

Nomadic Impression: Reconstructing Impressions into Furniture

Wernacular at London Design Festival 2025

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Introduction

At this year's London Design Festival 2025, Wernacular presents a unique furniture project first conceived for Baihe Village in Beijing. The work embodies the studio's ongoing exploration into how design can capture and carry memory, reinterpreting personal and spatial impressions through digital tools and fabrication.

The Concept

Wernacular's practice is rooted in the intersection of technology, memory, and material culture. By employing digital design and construction methods, the team deconstructs the spatial identity of a specific place—such as a home or village—and reassembles it into the form of furniture.

These pieces are not merely functional objects; they serve as vessels of memory. Each carries the intangible essence of a dwelling, refracted into physical form. When their owners relocate, the furniture travels with them—becoming nomadic, migrating across geographies, yet always retaining a trace of the previous home.

In an age defined by global mobility, Wernacular asks: Can design become a bridge between memory and belonging?

Wernacular seeks to explore:

- 1. How digital design can translate the uniqueness of a space
- 2. How furniture can become a continuation of memory and a companion in migration
- 3. How "dwelling" can retain a sense of personal belonging in today's globally mobile world



Fig 1.1 Baihe Village Hotel Courtyard Proposal

A Living Narrative

In October 2024, Wernacular received a commission from a client in Beijing who sought to transform several of his residences in Baihe Village into a multi-building hotel. The design journey began with the gradual transformation of one house, which would serve as the seed for the larger project.

During early conversations, the client emphasized the importance of local identity and asked that the design reflect the relationship between the residences and a nearby temple. This temple, though originally built for worship, had been repurposed as a school during his childhood before falling into disuse. For him, the site preserved vivid memories of his formative years.

Wernacular took this personal history as a starting point, aiming to use digital design and fabrication to capture and preserve these impressions, allowing the architecture—and now the furniture derived from it—to carry forward a fragment of memory that might otherwise be lost.

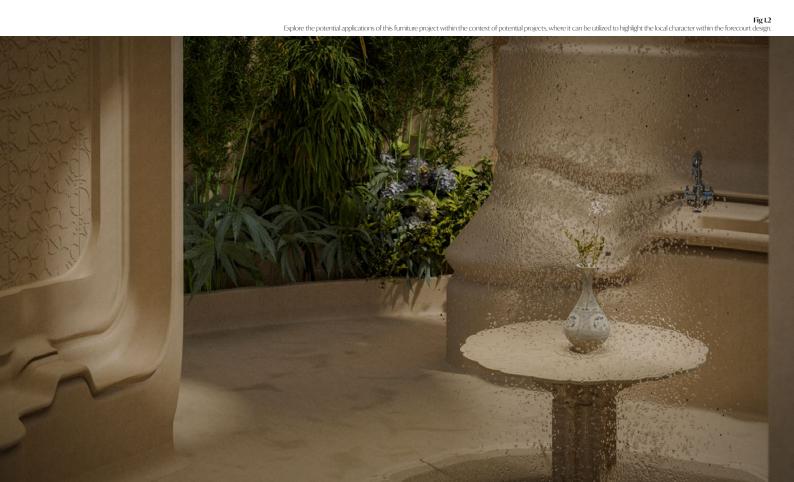




Fig 1.3 CNC foam cutting molds

Digital Design & Making

The process begins with 3D scanning, capturing the subtle geometries and textures of the original environment. These scans serve as a digital archive of memory, which is then reinterpreted through computational design. To bring these digital impressions into material form, Wernacular employs CNC fabrication, allowing precision-making that bridges virtual data and tactile craft. The result is furniture that is both technologically rigorous and emotionally resonant.

"Our goal is to turn the intangible essence of a home into something people can live with and carry forward," says the Wernacular design team. "Furniture becomes a vessel of memory—at once practical and poetic, deeply personal yet universally resonant."

