

# Alisa Dworsky

## Danny Sagan

### *Acerframe, 2018*

Maple, Delrin\*, Concrete, Tempered Glass and Steel Hardware

\*a type of very strong plastic

*Opening bid: \$4,200*

#### **Artists' Statement:**

We create buildings, furniture and art and we pursue innovation across these disciplines, informing our practice through direct engagement with materials. With this “Design-Build” approach we can integrate design opportunities that become apparent only once construction has begun.

We have chosen to make a table that uses “live-edge” pieces of maple saplings, joined by hubs of advanced plastics shaped with a laser cutter, to form a space-frame structure. Our goal is to express what we call “Rustic Tech”, in recognition that as Vermont designers working in the 21<sup>st</sup> century we have access to both digital rapid prototyping systems and to an abundance of natural materials. We live and work at the intersection of high-tech and the pastoral, and our work expresses these inherent qualities of place.

This table embodies several qualities that define the ethos of design in Vermont in the 1960's. Buckminster Fuller's innovations like the octet truss and the US Pavilion at EXPO 67 made space-frames a common occurrence in the architecture of the 1960s. The predominate signifier of the Rustic during that era has been the use of wood with “Live-Edge” seen most famously in the work of the furniture maker George Nakashima. At Prickly Mountain in Warren, Vermont, these sensibilities were integrated into the design-build movement that flourished there.

Space frames were integrated into Hosford and Simpson's OPTOR housing proposal, while Sellers and others contrasted tree structures and live edge wood forms with curved Plexiglas windows and solar water heaters.

### **Biographies:**

Alisa Dworsky creates sculpture, installations, buildings, furniture, drawings and prints and is based in Montpelier Vermont. She is interested in how structure and force give shape to form and in the way human beings use geometric systems to order their environments. Her solo show of drawings and installation was on view in February and March 2018 at Cynthia Reeves Gallery on the MASS MOCA Campus in North Adams Massachusetts. She curated the exhibit *Interdependence* for Sculptfest2018 at the Carving Studio and Sculpture Center. In the past year her drawings have been exhibited at the Art MiamiFair, The New York Art Fair, the Palm Beach: Modern and Contemporary Art Fair, the Main Street Museum and The Vermont Arts Council's Spotlight Gallery.

Dworsky has created site specific art installations for the Brattleboro Museum, Burlington City Arts, the Bennington Museum, the Fleming Museum, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, 516 Arts (Albuquerque, NM), Artspace (New Haven CT), and the Lexington Art League (Lexington, KY). Awards include a Yaddo fellowship, grants from the Vermont Arts Council, Vermont Community Foundation, Sustainable Art Foundation, and Berkshire Taconic Foundation. Dworsky is co-founder of DS Architects with her husband Danny Sagan. She has a B.A. from Stanford University in International Relations and in Studio Art. She received an M. Arch. from the Yale University Graduate School of Architecture. Dworsky currently teaches architectural design at Norwich University. To see her work, visit [www.alisadworsky.com](http://www.alisadworsky.com) and [www.dsarchitectsvt.com](http://www.dsarchitectsvt.com).

Danny Sagan creates buildings, furniture, sculpture and drawings. He is an associate professor and undergraduate associate director in the School of Architecture and Art at Norwich University in Northfield, VT. Sagan is interested in making work that speaks of time and place while acknowledging the constraints of climate, context, and the need for more efficient buildings. Together with Alisa Dworsky, Sagan cofounded DS Architects which designs zero-net-energy houses, small commercial projects, and furniture. The work of DS Architects has received awards for energy efficiency and design. Sagan has received a BA and M Arch from Yale University.

Sagan has practiced as a carpenter, a builder, a cabinet-maker, as well as an architect. Following in the tradition known as design-build, he has made projects where design process and construction proceed simultaneously. Sagan has also led students through design-build projects at Norwich, the Yestermorrow Design Build School, and the University of East London in the UK. Sagan has researched the history of the design-build movement, which began in Warren, Vermont. His writing has been included in the recent book *The Design-Build Studio: Crafting Meaningful Work in Architecture Education*, edited by his colleague Tolya Stonorov. Together with Stonorov, Sagan created an illustrated time-line of the design-build movement in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Sagan's research has received grants from the Graham Foundation for the Arts and The Charles A. Dana foundation of Norwich University. Student led teams, which have included Sagan as an advisor, have received awards from the Vermont AIA and the US Department of Energy.