

## Writing Club: David Gissen on What a Body Needs April 2024



Installation view of the gallery "Body Constructs" in the exhibition "Collection 1950s-1970s" December 22, 2023-ongoing. Photographed in January 2024. IN2549.417.7. Photograph by Jonathan Dorado.

Begin by exploring the gallery and reflecting on the question, *what does a body need today?* Write down a list of things that you think a body needs today. Think about your own body as well as the human body in society.

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**Artwork:** [Gunnar Aagaard Andersen, Armchair, 1964.](#)

**Writing Prompt 2:** Spend a few minutes looking at the terms and ideas within the list you made earlier and think about some of the ways that a chair or seat might represent your idea of “what a body needs.” Make a sketch of your imagined chair.

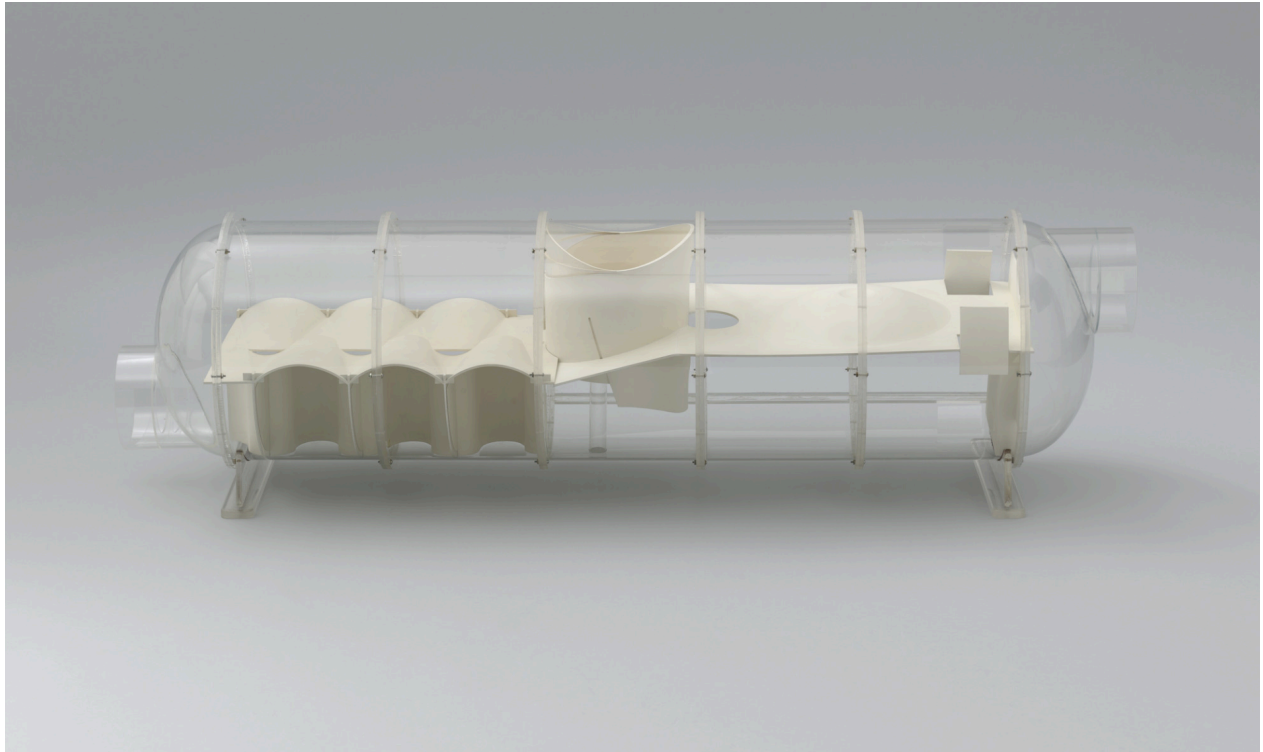
This might describe the physical qualities of a future chair design, concepts about materials and fabrication, ideas about the physical experience of sitting, or the ways furniture invokes historic ideas about culture and style.

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**Artwork:** Kazuo Kawasaki. Carna Folding Wheelchair. 1989

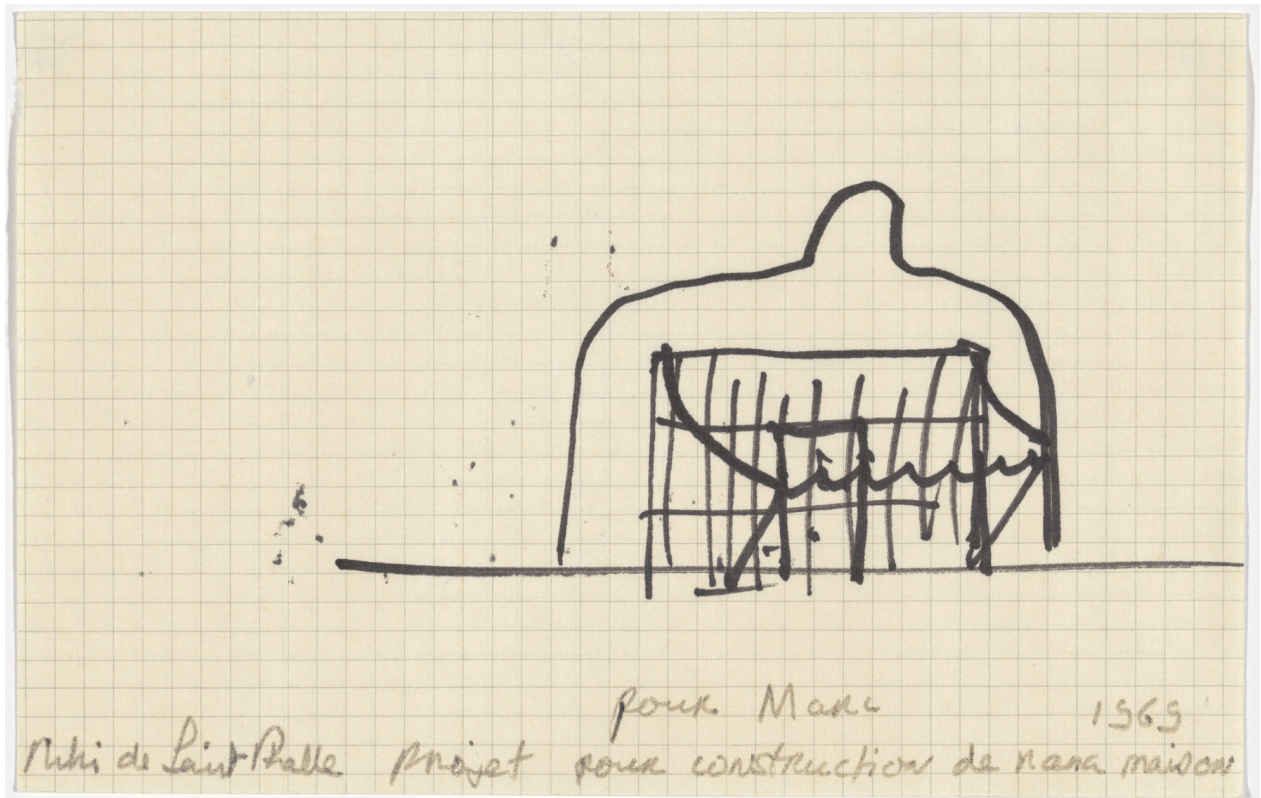
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**Artwork:** [Michael Kalil. \*International Space Station Habitation Module\*. NASA, project,. 1983-1986](#)

**Writing Prompt 3:** What does a body need at work today, and how might this be represented in a physical change to the workplace? Write down some notes and/or make a sketch.

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**Artwork:** [Niki de Saint Phalle. Plan for Construction of Nana Maison \(Projet pour construction de Nana maison\). 1969](#)

**Writing Prompt 4:** In what ways might the public spaces that you use better represent what a body needs? Write down some ideas.