

PROFILE

Born 1999,
USA. Based in
London, UK.

Ash Pales is a designer and maker specializing in woodworking. She holds a BA in Architecture from Yale University (2020) and a MA from the Royal College of Art (2023), where her studies deepened her interest in the physical crafting of objects and spaces.

With professional experience across the US, UK, Europe, and Japan, Ash explores traditional and contemporary craft methods at multiple scales – from furniture and sculpture to architectural elements. Originally from the US, she now lives and works in London. While her work predominantly involves creating works from salvaged and locally sourced timber, she actively participates in a variety of interdisciplinary collaborations.

EDUCATION

2021-2023	Master of Architecture, Royal College of Art – London, UK Coursework conceived of architecture as a materially engaged and context-driven practice. Focused on sustainable timber sourcing, site-based making, and the ecological narratives of wood. Projects explored the full lifecycle of materials, integrating craft, environmental ethics, and creative expression.
2016-2020	Bachelor of Arts in Architecture, Yale University – New Haven, Connecticut, USA <i>Received Distinction in the Major</i> Coursework focused on spatial design, architectural forms, material studies, and model-making. Notable supplemental educational experience includes studies in digital photography and a summer term studying art and architecture in Italy.

EXHIBITIONS

2025	<i>No One Has Taught Me This</i> (GROUP EXHIBITION) <i>Stitch</i> , Blackdot Gallery, London Design Festival 2025 – London, UK
2023	<i>The Localist Café</i> (GROUP EXHIBITION) <i>From Elia's Garden</i> , Shoreditch Arts Club, London Design Festival 2023 – London, UK
2023	<i>Connected City Market</i> (つながる市) (GROUP EXHIBITION) <i>Tsugaru</i> collection, Kito Kurashi, MUJI Asumo Takayama – Takayama, Japan
2023	<i>The Farm Shop</i> (GROUP EXHIBITION) <i>Lee</i> collection, Brompton Design District, London Design Festival 2023 – London, UK
2023	<i>Royal College of Art 2023 Graduate Show</i> (GROUP EXHIBITION) <i>The Roots of Craft</i> , Truman Brewery – London, UK

RESIDENCIES

AUG – SEPT 2025	Fellowship, Chulitna Lodge Creative Residency – Lake Clark, Alaska, USA Fully funded international residency fostering artistic development in an immersive natural environment.
FEB – MARCH 2023	Residency, Kito Kurashi – Hida Takayama, Gifu, Japan Residency exploring traditional woodcraft and researching tree diseases in a Japanese cultural context.

COMMISSIONED WORKS

2025	Interior furniture collection, private client – Horne, Surrey, UK (FORTHCOMING) Custom-designed furniture pieces made from a maple tree felled on the client's property. Wood was milled and kiln-dried on-site, and is now being crafted into functional pieces reflecting the character and history of the tree.
2025	Coffee table, Islington Apartment, Everything Now Design – London, UK Commissioned by Everything Now Design as part of the Islington apartment interiors project. Designed and fabricated a bespoke coffee table using salvaged black ash wood, showcasing technical skill and material sensitivity.
2024	Bar frieze artwork, Minetta Tavern DC – Washington, DC, USA Created nine silhouette panels to be installed behind the bar, blending mid-century influences with Victorian aesthetics. Led design, fabrication, and coordination with the interior design and framing teams.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & LECTURES

2025	Visiting Artist Lecture Series, Chulitna Lodge Creative Residency – Lake Clark, Alaska, USA
2024	Guest Speaker, <i>Words on Wood</i> Podcast, American Hardwood Export Council & <i>Disegno</i> Season 4 Episode 6: <i>Stewards of The Forest</i>

TEACHING & MENTORING

NOV 2023	Guest Critic, ADS6, Royal College of Art – London, UK Invited to review and provide feedback on postgraduate design projects.
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AWARDS / GRANTS / FELLOWSHIPS

2025	Fellowship, Chulitna Lodge Creative Residency – Lake Clark, Alaska, USA Fully funded international residency awarded through a competitive jury selection process (8 fellows selected from ~500 applicants annually).
2019	Howard W. Hilgendorf Memorial Fellowship, Yale University – Amsterdam, NL Merit-based funding awarded to support independent professional development in the arts. Used to support a summer placement at Studio Drift in Amsterdam.

2018

Summer Apprenticeship Grant, Yale University – Lincoln, Nebraska, USA
University-funded award supporting a self-initiated photography apprenticeship.
Provided financial support for full-time summer training under a working artist, Ted Kirk.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2024 – Studio Member, Hone Makerspace – London, UK
Independent studio member at Hone, a shared East London makerspace for designers and craft practitioners. Active within a community of woodworkers, metalworkers, and interdisciplinary makers focused on material-led practices and collaborative exchange.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

OCT 2020 – MAY 2021 Junior Architectural Designer, **Florian Busch Architects** – Tokyo, Japan (remote)
Contributed to early conceptual design and visual communication for the *Responsive Village*, a master plan focused on rural revitalisation and ecological development in Hokkaido. Conducted research and produced graphics and contextual analyses to support the project's scalability across sites in Japan and the U.S.

JUNE – SEPT 2020 Fabrication Assistant, **MFGR Designs** – Bozeman, Montana, USA
Assisted in building custom-designed furniture and architectural elements using a mix of woodworking and metalworking techniques. Collaborated with the studio team to resolve design challenges and ensure high-quality execution from workshop to site.

SEPT 2019 – MAY 2020 Production Photographer & Digital Archivist, **Yale College Arts** – New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Photographed undergraduate performing arts productions, including theatre, dance, and music, for documentation and archival purposes. Adapted to a range of lighting conditions and venues; edited and curated select images for publication on Yale College Arts' official digital archive.

MAY – AUG 2019 Production Intern, **Studio Drift** – Amsterdam, NL
Supported the production of *Ego*, a large-scale kinetic sculpture commissioned for *L'Orfeo* opera, and shown at Art Basel, Pace Gallery, and the Nederlandse Reisopera. Collaborated with the production team on fabrication methods, transportation solutions, and installation details.

FEB – MAY 2019 Production Photographer & Social Media Manager, **Yale Center for Collaborative Arts & Media** – New Haven, Connecticut, USA
Coordinated event setup and provided visitor support for visiting artists, workshops, and performances. Documented events through photography and videography, managed and updated the CCAM Instagram account to promote programming and engage the community.

JUNE – JULY 2018 Photography Apprentice, **Ted Kirk & The Associated Press** – Lincoln, Nebraska, USA
Practiced diverse photography techniques including street, sports, long-exposure, portrait, and landscape. Worked as a freelance photographer for the 2018 NCAA College World Series, with two images selected as APTOPIX.