

Heritage-Inspired Creativity for Textile Printed Pattern: A Case of Sukhothai

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The European Conference On Arts & Humanities 2020
Official Conference Proceedings

Abstract

Sukhothai Province Of Thailand Has Been Included To Be A Member Of UNESCO's Creative Cities Network: UCCN For Its Crafts And Folk Art In 2019. And Two Historical Parks Of Sukhothai Were Declared As World Heritage Sites By UNESCO. Therefore Sukhothai Is The Place Where Is Full Of Cultural Heritage And Creativity. The Aim Of This Study Are: (1) To Study Sukhothai's Art And Heritage And Decode Its Cultural Features To Key Characteristics (2) To Interpret Those Key Characteristics To Be Inspirations For The Commercial Textile Printed Design. Methodology: This Participatory Observation Study Started By A Field Visit To Get Information On The Local Culture. Qualitative Data And Inputs Were Used For Thematic Analysis To Get Key Characteristics. Design Developing Process In Six Weeks Design Workshop Is Used For Developing Printed Textile Design. Results: The Analysis Provide 4 Different Design Characteristics, Each In Their Way, Is Composed Of Heritage And Creativity

Key Characteristic 1: Heritage (Ancient Ruins In Si Satchanalai National Park)+ Creativity (The Mood Of Romance)

Key Characteristic 2: Heritage (Ancient Textile)+Creativity (The Modern Ethnic)

Key Characteristic 3: Heritage (Golden Jewelry) +Creativity (The Modern Oriental)

Key Characteristic 4: Heritage (Wat Srichum's Wall Engraving) +Creativity (The Mood Of Artistic)

Conclusion: Through The Process, The Designs Had Presented The Experience And Results That Reflected The Heritage Resource And Creativity On Textile Printed Design In Different Moods And Tones. All These Designs Can Be Used For Commercial Products In Further Project.

Keywords: Heritage, Creativity, Printed Textile

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Introduction

Sukhothai, The First Kingdom Of Siam (Thailand) In The 13th And 14th Centuries, The Birthplace Of Thai Art, Architecture, And Language. The Province Is Located In The Northern Part Of Thailand Which Has Many Historical Tourist Attractions And Traditions That Are Globally Known. Jirawat P, Patcharin S., Dumrongwoot V., Weerawit C., Natasa (2014) Mentioned That “Sukhothai Has Become Recognized As A World’s Cultural Heritage Since 1991. This Recognition Is In Accordance To The Criteria For The Consideration Of World’s Heritages, Which Are To Reflect Art Identities Or Beauty, To Be A Masterpiece Of Human Creative Genius, To Be The Unique Empirical Evidence The Identities Of Human Cultures And Traditions Of Civilizations That Used To Prevail Or Are Still Existing”

Moreover, In 2019, Sukhothai Has Been Included Among 66 New Members Of The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) As A ‘Creative City Of Crafts And Folk Art In The Listing Published On October 30th. Sukhothai Statistical Office Declared The Tourist Amount Traveling To Sukhothai In The Normal Situation Before COVID-19 Are More Than One Million Each Year And Gradually Increase Every Year. The Province Has The Provincial Development Plan Clearly To Designate The Cultural Capital Development Issues (Nitipol, Prashya, Kamonsiri,2020) To Positively Integrate Culture And Innovation Through Proposed Local Schemes And Current Development Plans For Sukhothai Province.

In The Global Market - Local Design Era, Connections Between Culture And Design Have Become Increasingly Close (Lin, Xiansun., Pingchang, Chingchan, Chen Hsieh, Chinghuang (2007) Designing Local Features Into A Product Appears To Be More And More Important In The Global Market Where Products Are Losing Their Identity Because Of The Similarity In Their Function And Form (Lin Et Al,2007) Cultural Features Can Be Transformed Into Unique And Irreplaceable Product Identities (Yao Chang, Hung Chen And Li Hunag,2011)

Therefore, This Article Intended To Propose How To Transform “Sukhothai Heritage, And Creative Craft And Folk Arts” To Printed Design, And Design These Cultural Features Into Modern Products To Reinforce Their Design Value

Methodology

A Group Of Lectures And Students From 2 Faculty Which Are From Faculty Of Fine And Applied Arts And Faculty Of Public Administration, Dhurakij Pundit University, Thailand Went To Sukhothai For A Site Visit. Participatory Observation And In-Depth Interviews Have Been Used To Gather Information From Those Communities. Thematic Analysis Through Workshop Discussion To Find The Essence Of Sukhothai Cultural Capital Found 4 Points Which Are

- Happiness; Sufficiency, Pride Of Cultural Heritage,
- Meticulousness; Skillfully Artisans, Quality Materials
- Local Wisdom; Unique Identity +New Vision
- Community Lifestyle; Design Blend With Culture

The Essence Of Sukhothai Discussed Above Led The Research Team To Select 4 Different Categories Of Heritage Which Are The Stucco From Architecture, Textile

Weaving, Craftsmanship And Fine Arts And Adding Creativity To Build 4 Key Characteristics To Inspire The Modern Printed Textile For Commercial.

The First Category Of Heritage Is The Stucco From Architecture (Ancient Ruins Of Si Satchanalai National Park)

The Information From The Website Of Thailand Official Information Of Government Agencies Described Si Satchanalai National Park As The Park Which Is Maintained By The Fine Arts Department Of Thailand With Help From UNESCO, The Park Has Declared It A World Heritage Site And Attracts Thousands Of Visitors Each Year, Who Marvel At The Ancient Buddha Figures, Palace Buildings And Ruined Temples.

Nang Phaya Temple Or Wat Nang Phaya Is Located On The Main Axis Of Si Satchanalai National Park. It Seems To Be An Important Temple During Ancient Times, But It Does Not Appear On Any Historical Chronicles.

Wat Nang Phaya Is Known As “Monastery Of The Queen” Because Of The Local Legend Tells About Wat Nang Phaya As A Legendary Temple Built By A Princess Named Pasujadeve, Daughter Of A Chinese King Who Became King Phra Ruang’s Wife. The King Has A Vague History. So Far, No Evidence Has Been Found To Support This Legend. However, The Temple Is Noted For Its Stucco Ornamentation. (Sirichai, 1982) As It Is The Main Attraction Of This Place, The Well Preserved Floral Stucco Reliefs Are On A Section Of The Viharn’s Wall That Is Still Standing. The Exquisite Beauty Of The Stucco Was Mentioned By Many Writers And Poets Through Their Poems Or Books About Romantic Feelings, Emotions, And Catchy.

From The Story Of The Floral And Exquisite Motifs Of Stucco And The Idealistic Legendary Of The Temple, The Research Team Came Up With The Creativity “The Mood Of Romance” To Be A Guideline For The Design Process

Key Characteristic 1

Heritage : Ancient Ruins of Si Satchanalai National Park

Creativity : The mood of romance

The Definition Of Romance In The Cambridge Dictionary Is A Quality Of Excitement Or Mystery Connected With Experience Or Place. Romantic Design Is Mentioned In Leo Van Design Which Is Feminine Décor Elements Are Dominant In The Romantic Style. Some Of The Feminine Décor Characteristics Are Floral Fabrics, Ruffles, Soft Colors, And Textures. Curved Lines And Soft Shapes, They Create Sensuality And Romance In Any Space. The Color Is Soft, Warm, Neutral Tones Or Pastel Colors Are Used In The Romantic Style Ie, Dusty Pink, Light Purple, Lavender, Violet, White, Cream And Red.

The Design Development

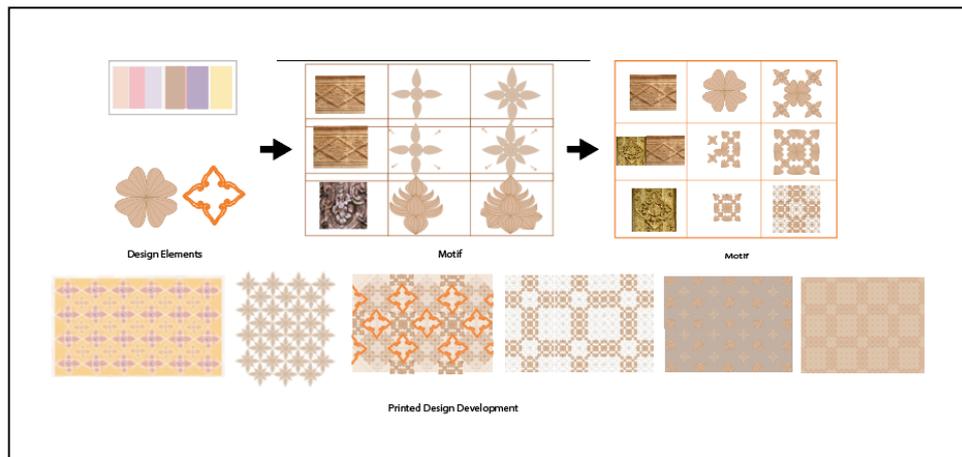


Figure 1: Key Characteristic 1 Design Development

- The Second Category Of Heritage Is Ancient Textile

Si Satchanalai, Sukhothai Has The Local People Called "Tai Phuan". Though Time Passed, Tai Phuan People Still Inherited Culture, Language, Tradition, Festivals And Ways Of Life In The Forms Of Cloth Weaving, But Black Smith And Ordination On Elephant (Sakon, 2014) The Unique Identity Of Tai Phuan In Si Satchanalai's Textile Is Called "Jok 9 Lai" Which Means The 9 Patterns Of Textile Weaving.

Sathorn Gold Textile Museum Is Established By Mr. Sathorn, One Of The Heir Of Tai Phuan Ancestors Who Wants To Conserve And Praise The Wisdom Of Local People. The Museum Exhibits The Complete History And Background Of Ancient Hand-Woven Textile By Tai Phuan People Of Si Satchanalai. These Ancient Textiles Are Unique Hand-Woven Cloth Made By Local Tai Phuan People For Hundreds Of Years And Require High Level Of Skills And Painstaking Attention To Detail. The Cloths Used In Ordination Ceremonies With The Elephants, Wedding Ceremonies, To Worship Holy Spirits And To Spare Good Deeds For Their Next Lives.

From The Story Of The Local Wisdom, Culture And The Painstaking Of Ancestors To Make Unique Identity Of Ancient Textiles Which Are About The Ethnic Style, Then The Research Team Came Up With The Creativity "The Modern Ethnic" To Be A Guideline For Design Process

Key Characteristic 2

Heritage : Ancient Textile

Creativity : The modern Ethnic

Ethnic Styles Have Evolved Geographically Around Asia And The Pacific, Africa, Latin And Central America, North America, And Europe. Ethnic Style Characterizes A Culture That Celebrates Heritage And Origin. The Style Is Influenced By Factors Such As The Availability Of A Wide Variety Of Materials, Production Methods, Cross-Cultural Influences, Innovations, And Sustainable Practices (Nithyaprakash, 2016)

Modern Ethnic Style Is All About Balancing Texture, Simplicity, Nature, Pattern, And Color. It Is Earthy Meets Modern Minimalism (Modern Ethnic Style, 2016)

Tai Phuan Ancient Textiles Have A Unique Character Of Jok's Pattern. Design Development Has Simplified The Characters Of Jok's Weaving Pattern To Be A Simple Geometric Form. The Color Combination Is From The Color Of Textiles Which Are Red, Orange, Yellow, Brown, Black, Etc. The Repeat Pattern Is Balance And Symmetry As The Design Development Below.

The Design Development

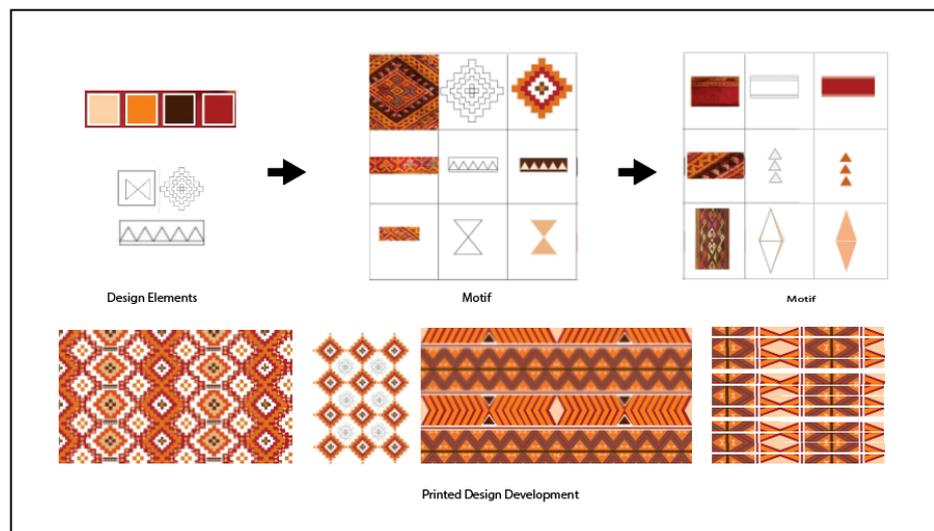


Figure 2: Key Characteristic 1 Design Development

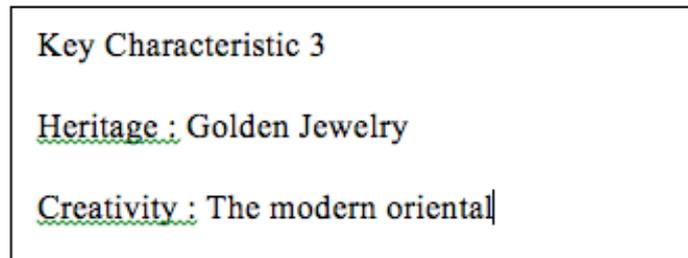
- The Third Category Of Heritage Is Golden Jewelry (Si Satchanalai Golden Jewelry)

Sukhothai Is One Of The Major Production Area Of Traditional Gold Jewelry Products Of Thailand (Jewelry With Identity,2018). In The Past, There Was A Chinese Goldsmith Who Bestowed His Craftsmanship On Local Artisans, Enabling Them To Inherit And Continue The Master Goldsmith's Expertise In Thailand. The Official Website Of Sukhothai Creative City Described That The Beauty Of Sukhothai Ancient Gold Ornaments Has Been Passed On From One Generation To Another. The Identity Of The Ancient Sukhothai Jewelry Still Retains The Artistic And Ancient Style Of Sukhothai As Shown By The Pattern Which Are Found To Be Similar To The Local Temples, Chinaware And Other Natural Design Patterns.

The Golden Jewelry, Not Only Influenced From Chinese Artisan But From The Study It Was Also Found That Sukhothai Goldsmiths Are Also Influenced By Lanna Art

And Bagan Art Since The Sukhothai Kingdom Is An Area Near Bagan Kingdom And Lanna Kingdom. As Well As Most Of The Fine Art Works In Sukhothai City Is Influenced By The Ceylon Art, Khmer Art As Well So It Inspired The Develop Of The Antique Golden Jewelry.

The Gold Jewelry Combined The Touch Of The Eastern Or Oriental Art Led The Research Team To Come Up With The Creativity “The Modern Oriental” To Be A Guideline For Design Process



The Orient Is A Term For The East, Traditionally Comprising Anything That Belongs To The Eastern World. The Geographical And Ethno-Cultural Regions Now Known As West Asia, South Asia, East Asia, And Southeast Asia.

Andreaa (N.D) Has Described In Asian Inspired Interior Design Online Article About The Modern Oriental Style Decoration Which Normally Has A Touch Of Lively Colors, Circle Motifs Are Important, Visual And Textural Should Be Balance As The Design Process Below

The Design Development

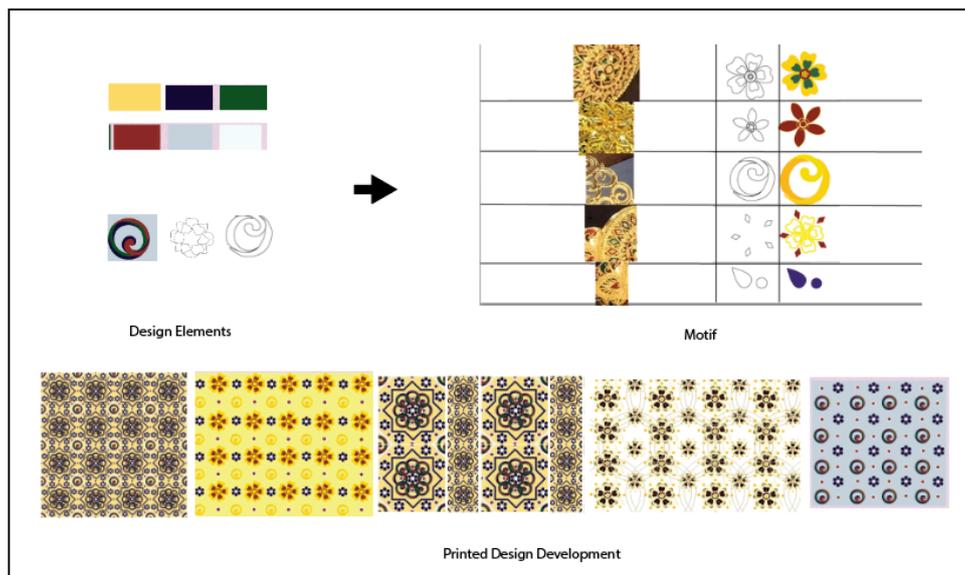


Figure 3: Key Characteristic 1 Design Development

- The Forth Category Of Heritage Is Wat Sri Chum (Sri Chum Temple)

Sri Chum Temple In Sukhothai Is An Important Archeological Site Of Thailand And One Of The Symbols Of Sukhothai Historical Park. The Tunnel Has Been Found Inside Of The Mandapa (The Temple's Central Building) And Has Significant Historical And Cultural Values In Many Aspects. (Chawee, Prittiporn, M.L. Varodom, 2014). The Tunnel Contains A Very Narrow Stairway Which Leads To The Roof Of The Mandapa. In This Stairway, More Than 50 Slates Were Discovered On Which Images From The Life Of Buddha (Jataka) Are Engraved. These Slates Are The Oldest Surviving Examples Of Thai Art Of Drawing (Barend, 2013) Same As Chawee Et Al. (2014) Stated That It Is The Foundation Of The Oldest Thai Painting Ever Discovered. The Wall Paintings And Decoration Features Of Wat Srichum Are Important In Establishing The Uniqueness And Outstanding Importance. (Unesco, N.D)

The Style Of This Oldest Painting Heritage Art Is Different From The Other 3 Characteristics Before. It's Like The Freehand Sketch, Less Formal And Less Elaborate But Still, Needs To Have A Very High Skill Of Engraving. The Research Team Interpreted This To Be The Mood Of Artistic.

Key Characteristic 4

Heritage : Wat Srichum's wall's engraving

Creativity : The Mood of Artistic

From Cambridge Dictionary The Meaning Of Artistic Is Relating To Art, Able To Create Or Enjoy Art, Skillfully And Attractively Made.

Artistic Defined As Someone Who Possess Creative Qualities That Enable That Person To Excel At Producing Creative Works Like Paintings Or Sculptures. Wat Sri Chum Wall's Engraving Is Influenced From Khmer, Bagan And Lanka Art And Chinese Since There Are The Inscriptions Of Floral Bouquet Pattern, Tree And Animal, Jewelry, Ornaments And People. All These Inscription Inspired Designer As The Design Development Below.

The Design Development

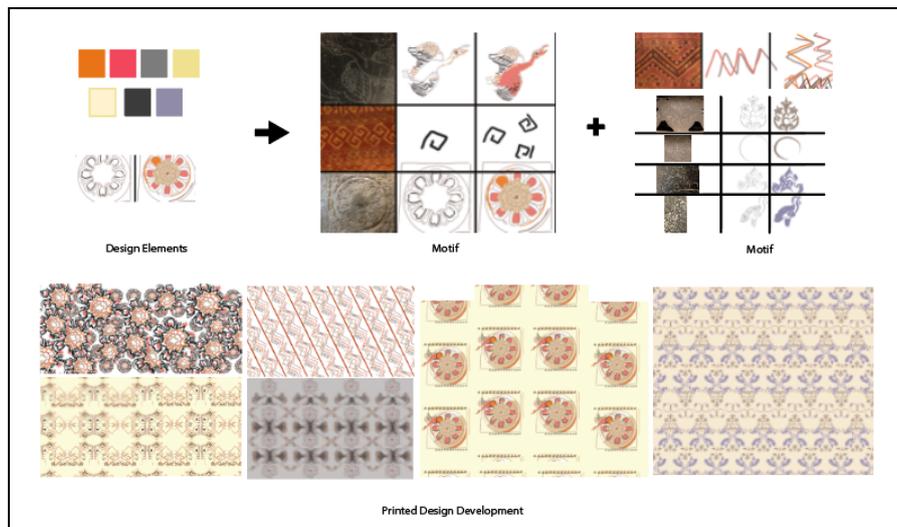


Figure 4: Key Characteristic 1 Design Development

Results

4 Different Design Characteristics Which Are Composed Of Heritage And Creativity On Variety Printed Textiles. Each Characteristic Has Been Picked Up And Put On The Mock Up Fabric To See How It Looks.

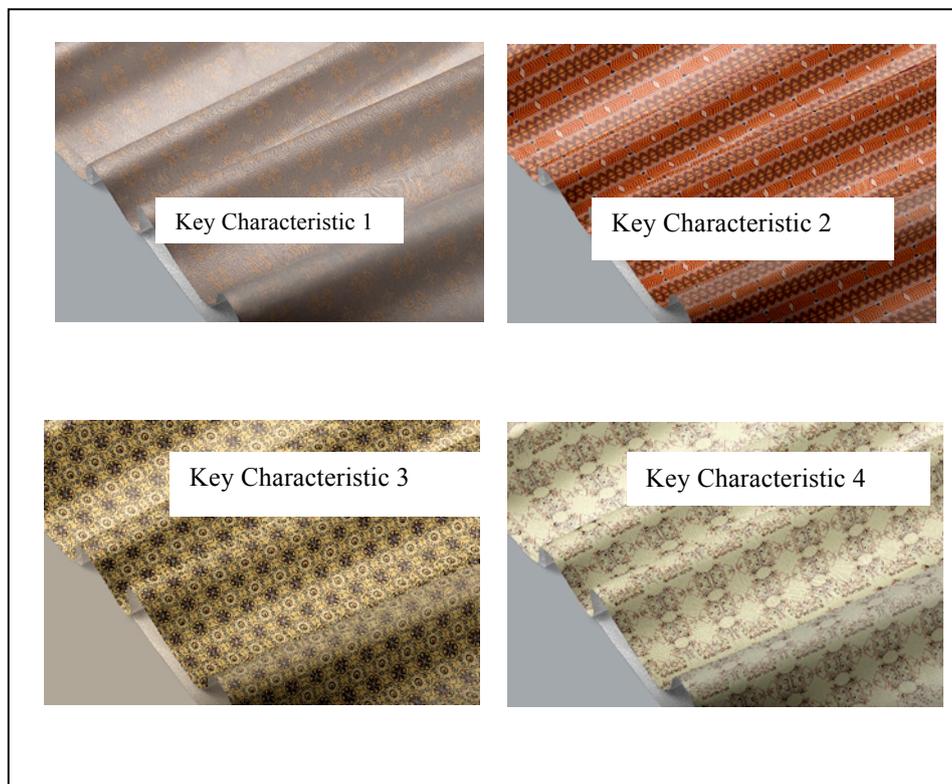


Figure 5: Mock Up Fabric

Conclusion

Through The Process, The Feedback Of The Students From 2 Faculties After Working Together Has Been Issued That The Project Allowed The Students An Opportunity To Study Art And Culture And Ancient Craftsmanship, The Understanding Of The Cultural Capital Can Be Applied In Various Designs. Sharing And Discussing With Friends From Different Faculties Who Have Different Opinions Led Them To Come Up With Various Ideas, For The New Generation, It Can Be Able To Pick Up The Ancestors' Local Lifestyles And Folk Arts To Develop New Designs Whether Products Design, Ornaments, Decorations, Crafts Or Textile Design, Etc.

The Designs In This Project Had Presented The Experience And Results That Reflected The Heritage Resource And Creativity On Textile Printed Design In Different Moods And Tones. All These Designs Have Unique Characters By Taking The Heritage Which Can Be Used For Commercial Products In The Further Project.

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