

Chapter-03

Understand the Household Furniture

Define Different Types of Furniture:

Formal or Informal design exists for the functionality of the design. Formal design exists from the initial idea of functional design, architectural design. Aesthetics is required for any architectural or design aesthetics. The aesthetic design of the structure can be done by adopting the design principle. Different types of furniture are discussed below:

1. Wooden furniture
2. Wicker furniture
3. Plastic furniture

1. Wooden furniture:

Wooden furniture is made of wood, or to put it botanically, the xylem tissue that forms the bulk of the stem of a woody plant. Chairs, tables, beds, wardrobes and racks are major furniture items most commonly made of wood. Other items such as almirahs, chests of drawer, dressing tables, sofa sets are also made of wood. Woods used in making good quality furniture include mahogany, segun, garjan, chapalish, chikrashi, shilkarai, gamari, walnut, and cherry.



Engraving Victorian design on teak wood furniture

Segun and chapalish are preferred for almost all kinds of furniture. Chikrashi, shilkarai, and tikchambal are characterised by straightness and an ability to hold nails and tacks. Consequently, they are much used in constructing furniture frames that are to be covered by upholstery. Inferior wood such as that of rain tree, and of mango or some other fruit bearing trees are used in furniture manufactures and given a finish so as to simulate the finer varieties.

The manufacture of wooden furniture evolved from varieties of wood such as, bent wood, plywood, laminated wood, hardboard, etc.

Before wood can be used in furniture production, it must be thoroughly dried and seasoned. The indigenous technique of seasoning the wood is to keep it under water for 20 or 30 days and then to dry it under the sun. A more efficient method, the application of heat by high frequency electricity, is recently being used by many enterprises, especially for drying solid wood and plywood. Laminated wood is another type used in making arms and legs of chair. Hardboard or fibreboard is sometimes used as drawer bottoms, while chest backing is utilised in the manufacture of inexpensive furniture.

Specialized wood craftsmen working in urban furniture factories produce designs to satisfy various types of customers. Sometimes experienced wood craftsman will start with a piece of wood, often without a preconceived plan or idea, which he develops as he works to form the shape and grain of the material. Almost all big cities and towns of Bangladesh have some areas specializing in the manufacture of wooden furniture. Such places in DHAKA are Gulshan, Mirpur, Shahjahanpur and the Stadium Market.

Supplies of wood of different varieties, sizes and shapes come largely from the forests of Chittagong, kaptai, rangamati, khulna and sylhet. Burmese TEAK and other solid forms of garjan and chikrashi come from Myanmar, India, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Japan. Bangladesh imports readymade wooden furniture such as beds, dressing tables, chairs and kitchen cabinets. Estimated annual imports vary between Tk 7 billion and 10 billion. Bangladesh also exports some wooden furniture such as dining tables, book shelves, chests of drawer, TV chests, French bouquets and primitive sideboards to Australia, United States and Canada. Each year Bangladesh earns about \$20 million from such export.

Wooden furniture items in rural Bangladesh, in contrast, are rudimentary in form and simple in character. Continuous pressure on forests for the purpose of fuel and household timber for an ever-increasing population has resulted in extreme scarcity of good quality wood. The bulk of the wooden furniture remains simple and traditional in form because of a shortage of specialized wood craftsmen and the required hardware. A typical middle-income group rural household owns wooden furniture such as chairs, tables, beds, dressing hangers, stools, sinduks, wardrobes, showcases, almirahs, racks and ladders.

Wooden furniture is pleasant looking and comparatively cheap and it is more durable. The material used to make such furniture was once easily available. This is why it dominated all other types of furniture in Bangladesh since time immemorial. But present day shortage in wood plantation is gradually constricting the development of wooden furniture.

2. Wicker furniture:

or Cane furniture adorned with creative design and artistry subtly bears testimony to the glorious tradition of handmade artifacts in Bangladesh. Such furniture ranges from dining tables to dressing tables or easy chairs to rocking chairs or from dress hangers to shoe racks. Artisans gifted with artistic bent of mind employ combination of manual and mental labor in making high quality cane furniture like chairs, tables, sofa sets, book shelves, beds, corner shelves, partitions, wardrobes, almirahs, showcases, plantation cases, glass frames, trays, trolleys and show pieces. The image of different flowers, such as rajanigandha,

kadam, Suryamukhi and shapla or of the moon and stars, boats, and the waves of river, are manifested in the exterior decoration of the body of such furniture. A rich collection of catalogues of local and foreign-made furniture is available to furniture makers to satisfy all types of customers.



Types of cane used in constructing furniture include the golla (thick) cane for the frame and the gota (thin) cane for body and fali cane, chhani cane and rajan cane for the outer layer of decoration. Golla cane is imported from Myanmar, India and Singapore. [Thin canes are locally produced and are supplied from Sylhet, Chittagong, Bandarban, Feni, Faridpur, Pabna, Tangail, and many other places.](#) After completing the outer surface, cane furniture is burnished to give the look of natural colour with clear burnish and thinner.

[Cane-made furniture has a huge demand all over the world, particularly in Asia and Europe. Bangladesh exports considerable cane furniture of different kinds to Russia, Germany, Singapore, and the Middle East and has received worldwide acclaim for its cane craft through taking part in a number of international handicraft fairs held in Germany, Canada, Japan and other countries.](#)

3. Plastic furniture:

Plastic furniture Plastic-made furniture emerges in consistencies ranging from hard and inflexible to soft and rubbery. They are gradually replacing natural substances such as wood and are lightweight, easy to clean, durable, and capable of being rendered very strong.

Plastic furniture started to be manufactured on a much wide scale in the 1980s and has gradually become very popular. Thermosetting and permanently set plastics are the most useful. They are remarkably durable, and are suited to production of small cabinets, tables, chairs, and such accessories as drawer

handles and knobs. Molded plastics have opened a great field for new design in sculptured forms. In the furniture industry, the largest use of plastic is in the form of laminated sheets, which are produced by combining phenol or amino plastic with fibrous reinforcing material such as cotton and linen cloth, or even paper. These are easily bonded to plywood panels by special adhesives. These sheets are made with durable finishes in various colors and wood imitations, and are used extensively for table tops, kitchen counter tops, and bathroom furniture. Other plastics either woven or in sheet form, are used in place of cloth fabric and conventional upholstery webbing.

The development of indigenous plastic furniture in Bangladesh has been in association with imports of readymade plastic commodities from Germany, Malaysia, India and some other countries. A good number of enterprises has been established in the country in the last two decades. The large ones are located mainly in Dhaka (Lalbagh, Jinjira, Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar, Tejgaon etc.), Chittagong and Sylhet. To manufacture plastic furniture, Bangladesh imports laminated plastic sheets, fibers and layer of thin wood from Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore.

About Fixture and Furniture

A piece of equipment that is fixed inside a house or building and is sold as part of the house.

A fixture is defined as an asset that is installed or otherwise fixed in or to a building or land so as to become part of that building or land in law.

- A fixture is any item that is intended to be reasonably permanent and is affixed to the property through the application of plaster, cement, bolts, screws, nuts, or nails
- A fitting/ furnishing is any item that is free standing or hung by screws, nails or hooks.

Below is a list of items that typically fall within each category.

Fixtures

- Fixed partitions and doors
- Electrical installations
- Electric sockets
- Light fittings
- Security alarm systems
- Television aerials and satellite dishes
- Fires and fire surrounds
- Central-heating boilers and radiators
- Plumbing installations
- Bathroom suites and other sanitary ware installations
- Vanity furniture
- Cubicles/ shower screens
- Kitchen units
- Sinks
- Integrated appliances
- Adhered floor finishes
- Door furniture
- Built-in furniture, including proprietary reception desks, worktops
- Built in wardrobes/ cupboards/ shelf units (e.g. *if they use a wall to form one of their sides and would thus be incomplete if they were removed*)
- Wall paintings
- Plants and shrubs [rooted] in land belonging to the property.

Fittings/ furnishings

- Demountable partition systems
- Telephone systems
- CCTV systems
- Edge-fitted and loose-laid carpets
- Blinds, curtains and curtain rails
- Paintings or mirrors that are not bolted but hung or screwed to a wall
- Notice boards

- Plumbed-in/ connected but free-standing equipment (e.g. *commercial catering equipment, laboratory equipment*)
- Free-standing ovens, refrigerators, washing machines and other white goods
- Lockers, changing room furniture, etc.
- Beds/sofas and other free standing items of furniture or equipment
- Computers and other IT equipment
- Lamps and lampshades
- Potted plants and shrubs (in containers)