

## **Palm Craft Industries in Contemporary Furniture design**

**Prof. Amal Abd ElKhalek**

**Professor at the Faculty of Applied Arts - Department of Interior Design & Helwan University.**

[amalawad2212@yahoo.com](mailto:amalawad2212@yahoo.com)

**Assist. Prof. Dr. Dina Fekry Gamal**

**Assistant Professor - Department of Interior Design and Furniture, Faculty of Applied Arts, Helwan University**

[dinafekry@hotmail.com](mailto:dinafekry@hotmail.com)

**Researcher. Noha Ali Hussein**

**Department of Interior Design and Furniture & College of Applied Arts & Helwan University**

[noha.ali\\_92@hotmail.com](mailto:noha.ali_92@hotmail.com)

### **Abstract:**

This study aims to clarify the importance of palm industries in Furniture design and manufacture , identify their reforming capabilities as an entry point to achieve aesthetic and functional values and to know how to benefit from them by integrating theories of contemporary design and manufacturing technology in order to get local furniture designers attention to the importance of use easy renewable natural materials as an alternative to natural wood , especially as they have distinctive characteristics that make them suitable for use in furniture manufacturing , as well as being one of our handicrafts that represent our Egyptian heritage and constitute our identity.

Therefore, it was obligatory to study how to promote these handicraft industries and how to benefit from them in the field of designing and producing contemporary furniture by identifying the industrial methods used to try to develop them, in addition to reviewing the beginnings of these industries in Egypt in order to identify the areas of strength and weaknesses that have experienced throughout ages and to monitor their obstacles and problems in an attempt to overcome their current situation, especially this craft is about to extinct in Egypt despite its economic, environmental, heritage, aesthetic and cultural value.

The paper concluded with a contemporary Furniture design made of fronds to clarify its use as a renewable , environmental material that enrich the design aesthetically, culturally and emotionally.

### **Keywords:**

craft industries , palm Fronds ,Contemporary furniture,Economical material

### **An Introduction**

Craft industries are an integral part of the material culture of the Egyptian folk heritage. Heritage is the spirit of peoples that forms their identity and historical memory and gives them a distinctive character. Craft industries in Egypt vary between woodwork, embroidered textiles, glass artifacts, handmade carpets, shell inlays, hammering on copper, and making Leather and other industries that occupy a wide area of the Egyptian heritage.

The craft industries associated with palm trees come at the forefront of the crafts that support the furniture industry in Egypt. Furniture, but limited production to accessories or aesthetic supplements

The problem of the research is the scarcity of clear and unconventional design visions to design contemporary local furniture based on leaves as a craft that has a cultural heritage and ancient heritage, and as an available and renewable local raw material.

- The aim of the research is to design contemporary furniture that seeks to revive the craft industries related to palm trees to face the risks and challenges that pose pressures that threaten their survival, and to find ways to develop them so that this is reflected on the economic level of the craftsman in particular and the national income of Egypt in general.
- The importance of the research to provide design solutions for the manufacture of modern furniture from palm leaves that achieves two directions, the first is to revive the craft of making leaves and face the danger of its extinction, and the second is to increase national income as a result of the recovery of the leaves industry again.
- The hypothesis of the research is that the use of palm leaf as a craft and raw material in the field of designing and manufacturing furniture imparts heritage and aesthetic values that help increase its demand and open a field for it to compete in the global markets.
- Research Methodology The research follows the descriptive analytical approach to explore the elements of the research problem and analyze them, and then come up with a proposed vision to preserve and develop the craft industries associated with palm trees.
- Temporal research limits the current period of the 21st century

## Research axes

First: The development of the use of palm trees in Egypt through the ages.

Second: Craft industries related to palm trees in Egypt and the most important problems they face.

1. Handicrafts related to palm trees in Egypt.
2. The problems facing the craft.

Third: the properties and defects of palm leaf and the consequent plastic potentials as an entry point to achieve aesthetic values.

1. Properties of palm leaf.
2. Palm leaf defects.
3. The plastic potential of the palm leaf.

Fourth: The industrial methods used and the tools used in forming the leaves.

1. The industrial methods used to use the leaves in manufacturing.
2. The tools used in forming leaves

Fifth: The uses of leaf material in general and its applications in the field of interior design and furniture in particular.

1. The uses of the leaves in general in the field of building and construction.
2. The uses of newspaper in particular in the field of interior design and furniture.

Sixth: the applied framework of the research

1. Presentation and analysis of leaf furniture.
2. Designs proposed by the researcher for furniture made of leaves.
3. Presenting these products to a group of specialists to evaluate these designs.

**Results :**

From what has been mentioned in this study, the following is evident:

- 1- The craft industries related to palm trees need renewal and continuous research in the methods of processing formations in them to ensure their continuity and employment in the field of furniture.
- 2- The leaves are renewable environmental raw materials that are abundant in Egypt, and the furniture designer can ideally employ them as an alternative to natural wood in furniture manufacturing processes.
- 3- The use of leaf as a sustainable natural material in the field of furniture has a positive impact on the social, cultural, environmental and economic levels of the craftsman and society as a whole.

**Recommendations:****First: Furniture designer recommendations**

- 1- To be familiar with the natural raw materials derived from the environment in general and the palm leaf in particular and how to exploit them in the field of furniture design and manufacture with the aim of enriching the designs with many aesthetic, cultural, environmental and economic values.
- 2- To be able to determine the appropriate, uncomplicated technology that works to enhance the material so that it balances the development of the piece of furniture through updating the design lines, decorations, colors and industry style in a manner that does not contradict the identity of the craft and the authenticity of its products.

**Second: Recommendations for the craftsman**

- 1- Taking care of the technical level of the craftsman and developing it through training courses in order to improve the quality and increase the production capacity of the products.
- 2- The use of some simple mechanical machines and tools in order to obtain more quality and accurate results, such as a saw instead of a manual knife, which is used to cut the leaves and the electric drill to perforate the leaves.
- 3- Seeking help from the old practitioners of this craft in training the new ones on the basics of the craft.

**Third: Recommendations for government agencies concerned with the craft industries sector**

- 1- Opening the way for the establishment of professional organizations that represent the practitioners of this craft, such as leagues and syndicates, to unite them and work to achieve their demands and remedy their problems, and to provide technical, financial, administrative and marketing assistance to these industries, in order to reduce the reluctance of many to practice this craft.
- 2- Providing a number of financing programs characterized by soft terms in terms of interest rates, payment terms, conditions and guarantees.
- 3- Adopting tangible advantages in the tax system, which guarantees them appropriate exemptions.

- 4- Organizing permanent and temporary exhibitions inside and outside Egypt, in order to promote and introduce the product, its raw material and its nature.
- 5- Organizing local festivals and competitions for craftsmen and allocating prizes to motivate quality and creativity.
- 6- Activating the role of the media in spreading the local production of furniture made of newspapers, displaying it, expanding its horizons, and talking about it, opening workshops in festivals and heritage events, and encouraging the current generation to learn this craft.
- 7- The contribution of the faculties of art in preserving the handicraft industries related to newspapers, by providing the creative side of the craftsman and designer with innovative shapes, formations and formations, and the use of computers in new designs with the aim of upgrading and developing this craft.

### References:

- 1- 'ahmad eabd aleaziz 'amin "al'athath almisrii almueasir min khilal alfulkukur" dukturah. - qism altasmim aldaakhilii wal'athath - kuliyyat alfunun altatbiqiat - jamieat hulwan 2008.
- 2- ayt yahyaa alqadi , "tatwir aistikhdam jarid alnakhil fi al'athath waltasmim aldaakhili" , risalat majistir , qism altasmim aldaakhilii wal'athath , kuliyyat alfunun altatbiqiat , jamieat hulwan , 1995.
- 3- duea' eabd alrahman muhamad judat , "almaeayir alqiasiat lilmawadi almustakhdamat fi altasmim aldaakhilii wa'athath almanzil bima yatawafaq mae albiyat fi masara". - qism altasmim aldaakhilii wal'athath - kuliyyat alfunun altatbiqiat - jamieat hulwan 2006.
- 4- zakariaa sayid saeid , falsafat alnuzum alsarfiat fi tafeil alqiam aljamaliat walwazifiat fi tasmim al'athath , dukturah. - qism altasmim aldaakhilii wal'athath - kuliyyat alfunun altatbiqiat - jamieat hulwan 2009.
- 5- shima' sabir sayid talbat , "al'iimkaniat albilastikiat likhamat alnakhil kamuqadimat lithahqiq alqiam aljamaliat lilharakat fi almashghulat alfaniyati" , risalat majistir , kuliyyat altarbiat alnaweiat , jamieat alqahirat , 2008.
- 6- eali muhamad alsanusi muhamad , "albiyat alsaahiliat wa'atharuha ealaa eanasir altasmim aldaakhilii lilminshat alsiyahiati" , risalat majistir , qism altasmim aldaakhilii wal'athath , kuliyyat alfunun altatbiqiat , jamieat hlun , 1993.
- 7- duea' aismaeayl asmaeayl eatiah "tathyr alkhianat fi almujtamae ealaa tasumym almanazili" bahth manshur , majalat altasmim alduwlii , mujalad huiat alsaadis , aleadad alawil , 2016.
- 8- eaydat fuad eabd alfataah "althaqafat alshaebiat altaqlidiati: dirasat anthurubulujiat libaed alliqat'at faa almujtamae almusraa" bahath manshur , almajalat alearabiat lieilm alaijtimae , aleadad 10 , 2012.
- 9- eabd alwahaab hanfaa alsinaeat altaqlidiat walsinaeat alyadawiat faa alwahati: sinaeat alkhaws bahth manshur , majalat alfunun , mujalad 81 , eadad 82 , 2009.
- 10- fadit bint eabd allah alkhaliifa "eamil almar'at fi alhiraf (dirasat kayfiat aistikhdam eayinat min alnisa' aleamilat fi hirfat sinaeat alkhaws bimuhafazat alahisa)" bahth manshur , majalat alkhaliifat w alfarah almajalat alearabiat lileulum w nashr , almujalad althaanaa , aleadad alawil , 2016 .
- 11-Majed Alquimi-New Techniques to Use Dates Palm Fronds in Architectural and Product Design Application - Master degree- Faculty of Architecture – Texas Tech University-2014