

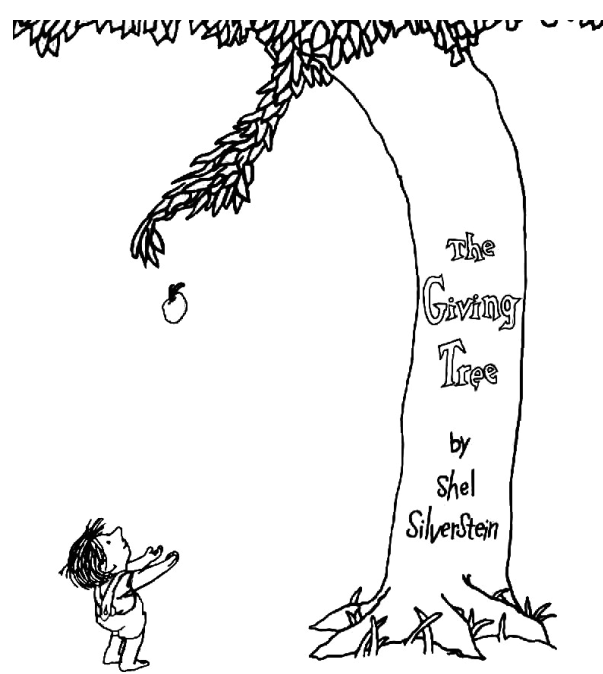
The beloved children's book, **The Giving Tree** by Shel Silverstein, tells the story of a tree whose happiness comes from helping a boy throughout his life.

The Heart of the Story: The Relationship of People & Trees

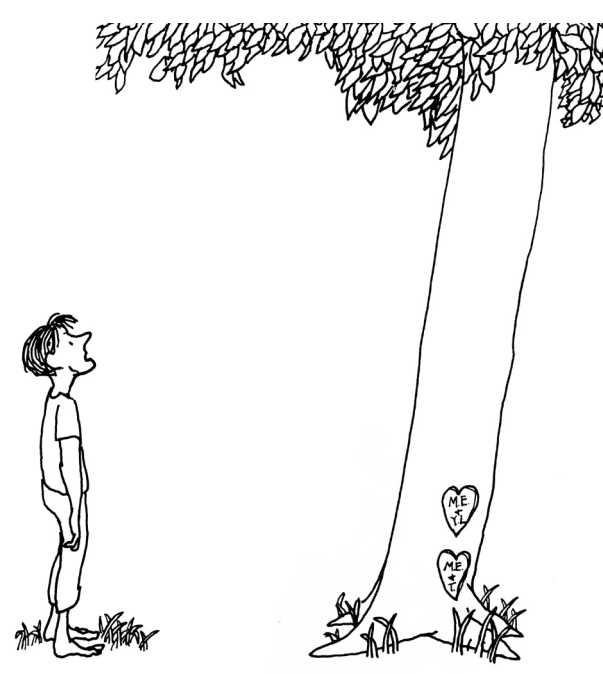
The Story and the Seat

Since the publishing of *The Giving Tree*, the boy's relationship with the tree has been the subject of wide-ranging discourse regarding the broader lessons embedded in this humble story for children. Some people interpret this relationship in reference to parent-child relationships, friendships, theology, and environmental stewardship. Other people simply see this book as an entertaining children's story that brings back fond memories from childhood.

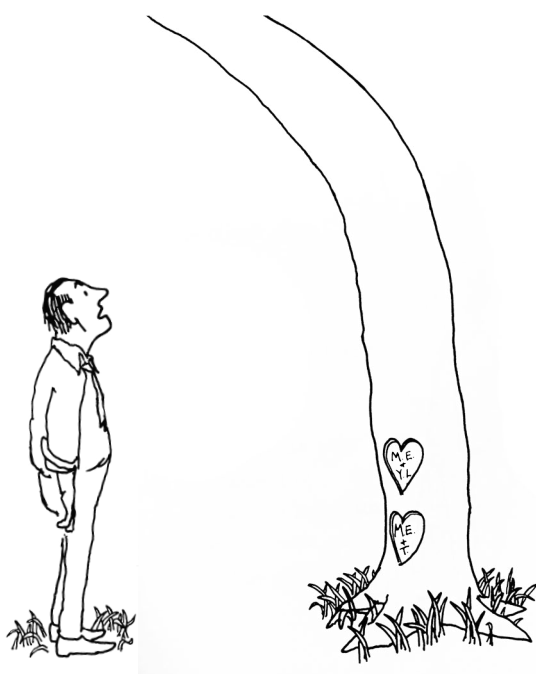
Not unlike *The Giving Tree*, this seat design can be more than just a quiet place to sit and rest. The seat, unequivocally, has a relationship with the tree. It protects, strengthens, supports, and empowers the tree. **Each person who sits on the seat has a relationship with the tree.** The nature of that relationship is up to each person. The seat can simply be a seat, but it can also be the catalyst for much larger discussions in our world and about the trees we steward.



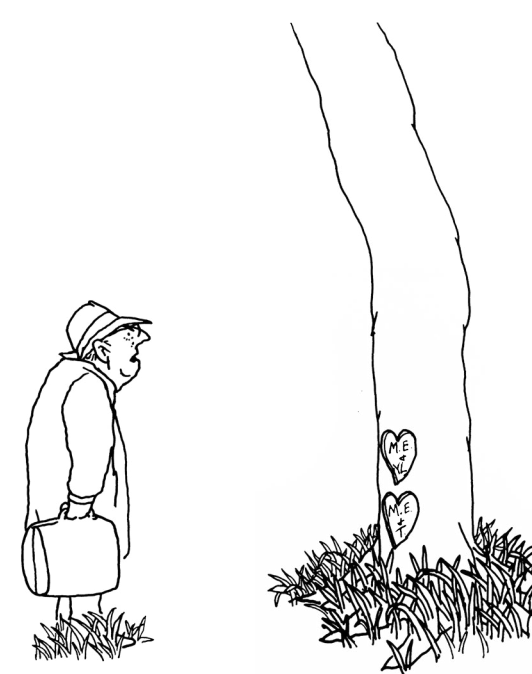
When the boy was a child, he would climb her trunk, swing from her branches, eat her apples, gather her leaves, and sleep in her shade. **The boy loved the tree and the tree was happy.**



As the boy grew older, his attention shifted away from the tree. One day, the boy returned but only to ask her for money to buy things and have fun. **She gladly gave him her apples to sell in the city.**



The boy returned later as a man and asked the tree for a house. **She gladly gave him her branches to build his house.**



The boy returned later as a man ready to retire and asked the tree for a boat. **She gladly gave him her trunk to build his boat.** Even still, the tree was happy, but not really.



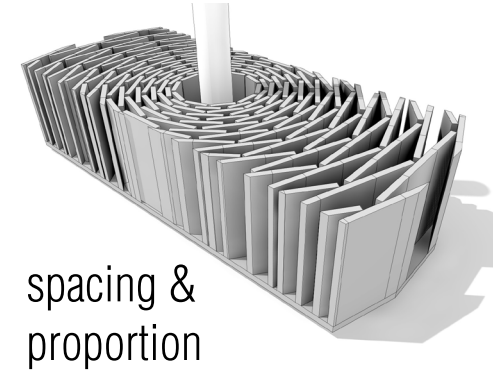
The boy returned as an old man. After the tree apologized for having nothing to give, the boy simply asked for **a quiet place to sit and rest.** The boy sat on her stump, and the tree was happy.

Trees give everyday by:

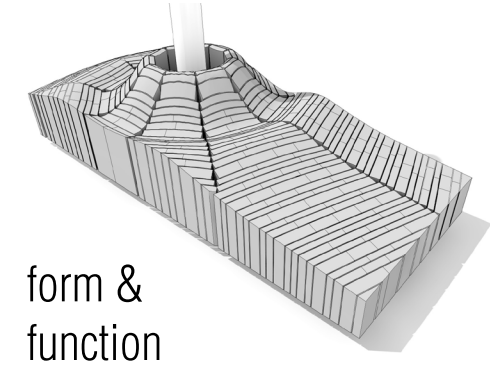
FILTERING STORMWATER • SEQUESTERING CARBON • CLEANING AIR POLLUTION • INCREASING PROPERTY VALUE • REDUCING URBAN HEAT ISLAND EFFECT • PRODUCING OXYGEN • CREATING WILDLIFE HABITAT • REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION • CREATING COOLING MICROCLIMATES • SAVING STORMWATER MANAGEMENT COSTS • LOWERING CRIME RATES • SLOWING HEART RATES • LOWERING BLOOD PRESSURE • RELAXING BRAIN WAVE PATTERNS • INCREASING WORKER PRODUCTIVITY • INCREASING TEST SCHOLASTIC SCORES • REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES • CREATING WINDBREAKS • INTERCEPTING RAINWATER • REDUCING NOISE POLLUTION & MORE

Sources: Portland's Urban Forest Canopy Report 2007; The Benefits of Trees; www.canopy.org 2018

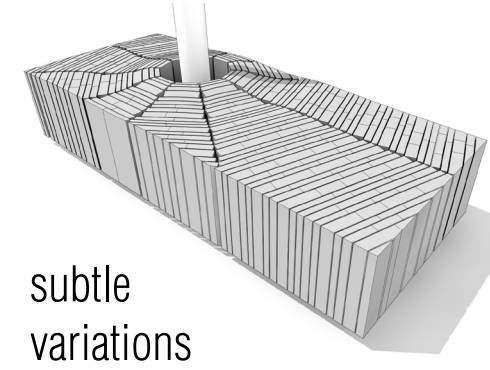
Beginning the relationship



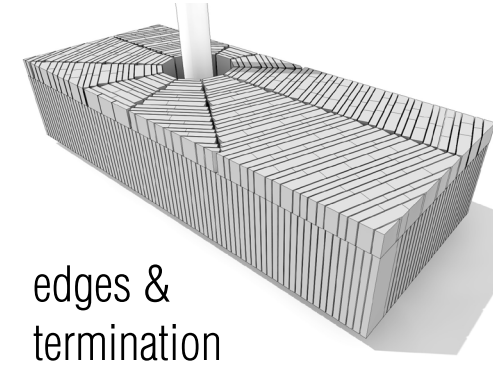
spacing & proportion



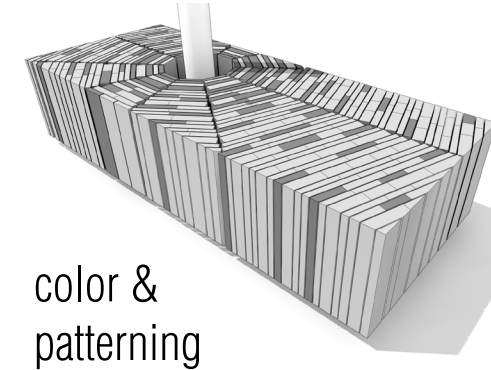
form & function



subtle variations

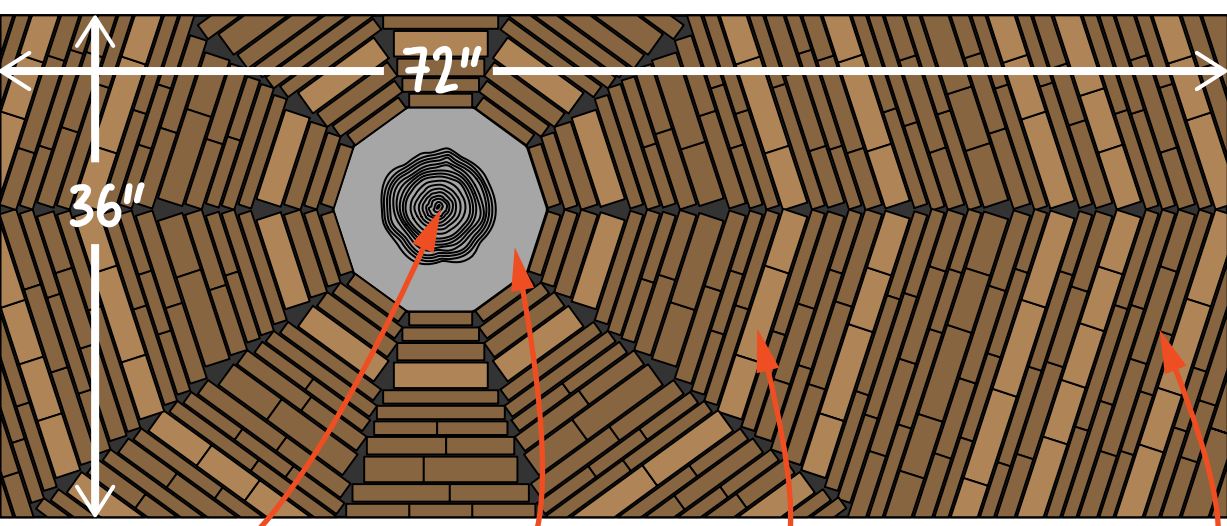


edges & termination



color & patterning

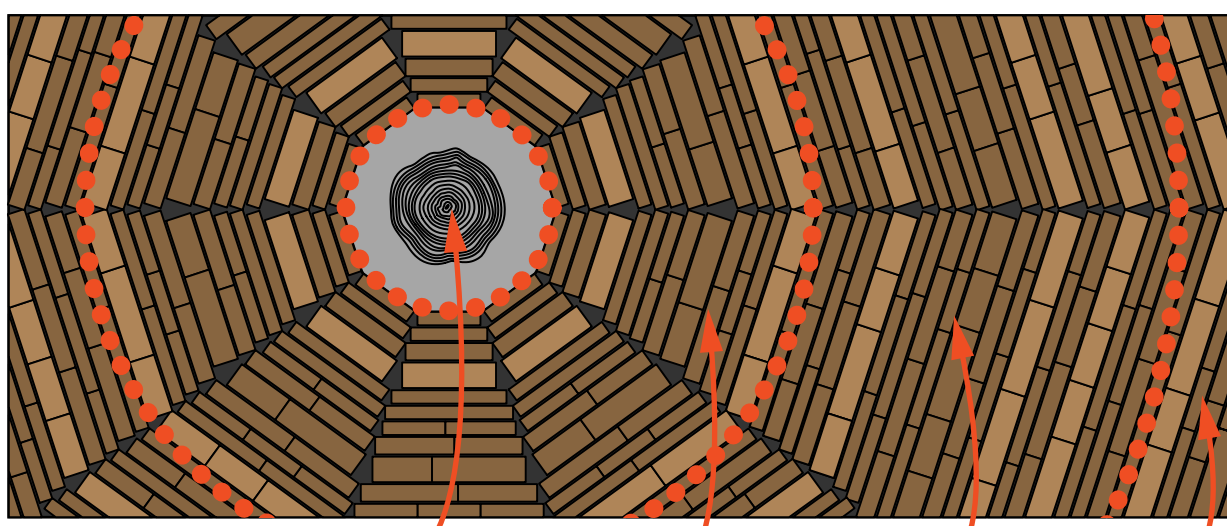
A seat designed for people & trees



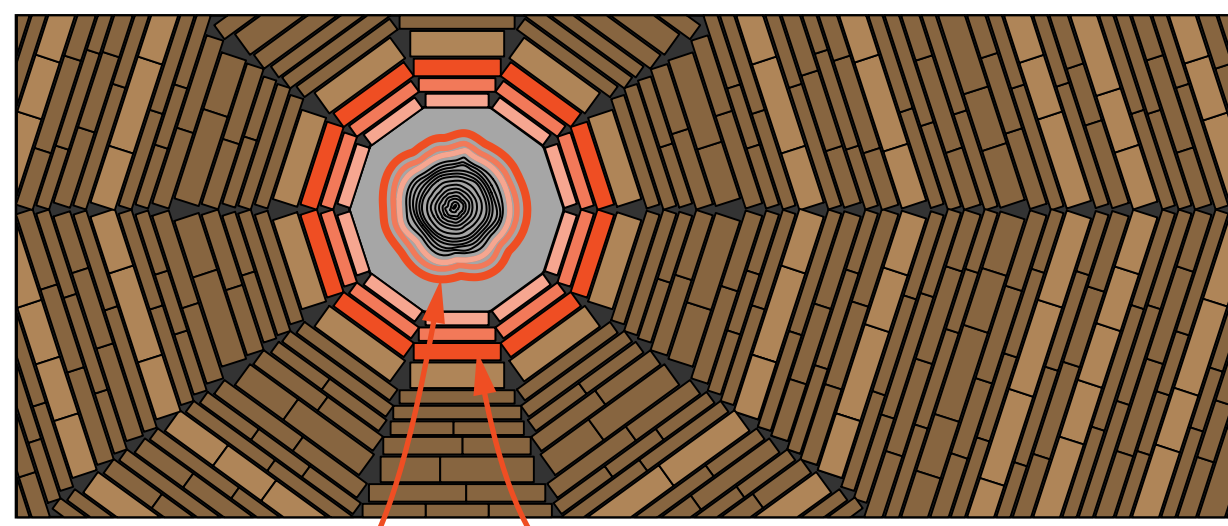
Wood boards form rings around the tree. **Protection for the tree. A quiet place to sit and rest for the people.**



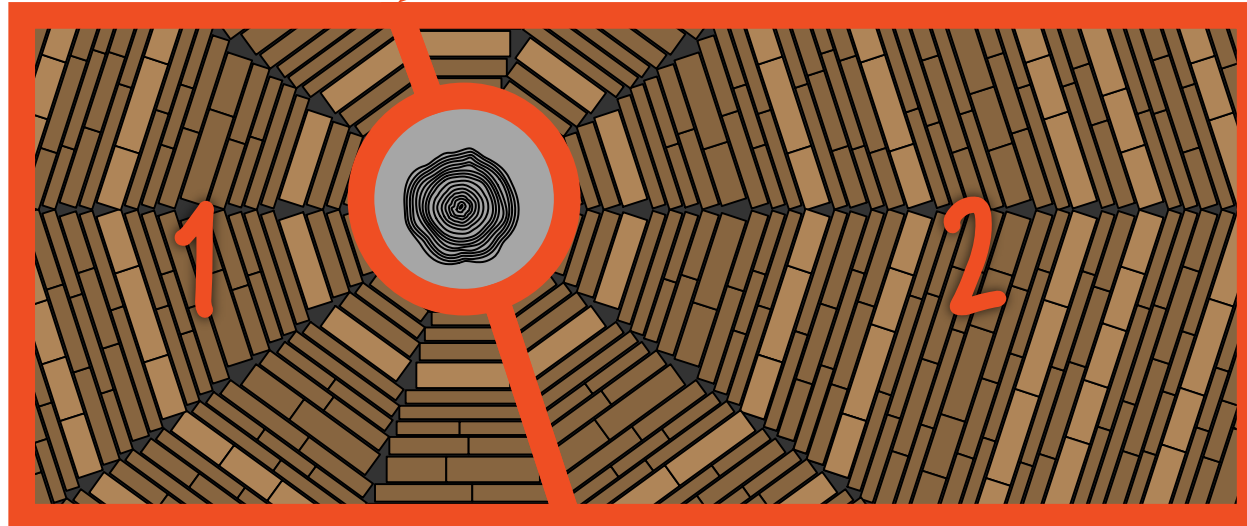
Tree rings tell **the story of a tree.** Good years, bad years, fires, injuries, and more can all be seen in the rings.



The seat patterning is modeled after the structure and strata of the tree. **The seat tells the story of the tree.**



As the tree gets older, **outer rings are added.** As the seat gets older, **inner rings are subtracted.**

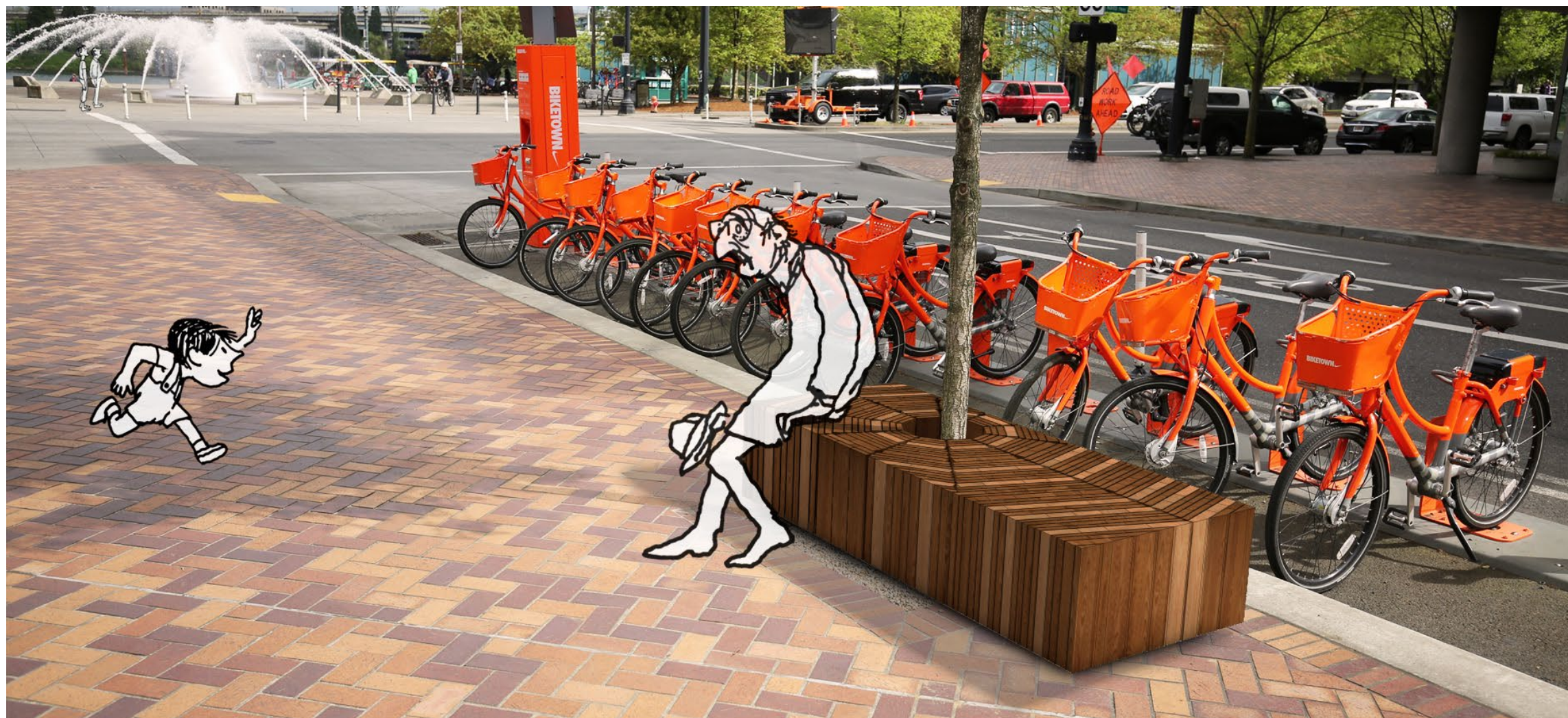


Two halves make one whole. Hidden latches on either side lock the 2 halves together and unlock for maintenance or inner ring removal.



Soil compaction & bark damage kill trees

It's no secret that urban trees live far shorter lives than their rural brothers and sisters. Many common tree ailments like root girdling, desiccation, drought stress, disease, and insect infestation can be eliminated or improved simply by limiting soil compaction and bark damage. **The seat helps alleviate 2 main threats to urban trees.**



Made with everyday trees, Not tropical hardwoods

The dense, rot-resistant properties of tropical hardwoods like ipe, cumaru, tigerwood, and others have propelled their rapid rise in popularity. High rates of rainforest deforestation have become the collateral damage in the scramble to supply the tropical hardwood demand even despite best efforts to promote sustainable forest management.

Thermally modified wood is rising to prominence as an innovative method of achieving highly durable, rot-resistant wood properties while using **regionally available wood species from sustainably managed forests.** This seat design uses thermally modified Pine and Ash species available from Thermory USA. Heat and steam strengthen the wood without harmful chemicals.



Simple ingredients

1. Wood
Standard dimensional lumber: 1x4, 1x6, 1x8, 5/4x4, 5/4x6, 5/4x8, 2x4, 2x6
2. Screws & Washers
Hex head stainless steel screw, variable lengths
Stainless steel washer
3. Latch
2.5" Barrel Bolt: Connect both halves of the bench
4. Levelers
4-piece T-nut levelers: Field level on uneven pavement surfaces as required

Simple construction

