

A Study on the Design Methodology for Chair Design Inspired by Historical Chair

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(歴史的な椅子に基づいた椅子デザインのデザイン方法論の研究)

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Abstract of Dissertation

For modern designers, historical design are regarded as value added assets, and inspiration source to generate new designs. The definition of the modern designs inspired by historical designs is the designs from the beginning of twentieth century to the present, which get the influence by the same category product before 20th century. Examples of the modern designs inspired by historical designs are the China chair, Proust chair and Louis Ghost chair. The purpose of this paper is to find out the discipline of this methodology. Chair design is selected as subject for investigation. In the research process, it adopts qualitative research by ethnographic interview, and quantitative research by questionnaire investigation and individual design experiment.

There are five steps in this research, the first is the design phenomenological description, and formulating a hypothesis. The second is the hypothesis verification. The third step is the preference and similarity evaluation. The fourth step is a proposal creating. The fifth step is the proposal assessment. The final step is the conclusion. There are three results found in this research, firstly, the new chair inspired by historical chair design methodology has progressive value of revitalizing historical culture, it is essentially different from the inferior historical style imitation way. The second result is five factors including technique, ergonomics, culture, marketing, and space are identified as driving forces. The third result is the feature heritage mainly from historical chairs' backrest and armrest, and nowadays user preference chairs are the ones with the delightful, simple, beautiful, long life utilization, safe properties.

Based on the results, author sets a design process proposal, that is built on the Stuart Pugh product design process model. It includes six factors, targeting identification, inspiration stimuli, user preference design criteria, design specification, manufacture and sell. They have the corresponding relationship with the previous five driving forces. The targeting identification, user preference and sales factors are related to the marketing, the inspiration stimuli is pertinent to the culture, the design specification is associated to the space and ergonomics. The manufacture is relevant to the technique. Comparing with Stuart Pugh product design process model, the vital and different points of this proposal are features heritage and user preference design guidance.

This design proposal is assessed by students and professional designers, the assessment result shows that the proposal is valid and practical. In conclusion, this research clarify the design discipline of new chair design methodology inspired by historical chair, it will contribute to the efficiency of future designers creation of new chair design process.