

ALI CHEN

she/her | Los Angeles, CA | ali@alichenstudio.com

PROFESSIONAL WOODWORKING EXPERIENCE

Cerritos College – Norwalk, CA

Aug. 2025 – Present

Embedded Tutor, Intro to Woodworking (Spring 2026)

Embedded Tutor, Wood Finishing (Fall 2025)

- Provides in-class support to students learning wood finishing techniques, including staining, dyeing, and topcoat applications
- Assists the instructor by demonstrating proper tool use, finishing methods, and safe workshop practices
- Offers individualized guidance to help students troubleshoot challenges

Ali Chen Studio – Los Angeles, CA

Aug. 2025 – Present

Designer & Workshop Instructor

- Designed, prototyped, and built 13 sets of chopstick making jigs
- Developed original teaching materials, including a self-published zine, infographics, presentation slide deck, and jumbo-sized chopsticks for demonstration purposes
- Guides groups of up to 12 participants in safe tool use, chopstick shaping process, and finish application
- Coordinates workshop logistics, materials preparation, and participant support

Paradise Framing – Inglewood, CA

Jun. 2024 – Nov. 2024

Woodshop Production Assistant

- Built frame components and sub-assemblies, sanded frames through 320 grit, and applied and buffed oil finish
- Sharpened chisels and blades using Tormek T-8 Sharpening System, ceramic water stones, and diamond sharpening plates
- Maintained woodshop's organization and cleanliness

SPATIAL DESIGN VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Tool Library – Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 2025 – Present

Volunteer

- Assisted with gathering field measurements of tool library space
- Digitized the floor plan of tool library space, creating both 2D visual aids and 3D model of the room via SketchUp
- Collaborating with team to design the spatial layout of the tool library

EDUCATION

Cerritos College – Norwalk, CA

Jul. 2023 – May 2025

Associate of Science, Furniture Making

May 2024

Completed Courses:

Introduction to Woodworking, Introduction to Tables and Woodworking Hand Tools, Topics in Cabinetmaking, Woodworking Design and Fabrication, Introduction to Cabinet Installation, Wood Finishing, Introduction to Woodturning, Woodworking Machine Maintenance and Repair, Architectural Millwork, SketchUp for Woodworkers, Architectural Design Theory I, Architectural Drafting and Design I, and AutoCAD Architecture

Recognitions:

2024 Ambassador Scholarship, 2024 Gary and Steven Hormel Family Endowed Scholarship

Chinkapin Craftstead – Woodbury, TN

Sept. 2024

Timber Framing Workshop

Outcome:

Built two 12ft x 12ft lodging cabins within 7 days as a team of 20, using primarily hand tools and a few select power tools. Both structures were raised by hand.

The Year of Mud – Berea, KY

Aug. 2024

Timber Framing Workshop

Outcome:

Built a 14ft x 16ft storage shed within 7 days as a team of 17, first using hand tools then transitioning to primarily power tools. The structure was raised using a telehandler forklift.

University of California, Santa Barbara – Goleta, CA

Bachelor of Arts, Economics and Accounting

2013 – 2017

June 2017

Recognitions:

2017 Community Engagement Award, 2017 Outstanding LGBTQ Organization Award, 2017 Outstanding QTPOC Program of the Year, 2017 University Award of Distinction