

Design furniture between the legacy of handicrafts and contemporary prospects

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Abstract

The handicrafts considered as one of the constants of our ancient Egyptian heritage, which cannot be erased from memory, no matter how long it is, as well as being one of the basic components of the national character. It distinguishes the specificity of Arab societies and create their identity. So, caring of handicrafts is a great responsibility for those who are interested in this cultural heritage.

The importance of crafts and handicrafts is reflecting the national identity of the state that produces them. In Egypt, many of these handicrafts are inherited by generations bearing the genetic fingerprint of creativity, beauty, precision and mastery. And it is still one of the Egyptian artist creativity marks, which manually formed. Any country that is characterized by these handicrafts can make economic gains as a result of its interest and support. Therefore, it is necessary to study how to promote this industry and benefit from it in the design and production of contemporary furniture, as well as benefiting from successful global experiences in handcraft development to overcome its position in Egypt. Furniture generally considered as one of the most important elements of the interior spaces, including the functional and aesthetic components directly affect the formation of the internal vacuum, which can affect positively or negatively on the inhabitants.

So, the problem of this research arose by the reluctance of designers of heritage In general and handicrafts in particular, and their influenced by western design trends, which was the result of losing many of our cultural heritage and our handicrafts. The problem of research concentrated in the departure of furniture design from handicrafts and not keep up with modernity and contemporary, which led to the decline of the crafts until reach extinction. As a result, the research aims to revive the handicrafts by integrating them with contemporary design lines for their development and continuity throughout the ages. This paper discussed the concept of handicrafts, their importance and the problems they face in the light of contemporary developments, and what are the handicrafts supporting the design of furniture. The paper concluded with a suggested design that demonstrates the effect of handicrafts on enriching furniture design aesthetically, culturally and emotionally.

Keywords:

handicrafts ‘Cultural heritage ‘ Innovation -Contemporary furniture– Economical development.