

LOUNGE Insider

Classroom carpenters

Here's what happens when students, skilled artisans and professional designers collaborate for a woodcraft workshop

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The Center for Environmental Planning and Technology University (CEPT), Ahmedabad, brought together students, professional designers and Central craftsmen for a woodcraft workshop from 26 May till June.

The staff was innovative, pro-organic and sought to bridge the gap between designers (professionals and students).

They set up the Design Innovation and Craft Research Centre (DRC) in 2011. One of its aims is to develop ways to bring green, traditional building crafts with modern practices and materials. With that in mind, DRC has been holding workshops inviting artisans from Ahmedabad's Dholka and Jambhva areas, practicing lacquer craft, handloom, stone craft and more precisely, woodcraft.

The final projects from the first such workshop show us the kind of outcomes that are possible with such collaboration.



Up on the Edge
 Idea: To invent a wooden table with cantilevered surfaces. The challenge lay in creating the traditional surface of wood where the table's structure being cantilevered at its base, the table leans towards the top.
 Crafted by Hemantlal Gajjar, Hemantlal, Mithy, Kuntalvika Dik and Harshil Saha
 Designed by Anurupa Khandokar, Sar Shah and Nishan Chopra

The GL's Family
 Idea: To create a system of industrial design surfaces of different levels which when not in use could serve as seats. The idea, different levels of work need to be done in certain factories—the standing being used as a kind of stool or the feet. The aim here is to find ways to design the GL's.
 Crafted by Kuntalvika Dik, Kuntalvika Dik, Chetanwar Harshil and Saharsh Dholi
 Designed by Nikhil Vaid, Nishan Chopra and Sar Shah



Milipeds
 Idea: The concept was to design a seating system that requires less social interaction tables. From top-down height to the lowest, four levels, it allows you to sit at 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115, 120, 125, 130, 135, 140, 145, 150, 155, 160, 165, 170, 175, 180, 185, 190, 195, 200, 205, 210, 215, 220, 225, 230, 235, 240, 245, 250, 255, 260, 265, 270, 275, 280, 285, 290, 295, 300, 305, 310, 315, 320, 325, 330, 335, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 365, 370, 375, 380, 385, 390, 395, 400, 405, 410, 415, 420, 425, 430, 435, 440, 445, 450, 455, 460, 465, 470, 475, 480, 485, 490, 495, 500, 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615, 620, 625, 630, 635, 640, 645, 650, 655, 660, 665, 670, 675, 680, 685, 690, 695, 700, 705, 710, 715, 720, 725, 730, 735, 740, 745, 750, 755, 760, 765, 770, 775, 780, 785, 790, 795, 800, 805, 810, 815, 820, 825, 830, 835, 840, 845, 850, 855, 860, 865, 870, 875, 880, 885, 890, 895, 900, 905, 910, 915, 920, 925, 930, 935, 940, 945, 950, 955, 960, 965, 970, 975, 980, 985, 990, 995, 1000.
 Crafted by Dipankar Gadhia, Nishan Chopra and Nishan Chopra, A. Das
 Designed by Jit Chandra, Ekap Rajwade and Sudha Puriya



Chemrakad
 Idea: A screen with vertical elements which are in various patterns and forms, an assembly of light and shadows. This versatile screen was inspired by the traditional wood-bored lacquer crafts of Dholka.
 Crafted by Anurupa Khandokar, Chetanwar Harshil and Saharsh Dholi
 Designed by Anurupa Khandokar, Sar Shah and Nishan Chopra



W3 Ology Weaves Wood
 Idea: This project had three key aspects: to create a wooden structure to be made-complex and to explore possibilities of wood which help to its curved surface.
 Crafted by Anurupa Khandokar, Sar Shah, Chetanwar Harshil and Saharsh Dholi
 Designed by Anurupa Khandokar, Sar Shah and Nishan Chopra



WOODEN FOLIAGE
 A massive canopy that mimics and extends the natural green leafy tree cover at theCEPT campus.

While building the custom seats, Mumbai-based architects Nishan Chopra and Anurupa Khandokar, Sar Shah and Saharsh Dholi had a unique opportunity to design a canopy using pieces of wood—100 species in all, 5000 woods, 20,000 strips, 100-150 from previous workshops.

Wooden foliage screen between two trees, one at the main office of Dept of Design (2010).

