

The Nubian Woman's Lifestyle and Traditional Jewelry as Inspiration for Contemporary Furniture Design

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Abstract:

Art is one of the most important means of expressing society in all its categories through the ages. It is one of the most important means of heritage sustainability. Due to scientific and technological progress and society's tendency to modern contemporary furniture, the heritage character began to disappear gradually. It became limited to some traditional and well-known pieces. With these limitations in the traditional designs, the heritage furniture was unable to compete with the modern furniture, so the popular culture began to fade, and receded in certain parts and forms.

Egyptian society is characterized as a socially interdependent society, and the family plays an important and major role in it. Women are considered the mainstay of the family and participate with the family in all its activities, as well as having many social participations. As women's clothes, jewelry and lifestyle associated with her are among the most important elements of society's expression, hence incorporating these elements into contemporary furniture is a transfer of the folklore. By studying the folklore, we find that it is a symbolic heritage as each symbol and each color has its own significance.

By reviewing the nature of the southern life, studying it in the field, reviewing the elements of the Nubian folklore and the human interaction with the folklore in the Egyptian jewellery. Then extracting what distinguishes the Egyptian symbol between ancient Egyptian and Nubian art. The research presents a pictorial vision for integrating design elements from folk jewellery and the lifestyle of the Nubian woman as an inspiration for designing contemporary furniture pieces. The research aims to present models for integrating folklore and the sense of life in Nuba in complement furniture to contemporary home furnishings. Integrated with colors that are easy to be merged with any space as a way for the furniture to become an ambassador of Egyptian culture and heritage globally and locally.

Keywords:

Furniture Design; Nubian Art; Traditional Jewellery; Folk Art; Heritage Sustainability.

Research problem:

1. The difficulty of merging the units of heritage furniture with contemporary modern designs and the emergence of the need for renewal and development in them to suit the current times and modernity and to become attractive to the user.
2. The trend of interior design and furniture towards modern designs that are free of heritage origins, which may gradually lead to the erasure of the user's association with the origins of culture in society.

Research Importance:

- This research contributes to developing a method for integrating cultural heritage into interior design and contemporary furniture to enhance the user's sense of heritage.
- The research is interested in studying how to express the Nubian lifestyle by using contemporary furniture as a means of transmitting cultural heritage globally.

Research Aims:

- Expressing the life of the Egyptian south, with its heritage and community culture, in contemporary interior designs and furniture.
- Employing the projections of the Egyptian heritage through the ages in contemporary furniture inspired by the traditional ornaments of the Egyptian woman as a reflection of the public taste in society through the ages.

Procedural Steps for Research:

(The nature of life in the south - the civilizations of the south and their heritage - an analytical vision of a selection of some symbols of Nubian art - similarities between the symbols of Nubian and ancient Egyptian art - human interaction with folklore in Egyptian ornaments - the Egyptian symbol between ancient Egyptian and Nubian art - analytical models for converting symbols to a style- the traditional Nubian life into design units for contemporary furniture design - contemporary furniture designs proposed by the researcher inspired by the symbols of the Egyptian south and integrated into modern furniture).

Introduction:

Cultural heritage is the mirror of society that reflects its origins and character. With the continuation of society's trend of modernity and the disappearance of heritage and traditional characters, the need to develop the concept of integrating heritage into society has emerged. That is through contemporary design lines that express heritage origins, but in an attractive and modern way. Human being interacts with the place and its cultural, social and urban variables to form his personality and identity [1]. Art is the tool by which man expresses his conscience, and the Egyptian artist was not limited to preserving the heritage, but he renewed it and created it [2]. Folk art in particular is an abstract spontaneous expression with a cultural, social and religious background [3].

The south is characterized by being the center of civilizations and heritage in Egypt through the ages, since the ancient Egyptian. Times may change, but the impact of those civilizations in the past still casts its imprints in the present. Heritage is the basic structure of the culture of society, and we aim in this study to present a proposal to preserve this heritage imprint in contemporary furniture in an attractive way to the public. Preserving and sustaining our heritage is an affirmation of our identity [4]. In this research, we present a vision of how to transform Egyptian furniture into a means to spread the Egyptian traditional cultural heritage locally and globally in a contemporary way? Furniture is a product with personality and by incorporating the original identity into its folds, it can reflect the aesthetic values of its community [5].

The Southern nature:

The south of Egypt is the center of the ancient rule of the country, and it was called (Upper Egypt) through which the Nile River enters the country. It is the lifeblood of Egypt and the main influence on the character and nature of the life of the Egyptian. Many civilizations followed and each era left its mark, but we find a common feature or character between those civilizations [6]. The cultural character in the architectural interior design is the common feature of a particular place with a specific environment and includes the environmental interaction and social activities of the human being. Where the character is affected by the urban environment factors of religious, social, political, economic and technological factors [7]. The Nuba region is characterized by artistic richness that reflects the Nubian culture and their connection with the Nile Valley [8].

Since ancient times, the Egyptians realized the importance of the location of Nubia, as it represented the natural borders of Egypt in the south as a strategic area of special importance. In addition to being a commercial center and a rich source of natural resources and precious minerals [9]. The location of the south has many characteristics, as the Nile River crosses the desert, creating fertile places for agriculture. The site is characterized by a relatively high temperature compared to the rest of Egypt, as it is a distinguished touristic destination in the winter. And passing through the Nile Valley, we find the scenic Egyptian islands and villages that combine sand dunes, silt, rocks and the blue waters of the Nile.

An analytical view of a selection of some symbols of Nubian art:

The purity of the place is a strong influence on the behavior of its inhabitants and their pure nature and kindness. The Nubian art is one of the richest arts in folklore. It stems from the nature of the place and the customs of the Nubians. Art is closely linked to the various aspects of Nubian life, through the Nubian traditions, customs, ideas, and sense of the surrounding environment [12] [16]. In view of the uniqueness of Nubia in its language, customs, traditions, handicrafts and others, it was included in the UNESCO list as a World Heritage Site [17]. Nubian art is characterized by a tendency to abstraction and symbolism in addition to realism, where the tendency to highlight the distinctive navigation of the job as much as possible [14]. The symbols and their synonyms also differ in reality according to the tribe or region in the south [18] [4] [19]. Figure (1) shows the facade of a Nubian house in West Suhail and its various Nubian decorations.



Figure (1) shows the facade of a Nubian house in West Suhail, Aswan, and its various Nubian decorations; the Researcher's photography.

in addition to its economic importance [28]. With a quick look at the Nuba, we find that many of the customs and traditions of the people of Nubia are inherited from the ancient Egyptian. Nubian women have an important role in economic life, as they have special characteristics that are unique. Nubia is also a popular environment of the first order, so proverbs and some ideological beliefs, customs and traditions characteristic of the community have spread [12], so have the ornaments, and by comparing the ancient Egyptian ornaments with the Nubian, we find a rapprochement in the Egyptian spirit and the artistic sense of them. The sense and aesthetics of the ancient Egyptian ornaments have extended through time in the Nubian folk art. We note a variety of forms of jewelry between head adornment, necklaces, cardinals, earrings, and nose adornments.... [29]. Figure (3) shows the convergence of the shapes of the ancient Nubian and Egyptian ornaments.




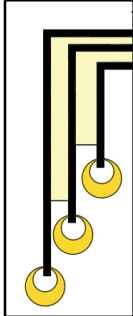

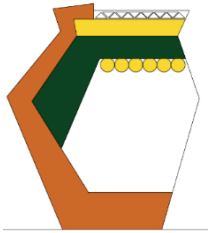

Figure (3) shows the similarity of the shapes of ancient Nubian and Egyptian ornaments; Prepared by the researcher the source of images no. [30] [23] [31] [6] [27]

Analytical models for transforming symbols of the traditional Nubian lifestyle into design units for contemporary furniture design:

The designer has an important role in the sustainability of heritage and the culture of his/her country. He must assimilate and deeply understand heritage and civilization in all its philosophical, psychological, social and ideological dimensions in order to understand the symbol and meaning, so that he can create contemporary designs that have a heritage characteristic and do not depend on direct simulation. One of the characteristics of creativity in the new design is that it dissolves within it all the sources that are affected by the designer while he creates his design [32]. Table No. (1) Analytical models for converting symbols of the traditional Nubian lifestyle into design units.

Table No. (1) shows analytical models for converting symbols of the traditional Nubian lifestyle into design units; Researcher Preparation

New Design Unit	Traditional Inspiration
	<p>١ -Earrings in Nubian jewelry</p> 
	<p>٢- Geometric motifs</p> 
	<p>٣-The Nubian Cardan (Al-Jakid)</p>  
	 

New Design Unit	Traditional Inspiration
	<p data-bbox="858 286 1254 320">4 -Handicrafts and pendants</p> 
	<p data-bbox="807 629 1305 701">5 -Kinetic expressions in the life of a Nubian woman</p> 

The following are furniture designs inspired by the life of the south, not just motifs, by merging the feeling and spirit of southern life with contemporary furniture that bears an Egyptian character. From the movement of the Nubian lady and her traditional clothes to the traditional women's jewelry that she adheres to wearing even while performing her domestic tasks. From the above it is also clear that the lines of the Nubian designs have projections on the ancient Egyptian ornaments, as the Egyptian heritage continues despite the change in its shape or era ...

Contemporary furniture designs suggested by the researcher inspired by the symbols of the Egyptian south and integrated into modern furniture:

Creating heritage-themed furniture can not only draw elements from traditional furniture, but also get inspiration from other sister folk arts, traditional lifestyle and nature of heritage culture. Furniture can extract its elements and designs from other folk arts so that a contemporary national character appears in the design [5]. Considering that the Nubian society is the product of the accumulation of the experiences, cultures and lifestyles of the Egyptians as an authentic part of the Egyptian identity and the ancient Egyptian civilization [33], it was chosen as a direction to present models for the creation of contemporary pieces of furniture bearing the Nubian character, especially the style of Nubian women's clothing and jewelry.

1) The researcher's proposal to combine the designs of the Nubian ornaments with a contemporary piece of furniture (side table) ... (Bubaa moon)

The (Boba Moon) table is inspired by the Nubian ornaments, and the reason for its name is the Boba Moon, because it is a Nubian term that symbolizes the crescent-shaped ornaments. These pieces represent the philosophy of integrating the Nubian symbol with its heritage and culture with the wooden blocks to form a symbolic contemporary piece of furniture that symbolizes the Nubian jewelry and its philosophy. The philosophical integration was not only represented in

the formation of the block of the piece, but also represented in the merging of materials. We find in the market nowadays pieces of furniture of various shapes embedded in shiny stainless steel, but it is far from the Egyptian identity and contemporary personality. In this piece, an attempt to link heritage with contemporary by merging modern materials such as stainless steel with traditional materials such as wood to express what the Nubians are proud of (Nubia is the land of gold). The dark wood of the table frame symbolizes the earth, and the golden stainless steel symbolizes



Figure (28) shows the design of the table and the design idea inspired by it, which is the traditional Nubian ornaments; By the Researcher

2) The researcher's proposal to combine designs of traditional Nubian jewelry and metal with a contemporary piece of furniture (console) ... (jacked)

Console (Jacked) is a furniture unit inspired by Nubian ornaments, and the reason for calling it Jakid is that it is a Nubian term that symbolizes the ornaments in the form of a Nubian cardan. These pieces represent the philosophy of integrating the Nubian symbol with its heritage and culture with the wooden blocks to form a symbolic contemporary piece of furniture that symbolizes the Nubian jewelry and its philosophy. The philosophical integration was not only represented in the formation of the block of the piece, but also represented in the integration of modern materials. We find in the market nowadays pieces of furniture of various shapes embedded in shiny stainless steel, but it is far from the Egyptian identity and contemporary personality. In this piece, an attempt to link heritage with contemporary by merging modern materials such as stainless steel with traditional materials such as wood to express what the Nubians are proud of (Nubia is the land of gold). The dark wooden console body that forms the structure symbolizes the earth, and the golden stainless steel symbolizes gold. This is a philosophical suggestion using material and color. It is also hung on the wall and has metal ends on its ends with which stainless steel rings are attached to move freely and emit the ringing of the ornaments. The console is equipped with two types of lighting (blue LED and 2 spotlights) that work on a rechargeable battery and the charging port is hidden in the mirror from the bottom so that the unit is self-contained without visible wires.



Figure No. (34) shows the final shape of the console after manufacturing and its shape while the lighting is turned on, and it works completely without wires; By the Researcher

Conclusion:

The Egyptian heritage is rich in artistic elements, whose forms may vary through the ages, but they meet in the characteristics of the Egyptian character. Popular identity consists of the succession of cultures on society and the interaction of society with its surrounding environment [34]. In order to study art in a particular society, it is necessary to be familiar with its geographical nature, the nature of life, traditional costumes and ornaments. The research dealt with the study of the southern Egyptian society for its cultural and civilizational importance as a model for studying the cultural identity and lifestyle of an Egyptian society and its application in contemporary furniture with a glimpse that expresses the Egyptian personality.

Women in the Nubian society have an essential role, and this was one of the most important axes of the study in terms of their clothes, transportation methods, adornments, and daily tasks. Nubian ornaments and Nubian symbols have a historical reference back to ancient Egyptian art. Nubian art is symbolic and draws its symbols from its natural environment and cultural beliefs. By converting this study into symbols and design lines, we can reach contemporary interior designs and furniture that have the spirit of the Egyptian character.

Results:

- 1- The Egyptian personality with its own character was formed through the succession of various civilizations in Egypt.
- 2- Egyptian customs and traditions are relatively stable despite the succession of many civilizations to Egypt through different ages.
- 3- The symbol is one of the most important signs that show the history and civilization of society in the field of arts.

4- Heritage ornaments are a historical record that expresses the era in which they appeared, and they can be abstracted and transformed into contemporary furniture formations with a heritage glimpse.

Recommendations:

- 1- It is suggested to study the traditional lifestyle and its details when drawing inspiration from interior designs or furniture with a heritage reference.
- 2- It is recommended for the designer to study the symbol and meaning of each design unit used to inspire interior designs or furniture with a heritage reference.
- 3- It is proposed to integrate the heritage outputs from the different artistic fields to reach contemporary furniture designs that carry the heritage feature in a renewed manner, such as jewelry and traditional clothing.
- 4- It is recommended for researchers to study and revive popular cultural heritage in the rest of the Egyptian regions of a special nature.
- 5- It is suggested to combine the study of the different types of heritage arts with the study of the history of arts for that era, and the historical study is not limited to a special specialization only.

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