John Ragland BA, MSc

1230 Vienna
Austria
johnnyragland@gmail.com
http://www.redoakleaves.com
Austria: +43 664 52 60 777

Design educator, furniture designer and sustainability specialist with nearly 35 years of experience in professional practice and education. Former lecturer at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, specialising in design processes, wood technology, craft-based education and sustainable making. Passionate about creating practical, accessible learning environments where creativity develops through direct engagement with materials, craftsmanship and practical processes.

EMPLOYMENT

2022 – present **Teacher of Design, Visual and Craft Education and Coordinator of the Creative Workshop at BG/BRG Judenburg**

- Teacher of the design process, drawing, painting and hands-on craft (wood, ceramics, mixed media)
- Running a weekly 'Creative Workshop', which supports students in developing form, proportion and spatial awareness
- Integrating sustainability and material awareness into practical projects
- Delivering bilingual (English/German) instruction where appropriate

2021 – 2022 **Practical projects –** involving carpentry, metalwork, and general craft practice

2019 – 2021 **Research project: 'How Making Makes the Maker – A Living Archive'**

- Exploring the role of craft education in creating empathy for sustainability.

Full list of publications available at the website above.

2010 – 2019 **Lecturer in Hand Skills and Wood Technology at the University of Applied Arts, Vienna**

- Head of Wood Technology in the department of Design, Architecture and Environment for Art Education (DAE).
- Teaching design and material processes through practical workshop-based learning.
- Project manager and curator of the annual **"Craft Studies Exhibition"** from 2010–2016, presenting student work in design and material-based education.
- Regularly collaborating on projects with educational institutions including PH Kuchl and HTL Mödling.
- Delivering lectures, workshops, and foundation courses
- Publishing and presenting academic work in art and design education
- Teaching **"English in the Context of Art and Design"** to university professors

2017 – 2019 **Lecturer in Wood Technology**

- Visiting lecturer, FH Salzburg

2008 – 2018 **English trainer**

- Teaching English as a foreign language in Austrian secondary schools
- Designing and conducting specialised courses such as **"Spoken English for Business"**

2005 – 2007 **Project Manager and Designer**
Umdasch Shop Concept GmbH (Amstetten, Lower Austria)
European-wide design, construction and installation of shop furniture
~ €193m turnover, 1800 employees (2006)

2004 – 2005 **House renovation** 100m² detached house and garden, St. Pölten, Austria

1982 – 2001 **Project Manager and Furniture Designer/Maker in London, UK.**
Established and managed a joinery company specialising in bespoke interiors and furniture. Delivered high-quality commissions and participated in a cooperative housing renovation initiative.

EDUCATION

2007 – 2008 **MSc**
Innovation and Design for Sustainability
Cranfield University
Thesis: **"Emerging trends in sustainable design for office furniture"**

2001 – 2004 **BA (Hons)**
Product and Furniture Design
Kingston University
The final two years completed at the New Design Centre, St. Pölten, Austria
A broad course which included:

- Design Manufacturing Technology
- Digital and Business Studies in Design

Design Projects: www.redoakleaves.com/alugami

1983 – 1984 **ISM Diploma**
Institute of Supervisory Management
Exeter College
A course to develop supervision skills within the workplace

1979 – 1982 **City and Guilds**
Guildford College of Technology

- Advanced Carpentry
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Communication Skills

An apprenticeship studying wood technology and uses of metal and plastic

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- Design education and creative pedagogy
- Furniture design and making
- Wood technology and workshop practice
- Design thinking and creative processes
- Drawing and visual communication

Additional information

- Citizenship: Austrian
- English (native), German – good overall competence

Interest in teaching the following adult education courses:

- Introduction to Woodworking: Furniture Repair and Construction
- Creative Problem-Solving Through Practical Making
- Origami as a Tool for Design Thinking and Practical Applications
- Sustainable Craft and Materials