

The Lecture Contains:

 Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils

 Other Household Items

 Metal Handicraft

 **Previous** **Next** 

Module 12 : Modern Product Design & Crafts Design

Lecture 32 : Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils, Other Household Items, Metal Handicraft

Making things by our hand is a common activity that every human being practices from childhood. From the beginning of human history man has created and produced numerous handmade useful household objects. Handicraft has a very especial place in our heart because of our sentimental attachment compare to the modern mass produced consumer products. Use of indigenous material (fiber, leather, stone, shell, wood, metal, etc.) remains the primary choice in handicrafts. A handicraft is kind of craft that can be made by using one's hands or simple tools. The rich handicraft reflects the cultural ethos, tradition and history of each society. It carries special significance in every society. Anthropologists take great interest to understand the social fabric of cultures with the help of handicrafts.



Plate 1A Wood Craft



1B Block Prints



1C Vase Painting



1D Cane Basket making

(Source: https://www.google.co.in/search?hl=en&q=history+of+indian+crafts&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&bvm=bv.43828540,d.bmk&biw=1341&bih=604&um=1&ie=UTF8&tbn=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=NqhGUZO5FM6qrpot.com%252F_Gb4NmAd9gS8%252FTHZefDsiPGI%252FAAAAAAABVo%252FeYNswKR6LLA%252Fs1600%252FIndia_Hyderabad%252B320.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fmathtourist.blogspot.com%252F2010_08_01_archive.html%3B1600%3B1200; March 18, 2013)

Handicraft in India has a long history covering the entire subcontinent. The orientation of handicraft remained mostly in rural environment. Woodcraft (plate 1A) has produced large number of attractive artifacts in the form of toys. Fabric has produced exceptional creative work in the form of rugs (plate 1B), drapery, clothing, dresses, etc. Hand-painted earthen pots (plate 1C) have special place in our society during the ceremonial events and rituals. Cane baskets (plate 1D) have strong presence in rural lifestyle for various household activities. Basket for carrying food and other belongings, basket for catching fish, basket to cover food are some of the common utility that are found in the rural society. The durability and environmentally friendly material of cane and bamboo are closely associated with Indian subcontinent rural lifestyle.

Module 12 : Modern Product Design & Crafts Design

Lecture 32 : Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils, Other Household Items, Metal Handicraft

Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils



Plate 2A
Sarashi



2B Tawa (iron)



2C Chaki-belan



2D Shil-batta

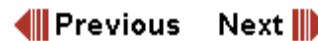


2E Boti (cutter)

(Source: https://www.google.co.in/search?hl=en&q=Household+traditional+items+in+Indiabav=on.2,or.r_qf.bvm=bv.43828540,d.bmkbiw=1341bih=604um=1ie=UTF8tbm=ischsource=ogsa=Ntab=wie=f1HUZz9F4O3rAeX8oDgCw#imgsrc=ko3eMmoB95bQKM%3A%3B6lQJrOJjyd_JRM%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fstatic.adayinlife.timesofindia.com%252Fusermedia%252Fphotos%252F2011%252FMar%252Fed2F%252Fwww.examiner.com%252Farticle%252Fphotography-101-rules-for-composition-leading-lines49d945528700e83479d7313435f31d.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fadayinlife.timesofindia.com%252FphotoDisplay.php%253FphotoId%253D158794%3B950%3B602; March 19, 2013)

The Indian subcontinent is famous for its range of gastronomy. The rich and diverse food has naturally produced wide range of kitchen utensils since the time of Indus Valley Civilization. Indian Kitchen utensils have wide range of varieties based on their specific utility. Each utensil performs specific job based on the nature of preparation. Interestingly the same utensil may change its design to perform certain job due to the regional and local usefulness.

Art and handicraft are two different things. Handicraft is closely associated with everyday life. Handicraft originally designed and produced for the household works. The spirit of handicraft is embedded with the household activities. For generations people use such handcrafted utility goods that develop nostalgic association with people.



Module 12 : Modern Product Design & Crafts Design

Lecture 32 : Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils, Other Household Items, Metal Handicraft

India a country with 26 states and 18 languages and more than 1500 dialects has enormous rich heritage of handicraft production from ancient time. The major works are- wooden, glass, rugs, handprint fabrics, wrought iron works, stoneware, etc. The works can be divided in two categories- articles for everyday use and decorative articles. Sarashi (plate 2A) is common instrument to hold hot pan. The same Sarashi may change its design due to local need. Iron **tawa** (plate 2B) is commonly used for backing **roti**. Traditionally iron tawa is preferred in most homes. Shil-batta (plate 2C) is one of most common tool that is used in Indian homes for grinding spices or vegetable since Indus Valley period. Modern day mechanized grinding machine has replaced the traditional Shil-batta, however for the right kind of cooking the stone-made Shil-batta is the most preferred utility instrument. Every household has grandma Shil-batta that is preserved for very special cooking occasion. Some of the cooking cannot produce the same taste without grind in Shil-batta. Hence, it occupies very special place in Indian kitchen. Boti is used for cutting vegetable and fish. It is popular in East (Bengal, Bihar and Odisha) and in North-east (Assam) region of India. It can cut in fine slices that require special skill.

Other Household Items



Plate 3A Cane-work



3B Woodcraft



3C Wooden Chair



3D Jhula

(Source: https://www.google.co.in/search?hl=en&sugexp=les%3B&gs_rn=6&gs_ri=psyab&tok=1HgBzym6A6SCO24kpJghrw&pq=traditional+indian+kitchen+utensils&cp=28&gs_id=1qq&xhr=t&q=traditional+indian+furniture&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&biw=1341&bih=604&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbn=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=K_xHUeuE4HPrQe5w4GIBw&um=1&hl=en&tbn=isch&sa=1&q=traditional+indian+craft+furniture&oq=traditional+indian+craft+furniture&gs_l=img.12...177800.179318.0.181131.6.6.0.0.0.420.1357.2j1j1j0j2.6.0...0.0...1c.1.6.img.BmEhhqHoUks&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&bvm=bv.43828540,d.bmk&fp=93e26e7b8f371d90&biw=1341&bih=604&imgsrc=5J6yTz5aLKIIM%3A%3BqZaLmn_hLO5wAM%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.indianetzone.com%252Fphotos_gallery%252F44%252Fmeghalayacane furniture.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.indianetzone.com%252F41%252Fbamboo_cane_crafts_meghalaya.htm%3B350%3B340; March 19, 2013)

Cane furniture (plate 3A) is admired by large number of people because of its elegance and durability. In tropical country the moisture content and heat affect wooden furniture. The temperature fluctuation and moisture does not affect cane because of its structural composition. It is light in weight and has tremendous elasticity. Cane work is entirely dependent on handcraft. In wood Indian craftsmen have created integrate design from ancient period. Labour extensive complex handcrafted works (plate 3B) have special significance because their rare quality and human touch. The simple design of collapsible (plate 3C) light weight wooden chair is admired by all. The craft orientation has inspired people to design and develop fascinating products for household usage. Sitting on **Jhula** (plate 3D) is one of the most relaxing item that is loved by people. The decorative quality of the Jhula makes it quite special at home. Thus, the concept of swing is transferred into a Jhula has taken special place inside our home. Traditionally the natural material like wood and cane has always drawn attention and admired by everybody through ages. Artisans have mastered the art of handicraft in such material throughout the world.

Module 12 : Modern Product Design & Crafts Design

Lecture 32 : Indian Traditional Kitchen Utensils, Other Household Items, Metal Handicraft

Metal Handicraft



Plate 4A Bucket and **Ghara**
(Brass & Copper)



4B Tiffin Carrier
(White metal)



4C Household Metal utensils
(Brass metal)



4D Worship utensils
(Brass metal)

(Source: https://www.google.co.in/search?hl=en&sugexp=les%3B&gs_rn=6&gs_ri=psyab&tok=1HgBzym6A6SCQ24kpJghrw&pq=traditional+indian+furniture&cp=28&gs_id=26o&xhr=l&q=traditional+indian+metal6f9HUeJFcjZrQwork&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&biw=1341&bih=604&um=1&ie=UTF8&tbn=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=e5pYH4Dg#um=1&hl=en&tbn=isch&sa=1&q=indian+traditional+metalwork+utensils&oq=india0...n+traditional+metalwork+utensils&gs_l=img.12...5846.8950.9.12697.12.12.0.0.0.159.1370.3j9.12.0.0...1c.1.6.img.49pEgVC2D0&bav=on.2,or.r_qf.&bvm=bv.43828540,d.bmk&fp=93e26e7b8f371d90&biw=1341&bih=604&imgc=nuhgzmggyjTQJbM%3A%3BABj_JOSMqkjrM%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.columbia.edu%252Fitc%252Fmealac%252Fpritchett%252F00glossarydata%252Fterms%252Ftiffincarrier%252Futensils.jpg%3Bhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.columbia.edu%252Fitc%252Fmealac%252Fpritchett%252F00glossarydata%252Fterms%252Ftiffincarrier%252Ftiffincarrier.html%3B660%3B611; March 19, 2013)

Since the period of Indus Valley Civilization (Pre-iron age) the Indian subcontinent has produced varieties of handcrafted metalwork. Copper and bronze (alloy metal) are the most popular metal that is being used for all the household work in Indian subcontinent. **Ghara** and buckets (plate 4A) are the popular among other metal items in rural India even today. Carrying food in Tiffin Box (plate 4B) is a common product in urban India. However, the handcrafted tiffin container with decorative design has indeed elevated to a special place because the added handcrafted value. Traditionally metal utensils (plate 4C) are widely used in rural community even today. Thus, the affection and value added to such utensils carry special significance in our houses.