

QUEER PUB CHAIR



Made with a found pub chair and mild steel sheets in various thicknesses

QUEER PUB CHAIR

Public Space X



The exclusion of the urban realm and closure of queer spaces are key pain points for the lack of belonging and isolation in queer people. At the end of my dissertation, I thought of approaching the issue by looking at ways to claim and create new queer spaces.

This idea started to change when I was looking at different design precedents that were used to queer a public space. I became interested in queering an already existing public space.

The Brief:

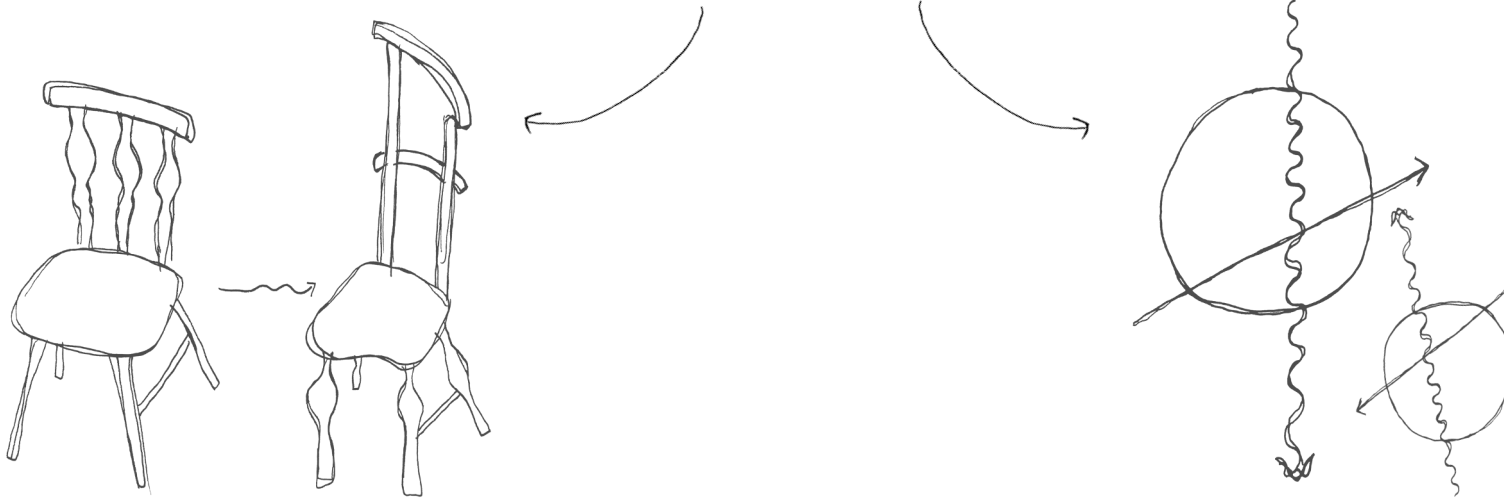
The city becomes a hostile environment for the queer population through its exclusive elements ranging from public realm design, urban redevelopment, closure of dedicated venues and even problematic spatial formations within the community itself, all of which worsen the loneliness and alienation of queer people. This makes safe physical spaces vital to support their belonging and providing them community and tackling their lack of belonging. How can design be deployed to queer existing public spaces to increase queer inclusivity and visibility?

Queer Public Space X



QUEER PUB CHAIR

Transformation and Disruption
As
QUEER



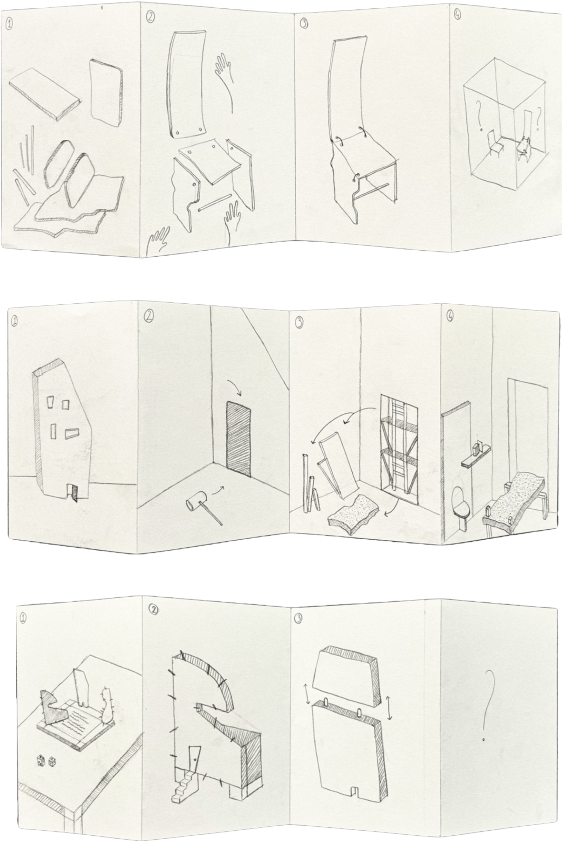
The transformative aspect comes from the background of the term queer. Queer is a reclaimed word, once was derogatory but was reclaimed by the community as a positive word later on. It is transformative in that sense. The community didn't come up with a completely new term with a positive meaning to represent themselves, instead reclaimed and transformed the already existing word. The same approach can be applied to the pub chair. I'm reclaiming the pub chair and transforming it, not completely rejecting its design. Keeping the original elements, altering some and adding onto it is transformative and queer.

All pub chairs are made from wood and have very similar proportions, exaggerating certain dimensions and replacing parts of it with a material that has opposite qualities like metal can be disruptive to that space. The change of the sizes and the material means the rejection of the canon of their design and not conform, therefore makes it queer. Another key disruptive element of the design is the way the seating and its off-balanced nature encourages a cross-legged sitting which is still not commonly practiced by most cis heterosexual men. Putting people in that position is disruptive to the natural state of the space.

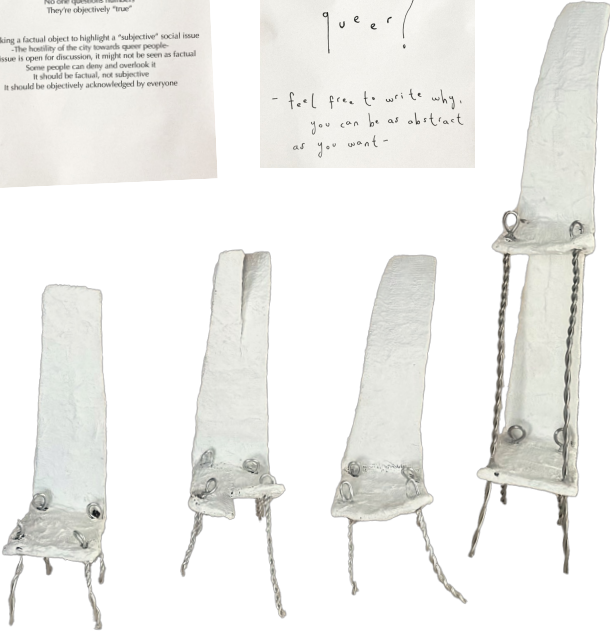
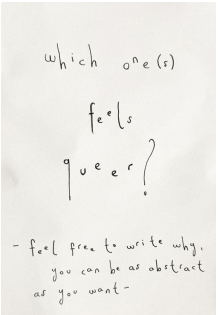
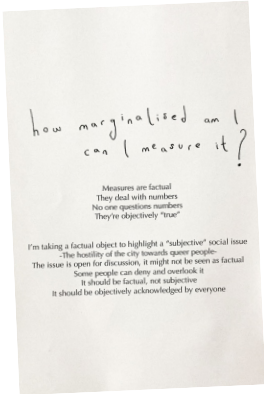
Defining my approach to queering and how it's implemented on the traditional pub chair

QUEER PUB CHAIR

Concept Creation



Marginalisation Measuring Ruler and Queer Chair Props



Initial concept creation and social experiment with physical props to understand what 'people think of 'queer'

QUEER PUB CHAIR

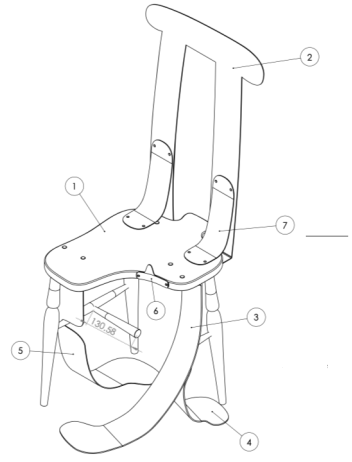
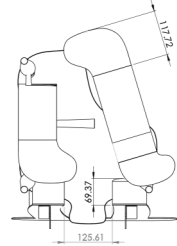
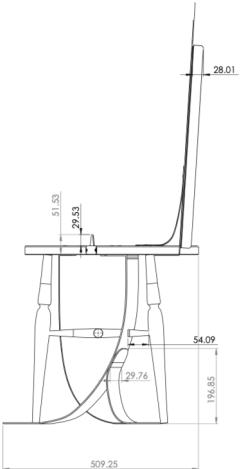
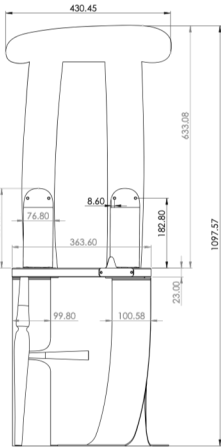
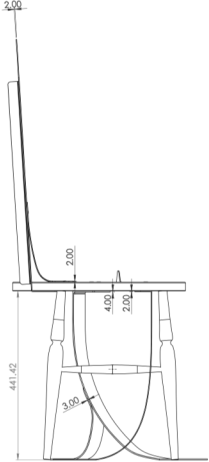
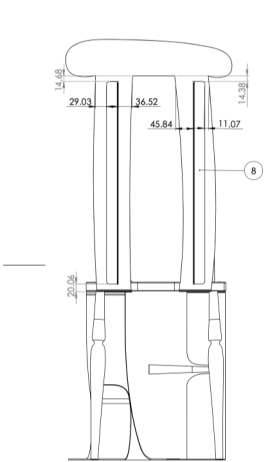
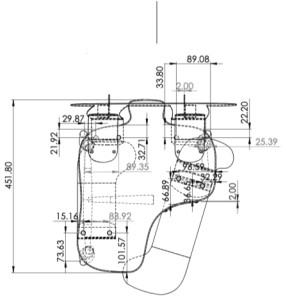
Form Exploration and Initial Prototype For Testing



Final Chair – Transforming and Disrupting

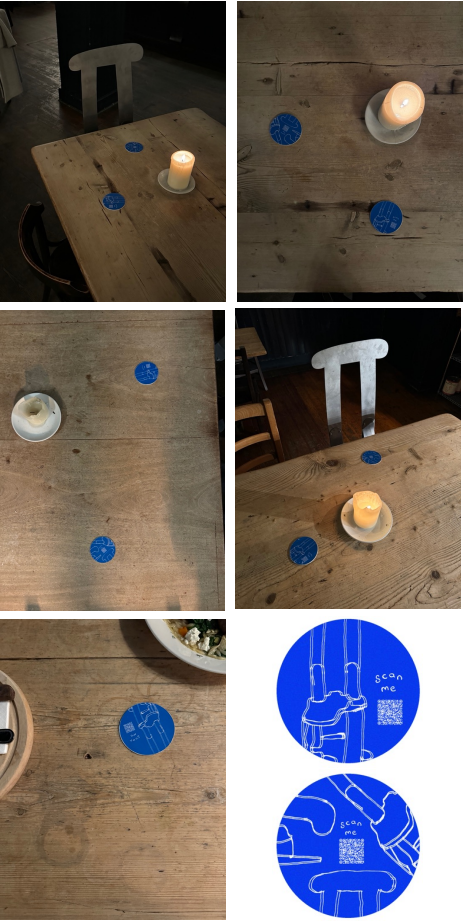


QUEER PUB CHAIR



QUEER PUB CHAIR

Deploying the Chair in the Pub and Beer Mat Questionnaire



Observing Interactions

