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- *PROPOSAL TITLE:*

Body and Mind Perspectives of Sitting from the East-West Collective

- *BRIEF DESCRIPTION:*

Some studies in experiential anatomy have argued that the sensual meaning and physical comfort of upright *sitting* significantly differs in Eastern and Western cultures. The proposed research is centered on a practice-based design inquiry of human ergonomics and anthropometrics as they relate to the cultural diversities and intellectual thought of *sitting* experiences from the eastern and western collectives. The design-oriented study will be undertaken in three prospective/assigned courses of the author within the Interior Design Program, such as: FCSID 220 - Furniture Design, FCS 123 – Interior Design Basics, and FCSID 110 - Design Fundamentals, which are offered during fall 2009 and spring 2010. The faculty and students of the mentioned courses will investigate through assigned projects, the culture of *sitting* using the following given methodologies: (1) design mapping matrix to determine formal elements and functional features of selected iconic representations of east-west cultures, (2) investigation of cultural commonalities and variants through the use of anthropometric factors and human ergonomic standards (3) literature review of decorative styles and functional features of various cultures.

- *POTENTIAL PRODUCTS:*

The research seeks to conclude with the following outcomes:

- Medium-sized posters highlighting projects composed of models and contextual research by select team student groups slated in spring 2010.
- Large-format research poster which is proposed for presentation at the 2009 Diversity Research Symposium “Exploring Diversity Research and Writing Across Disciplines” scheduled in November 2009.
- Research papers on the above mentioned topic at two possible journals, Journal of Interior Design and the International Journal of Art and Design Education.

- *DISSEMINATION PLAN:*

Research results are also projected to be presented/published at the following design and conference venues: (1) Indiana Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 2010 Conference – Indiana (Professional Organization), (2) Interior Design Educators Council – 2010 Conference on Looking Into Modern Interiors (Academic Annual Conference), (3) 15th BSU Student Design Symposium (Student Research Category), and (4) Design Interaction Day – Indiana Chapter 2010 (Student Creative Project Category). (5) Proposed publications and exhibitions as presented in the potential products category of this proposal also form part of the dissemination plan.

- *BENEFITS TO THE RESEARCHER AND THE DEPARTMENT:*

The project further extends the long-term design research of the author who once had a professional career in the design and development of furniture pieces exported to major countries around the globe between 1983 and 1996. The study will also support her current efforts in establishing a furniture design program at BSU with the initial introduction of the course in Furniture Design. Students who are exposed to this research-based practice type of investigation as part of their learning outcomes will also benefit and become better designers as they embrace the contextual value of understanding cultural diversity, market study and global consumerism. Further, this study will serve as an established model to attract collaborative research studies in the future, and also become part of a series of actual case studies for the approved on-line interior design program that will be launched in spring 2010.