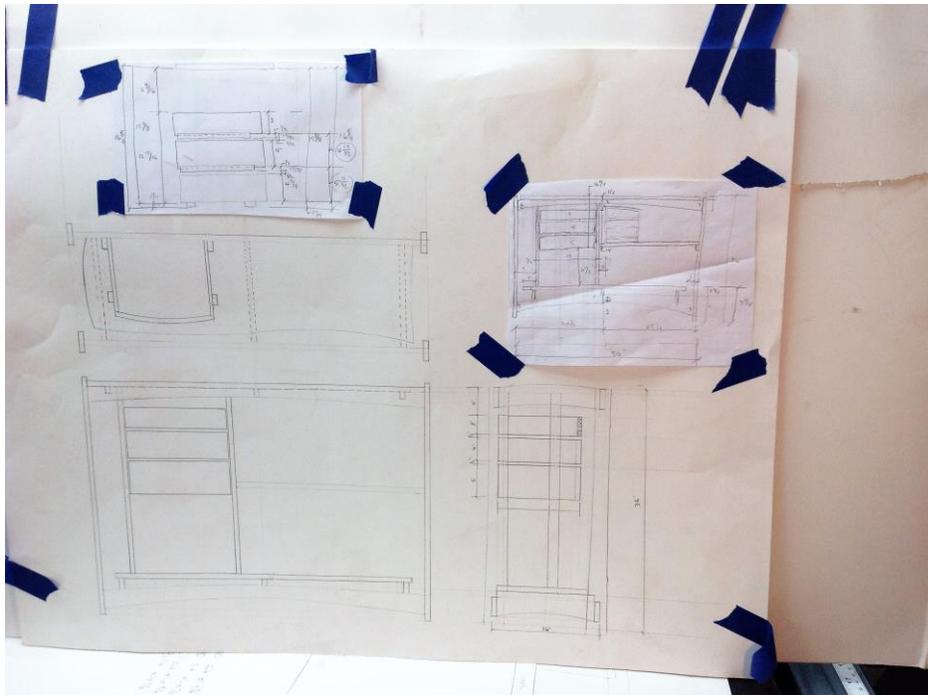


Walnut Curved Drawer Cabinet

Dave McCormick January, 2018



The design of the walnut cabinet for my home library began with an idea to build curved front drawers. My recent projects have included curved pieces made with bent laminations and steam bending. The design started with a simple hand drawn sketch (see photo) with three curved front drawers and three levels of shelving.



I wanted the hand-made dovetails exposed in the piece, rather than having them 'buried' in a closed drawer. From the sketch I made scaled drawings (see photo). Based on the scaled drawing, I made full size drawings of all the curved elements on paper, cut them out, and used them as templates to cut the pieces on my band saw. In the original design, the drawer supports were posted to the base and the middle shelf was supported at the right end by the cabinet legs. During the building process, I made the decision to hang the drawer supports and the middle shelf from the top shelf so that the drawers and middle shelf appear to be floating.



I purchased the walnut from The Woodery in Lunenburg. The hardwood at the Woodery is skip-planed. You can sift through the boards and hand select the color and grain for the various pieces of a project. The curved drawer fronts were made from full width laminated strips of walnut, glued up, and clamped to a curved form. The dovetails in the curved face were challenging. I researched techniques for building the dovetails and practiced on an extra drawer face I had made before cutting the dovetails on the finished drawers. The right end of the middle shelf is supported by two steel rods hung from the top shelf. The cabinet is finished with boiled linseed oil and a coat of Goddard's Cabinet Maker's wax. I performed some of the work during an adult woodworking class at Lincoln-Sudbury High School, where my teacher, mentor, and fellow Guild member, Paul Shultz, provided valuable help and guidance in completing the project.

