

May 1 & 2, 2015
Haverford College
Haverford, PA



Mare Liberum / The Free Seas:

Mare Liberum is a collective of visual artists, designers, and writers who formed around a shared engagement with New York's waterways in 2007. As part of a mobile, interdisciplinary, and pedagogical practice, we have designed and built boats, published broadsides, essays, and books, invented water-related art and educational forums, and collaborated with diverse institutions in order to produce public talks, participatory works, and voyages as platforms to catalyze societal change.

The project draws from sources as diverse as ocean-crossing raft assemblages, improvised refugee boats built in Senegal and Cuba, and modern stitch-and-ply construction methods which make complex, classic boat designs approachable by novice builders. Mare Liberum has provided fleets of boats for artist projects domestically and in Europe and has exhibited work in galleries and museums including EFA Project Space, MASS MoCA, and the Neuberger Museum. In 2011, the crew of Mare Liberum co-curated the exhibition SeaWorthy (with Flux Factory and EFA Project Space) which brought over 2 dozen artists to create new works and public programs around the waterways of New York City. In 2014, Mare Liberum navigated 160 miles of the Hudson River in boats made of paper to build solidarity between inhabitants of New York's coastal zones, and to help local activist groups organize and galvanize their public(s) to stand up to climate change complacency.

This year, Mare Liberum was invited to create a new work with students at Haverford College in Pennsylvania based on their course "DIY Movements and Environmentalisms."

Mare Liberum would like to thank Joshua Moses and Laura McGrane for the invitation to work alongside Haverford students and faculty, and to participate in the Interdisciplinary Seminar in Critical Making at the Haverford Center for the Arts and Humanities, and to Emily Cronin for facilitating, and to Markus Baenziger for hosting us in the Foundry. Thanks also to Danielle Redden and Bertram's Garden for hosting our launch!

For more information about the project, visit www.thefreesas.org.

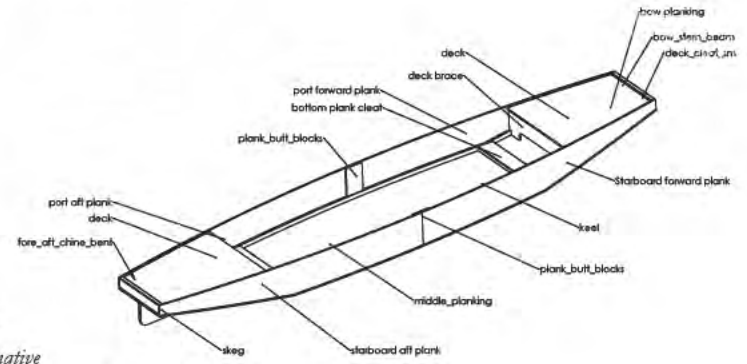
Mare Liberum is generally:
Ben Cohen, Dylan Gauthier, Stephan von Muehlen, Sunita Prasad, Kendra Sullivan, and Jean Barberis.

The Punt:

punt (n.2): "flat-bottomed river boat," late Old English *punt*, perhaps an ancient survival of British Latin *ponto* "flat-bottomed boat" (see OED), a kind of Gallic transport (Caesar), also "floating bridge" (Gellius), from Latin *pontem* (nominative *pons*) "bridge" (see *pontoon*). Or from or influenced by Old French cognate *pont* "large, flat boat."

A punt is a flat-bottomed boat with a square bow, intended for use in small rivers or other shallow and mostly calm waters. *Punting* is what one does in a punt. The punter punts the punt by pushing against the river bed with a pole. As Wikipedia notes, if you're using an oar you're probably in a gondola. A gondola is a sort of punt dressed up for formal occasions, funerals, and the like. A punt is good for fishing, or carrying ballast, or taking you and a friend camping for the weekend on a river isle. A punt is one of the simplest boats you can build, and for that matter it is one of the most versatile. You can stand in and on it, which is more than you can say for most kayaks or canoes.

Originally designed as work boats, or for hauling cargo from shallow place to shallow place (say, up and down a canal), the punt has remained one of the best vehicles for getting out on the water and tooling around, i.e. pleasure trips up and down English canals. For that matter, it's not so bad for exploring further-off places on mostly flat water either, equally suited to it as a raft would be and without the need for added flotation. You see: the punt is a boat, and as such, it arrives at flotation through a displacement that is integral to its shape. See Archimedes' principle for more on that. It's a simple boat, but it does what a boat does, which is to say, it allows you to get out and explore the waters around you, and to do so without making much noise or using much petroleum. Punts or boats that are like punts are used

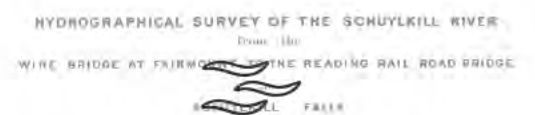


Do It Yourself (DIY) Movements and American Environmentalisms:

Collapse, localization, and post-carbon apocalypse are increasingly common tropes in contemporary American life. Many commentators articulate a sense that we now live in a riskier world, where technology dominates, a force beyond our control, fragmenting relationships between humans and non-human worlds. DIY movements provide a response to this civilizational anxiety. Drawing on historical themes of self-reliance, community, localization, romanticism, and primitivism, the DIY discourse promises alternative relationships with community, politics, economy, and labor, as well as a reclaiming of control over technology. This course will provide a historical grounding, reading of contemporary theory, and experiential introduction to the multiple strands of DIY movements. During the lab section of this course students will be charged with developing hands-on collaborative projects, designed to embody practices of DIY movements.

Led by:

Joshua Milton Moses, Haverford College.

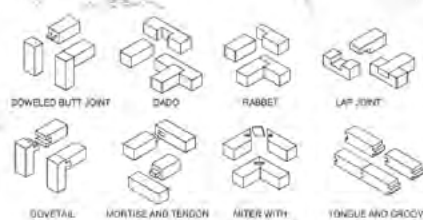


Critical Making 2015:

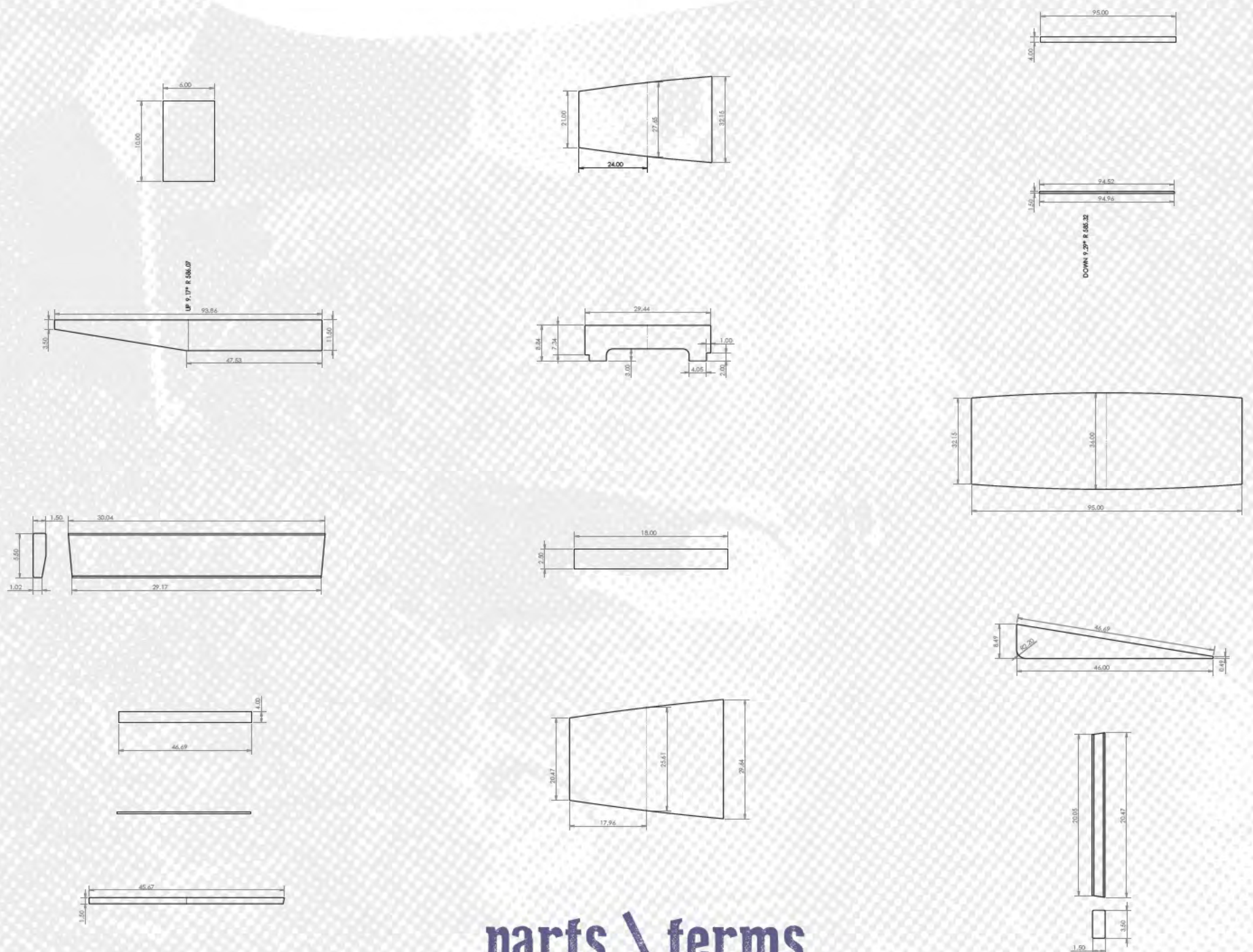
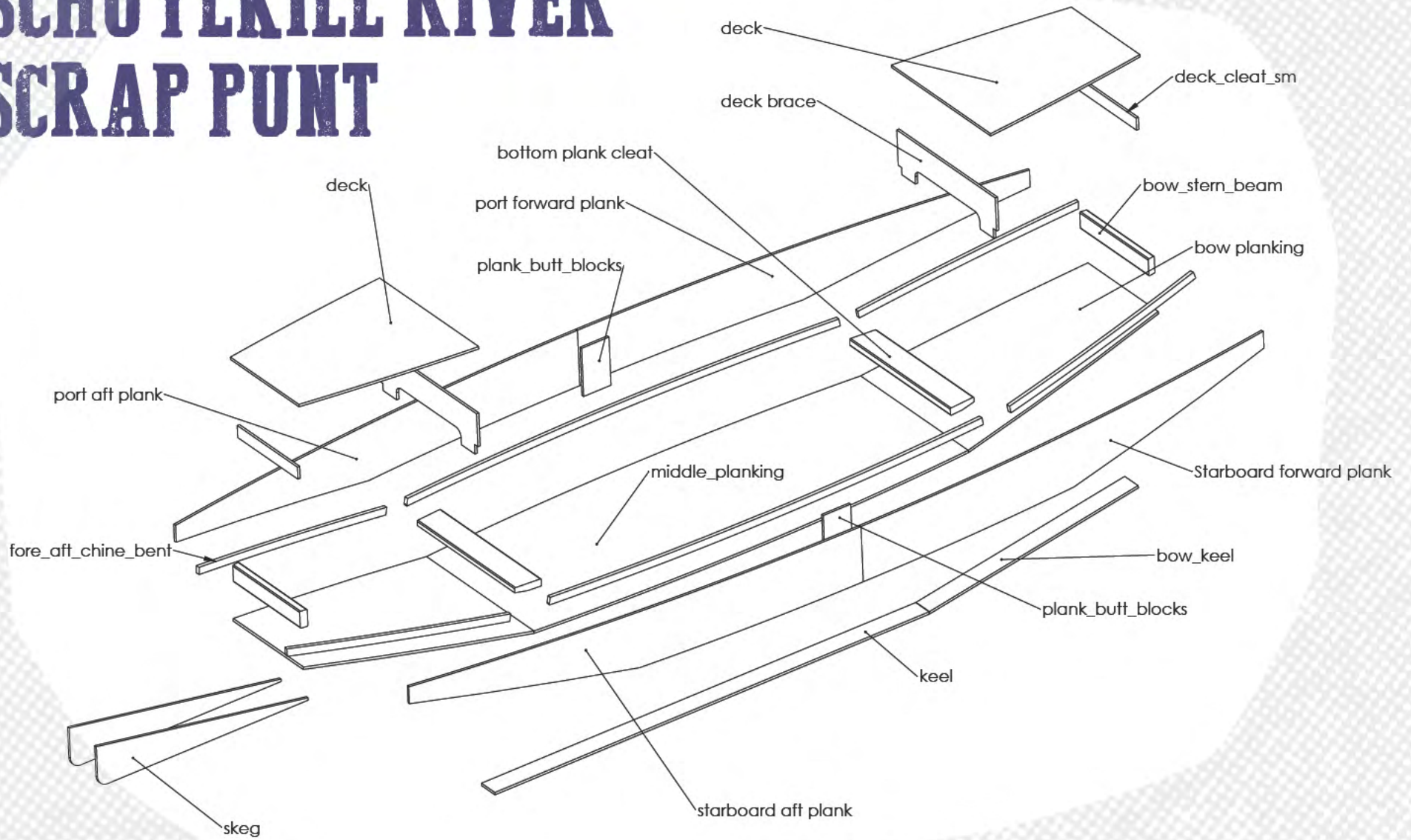
An Interdisciplinary Seminar is supported by the Mellon Trico DH Initiative and the Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities. Faculty and librarians across Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore and Haverford Colleges have explored what making does for and to scholarship and teaching; how our materials and media frame us in academic institutions and our daily habitus; and what modes of action, collaboration, and creativity are engendered by radical experiments in social organization.

Organized by:

Laura McGrane, Haverford College.



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