

## Imputing Mercedes Benz Design into Furniture: A study in Sculpture Practice

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**ABSTRACT:-** Furniture design is design of movable, functional objects that support human activities such as tables, beds and even more. Before now, furniture making being a sub category of carpentry, was looked upon with disdain, especially by those who reasoned that having gotten a college or university degree, a white collar job was simply the only path to dignity and prosperity and this is grossly failing in Nigeria now, it is an era of skills as against the fading era of theories hence this study especially now at the cross road of history and a shift and turn from the status quo in global economy to an era of hands on era. Can humans really do without furniture in the day to day activities if the answer is affirmative then why there is more and more investment on such? This study attempts to answer the aforementioned questions even in the area of taken a dynamic Mercedes design and imputing same in construction to furniture design of contemporary bedroom. However, this is fast changing as more and more people in Nigeria are getting to appreciate the creative art of carving wood, metal, fabrics, cushion to give form and beauty to chairs, tables, wardrobes, cabinets and other household furniture. The new trend in furniture making and design is the phased-out car furniture design which has not gained recognition here in Nigeria therefore, this research is aimed at enlightening artisans as well as the general public on the invention of car furniture design and appraise its importance. Design of the research is qualitative method base on step-by-step description of processes involved in making bedroom furniture. Sculpture works can be perfectly carried out through the use of four approaches depending on the types of materials the sculpture intended to use. These approaches include: construction, carving, modeling, casting, welding, installation and assemblages to impute Mercedes Benz front design in Bedroom furniture pieces of Bed, Beauty utility table with mirror and Drawer as well as a stool. Imputing popular acceptable Mercedes Benz car frontal Design and logo has not only uniquely engaged the sculptor in the studio but has also utilized waste tyres as part of the configuration, one thing one cannot ascertain though is the health implications of the tyres in a bedroom setting.

**Keywords:** Mercedes Benz, Design, Furniture, Bed, Car-Furniture, Headboard, Dressing table, Construction, Modelling, Casting, Recycle and Repurpose

### I. INTRODUCTION

Furniture design is design of movable, functional objects that support human activities such as tables beds and even more (Sayuti, Hoyos and Bonollo, (2015) When people learned to farm and lived in permanent settlement, they began to make furniture. People have been using natural objects such as tree stumps, rocks and moss as furniture since the beginning of human civilization. In Europe, some of the earliest known furniture comes from a stone ape village in Sara Brae in the Orkney islands sin Scotland about 2,000 B.C (Muscato; 2004). The Stone Age farmers lived in stone huts with roofs of whale bone and turf. Inside, they made stone furniture such as cupboard and beds.

In the early 1900s or revolutionary new style of furniture design emerged. One of the progenitors of this styles, the pre-eminent Swiss architect and designer le Corbusier describes it this way; "A great epoch has begun. There exists a new spirit" Le Corbusier, cited in Paola (2003). The researcher aims at creating awareness to the society about the untapped gold mine-recycling and adapting phased out car furniture. Modern day furniture in Nigeria. In order to fulfill the aim of creating awareness about how to adapt phased-out car furniture in the modern-day furniture in Nigeria, the research used a furniture design of a bed in the phased-out car design.

### **The new spirit, it's revolutionary**

Until this point in history. The value of a piece of furniture was judged based on how much time artisan operate on it and how ornate it was. Casting of the baggage of history, modern furniture was designed to the light in both form and color. The goal of modern design is to capture timeless beauty in space and this is goal of most recent invention in modern furniture. Indeed, the modernizing forces of industry played a major role in this emergent design. The modern movement sought newness, originally, technical innovation and ultimately the message that it conveyed spoke of the present and the future, rather than what had gone before it. (Antonell, Paola, 2003).

However, despite the prospects that abound in the Nigeria modern furniture industry one of the challenges facing it is the lack of enough professionals to meet the high demand. As stated in the word of Babayemi, Ogundiran and Osibanjo (2017).

The government is encouraging people to find innovative ways of making money as our oil rich country continues to face a recession due to low global oil prices, making it difficult for entrepreneurs to run their business hence, the need for adaptation of our furniture in our Nigeria modern day furniture. It behave me also as an artist to contribute to alleviating poverty and eradicating poverty in Nigeria by sensitizing the society on the advent of phased-out car furniture and encouraging entrepreneurs and business tycoons to invest in this sector of art. This research traces the historical development of furniture making from the Stone Age till date. It also documents how the newly evolved sophisticated, technology driven recycling business is constantly changing and its importance to the society at large.

This will be beneficiary to other artisans and entrepreneurs because it will serve as an eye opener to explore the new technology-driven business of recycling car parts which otherwise would have been traced and making it a multimillion work of investment. The research work depicts beauty in waste.

#### **The Mercedes Benz Design**

The Mercedes Benz Designs are very well and painstakingly done and their slickness compact and durability has made them very popular in the market .The logo with three point's means dominatsion of the land the sea and the air. Its projections are properly designed that domination and elegance are project and emotional evokes dignity and ruggedness .Gorden Wagener in (1909) is the chief designer that developed the philosophy of sensual purity and this imposing slogan the best or nothing arrogant bemuse the design (Logomyway,(2020)

### **Literature Review and cited Works**

Art is as old as man himself. Everything exists as a result of God's artistic attributes and creativities, in creativity visual auditory or performing art. Facts, expressing the authors imaginative or technical skills, intended to be appreciated for their beauty or emotional power (Wikipedia adapted 2018). In its most basis attracts definition, art is a documented expression of a sentient being through or on an accessible medium so that anyone can view, hear or experiment it. Merriam- Webster define " the arts" as painting, sculpture, music, theatre, literature, etc. considered as a group of activities done by people with skills and imagination.

### **History of furniture**

The practice of using nature objects as rudimentary piece of furniture likely to be beginning of human civilization (Peters, 2018). Early human were likely to have used tree stamps seat, rocks as rudimentary tables and mossy areas for period, from around 30,000 years ago, people began constructing and craving their own furniture using wood, stone and animal bones.

Ancient furniture has been excavated from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC Phrygian tumulus, the Midas mound in Gordon, Turkey pieces found include tables and inlaid serving stands. There are also surviving works from the 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> century BC Assyrian palace of Nimrud. The earliest surviving carpet, was discovered in a frozen tomb in Siberia and has been dated between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC.

### **A new design paradigm**

The modernizing forces of industry played a major role in this emergent design (Jareb 2004). The idea of mass production was huge. It meant that modern furniture design should be available to all, not just the elite. Functional and emotional was the ideal.

Post World War II ideals of eating excess commodification and practicality of materials in design heavily influenced the aesthetic of the furniture it was a tremendous departure from all the furniture design that had gone before it. There was an opposition to the decorative arts, which include art mauves Neo classical and Victorian styles. This shift from decorative to minimalist principles of design can be attributed to the introduction of new technology changes in philosophy, and the influences of the principles of architecture.

As Philip Johnson, the founder of the department of architecture and design at the Museum of Modern Art (2014) articulates: "Today, industrial design is functional and followed the same principles as modern architecture; machine like simplicity, smoothness of surface, avoidance of ornament..."With the machine

aesthetic, modern furniture easily came to promote factory modules which emphasized the time managing, efficient ideals of the period (Williams Bauhaus 2001), creative elements and focus on the design of the object in other to save time, money, material and labour. Capturing time-less beauty in space and percussion is the essence of this study.

### **Emergence of car furniture design**

Casting off the baggage of history, modern furniture was designed to be light in both form and colour. The structure of modern furniture was transparent and featured clean geometric lines and planes. Recycling old cars have evolved into a sophisticated technology driven business which is constantly changing (Babayemi, 2015). The case of recycling and repurposing is strong. The bottom line is clear. Recycling and repurposing require a lot of time, it saves energy and reduces pollution (David Morris, 2012). Instead of crushing abandoned, wrecked and disable cars, modern auto recycling industries maximize car parts values.

Cars and mobility are essential parts of people's life style in this contemporary world. They can be a working tool or an entertainment product that allows us to escape our day to day life. Up cycling or recycling car parts for various purposes can become extremely surprising when the project which adds a distinctive style and imaginative flair to your working place (Sortra, 2017).

When a passion for repurposing recycling and up cycling is focused on furniture, the opportunities are limitless (Boss, 2004). Repurposing is exciting, economical and satisfying, sometimes, it is also delightfully outrageous. When old cars are taken to junk yards then the cars are shredded and steel is recycled back into automobiles and home appliances. Automobiles are the most recycled products in the world, a three out of the four tons of new steel is made from recycled steel and other car parts can be recycled for new automobiles also, but creating new and unique furniture or lighting fixture while recycling old cars is an amazing experience. Agbo (2011) stated in the waste study that some wastes reached their end- of -life can find new life in a repurposed ventures thereby creating economic social and environmental benefits. Adewale in the same vein in an earlier study engaged the studies of wastes in the area of waste management which he dubbed wastenomics (2009). Biophilic and emotional design criteria dominated the studies in furniture by Sayuti ,Hoyos and Bonollo(2015) Nwachuku, Feng, and Achilike(2010) concentrated there studies on management of automobilr wastes in Imo River Basin are of Nigeria .Onu, Price and Ebie (2012) concerned themselves with polices and laws of waste management in Nigeria .In the other are of Nigeria which the commercial city of Lagos that is densely populated, Anestina,Adetola and Odafe(2014) delved in the study of performance assessment of solid waste management. Ogunmakinde, Sher and Maund (2019) study is on assessment of waste disposal methods in construction industries in Nigeria. Nduka, Kelle, Ogokoand Okafor (2019 ) looked at waste studies in Nigeria from the angle of environmental and public health impart on automobile and transportation wastes in Nigeria. Recycling old cars for unique furniture and lighting fixtures in funky style is a great idea. Handmade and very original home furnishing add amazing accents to interior design in Centro styles. Creative way to revive and recycle used cars are a part of green living and keep the environment clean.

### **Nigeria and Repurposing of Waste Car parts**

Green living includes all ideas that minimizes pollution, save resources and improve personal health. Recycling old car for unique furniture and lighting fixtures has a positive impact, creating greener environment.

### **Methods, Materials and Tools/Gadgets in the study**

This explains the approaches to this study. It is all about the designs and processes employed to achieve this project. Also, the technique used in the process are explained in details. The research is in studio practice, employing construction in wood and waste materials in the environment. Design of the research is qualitative methods base in step-by-step description of processes involved is making bedroom furniture. Sculpture works can be perfectly carried out through the use of four approaches depending on the types of materials the sculpture intended to use. These approaches include: construction, carving, modeling, casting, welding, and installation

The sculptor applies subtractive methods to make use of the carving approaches if he uses wood, marble or stone as a medium of expression. On the other hand, the sculptor employs the additive modeling approach to some other materials .In other words each material in Sculpture practice has its attendant methods which could be additive or subtractive mode. Welding is an art of joining two metals together to form an art work. In joining, we use electrode metal, harmer, welding machine etc. Casting in the other hand is a reproduction methods of replacing impermanent materials to more durable and permanent materials like from clay to cement. Installation in sculpture is the art of gathering and aesthetically placing of same to form an art work.

This includes aspect of materials, tools, equipment and the various techniques that were applied for the visual aspect of this project.

## II. MATERIALS

Wood of different types – plywood, hardwood, pine wood , Fiber glass, Tyre Screw and nails ,Top bound, Foam, Cartons, Staple gun-pins, Oil paint of different colors ,Filler Cement, Clay, Synthetic Leather, Sand paper.

**Tools:** Hammer, Staple gun, Saw, Pinches, Screw driver, Scraper, Measuring tape, Angle, Brushes

### Equipment

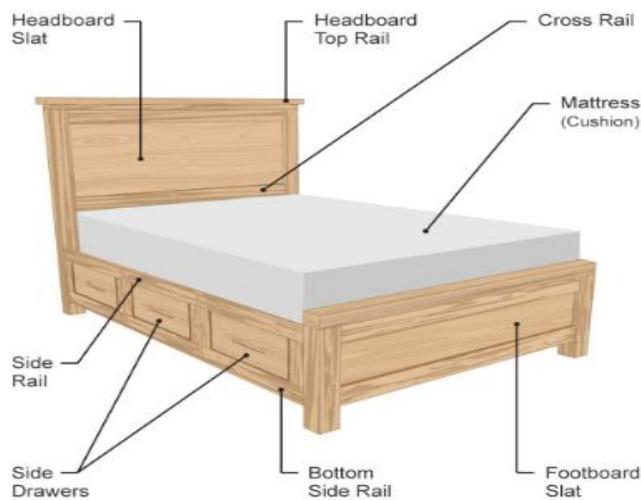
- Angle grinder
- Drilling machine
- Jigsaw

### Developmental stages of production

The production of the phases out car furniture involves:

- Sketch
- The making of the Marquette
- The making for the front part of the Mercedes bens bed
- Modeling with clay
- The making of the wheels
- The making of the Head board of the bed and the dressing table
- Patination

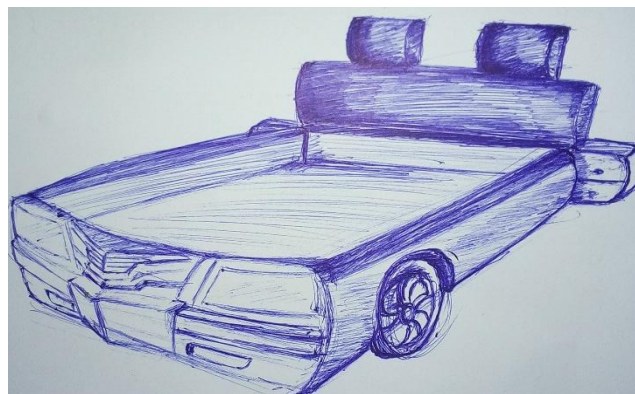
The research began the process by making several sketches and taking snap shots from different view of the intended furniture piece



**Figure: 1. Anatomy of a Bed, Courtesy: [www.pinterest.com/bed-frame](http://www.pinterest.com/bed-frame).**

### The sketch

From an imaginary model, the sketches of the proposed design was made first in paper, and the best was chosen



**Figure: 2. Working Sketch of the Mercedes Benz Bed**

**1. The making of the Marquette**

The project continued with the Marquette which is the smaller version of the main work. This helps the researcher to focus on the work and not go off track in the design.

**2. The making of the front part of the Mercedes Benz bed.**

Hardwood with a height of 28 inches and width of 60 inches was measured into this measurement is meant for foam of 75 inches high and 54 inches width. While measuring the bed frame, additional 3 inches is measured to both sides of the bed (having a total of 60 inches, instead of 54 inches) to create enough space for the tyres



**Figure: 3. the construction of the Footboard (front view) with copied Mercedes Benz Design Modeling with clay**

There, the researcher molded clay to form the Mercedes Benz design both at the left and the right, poured cement mixture to solicit the mold and use fiber glass when cement mixture is dried, to hold it firmly to the woods.



**Figures: 4 applying cement on the molded clay**



**Figure: 5 charging the mold with fibre glass.**

**The making of the wheels**

The researcher gets four used tyres and uses a jigsaw to cut out the design for the wheels of the tyres.



**Figure: 6. Screwing and attaching the waste tyre as leg to the configuration**

Plywood and pinewood were used to design the wheel and screwed them together with the tyres, then uses angle grinder with soft sandpaper to form the deigned shape. The researcher measures 75 inches to the right and to the left and carved out the where tyres would be fixed. There after covers it up with thick plywood.

#### **The making of the Headboard of the bed**

The back part is where the pillows are placed. This part makes it possible for the bed user to relax his head, and you will agree with me that it is very important for the head to relax comfortably because that is the control room of the whole body. Therefore, the researcher carefully makes the back part by measuring 32 inches heights and 78 inches width, then carves it to look like a car seat using foam, plywood and black leather covering. The bedside drawers were made in form of the side mirror of a car.



**Figure: 7 .Construction of the Headboard**



**Figure: 8.The tyre with the wood adaptations attached to side rails**

#### **The making of the dressing table and chair**

First, the researcher draws the logo of Mercedes Benz on a pine wood and carved it out to have the shape as the logo which is also the front part of the bed. The researcher nailed the wood together but ensured that the nails were not visible.

The dressing table took the form of the car steering. The researcher used a worn-out tyre, covered it with form and black leather, and this covering beautified the chair. Then a pair of circler wood disc were cut out and joined with three wood, sized 2 inches. The woods serve as pillars.



**Figure: 9** components of the Stool, three circular discs



**Figure: 10** Stool with Mercedes Symbol, waste tyres, wood, foam and leather, 65cm.x43cm. X 43cm,



**Figure: 11** Beauty utility table, 150cm .x50cmx51cm

**Finishing;** This a very crucial stage in production in sculpture practice It .makes or mars art works. This process makes art works look more attractive to the eyes. This is the final stage called



**Figure: 12** finishing where lacquering and painting of the furniture is done.



**Figure :13 .Finished and dressed Mecedez Benz Bed**

### **III. DESCRIPTIVE ICONOGRAPHY**

Documenting this work, the main approach adopted is the descriptive iconographic approach. Iconography is defined as “the science identification, classification and the project is embedded in wood construction, otherwise known as, furniture making. Word construction is a method in sawing wood to required sizes and assembling same in a manner that utilized the principle of design, as this study is located in the product design area of sculpture. The bed is 28 inches high and 60 inches wide, which is standard for any medium-sized bedroom. As a result, it is affordable. Worn-out car parts are used which encourage recycling of car parts. The car furniture design will help to fuel people’s passion for the car itself so, an artist can be very effective in advertising and marketing car products.

### **IV. CONCLUSION**

It is eminent to reiterate the importance of art in disseminating information or documentation of events for the benefit of future artists, investors, and the entire community. The project is a modern-day furniture design. It would be displayed in the art gallery of the Department of Fine Arts and Designs in the University of Port Harcourt where people from all works of life and visitors from within and outside the countries tour almost on daily basis or occasionally. By displaying this sculpture piece in the art gallery, it will pass a message to: artisans to look inwardly and bring out the best of their creativity; the general public, to fuel their love and appreciation for art, and furniture in particular.



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