shape, sanded and oiled all in one go.

Threaded Insert

In batch production the insert would be turned on the centre lathe out of 30mm solid round bar. A small amount of texture would be added to the bottom edge for some friction when it's slid into the wooden hemisphere. On the top side a threaded insert would be cut out of the middle 20 mm deep.



Costings

For a batch of 10 :
(Measurements in mm)
Ash - 32 x 150 x 5,000 - £1250 per M3
Ash - 50 x 100 x 1000 - £1450 per M3
*Maple - 50 x 100 x 2000 - £1300 per M3
Cherry - 50 x 100 x 2000 - £1350 per M3
*Red Oak - 50 x 100 x 2000 £1150 per M3
Oak - 50 x 100 x 2000 £2495 per M3
*Brown Oak - 50 x 100 x 2000 £2895 per M3
Walnut - 50 x 100 x 1000 £3800 per M3
Walnut - 64 x 125 x 4000 £4200 per M3

Workings for Wood Prices

Ash Top - £1250 per m3

32 x 150 x 5000 (mm)
0.032 x 0.15 x 5 (m)
= 0.024 m3

1250 x 0.024 = 30

£30

Ash Hemisphere - £1450 per m3

50 x 100 x 1000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 1 (m)
= 0.005 m3

1450 x 0.005 = 7.25

£7.25

Maple Sphere - £1300 per m3

50 x 100 x 2000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 2 (m)
= 0.01 m3

1300 x 0.01 = 13

£13

Cherry Sphere - £1350 per m3

50 x 100 x 2000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 2 (m)
= 0.01 m3

1350 x 0.01 = 13.50

£13.50

Red Oak Sphere - £1150 per m3

50 x 100 x 2000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 2 (m)
= 0.01 m3

1150 x 0.01 = 11.50

£11.50

Oak Sphere - £2495 per m3

50 x 100 x 2000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 2 (m)
= 0.01 m3

2495 x 0.01 = 24.95

£24.95

Brown Oak Sphere - £2895 per m3

50 x 100 x 2000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 2 (m)
= 0.01 m3

2895 x 0.01 = 28.95

£28.95

Walnut Hemisphere - £3800 per m3

50 x 100 x 1000 (mm)
0.05 x 0.1 x 1 (m)
= 0.005 m3

3800 x 0.005 = 19

£19

Walnut Base - £4200 per m3

64 x 125 x 4000 (mm)
0.064 x 0.125 x 4 (m)
= 0.032 m3

4200 x 0.032 = 134.4

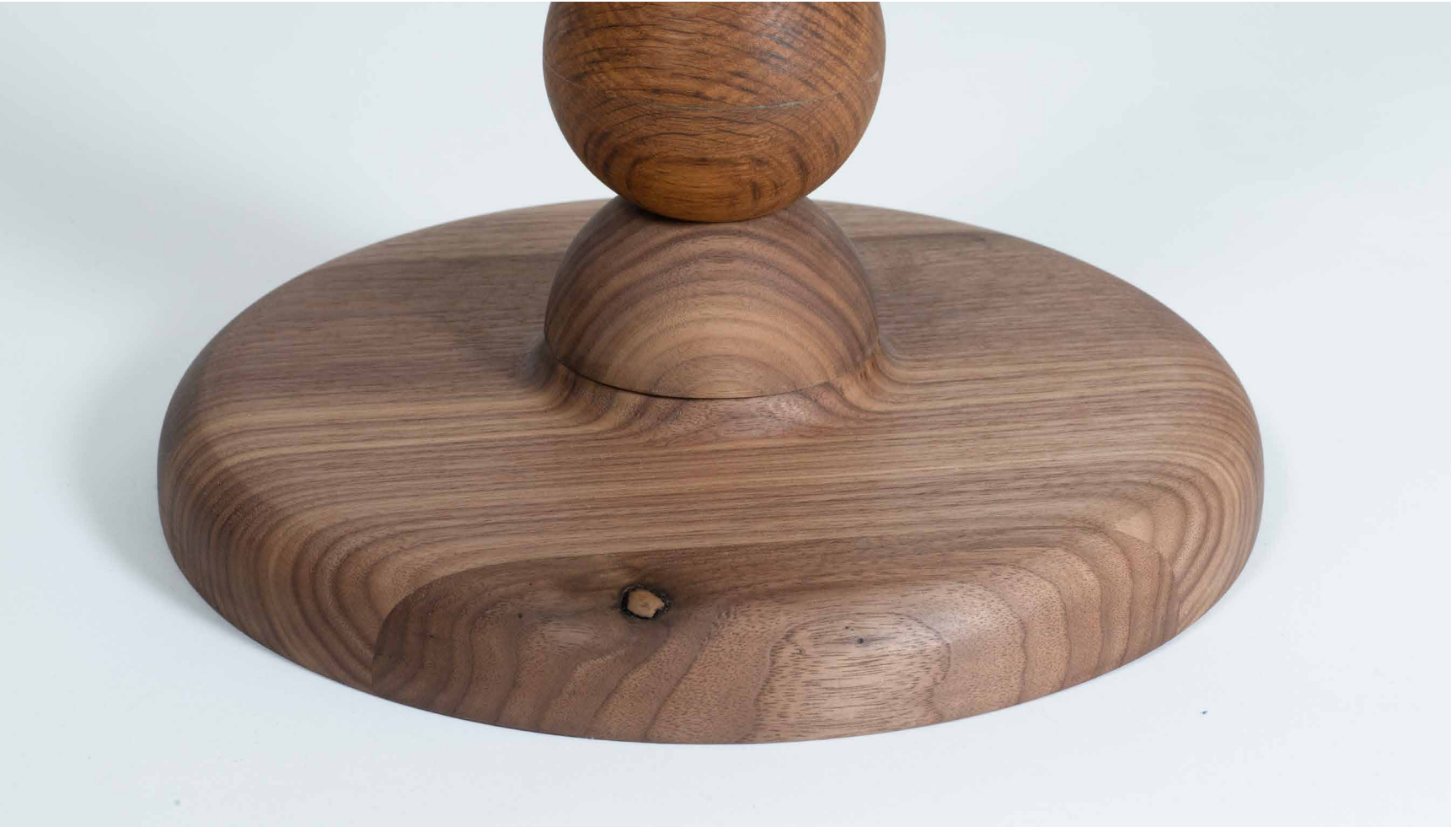
£134.40

Bill of Materials and Manufacture

- Ash to Walnut Gradient

Material & Manufacture	Part	Quantity	Source	Cost (10 Units)	Individual Cost
Top	A				
- Wood Cost (Ash)		1	Benchmark	£30.00	£3.00
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£120.00	£12.00
Top Hemisphere	B				
- Wood Cost (Ash)		1	Benchmark	£7.25	£0.73
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Spheres	D				
- Wood Cost (Maple)		1	Benchmark	£13.00	£1.30
- Wood Cost (Cherry)		1	Benchmark	£13.50	£1.35
- Wood Cost (Red Oak)		1	Benchmark	£11.50	£1.15
- Wood Cost (European Oak)		1	Benchmark	£24.95	£2.50
- Wood Cost (Brown Oak)		1	Benchmark	£28.95	£2.90
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£900.00	£90.00
Bottom Hemisphere	E				
- Wood Cost (Walnut)		1	Benchmark	£19.00	£1.90
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Base	F				
- Wood Cost (Walnut)		1	Benchmark	£134.40	£13.44
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£180.00	£18.00
Threaded Insert	C				
- Metal Cost		1	Metals4U	£4.80	£0.48
- Centre Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
- M10 Threaded Bar	G	1	Accu	£27.60	£2.76
- Hex Nut	I	1	Accu	£3.40	£0.34
- Plain Washer	H	1	Accu	£2.80	£0.28
General					
- Oil Finish				£44.80	£4.48
Genral Labour		(Hours)			
- Assembly time		0.3		£200.00	£20.00
- Gluing time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
- Sanding time		2		£1,200.00	£120.00
- Extra time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
Totals				£4,015.95	£401.60
Wholesale					£903.59

I’ve added a 125% markup between the manufacturing cost and the wholesale price. I chose 125% to bring the price of my product more in line with benchmarks other products. This markup will be primarily profit however some other costs will need to be accounted for such as marketing sales and delivery costs.





BENCHMARK

FURNITURE PROJECTS SUSTAINABILITY ABOUT US CONTACT



PRODUCT SHEET (PDF)

DESIGN FILES (2D/3D)

Freddie Side Table

DESIGNED BY MEGAN JOYCE

FROM £ 880.00

SELECT TIMBER

SELECT FINISH

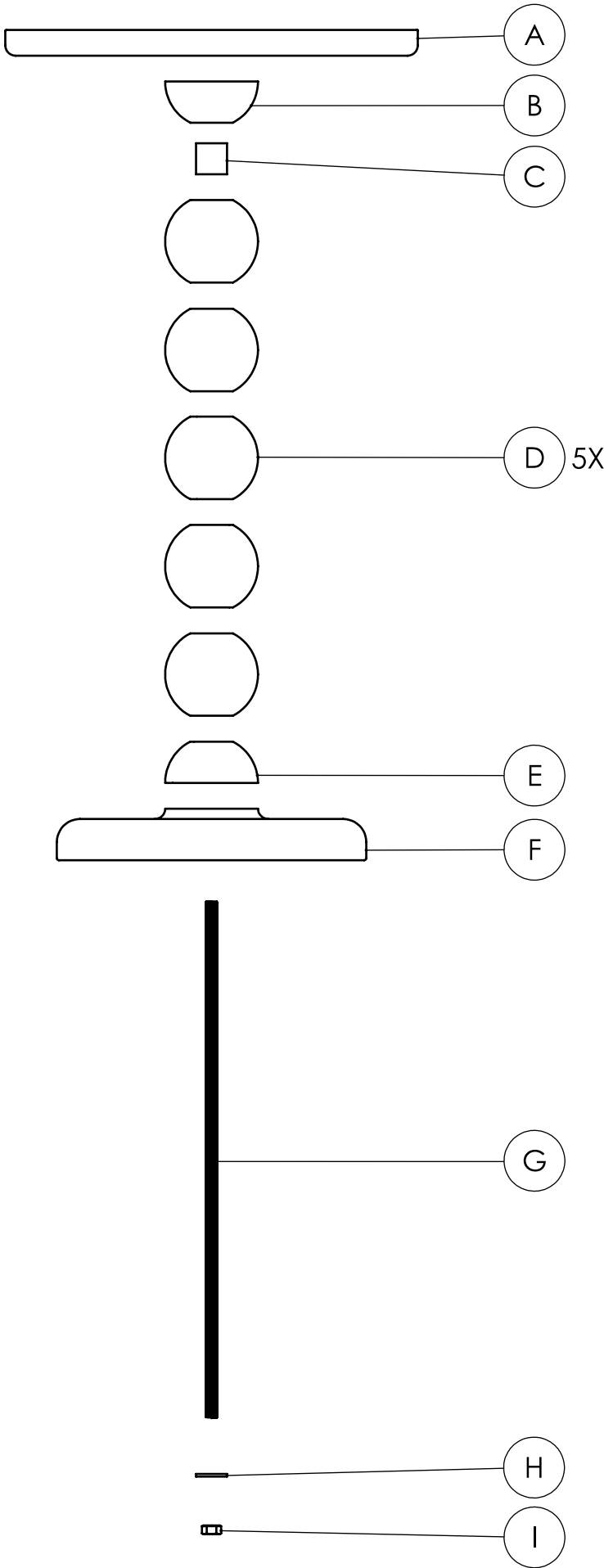
1

ADD TO BASKET

The Freddie Side Table is a collection of circular wooden tables manufactured in a variety of natural woods and constructed so as to highlight the beauty of the woods used. The tables have a turned wooden base and top with a stand formed from a selection of solid wooden spheres. The original piece in the collection has an Ash top and Walnut base connected by a column of spheres made from Maple, Cherry, Red Oak, European Oak, and Brown Oak. Also available in the collection are tables with the top and base woods reversed and single-wood versions in Ash, Oak, or Walnut. The tables are finished with a satin wood oil to complement the wood's natural grain.

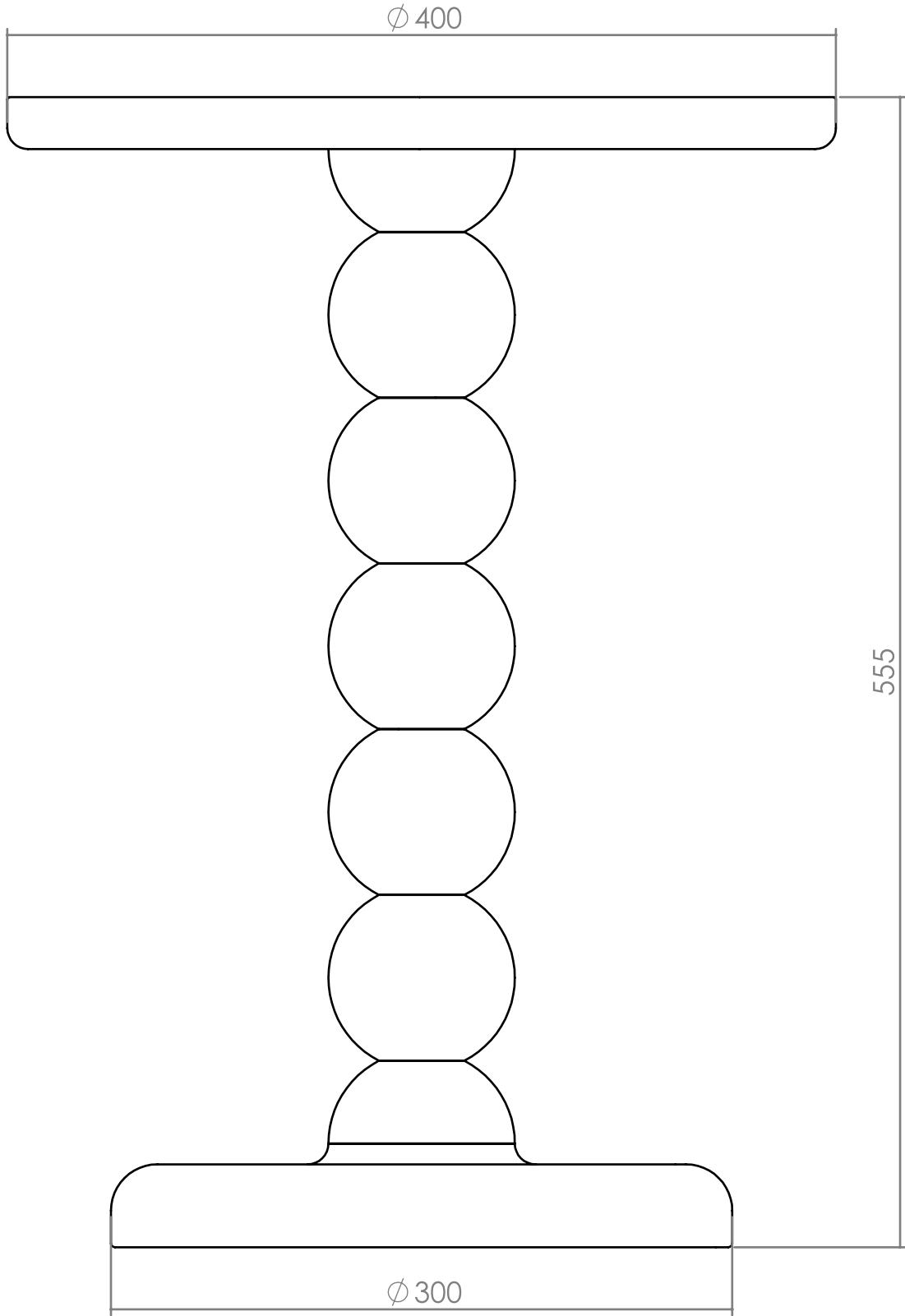
Bespoke wood options are available upon request.

DIMENSIONS
dia400 h555mm

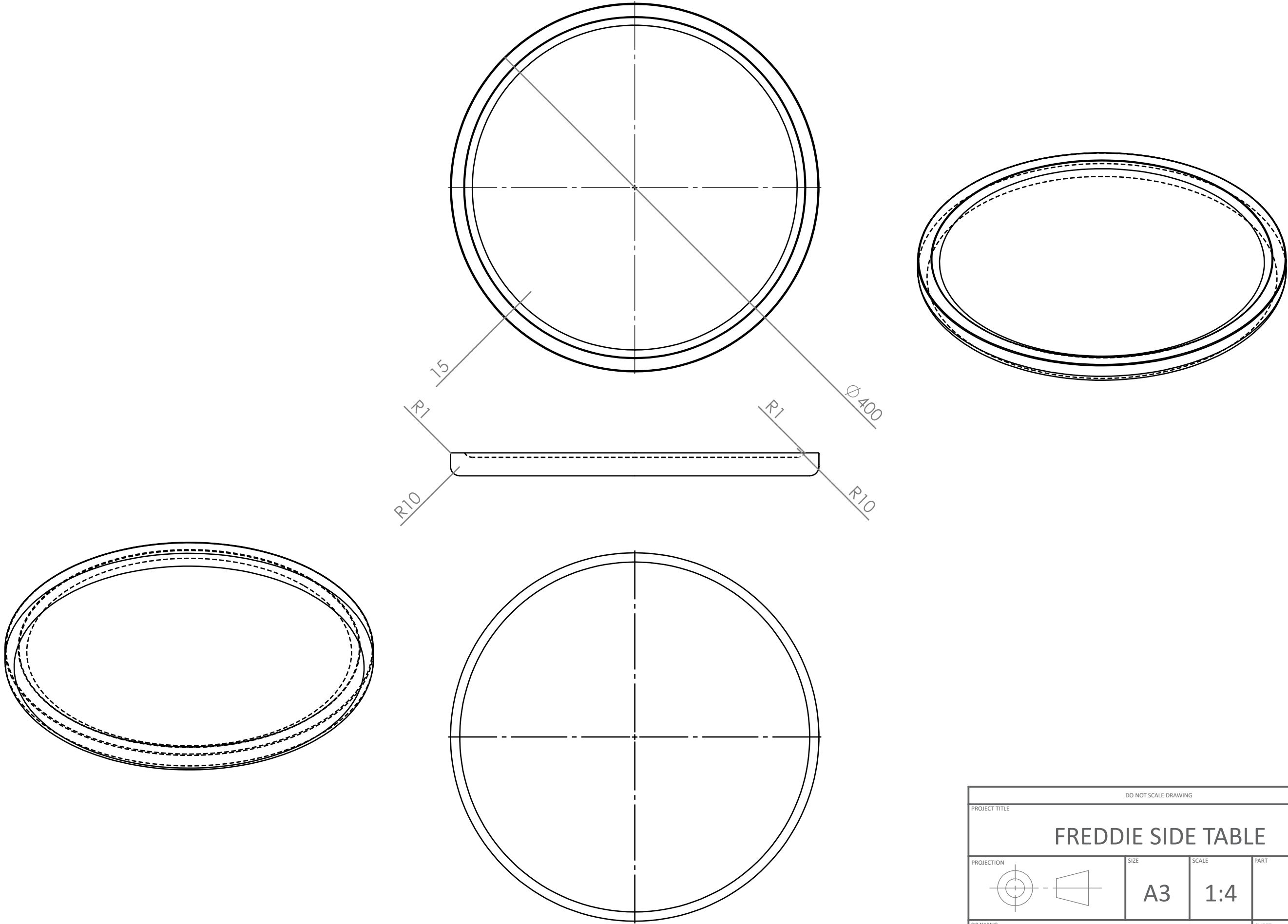


PART	NAME	MATERIAL	QTY.	DIMENSIONS
A	Circle Top	Ash, Walnut, European Oak	1	Ø 400 x 25 mm
B	Top Hemisphere	Ash, Walnut, European Oak	1	Ø 90 x 40 mm
C	Threaded Insert	Mild Steel	1	Ø 30 x 30 mm
D	Sphere	Ash, Maple, Cherry, Red Oak, European Oak, Brown Oak, Walnut	5	Ø 90 x 80 mm
E	Bottom Hemisphere	Ash, Walnut, European Oak	1	Ø 90 x 40 mm
F	Base	Ash, Walnut, European Oak	1	Ø 300 x 50 mm
G	M10 Threaded Bar	Stainless Steel	1	M10 x 500 mm
H	Plain Washer	Stainless Steel	1	M10 x 25 mm
I	M10 Hex Nut	Stainless Steel	1	M10 x 8 mm

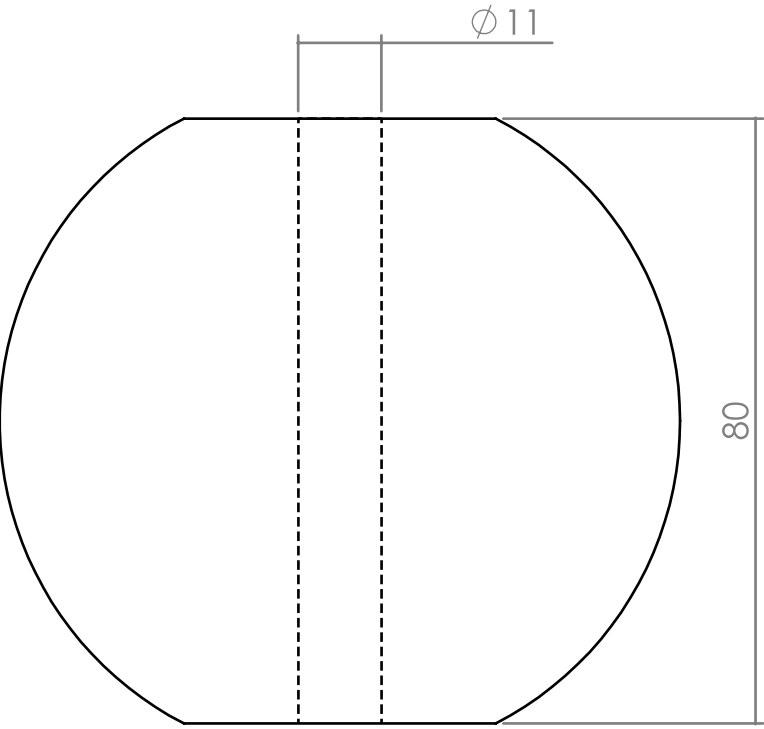
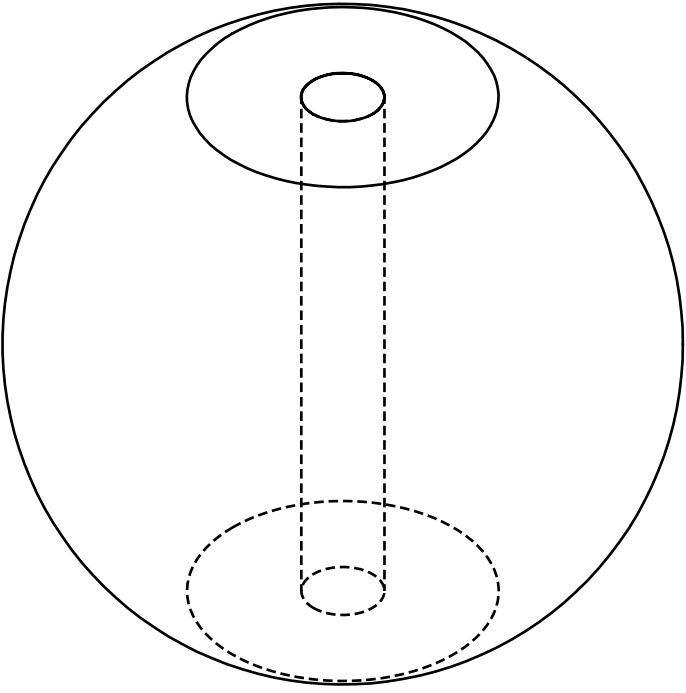
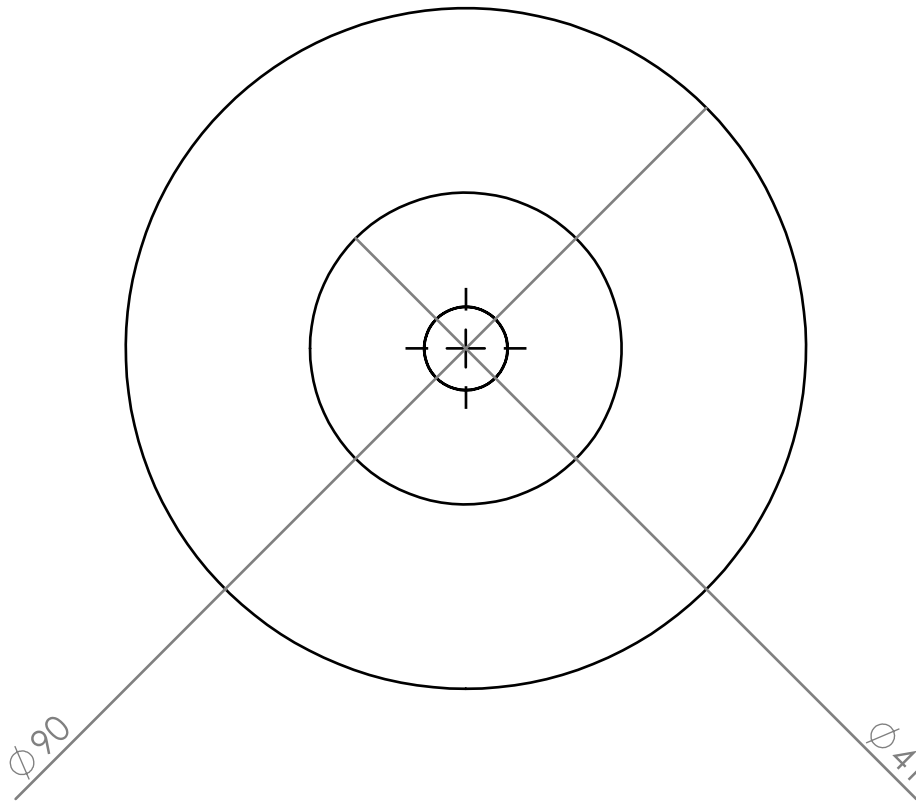
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PROJECT TITLE				
FREDDIE SIDE TABLE				
PROJECTION	SIZE	SCALE	PART	
	A3	1:6	N/A	
DRAWING				SHEET
EXPLODED VIEW				1 of 11



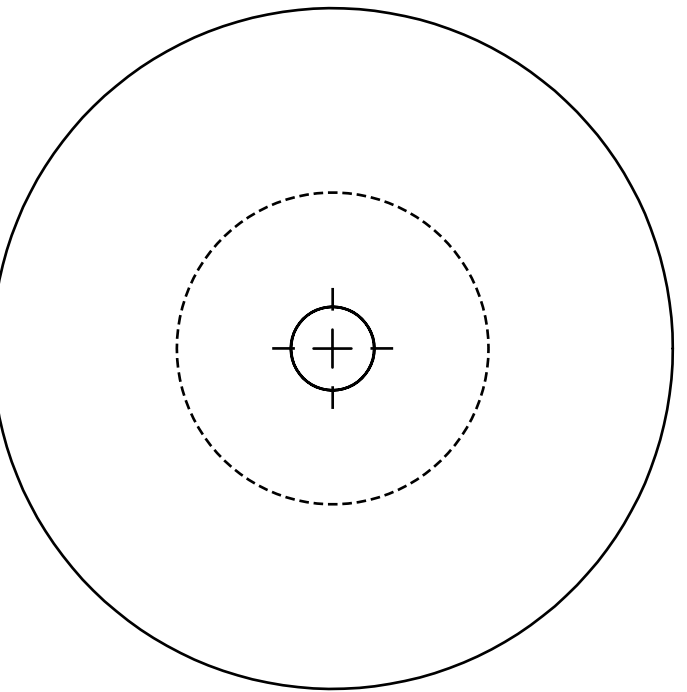
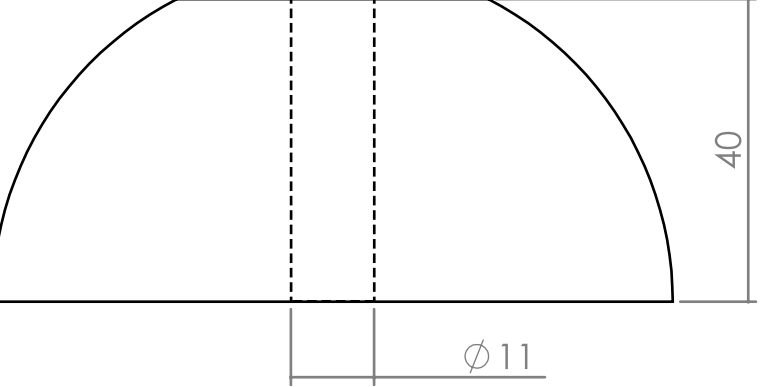
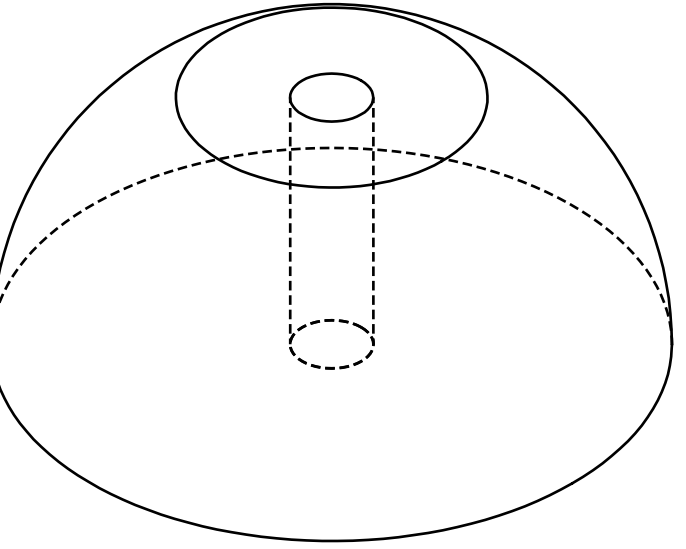
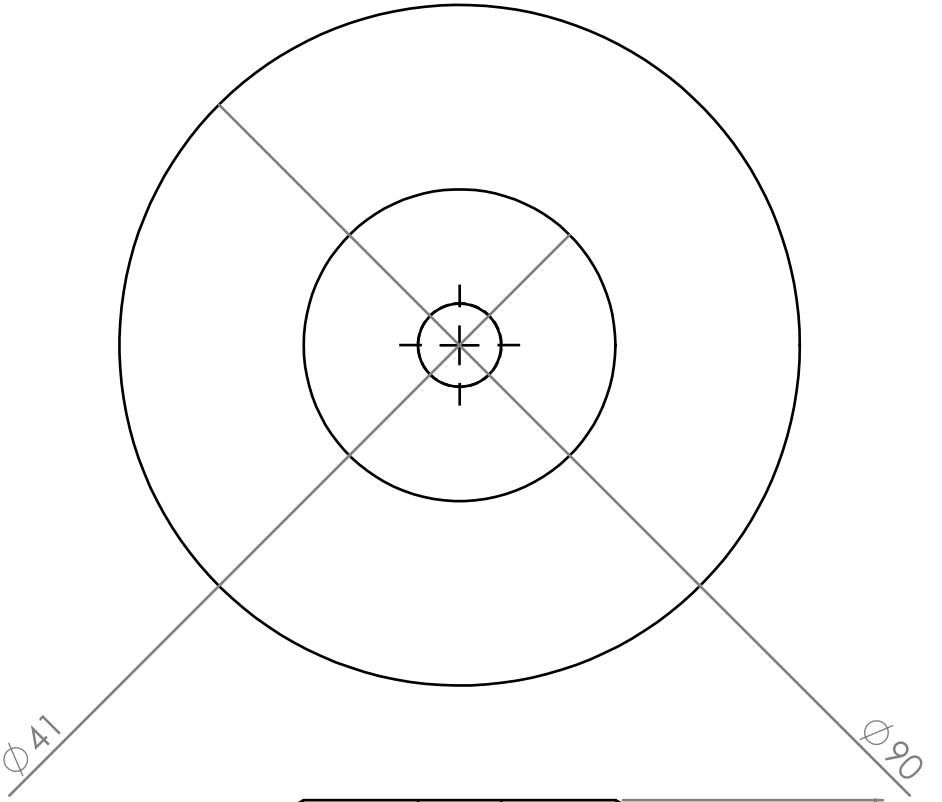
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PROJECT TITLE			
FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION	SIZE	SCALE	PART
	A3	1:3	N/A
DRAWING			SHEET
GENERAL ASSEMBLY			2 of 11



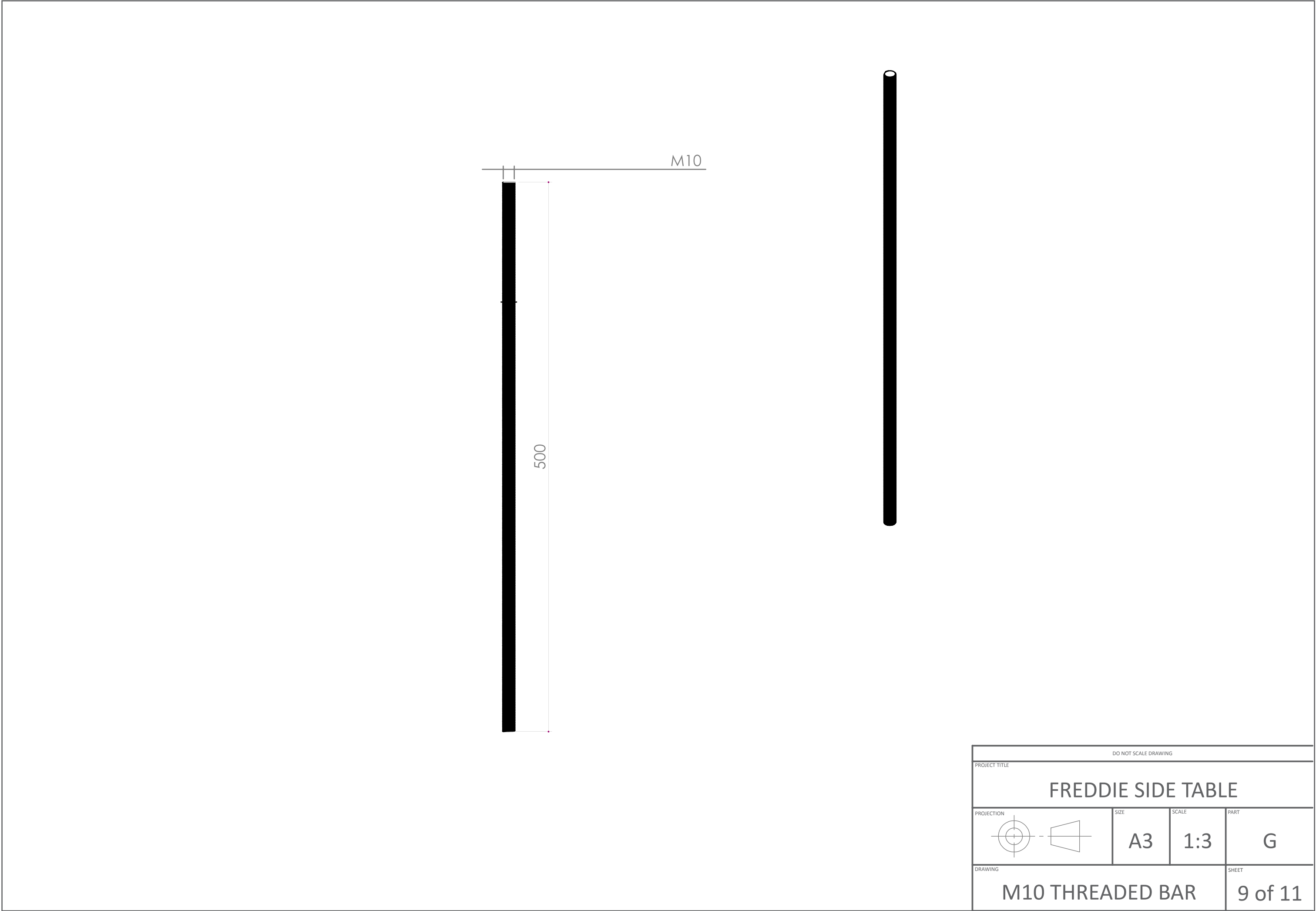
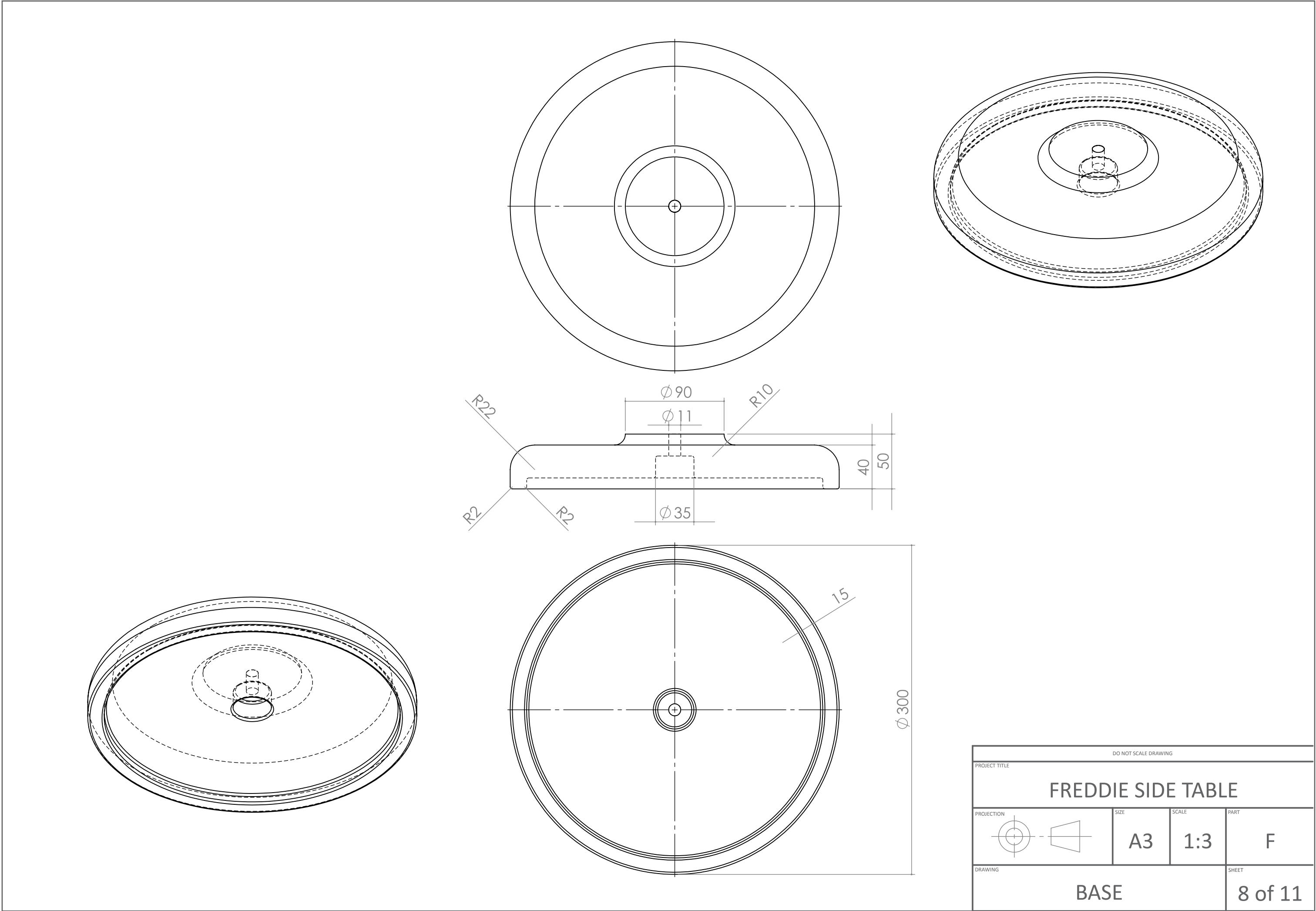
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PROJECT TITLE			
FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION	SIZE	SCALE	PART
	A3	1:4	A
DRAWING			SHEET
CIRCLE TOP			3 of 11

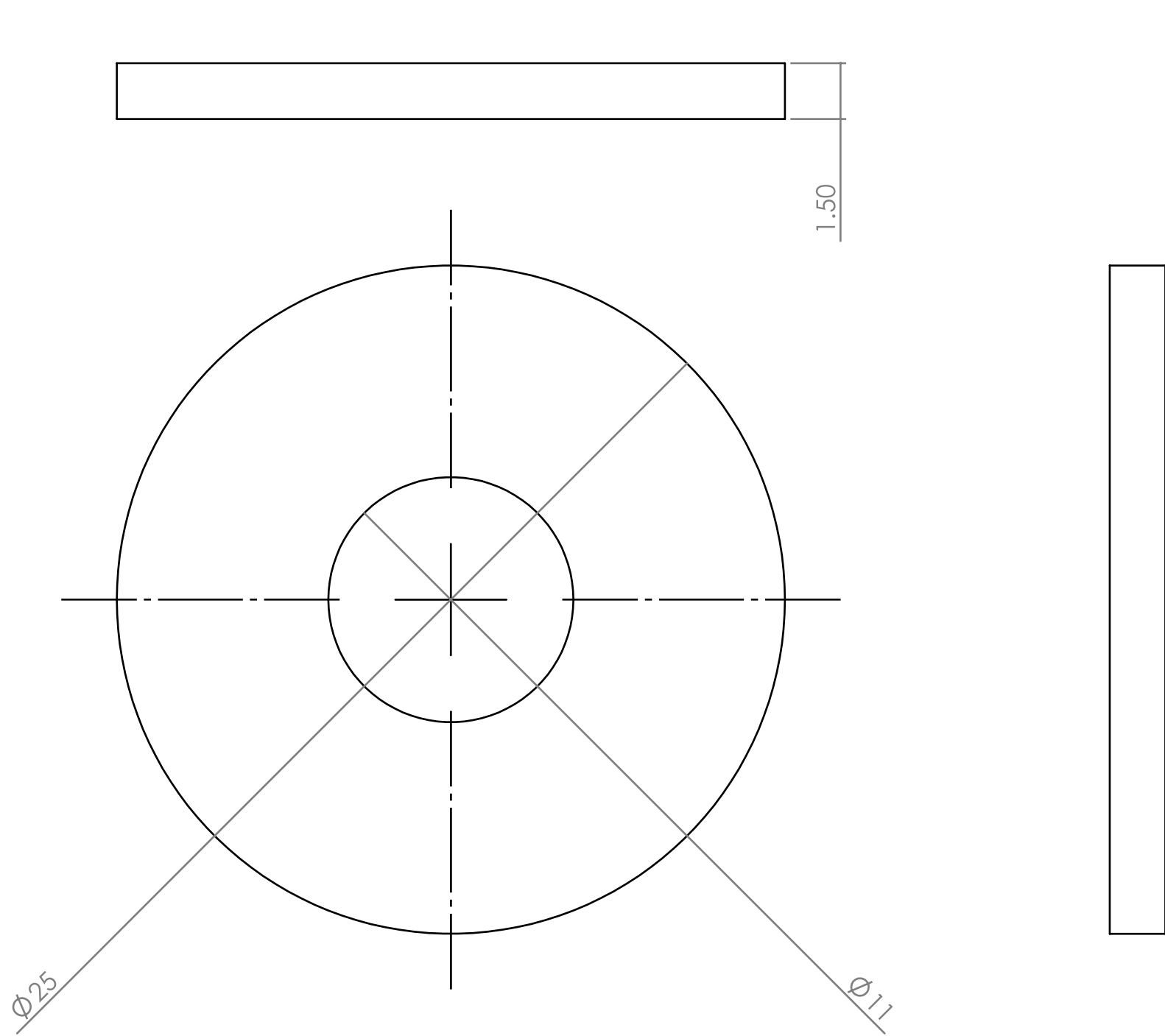


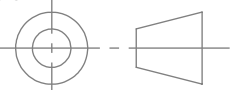
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			
PROJECT TITLE FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION 	SIZE A3	SCALE 1:1	PART D
DRAWING SPHERE			SHEET 6 of 11

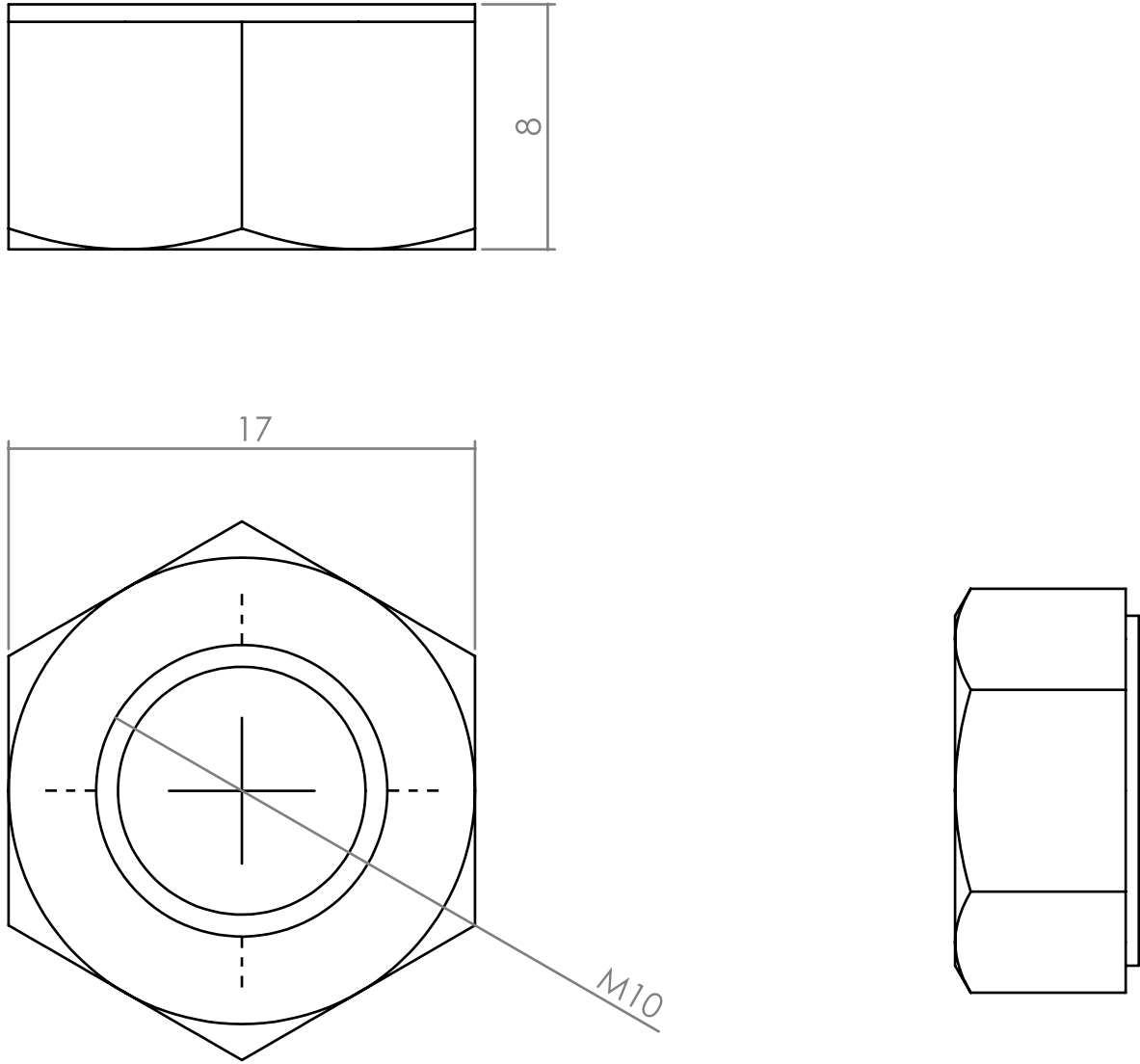


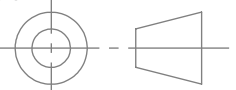
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PROJECT TITLE FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION 	SIZE A3	SCALE 1:1	PART E
DRAWING BOTTOM HEMISPHERE			SHEET 7 of 11





DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			
PROJECT TITLE FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION 	SIZE A3	SCALE 4:1	PART H
DRAWING PLAIN WASHER			SHEET 10 of 11



DO NOT SCALE DRAWING			
PROJECT TITLE FREDDIE SIDE TABLE			
PROJECTION 	SIZE A3	SCALE 4:1	PART I
DRAWING M10 HEX NUT			SHEET 11 of 11

Future Improvements

In the future I would give multiple options for timber choices.
Current Timber Option is Light Top (Ash) to Dark Base (Walnut)
Future Timber Options:
- Dark Top (Walnut) to Light Base (Ash)
- Fully Ash
- Fully Walnut
- Fully Oak

Dark to Light Option



Bill of Materials and Manufacture

- Walnut to Ash Gradient

Material & Manufacture	Part	Quantity	Source	Cost (10 Units)	Individual Cost
Top	A				
- Wood Cost (Walnut)		1	Benchmark	£91.20	£9.12
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£120.00	£12.00
Top Hemisphere	B				
- Wood Cost (Walnut)		1	Benchmark	£19.00	£1.90
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Spheres	D				
- Wood Cost (Brown Oak)		1	Benchmark	£28.95	£2.90
- Wood Cost (European Oak)		1	Benchmark	£24.95	£2.50
- Wood Cost (Red Oak)		1	Benchmark	£11.50	£1.15
- Wood Cost (Cherry)		1	Benchmark	£13.50	£1.35
- Wood Cost (Maple)		1	Benchmark	£13.00	£1.30
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£900.00	£90.00
Bottom Hemisphere	E				
- Wood Cost (Ash)		1	Benchmark	£7.25	£0.73
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Base	F				
- Wood Cost (Ash)		1	Benchmark	£46.40	£4.64
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£180.00	£18.00
Threaded Insert	C				
- Metal Cost		1	Metals4U	£4.80	£0.48
- Centre Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
- M10 Threaded Bar	G	1	Accu	£27.60	£2.76
- Hex Nut	I	1	Accu	£3.40	£0.34
- Plain Washer	H	1	Accu	£2.80	£0.28
General					
- Oil Finish				£44.80	£4.48
Genral Labour		(Hours)			
- Assembly time		0.3		£200.00	£20.00
- Gluing time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
- Sanding time		2		£1,200.00	£120.00
- Extra time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
Totals				£3,989.15	£398.92
Wholesale					£897.56

Ash Option



Bill of Materials and Manufacture

- Ash

Material & Manufacture	Part	Quantity	Source	Cost (10 Units)	Individual Cost
Top	A				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£30.00	£3.00
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£120.00	£12.00
Top Hemisphere	B				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£7.25	£0.73
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Spheres	D				
- Wood Cost		5	Benchmark	£72.50	£7.25
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£900.00	£90.00
Bottom Hemisphere	E				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£7.25	£0.73
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Base	F				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£46.40	£4.64
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£180.00	£18.00
Threaded Insert	C				
- Metal Cost		1	Metals4U	£4.80	£0.48
- Centre Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
- M10 Threaded Bar	G	1	Accu	£27.60	£2.76
- Hex Nut	I	1	Accu	£3.40	£0.34
- Plain Washer	H	1	Accu	£2.80	£0.28
General					
- Oil Finish				£44.80	£4.48
Genral Labour		(Hours)			
- Assembly time		0.3		£200.00	£20.00
- Gluing time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
- Sanding time		2		£1,200.00	£120.00
- Extra time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
Totals				£3,896.80	£389.68
Wholesale					£876.78

Walnut Option



Bill of Materials and Manufacture

- Walnut

Material & Manufacture	Part	Quantity	Source	Cost (10 Units)	Individual Cost
Top	A				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£91.20	£9.12
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£120.00	£12.00
Top Hemisphere	B				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£19.00	£1.90
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Spheres	D				
- Wood Cost		5	Benchmark	£190.00	£19.00
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£900.00	£90.00
Bottom Hemisphere	E				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£19.00	£1.90
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Base	F				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£134.40	£13.44
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£180.00	£18.00
Threaded Insert	C				
- Metal Cost		1	Metals4U	£4.80	£0.48
- Centre Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
- M10 Threaded Bar	G	1	Accu	£27.60	£2.76
- Hex Nut	I	1	Accu	£3.40	£0.34
- Plain Washer	H	1	Accu	£2.80	£0.28
General					
- Oil Finish				£44.80	£4.48
Genral Labour		(Hours)			
- Assembly time		0.3		£200.00	£20.00
- Gluing time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
- Sanding time		2		£1,200.00	£120.00
- Extra time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
Totals				£4,187.00	£418.70
Wholesale					£942.08

European Oak Option



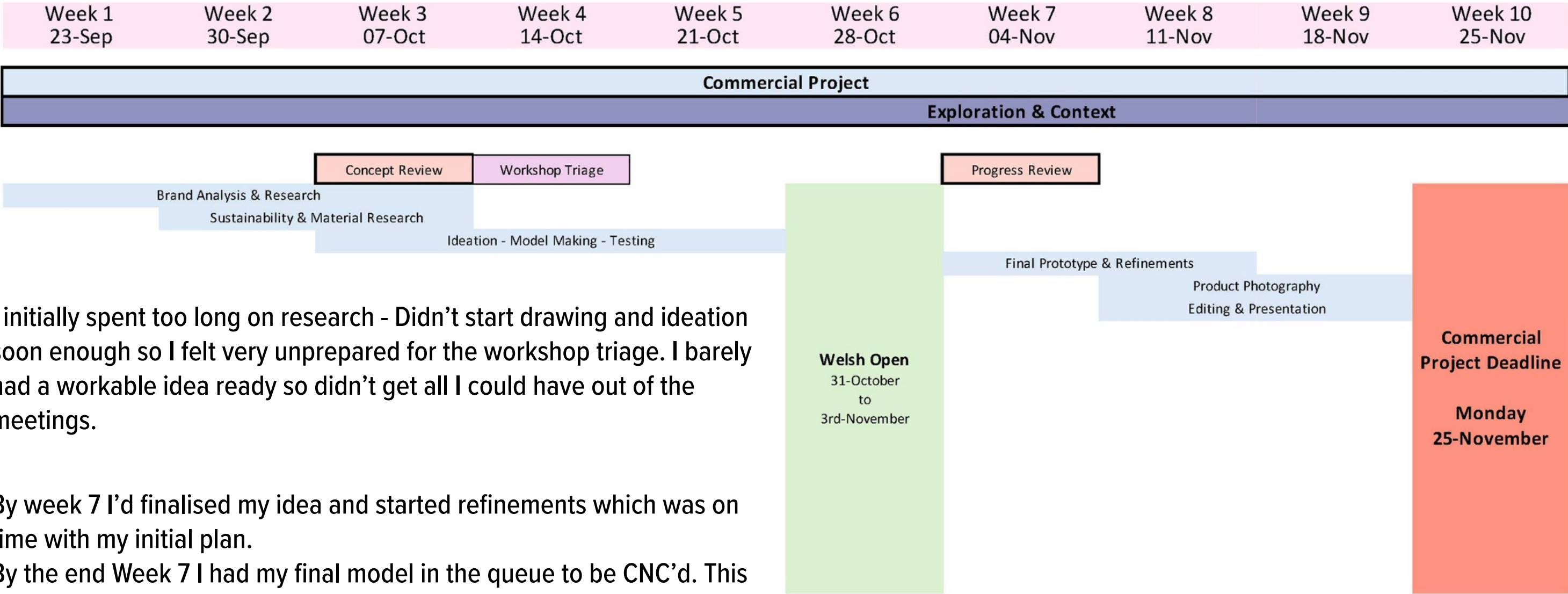
Bill of Materials and Manufacture

- European Oak

Material & Manufacture	Part	Quantity	Source	Cost (10 Units)	Individual Cost
Top	A				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£59.88	£5.99
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£120.00	£12.00
Top Hemisphere	B				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£12.48	£1.25
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Spheres	D				
- Wood Cost		5	Benchmark	£124.75	£12.48
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£900.00	£90.00
Bottom Hemisphere	E				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£12.48	£1.25
- Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
Base	F				
- Wood Cost		1	Benchmark	£79.84	£7.98
- CNC Router Cost (£60 per Hour)				£180.00	£18.00
Threaded Insert	C				
- Metal Cost		1	Metals4U	£4.80	£0.48
- Centre Lathe Cost (£60 per Hour)				£150.00	£15.00
- M10 Threaded Bar	G	1	Accu	£27.60	£2.76
- Hex Nut	I	1	Accu	£3.40	£0.34
- Plain Washer	H	1	Accu	£2.80	£0.28
General					
- Oil Finish				£44.80	£4.48
Genral Labour		(Hours)			
- Assembly time		0.3		£200.00	£20.00
- Gluing time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
- Sanding time		2		£1,200.00	£120.00
- Extra time		0.5		£300.00	£30.00
Totals				£4,022.83	£402.28
Wholesale					£905.14

Evaluation

Final Time Analysis



I initially spent too long on research - Didn't start drawing and ideation soon enough so I felt very unprepared for the workshop triage. I barely had a workable idea ready so didn't get all I could have out of the meetings.

By week 7 I'd finalised my idea and started refinements which was on time with my initial plan. By the end Week 7 I had my final model in the queue to be CNC'd. This was on time with my initial plan but the CNC had a very big queue so it took longer than I expected to get my final model. Unfortunately I couldn't avoid using the CNC as due to technician limitations I was unable to turn my spheres and my top and base has too many curves for me to easily make myself.

Starting in Week 7 whilst I was in the CNC queue I began to add all of my miro research into my process document. This took alot longer than expected and in the future I will probably add my research straight into the process document to avoid having to redo things.

At the start of Week 8 I made a plan of what was left that I needed to do in the final two weeks of the project. This helped me feel as if things were more under control and made sure I wouldn't forget something important that I needed for the hand in. I could have done these lists week to week but I think I may have become overwhelmed by everything and that would have resulted in me not completing the work. This was the reason my time plan wasn't overly detailed to start off with.

Design Evaluation

Overall I'm very happy with my final design, I feel that it's met my reframed brief of a small piece of furniture that embraces and showcases the beauty of solid wood whilst still being functional. Throughout the project I struggled to settle on an idea. I initially thought I'd come up with a great idea that was different to benchmarks current products but still fit into the companies aesthetics as well as meeting all the specifications that I'd set. However when I made my first full scale model I realised that the second level/ shelf I added didn't add the functionality I thought it would.

After my initial idea of adding functionality through a shelf didn't work out, I felt a little confused and lost, I ended up with multiple options consisting of coffee tables and plant stands.

During the project I was lacking in self confidence in my design choices so when things didn't go exactly as I planned it made me question everything. To help with my lack of self confidence I mostly talked to other people on the course like Ola and Az, they reassured me that my design was good and helped me come up with alternative solutions to problems I was having. Towards the end of the project I felt more confident in my design and this enabled me to make decisions and stop questioning my choices.

Whilst my model isn't perfect it was the best I could achieve in the universities workshop whilst competing with other students for scarce resources such as CNC and technician time. I would have preferred to have turned my spheres instead of CNCing them. CNCing meant that I was stuck in a fairly long queue and I had to do a lot more finishing by hand than would have been the case if I had been able to use the lathe.

Improvements

The future improvements to my product would mostly focus on the material. Whilst I like the timbers I've chosen for my product and I think they meet the companies aesthetics, I also understand that people have other preferences and other timbers may fit better with their personal aesthetics. This is why I would add in a range, offering different timber choices, this range would include gradients of timbers like my original design but also the option of having only a singular timber. I would also like to include bespoke options, where the customer can contact Benchmark and work with them to choose timbers that best suits the client and their needs.

Sustainability

Benchmark think of sustainability at it's core, throughout this project I am not sure that I've considered sustainability enough.

The way that I've designed this product does allow for most parts to be replaced as very little glue has been used in the parts assembly due to my use of the threaded bar that goes through out the whole product. For example if one of the spheres gets damaged the nut tightening everything together can be removed and all the parts can be taken off the threaded bar so the broken part can be replaced with a new one. As the spheres use fairly small sections of wood they could be made from offcuts that would otherwise be wasted, this however may not be commercially viable.