

# Experiences and Implications of Furniture Design Teaching of Foreign Countries

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**Abstract.** The teaching of furniture design major in western countries started in 1850s, about 100 years before China, which has accumulated rich experiences. The main features of teaching furniture design abroad include the penetration of culture, the flexibility of teaching and the harmony of relationship. Compared with these characteristics, Chinese furniture design education lags the western countries seriously. This paper focuses on this issue to propose the corresponding countermeasures to provide some references for the relevant researchers.

## Introduction

On one hand, Chinese modern manufacturing industry is rising rapidly, and the high and new technology represented by information technology is almost impacting all the economic and manufacturing industries. On the other hand, Chinese modern art and design education, which is not far from the beginning, is providing a backward service for China's modern industry with immature design, educational theory and teaching practice. Today, we are at a critical period of development of China furniture of modern industry, we are in the midst of furniture design education lags behind the development of the furniture industry and the serious contradictions and conflicts quickly, facing the challenges and opportunities of the century, through a review and Reflection on furniture design education in the West for more than a century, strong feelings to the modern furniture design education will be the driving force to create Chinese furniture power. Only from the source to build a real Chinese modern furniture in the education system, to develop a new generation of China innovative furniture design talent, and actively participate in global economic integration of international competition, we can achieve the real power in the world of furniture in the new century ideal. The furniture design specialty has not been opened for a long time in our universities. What kind of teaching model can be used to better highlight its discipline characteristics and is still in the groping stage. The professional teaching aims to cultivate professional talents with rich imagination and creativity in furniture design, which requires that teachers can limit the students' thinking in the teaching process, as far as possible for students to provide a relatively free learning environment. The teaching mode is essentially different from the traditional teaching mode, it has greatly improved the traditional teaching in Teacher centered teaching mode, to enhance the interaction between teachers and students, arouse the enthusiasm of students in active learning. The introduction of the western teaching model into the teaching of furniture design in China will achieve good results.

## Main Characteristic of Furniture Design Teaching of Foreign Countries

**Penetration of Culture.** From the perspective of cultural tradition, western countries have always worshipped the value of a single piece of product. In the design standards, they have been to distinguish between real supplies and works of art, and maintain the design of high-quality image. The mission of the college is to train students in art, science and technology so that they can design, promote and develop various works in different fields of decorative arts. All students are taught

painting and modeling. The teaching and development of western furniture design specialty was established along with the development of European industrial revolution. Learning from the western furniture industry culture can play an active guiding role in the cognition of students' furniture design. If students can correctly understand the differences between Chinese and Western culture in furniture design, the excellent part of western culture will be applied to furniture design, which can promote the development of China's furniture industry. When students are learning, teachers should guide their comparative study on traditional furniture design and modern furniture design in foreign countries. Through such comparative study, students in the furniture design will know how to use the western design culture at the same time, highlight and carry forward the national traditional culture of our country. The teaching mode of cultural infiltration is based on science. Therefore, the teaching model of cultural infiltration has scientific characteristics. The scientific features of the cultural infiltration teaching model are embodied in the cultivation of students' thinking ability. Most furniture designers are architects at first, but furniture is only their sideline. This group of designers, furniture design is the only profession for life. The furniture manufacturing company worked with a skilled carpenter for a long time. The cultural infiltration teaching model embodies the scientific attitude of seeking truth from facts, and it requires that we should adhere to the objective teaching rules, and must conform to the laws of education and teaching.

**Flexibility of Teaching.** Western designers are generally founded design studio design products of their own, independent of the manufacturing enterprise, the design idea is based on the life of personal and cultural experience, even the designers do not know the design concept design into the finished product is marketable, whether popular. The relationship between the designer and the manufacturer is equal to the cooperation between the two parties. In design education, the basic connotation of the credit system is designed based on the credit divided into semesters and standardized curriculum modules, to students to measure credit grades, and to determine the objectives, implementation and management of professional or in the course. It requires students to learn enough credits and meet certain requirements in the field of study or specialized courses, as a necessary standard for graduation degree. The role of the credit system not only gives students the autonomy of elective courses, but also the choice of teachers, and even professional and school. Therefore, has a dual meaning and interaction of the credit system, not only encourages students' skills, abilities, but also conducive to promoting competition among teachers, the basic standard in the broad range of established design education system integration or communication. In the credit system under the action of design schools in Europe with the United States and other countries of the mutual recognition of credits, can cross migration and accumulation, so that students can according to their own situation to arrange courses can be halfway transfer, to obtain autonomy and greater initiative. The bachelor's curriculum emphasizes design methodologies, manufacturing techniques, and presentation skills, allowing students to express their design concepts effectively through drawings, models, and finished products. The study of furniture and the cultural, philosophical, scientific, and contemporary perspectives of art provide the content and space for creative design. Prepare for the future career of furniture design through the process of design development, project implementation, and the evaluation of the value of the work done.

**Harmony of Relationship.** In the process of western teaching, teachers and students of the two parties should be relatively equal, should maintain mutual respect, mutual aid and harmonious relationship between teachers and students. In addition, different teaching methods of Western teaching there, so in the teaching process, should ensure coordination between various teaching methods, namely, unity of theory and practice, and outside the classroom, the traditional teaching methods and innovative teaching methods. In the process of teaching, teachers should also pay attention to the coordination of teaching content and teaching means, and should choose the teaching method that matches the content. Only in this way can the students' learning autonomy be stimulated, so as to improve the teaching quality. In the use of open teaching mode, teachers should strive to build a harmonious teaching environment, the harmony as the guiding ideology of teaching. While imparting knowledge, teachers should teach students to use the concept of harmony to deal with all aspects of relations. Thus, students in the harmonious atmosphere of learning furniture design

professional knowledge, it will get twice the result with half the effort. The win-win cooperation mechanism between Nordic furniture designers and furniture manufacturing companies is also one of the key factors for the Nordic School of furniture design to be unique in the world. Professional designers, designer firms and furniture manufacturing companies have formed a platform for equal exchanges and dialogue. Even many furniture company is designed for some special design talented designers and established, designers and furniture companies grow together in the long-term cooperation, gradually become a famous designer and well-known furniture brands. This approach has become a unique phenomenon of furniture design in Western countries.

### **Implications of Furniture Design Teaching of Foreign Countries**

**Reconstruct Curriculum System.** Based on studying and studying the teaching system of furniture major in international first-class design university, and combining with the course design of furniture design, we have carried out a new round of reform during furniture design. We focus on comprehensive integration platform based courses, professional courses, graduation design curriculum system, the creation of a new platform based curriculum design theory, in the main courses, focus on solving the phenomenon behind most of the domestic design institute of design students are stuck in the design of two-dimensional paper. We have professional design and real model making, design and manufacture of furniture products through a comprehensive real, in line with the international first-class design of the university curriculum system, cultivate students' ability of furniture design. In teaching, we carry out a horizontal contact with the local furniture enterprises, according to the product design and development needs of enterprises, establish occupation to cultivate students' ability to design the educational characteristics of furniture professional curriculum system. Because of the similarity of art and design disciplines, we should increase the design of basic platform, curriculum and teaching content. In art design this big concept and the big category, each profession's overall commonality is far more than individual difference. In theory, the individual differences between them are more reflected in their respective processes. And this is the problem that each of them studies and solves. Therefore, it is necessary to enlarge the setting of the common course, and it is also necessary to train high quality art and design talents. The teaching of furniture design in most colleges and universities pays too much attention to the teaching of theory, but neglects the knowledge of furniture drawing and so on. There are few opportunities for students to participate in the practice of furniture manufacturing. This leads to students can not apply theoretical knowledge to practice, the reasons for this phenomenon are manifold. Some of the furniture design professional teacher after graduating from school into the university directly from teaching. This enlargement should not only have breadth, but must have considerable depth. Based on the common platform curriculum education, students can choose their own deepening specialty, which is beneficial to the employment choice of the students.

**Reform Education Model.** The process of design education learning is the process of interaction between teachers and students. It is the process of students' purposeful and active construction of knowledge and the formation of design ability and creative thinking through learning experience. Students are the subjects of learning activities, and the subjectivity of students must be respected. China's traditional view of education emphasizes teachers as the center, ignoring the students' learning experience. In the western modern design education, professional courses teaching is carried out in the project to the teaching form, the project includes innovative conceptual design and virtual enterprises and combining the actual project design, design experience is directing this kind of teaching mode on students' learning. The teaching mode formed by western modern design education provides a good solution for optimizing the teaching process and giving full play to the main role of students. Design education should strive to create a learning environment and learning resource conditions which can bring the initiative of students into full play, and strive to realize individualized teaching. Because too deep limitation and influence of the traditional processing of forest products and timber, furniture and Western discipline originated in architecture and interior design, step by step, compared to modern furniture industrial design discipline system integration, the status quo is

China architecture, interior and furniture design in the design of professional education is separated. This leads to Chinese architects who do not understand furniture, furniture designers do not understand architecture, and interior designers decorate them on the hexahedron of the building space. To solve the fundamental problem of Chinese furniture design, we should begin with the reform of China's furniture higher education, and truly establish the discipline system of China's higher design education in line with international standards. Only by introducing the advanced design teaching mode in the west can we train a new generation of furniture design professionals.

**Optimize Teachers Team.** Professional furniture design in China many teachers from the graduate school to teach after graduation. They spend most of their lives working on closed university campuses, leaving their teaching content and curriculum out of the design market. Most of the design teachers in Europe and America are going to the society and factories after graduation. They have design experience and achievements, and then return to the University as a design teacher. For an ideal university design teacher, he must become a designer, a composite teacher of design and a design scholar. This requires teachers to strengthen more links with industry and enterprises, and to become professional designers as much as possible, to keep up with the trends and trends of international design disciplines, and to update their knowledge systems. Teachers are constantly innovating curriculum content, developing new teaching cases, analyzing students' general and special needs, and designing teaching content, teaching methods and teaching forms. They can no longer follow the example. Teachers are generally lack of Western cultural and educational exchanges, can really master a foreign language, lack of ability to participate in international academic exchanges, and lack of practical experience in designing and marketing, engineering, new material and new technology knowledge. Therefore, in the era of knowledge economy, the role of teachers has changed from the teachers in the agricultural age to the constantly updated and updated instructors in the digital era. For students, it is necessary to form the ability of self-study and academic research, during learning, to get rid of the situation of passive learning, through team learning, project design activities to experience the design of professional learning. In the design course, teaching activities should be student centered, and teachers should be the planners, curriculum designers, coaches, mentors, mentors and consultants in the learning process. We should encourage university professors to closely integrate product design and development with corporate companies and train students with genuine design cases.

## Conclusion

At present, the level of furniture design in our country is far behind that of developed countries, which is directly related to the teaching quality of furniture design. We should further reconstruct curriculum system, reform education model and optimize teachers team. These measures will improve the teaching quality of furniture design and promote the whole teaching in the direction of virtuous circle.

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