



PI Report
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1 Introduction

Kashmir which is also called as crown of india, is a valley which is surrounded by beautiful snow covered mountains ,green gardens and fields, vast and quite lakes , clear and sweet water rivers and wildlife which makes it heaven in true words. People of kashmir are as beautiful as its nature, mens are friendly and strong, women are beautiful and peaceful. The strength and texture of walnut, the wavyness of rice paddy, the smell of apple orchid, the colors of tulip gardens, the quiteness of Dal lake , the sound of nimaz makes it most pleaceful and beautiful place to live. It has diverse variety in culture and tradition as well, the craftsmanship of people of kashmir is richer than any other states's craft . The crafts like papier mache,wood carving,copperware,pashmina shawl making,khatamband,pinjrakari,kashmiri embroidery,silver work, willow wicker ,shikara and house boats adds to the rich culture of kashmir.

Types of crafts

1 Papier mache is one of the most popular craft practised in Kashmir. The origin of this art is rooted in the 15th century during the period of king Zain-ul-Abidin who invited artists and craftsmen from central asia. The products are made out paper pulp by layering over a mould and finished by skillfull hand painting of nature inspired patterns on the surface. The craft was confined to ornamentation of cases used for keeping pens and other small personal articles in the beginning. Over the period of time a wide arrange of contemporary items such as table sets, bangles, lamp stands, cups bowls etc are made. Brushes made of eagle's nail and cat's tail hairs are used for doing art work for better precision, paints deco and water based paints are used for the craft.



Artist : Maqbool jan
Prop: Johnson arts
Kashmir's top papier mache artist



Papier mache products

2 Wood carving is one of the most important crafts of the valley of Kashmir. The carving is done on walnut wood which is available in very few regions around the globe and Kashmir is one among these regions. The hard and durable walnut with its close grain and even texture facilitates fine and detailed work. A wide variety of utilitarian and artistic products are made by the artisans working in the carving sector.



3 Wood work has history in Kashmir which spans over ten centuries. The twelve storied wooden palace of king Harsha as referred in Rajatarangani depicts the skill of artisans of Kashmir from the very olden times. A close watch on the houses in Kashmir itself showcases the magnificent usage of wood even now. The wood work was born out of the needs of the local people and inspired by the beautiful wood like walnut and deodar available in the valley. The creativity of Kashmiri craftsmen have enriched the wood work from not merely being a functional craft to a decorative as well aesthetically sound products like toys, interiors of buildings, ceiling panels, ornate door, lattice work etc.



Wood carving products



Wood carving painting sculpture

4 Pinjrakari is a geometrical lattice form built up of minute laths. The pressure exerted by each other hold them in position and no glue or adhesive is used to join the individual parts. The craft involves a great amount of skill and artistic feeling to make pinjra. Pinjras are mostly used as subcomponents in furnitures.

5 Khatamband is an art work popular and widely used in creating beautiful ceiling from wood. The art is said to have been introduced by Mirza hyder tughlaq during the period of Mughals. This wood work showcases the marvellous skills of craftsmen as it involves fitting of small slabs of wood cut into geometrical shapes to create ceilings showcasing floral and geometrical designs. The process involves high level of skill and expertise as no nails are used anywhere in the joineries. The woods used are mainly fir, walnut or deodar.



Book rack made with technique of pinjrakari



Khatamband done on ceiling

6 Copperware & brassware art in Kashmir had flourished from years. The Kashmiri brassware is noted all over the world for good quality and design. The brassware objects in Kashmir ranged from household, decorative and ceremonial items. They comprise mostly cooking pots and sundry articles for the household. However, the most celebrated item is samovars (tea-kettle of Russian origin). The Kashmiri craftsman also produces excellent products of copper-ware consisting mostly of cooking pots and samovars and sundry articles for the household or the mantelpieces ,they are admirably adapted for electroplating. There is a good demand for beautiful copper trays inlet into tables of carved walnut-wood, There are floral, stylized, geometric, leaf and even calligraphic motifs that are engraved or embossed on copper or brass.



Vessels made in copperware



Boat shaped vessel in copper

7 Willow wecker is used for making baskets, boxes, lamp shades, decorative items, trays, chairs, tables and cycle baskets etc. Srinagar, Harwan, Shalabug, Hazratbal and Soura are the centres of production. The cultivation of willow wicker is the monopoly of the state. It is particularly in summer season when the business is at its peak. The unvarnished products are being chiseled and frequently sprayed with water particularly in hot , dry climated to prevent them from getting stiff.



Table made in willow





Products made in willow wicker

8 Pashmina is referred to the fabric woven from Pashmina the soft downy undercoat that grows primarily on the neck and belly of the Himalayan mountain goat, *Capra Hircus*. Pashm is a persian word for “wool”. *Capra Hircus* is also referred to as the pashmina goat. Though pashminas can survive in the lower mountainous regions it is only the animals living above 4500 metres that produce the finest wool. It is believed that the growth of the fine, warm pashm is an adaptive response to the harshly wind swept terrain and winter temperatures falling to -30 degrees in the winter. The fibre has a special lustre due to its long, fine fibres, which are as thin as 12 microns. In comparison for an qualitative idea human hair is 200 microns and fine merino wool is 23 microns.



Pashmina goat



Shawls from pashmina



Pashmina shawl

9 Kashmiri carpet is a hand-knotted oriental rug from Kashmir. Kashmiri carpets have intricate designs that are primarily oriental, floral style in a range of colors, sizes and quality. Kashmir carpets are handmade, hand-knotted, and are primarily made in pure wool, pure silk and occasionally wool and silk blends. They are available in wide-ranging colors, designs and sizes. The carpet industry of Kashmir has its origin in Persia. The carpets made in Kashmir were largely influenced by Persian motifs. However, in the 16th and 17th centuries, artisans in Kashmir began giving specialized touches to the carpets produced in the region, giving them a distinctive character of their own.



Carpet weaving machine



Carpets



Carpets displayed in carpet showroom

2 Field Study

To understand handicraft sector a field study was conducted, which included visiting artisen's places of work, visiting shops and going through reports in CDI library which were done by design researchers on different crafts. Thesis and reports which were studied are mentioned as below in list:

- 1 Copperware- Rohit kumar
- 2 Pulp moulding- Jigme T bhutia
- 3 Papier mache-Tanveer Ratti
- 4 Walnut wood working-Sandeep Sangaru
- 5 Willow wicker- Iti sethi
- 6 Willow wicker- Pankaj narain & jonakdas
- 7 Terracotta pottery- Jinan.k.b
- 8 Packaging of handicrafts-A.balasubramanium



Wood carving workshop

3 The issues

There were many issues observed while survey and visiting artisans places. The extinction of cultural support is one of the main reason. The people who were working as artisans were old and their children didn't wanted to carry forward the art of their ancestors, because of lack of revenue. The limited exposure of artisans to new technology because of awareness is one reason for downfall. The people who are supposed to engage with customer and artisans are not doing their job nicely, the profit share isn't equally ditributed, artisans get really less share for their work. So because of all tough crisis artisans refuse to innovate with design and keep on repetitng designs since decades. The unavailability of materials and manufacturing processes in the state has also restricted the handicraft sector from innovating new products. Because of less confidence and unappropriate revenue income, artisans found to be lacking interest so skill level fall over a period of time.



Artisan working in wood

4 Task statement

After starting of internship, i was made a part of one of team of students of MCME,CDI (masters in craft management and enterprenuership), and we were given a task to design theme based furniture for Jamal Siraj hotel situated in srinagar, The task statement was stated first by Prof. Sajid Nazir, and the requirements were mentioned in brief by Mr. Ashfaq mir ,Owner of hotel. I was supposed to design theme based furniture for that hotel with some kashmiri design elements. and my teammates (Iram mushtaq,Razie shah, Imtiyaz aslam) were their to give inputs and to learn design methods from me, during their course of Materials and manufacturing processes.



Jamal siraj hotel

5Design objective

To design theme based furniture range and other decor products for Jamal siraj hotel according to priority given to value of room, with some little element of kashmir handicraft or culture of kashmir.

6 Parallel products

Kashmiri furniture generally consist of heavy wood carving elements, and the shape of furniture is also traditional and conventional, some of the chair and tables which were designed by Sandeep sangaru and kept in CDI are also shown .





7 Data collection

We visited jamia siraj hotel, and took dimensions of each room and clicked photographs of each room, We discussed with the owner about categorisation of rooms with respect to the value of room in accordance with space in room ,view and provisions in room.



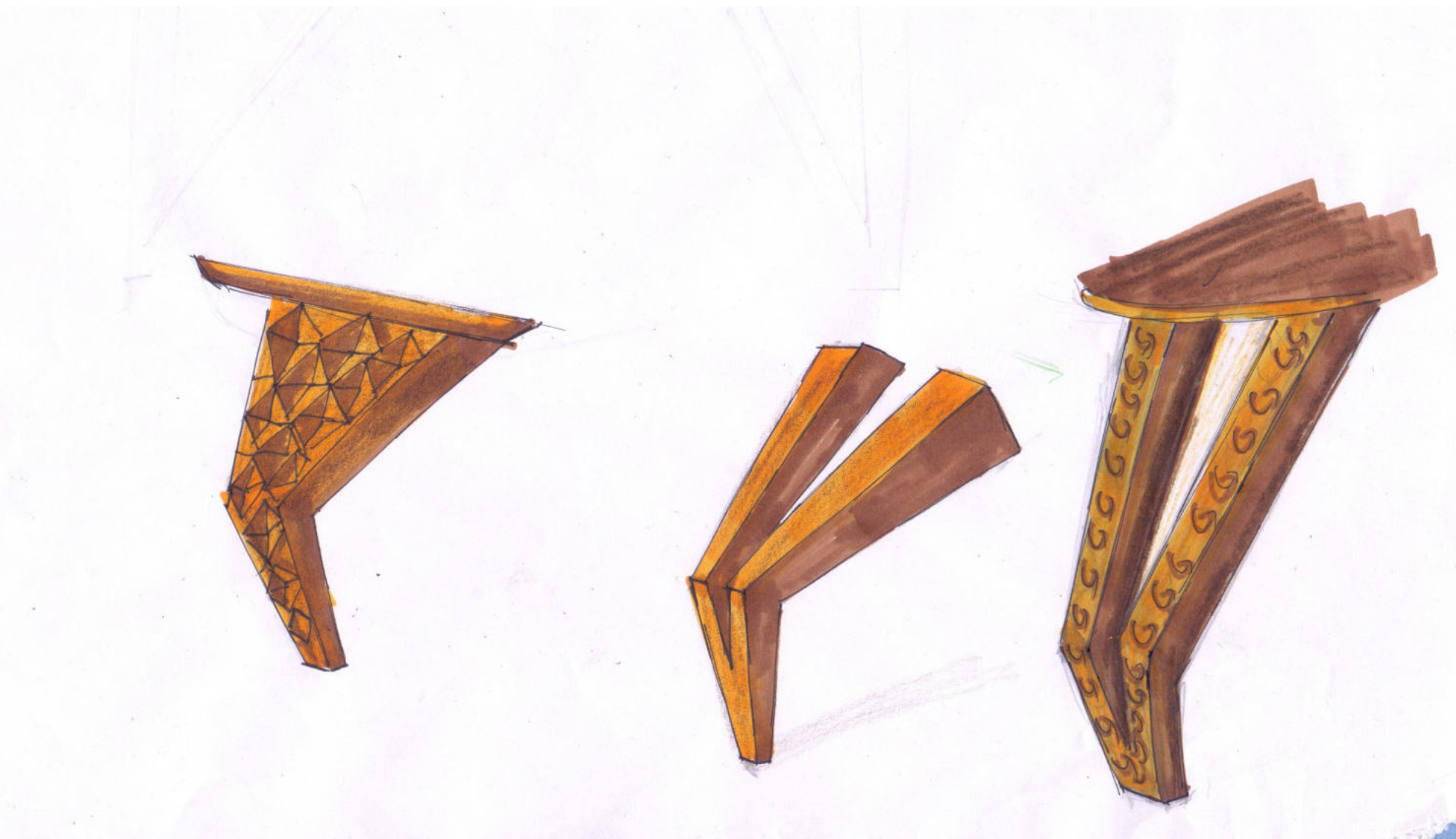
Room in hotel

8 Design brief

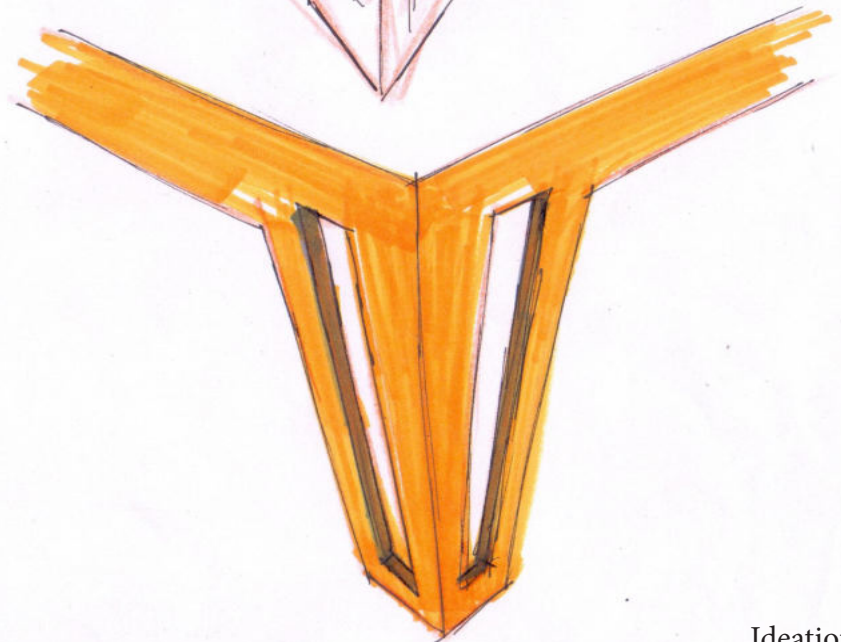
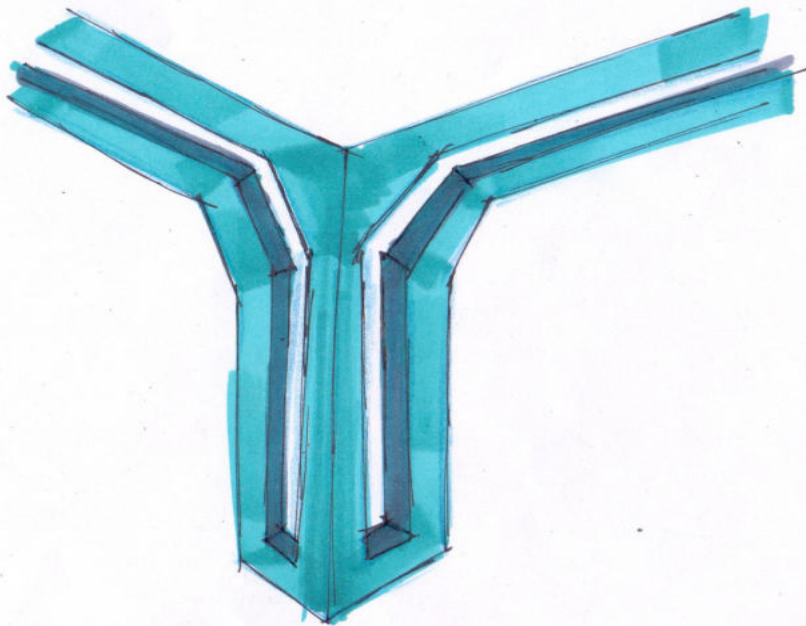
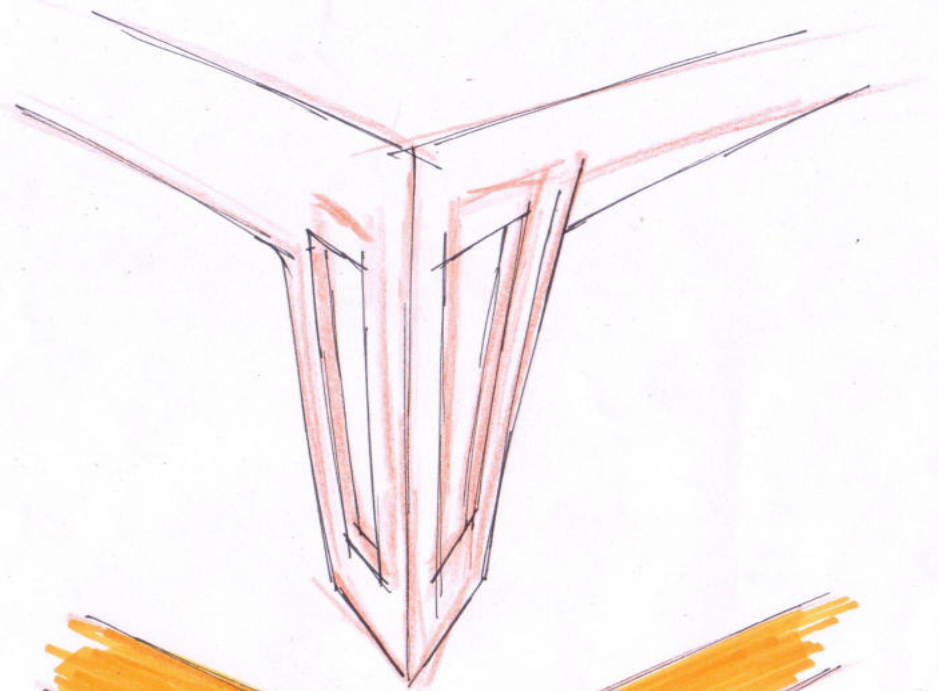
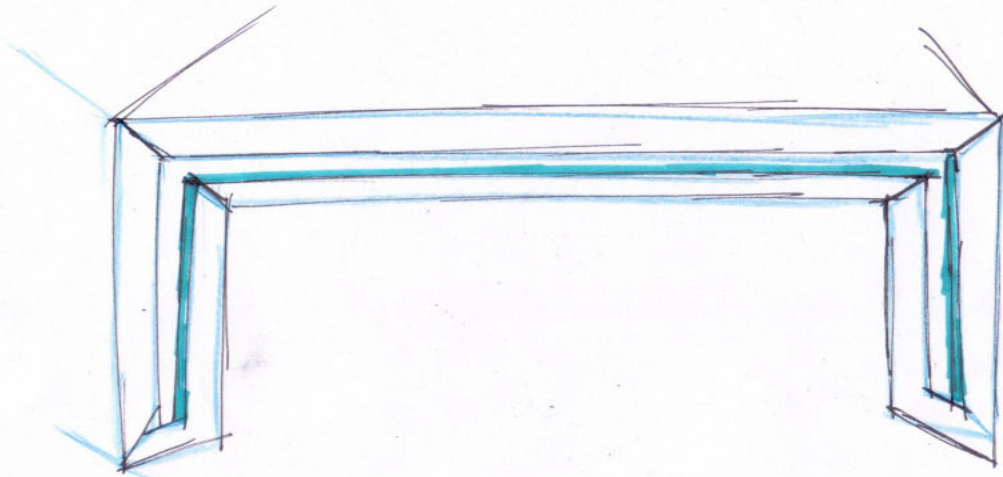
To design new range of furniture and decor products like vases and luminaires based on similar theme, products should reflect the modernness with use of walnut wood and also have some reflection of culture of Kashmir. The furniture design need not to be like mass producible, to maintain uniqueness in design for furniture.

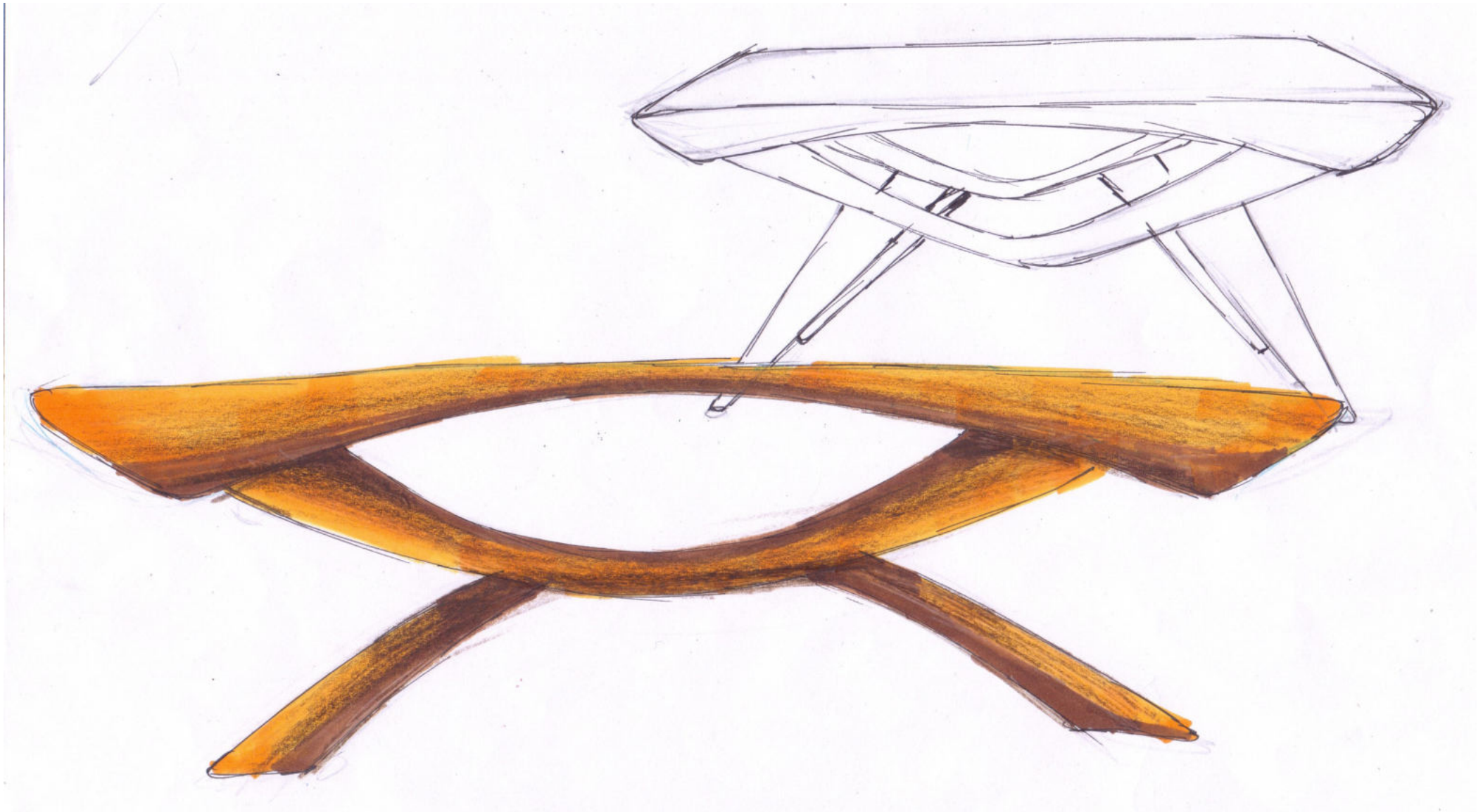
9 Ideations

Ideations for furniture has been done by keeping in mind the the elements of crafts or kashmir , the elements like chinara leaves, fields were taken as metaphor, tried to include minimum craft elements.



Ideation 1

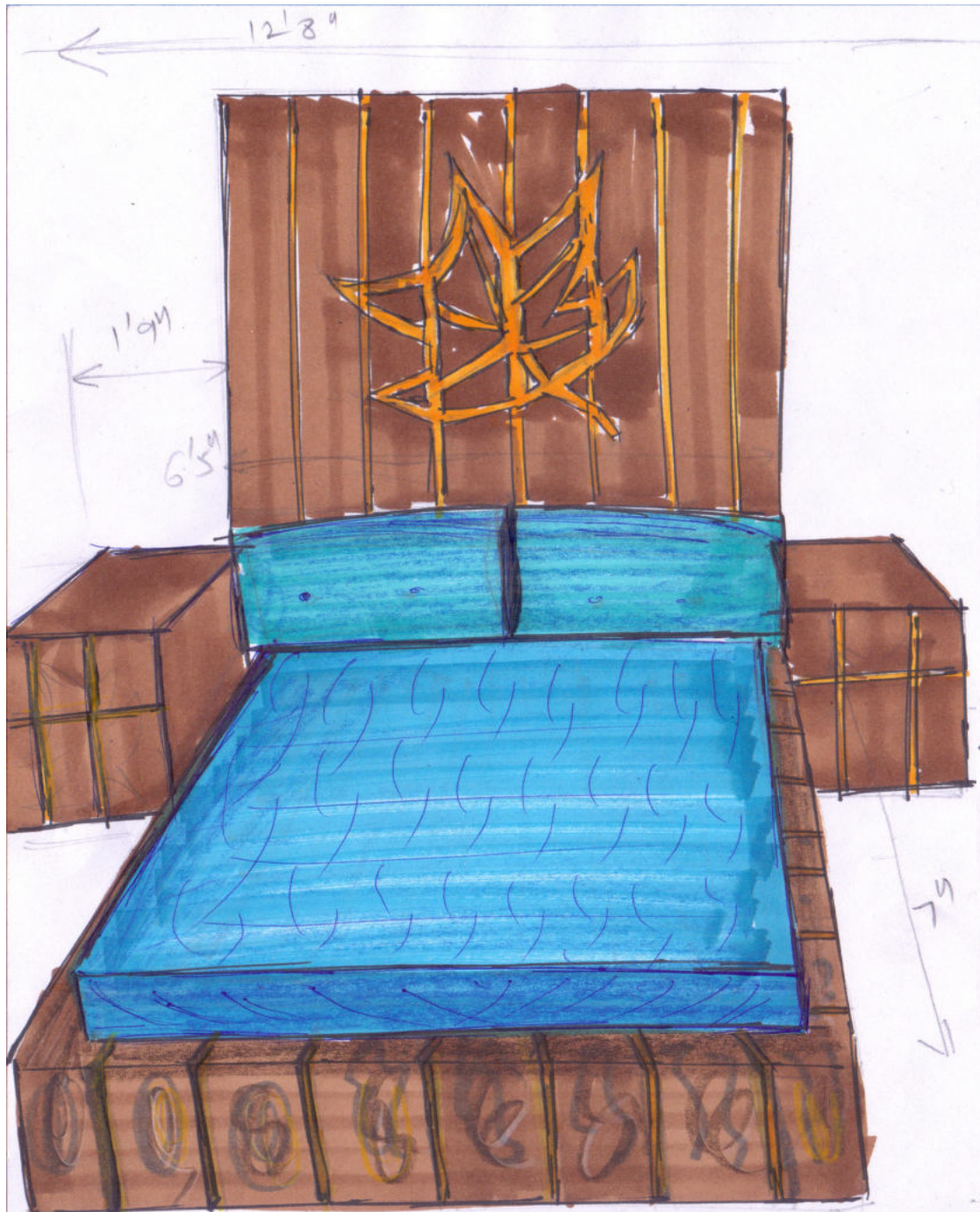




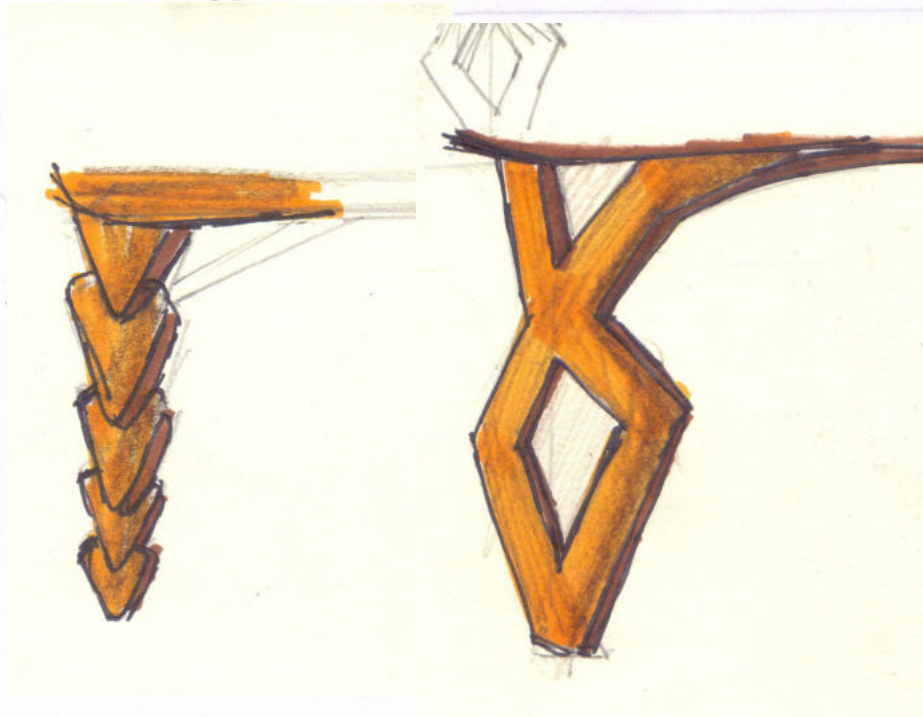
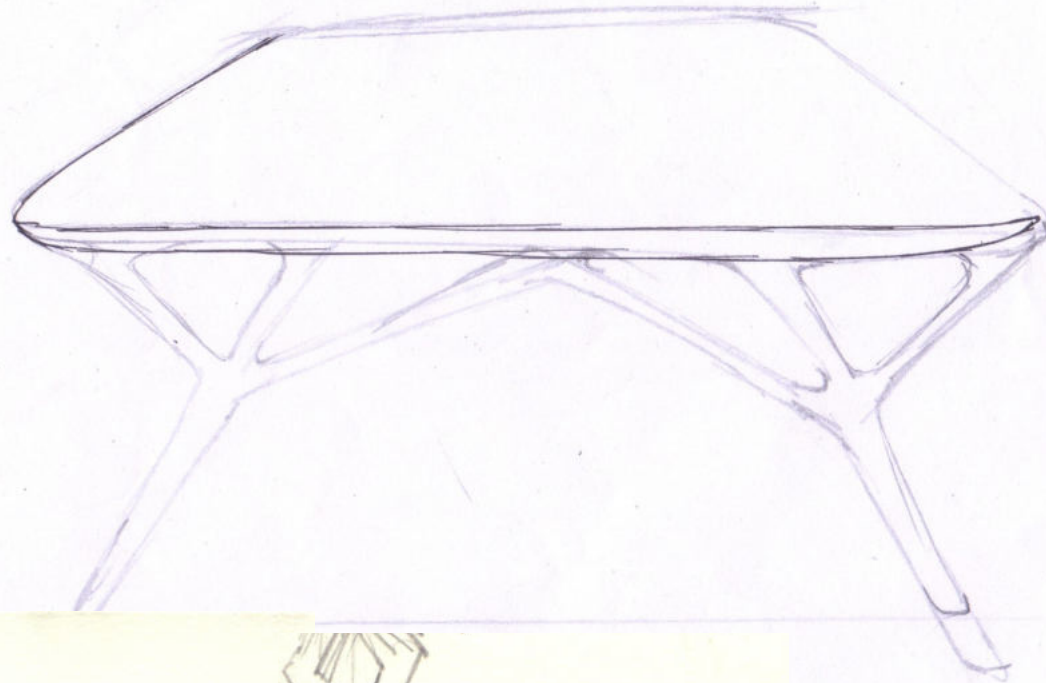
Ideation 3

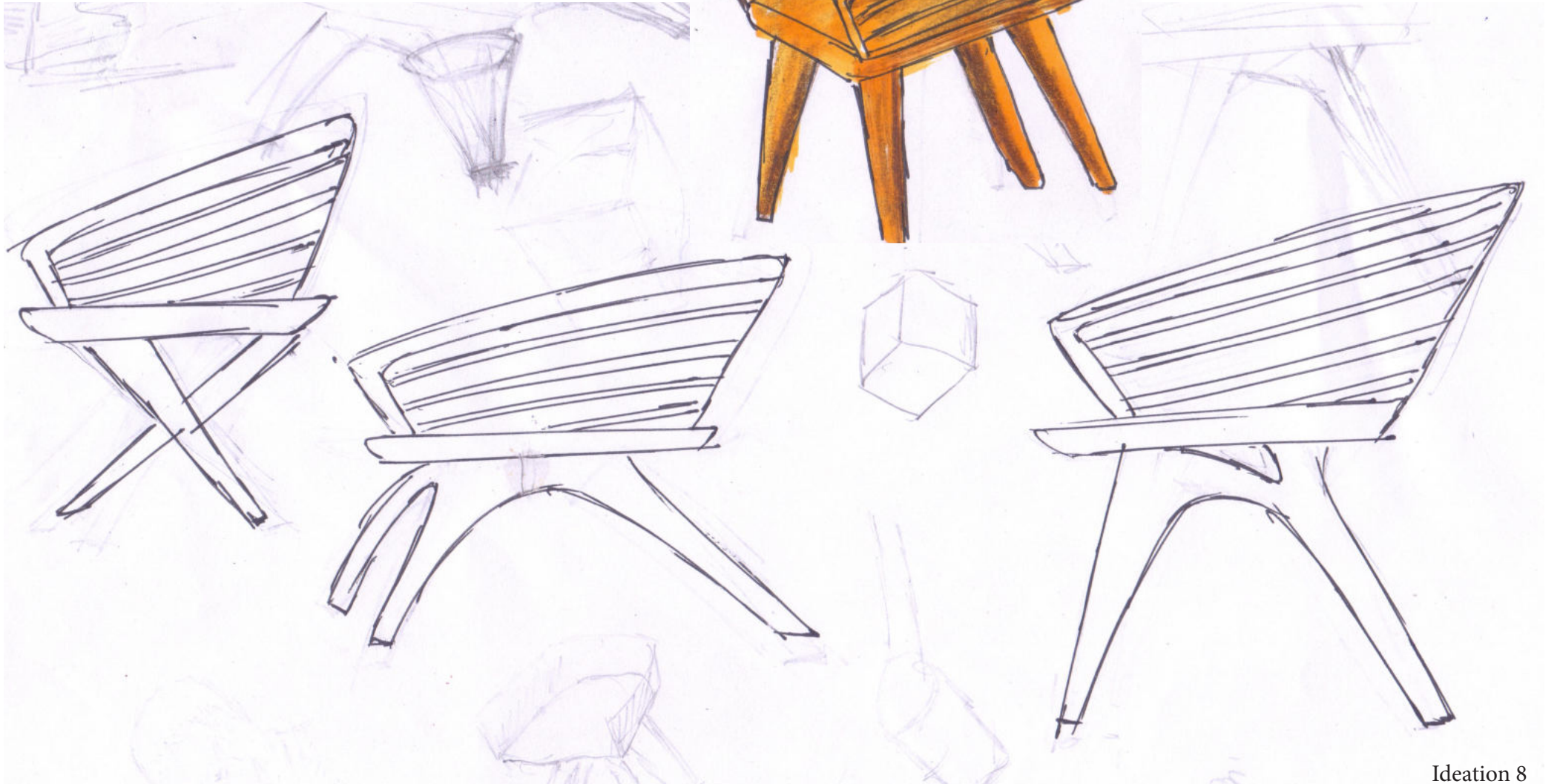


Ideation 4





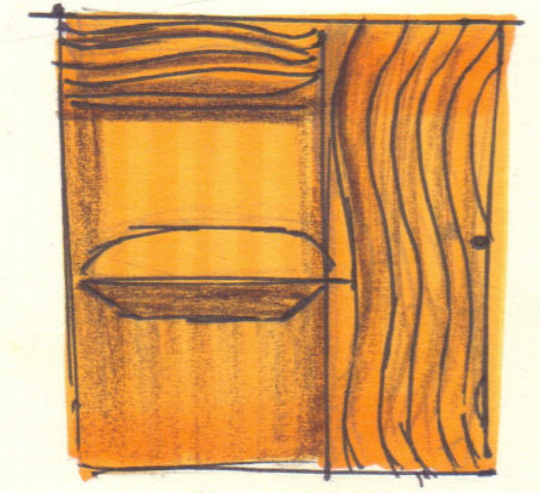


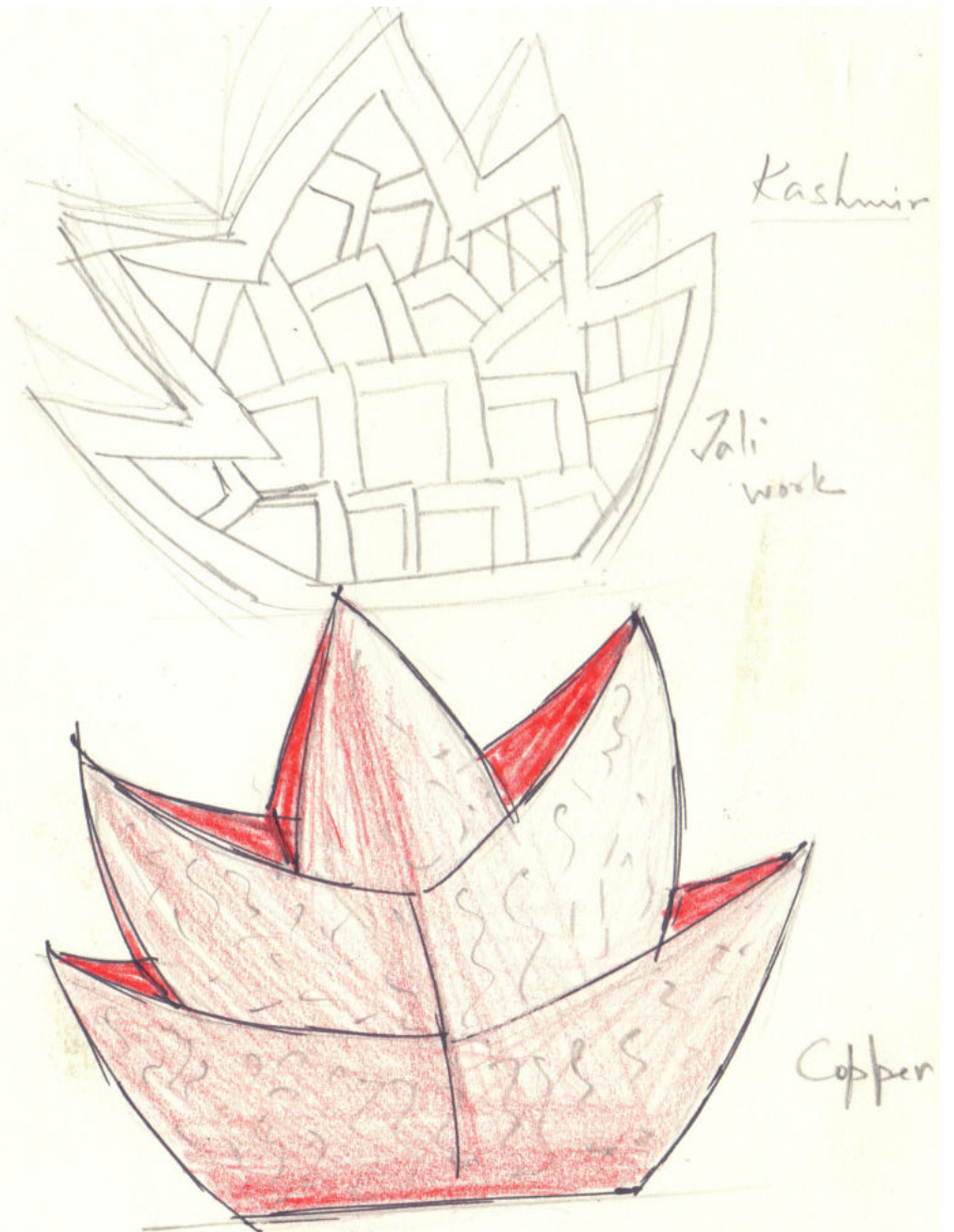




Ideation 9





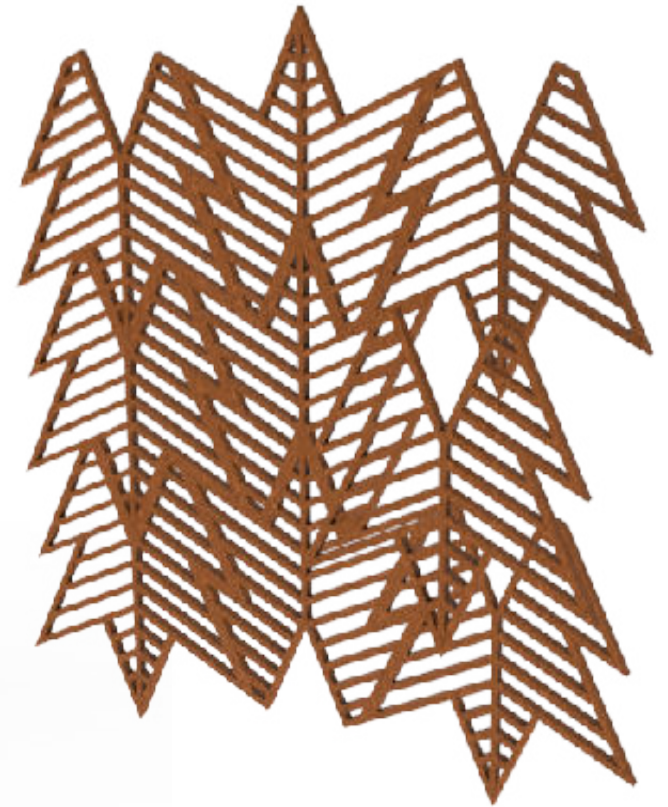


10 Cad modeling

Few themes and products were modeled in solidworks for showing to client for better visualisation and have feedback for that, and the selected themes were selected for detailed drawing generation.



Table based on Ideation 1



Tessellation inspired from chinar in pinjrakari



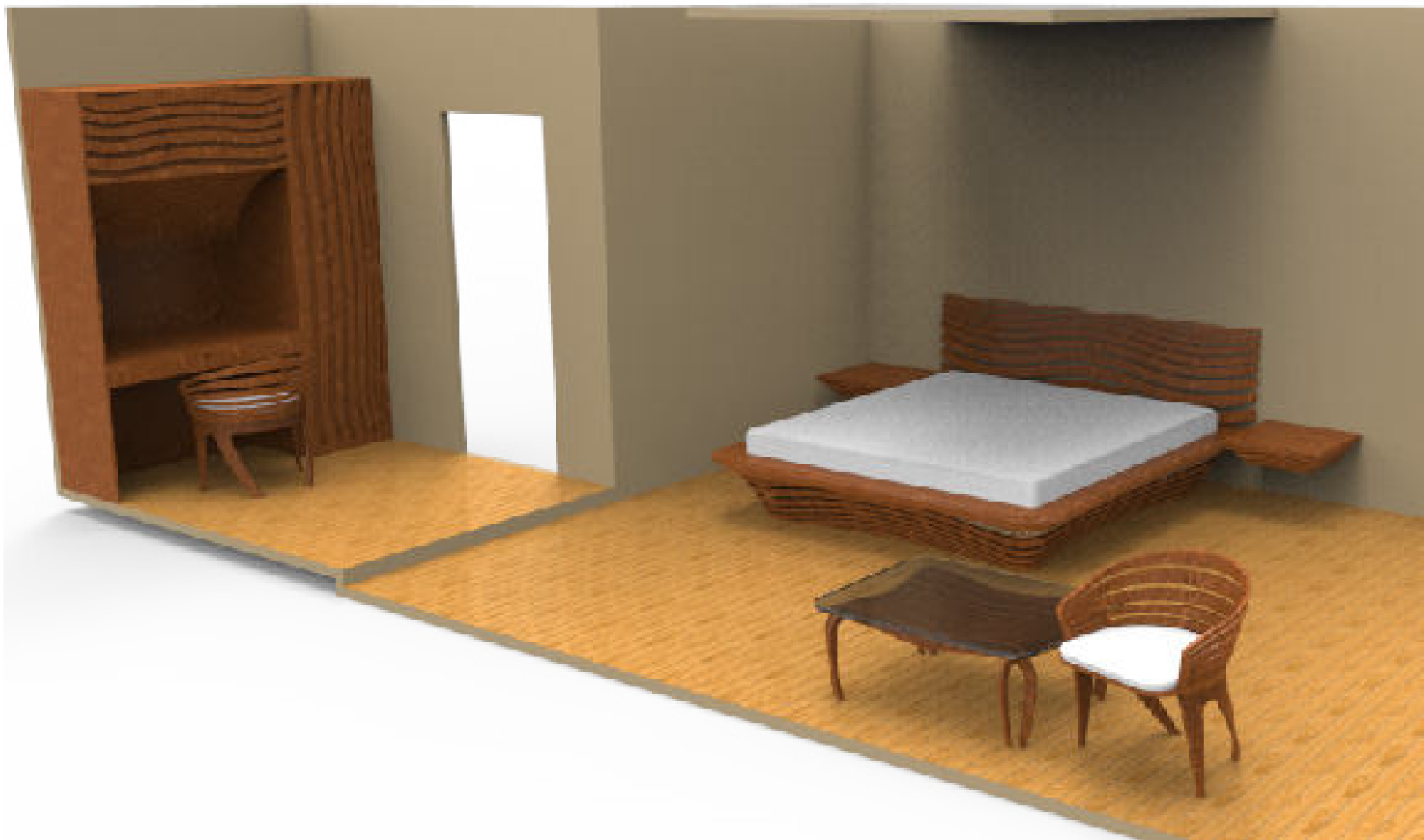
Lamp and clock from ideation 9



Room idea 1



Room idea 2



Room idea 3



Table and chair from ideation 11



Bed from ideation 11



Room idea 4



Lamp from ideation 9

11 Prototyping

We had planned to prototype last theme design with walnut wood, but because of unavailability of wood , we prototyped luminaire of last design, with help of workshop coordinator Akhtar sir, i used oscillating saw to make modular pieces , the design required 24 pieces, after cutting and finishing, pieces were joined together with Araldite bondtite solution, after assembling luminaire together, it was polished and fitted with bulb, the whole span for making this luminaire was 3 days.



Working on prototype





Final prototype

12 Conclusion

My internship period which i spend at CDI,srinagar was one of the best learning experience till now, this programme helped me to learn about crafts and get familiar with artisans, i tried using my knowledge which i gained at IDC to design and iterate the furniture for hotel, i got to work in furniture design field for first time and i tried my best to give suitable output, i made nice acquaintances with people who were client and intermediates. The handicraft sector has opened up a new world infront of me leading to the endless possibilities of designing products which need not be always industrial. The merge of modernism and craft made me think for endless possibilites in furniture design, Understanding situation of craft and craftsmen were also another part of my learning, Craftsmen needs to implement design to their conventional products to grow in their field. I will be keen to help in anyway to craftsmen and artisans with my knowledge and resources. CDI is very nice place to have exposure in crafts , i will recommend to one and all to visit CDI if they want to learn and explore in crafts ,kashmiri art and tradition.

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4. Contact
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14Contact

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Cdi campus, Srinagar

15How to reach CDI?

After reaching jammu bus stand, you will have to take a taxi to srinagar which costs around Rs.700-1200, depending upon the traffic and way you select, there are two ways,one is mughal road and other NH 1a, mughal road is very high ,long and snow covered road, whereas NH 1a is short and developing highway.Taxi will drop you at TRC(tourist reeption centre) from their you will have to take bus to Nowshera, famous as millstop on the way to soura, CDI is at 20mt of walking distance from millstop point.

1st June 2015



*Established by the Office of DC-(H),
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India*

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This is to certify that **Mr. Bhavik Grover**, Roll No. 146130004 of Industrial Design Centre, Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay has successfully completed his Internship at Craft Development Institute,(CDI), Srinagar from 05.05.2015 to 01.06.2015.

During his period of Internship **Mr. Bhavik Grover** demonstrated his skills to adapt to the challenging work environment of the craft sector. He further showed his keenness to learn and came out with innovative solutions to the given problems.

We found him to be creative, confident, focused and hardworking.

We wish him luck in all his future endeavours.



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