

Becoming Wall/Becoming Chair
Unseated, New York, NY
yama/niyama

This project was originally developed for the Iyengar Institute but was not installed due to budget restrictions (and, I suspect, loss of nerve).

Yama and niyama are concepts of the yoga sutras, which are a kind of equivalent to the ten commandments, but they are "thou shalt nots" and "thou shalt," as opposed to the completely proscriptive "thou shalt nots." This pairing translates as exertion and rest, a "becoming" and a "being." This was a response to a functional requirement: a vestibule that needed a wall for security and a bench so that people could remove and put on their shoes. It takes its form from a movement from one yoga pose to another - urdva hastasana (standing, arms reaching upwards) to utkatasana (a pose much like sitting in an imaginary chair). This bench expresses this constant state of being and becoming.

Edward Muybridge is an obvious precedent, as is the craft of boat building.

This was ultimately built by Caleb Crawford and a small group of students from Pratt, without whose help, this project would not have materialized. The project started as a concept, but developed into a unique material experiment: the wood is bent in three axes as well as twisting up to 90 degrees.