



Water Table



Photos: Bill Truslow

For Jere Osgood, design begins outdoors. He fills his sketchbooks with lines and shapes that catch his eye as he walks the woods around his home and workshop in New Hampshire. He might jot down the silhouette of a cloud, a seedpod, or a tree's shadow on the snow. This sycamore table, made for a house by the ocean, embodies Osgood's love of the seashore. The S-curved outlines of its top and shelf evoke breaking waves, while the contours of its carved aprons recall a wavelet rippling across the sand. The table is supported, he says, not by legs that pierce a shelf but by reeds growing up through a sandbar. In building this table, and most other pieces throughout his six-decade career, Osgood ignored the philosophy of his early teacher, Tage Frid, who advised students to "design around the construction." Osgood's approach is to determine how a piece will look and then figure out how to build it. This method keeps his furniture—and the process of making it—as fresh as a sea breeze. Turn to p. 68 for a full profile of the man and his work.

—Jonathan Binzen

How They Did It Turn to p. 98 to see how Osgood tackled the structural challenges in this table.

Pro Portfolio To see a range of Osgood's innovative work and hear him discuss it, go to FineWoodworking.com/extras.