Laboratory work and shop work ... give honesty; for, when you express yourself by making things, and not by using words, it becomes impossible to dissimulate your vagueness or ignorance by ambiguity.

William James
Talks to Teachers

History of the MIT Hobby Shop

Ken Stone ’72, Director of the Hobby Shop
Welcome to the 2009 Visiting Committee Hobby Shop in 1938, in room 2-051.
Hobby Shop, 1940. Working with a horizontal mill.
Hobby Shop, 1942. Relief map of the Solomon Islands.
“Good luck and cordial regards to the students of the Hobby Shop.”
-R.E. Byrd
Joe “Doc” MacAllister (Staff Foreman); Richard Poirier ’50
Bob McCadden (Staff Foreman) assists student with lathe
MIT HOBBY SHOP

In the spring of 1947 (my Soph year), I spent many hours in the MIT Hobby Shop constructing a model of a car I designed. I had entered the Fisher Body Craftsman Guild, a nationwide competition for young people, sponsored by General Motors, to design and build a model of your idea for the car of the future. My model won the 1st National Award – a $1,000 Scholarship and a job as a car designer at GM.

In 1992, I retired from General Motors as Vice President in Charge of Design.

I’m forever grateful for the MIT Hobby Shop. My time spent in the hobby shop was a great relief from the mental exercises at MIT — and, as it turned out, had a profound influence on the rest of my life.

Chuck Jordan ’49
1963: The Hobby Shop moved to the basement of the Armory building (W31-031).
George Pishenin, Hobby Shop Director from 1972-1991
“Checkered Bowl” by Irving Fischman SM '72, PhD '75.

Featured on the cover of the first ever Fine Woodworking magazine.
Kirsch Hamilton Clock. Prototyped in Hobby Shop.
Bower’s Flybaby. Built by graduate student John Urbahn ’94
Bureau of Bureaucracy by Kim Schmahmann.

Permanent collection of the Renwick Gallery, Washington, D.C.
Hobby Shop

The MIT Loudspeaker Classes
“The biggest fish I ever caught”

Wedding Cake Huppa

Individual projects
Hockey Stick Chest

Duck Call

Carved Elephant Box

Individual projects
Biyeun Buczyk ’10
Large Format Camera
Chris Glazner ’06
Stitch and Glue Kayak
Greg Schroll ’08
Popular Mechanics
Next Generation Award

Ilan Moyer ’08
Maker and designer of the Smoot Plaque