

OUTLOOK

—INSIGHTS

THE CRAFT WAS INTERESTING AND NEW TO US. WHAT WE TAKE FROM THIS WORKSHOP IS THE ARTIZAN’S STYLE OF WORKING, THEIR TECHNIQUES AND THEIR VALUE FOR THEIR BELONGINGS AND THE CRAFT. WE APPRECIATE THE CRAFTSPERSON’S OPEN-NESS TO NEW IDEAS AND THEIR HELPING HAND TO GUIDE US THROUGH UNTILL EXECUTING THE PRODUCT. THERE WAS A MUTUAL BENEFIT AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND THE CRAFTS PEOPLE, WHICH HELPED BOTH.

—THOUGHTS ON A POSSIBLE FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

WE FEEL THAT THIS PROJECT HAS PROVIDED US WITH A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF LEATHER AS A MATERIAL. THIS GIVES US THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPLORING MORE DESIGNS USING LEATHER IN THE FUTURE AND PROVIDES US WITH THE FREEDOM TO APPROACH THE CRAFTSPERSON FOR THE BENEFIT OF BOTH THEM AND US HERE AFTER.

THE DESIGNS THAT WE EXECUTED DURING THE COURSE, GAVE THEM A NEW ADDITION TO THEIR PRE-EXISTING COLLECTION OF BAGS. WE PROVIDED THEM WITH ENOUGH LEATHER SURFACES ON THE BAG FOR THEM TO CONTINUE MAKING THEIR OWN TRADITIONAL DESIGN ON, TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE CRAFT IDENTITY.

—REFLECTION ON ENCOUNTERED CHALLENGES

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE WAS HAVING TO NARROW DOWN TO PRODUCTS AS PER THE REQUIREMENT OF THE COURSE, WHICH DID NOT ALLOW US TO EXPLORE THE MATERIAL AS MUCH AS WE WISHED TO. AS A GROUP WE DID NOT GET SUFFICIENT TIME TO REALLY EXPLORE OUR IDEAS IN DEPTH, AS THERE WAS A CONSTANT NEED TO PRESENT CONCEPTS TO THE ENTIRE TEAM OF PARTICIPANTS. WE FELT THE NEED TO HAVE MORE TIME TO PLAY WITH THE MATERIAL TO REACH MORE INNOVATIVE RESULTS, WHICH WAS MISSING BY THE END OF THE WORKSHOP. WE AS A GROUP BELIEVE IN EXPLORATION LEADING TO INNOVATION, WHICH WAS NOT MET BY A PRODUCT DRIVEN DIRECTION.

AS THREE DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS, WE HAD VARYING MINDSETS AND IDEAS. OUR WAYS OF WORKING IS VERY DIFFERENT, SO WE DID MEET CHALLENGES IN TERMS OF EXECUTING THE PRODUCT. WE LACKED THE TIME TO DISCUSS THESE DIFFERENCES AND DIVIDE WORK ACCORDINGLY.

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN STUDIO 02.—13.02 2015

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN

—AHMEDABAD

JIANGNAN UNIVERSITY

—WUXHI, JIANGSU

ZURICH UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS

—ZURICH

SRISHTI SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

—BANGALORE

LEATHER CRAFT
FROM KUTCH
SHOHINI DASGUPTA
FABIAN ENGEL
SNEH ROY



IDEATION

TAKING FORWARD THE IDEA OF USING A COMBINATION OF MATERIALS WE SKETCHED OUT A FEW PRODUCTS THAT WE FELT COULD GIVE THE CRAFTSPERSONS NEW DIRECTIONS, MAKE THE PRODUCTS MORE COST EFFECTIVE AND DO JUSTICE TO ALL THE MATERIALS IN USE. AFTER A FEW SKETCHES, AND SURFACE TREATMENT WE DECIDED TO CARRY FORWARD OUR CONCEPT OF A BAG.

LEATHER CRAFTS AROUND INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD. FINALLY, THE AREA OF EXPLORATION THAT WE CARRIED FORWARD WAS THE COMBINATION OF OTHER MATERIALS, ESPECIALLY SOME RE-CYCLED MATERIALS SO AS TO MAKE THE PRODUCTS MORE COST EFFECTIVE FOR THE CRAFTSPERSON. THESE STAGES OF THOUGHT PROCESS LEAD TO FORMULATING OUR FINAL DESIGN BRIEF AS FOLLOWS:

WE BEGAN BY DISCUSSING THE PROPERTIES OF LEATHER AND HOW IT IS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER MATERIALS. ANOTHER ASPECT WAS TO EXPLORE THE VARIOUS TYPES OF LEATHER, ITS DIMENSIONS AND ITS USAGES. WE ALSO WISHED TO TRY DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES ON LEATHER, SUCH AS FOLDING, LAYERING, STAMPING, KNOTTING ETC. SOME OF OUR OTHER IDEAS INCLUDED DOING SOME EXPERIMENTS WITH THE SURFACE TREATMENT OF LEATHER. SOME OF WHICH WERE, BOILING, RESIST COLOURING, BRASSO, HEAT PRESSING ETC. ALONG WITH THIS, WE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DO A PRODUCT STUDY OF

INNOVATING NEW PRODUCTS WITH A GREATER UTILITY ASPECT BY COMBINING LEATHER WITH OTHER MATERIALS, SO AS TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCT BECOMES COST EFFECTIVE WHILE KEEPING THE IDENTITY OF THIS CRAFT TRADITION INTACT.

BRIEFING



— DESIGN TRANSFER

- PATTERN MAKING : FRONT, BACK, SIDE AND FLAP
- CUTTING LEATHER, DENIM, LINING
- COLOURING THE LEATHER
- EMBOSSING THE LEATHER
- MAKING THE STRAPS
- ASSEMBLING THE PARTS AND GLUING IT TOGETHER
- STITCH AND TURN INSIDE OUT
- FIX THE STRAPS
- FIXING THE ZIP
- FIXING THE LEATHER BUTTONS

