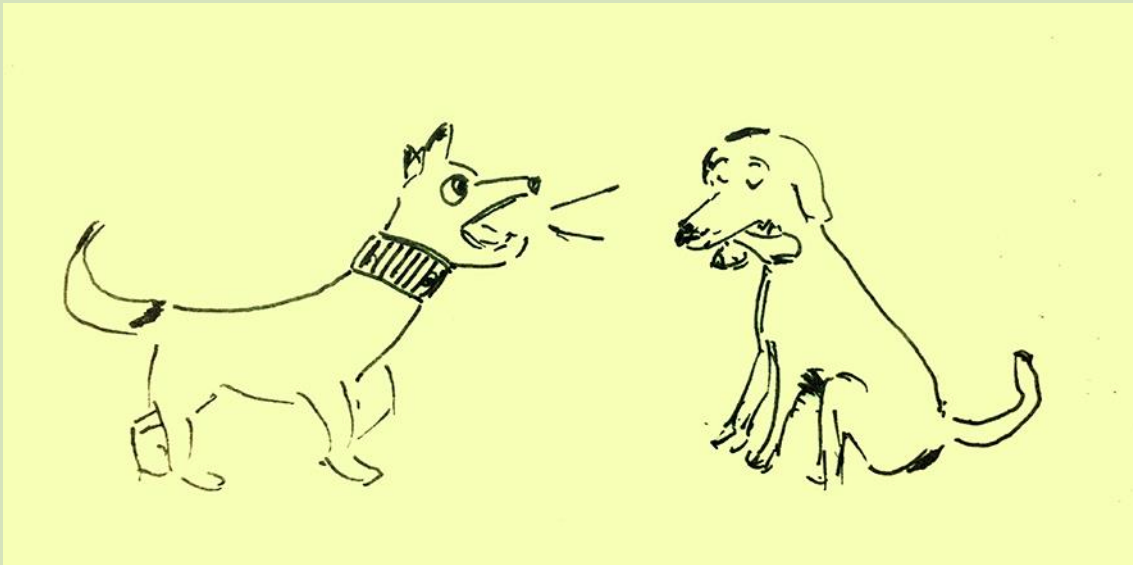


News and Views -12
from a g rao

Seasonal Cartoon

▲
You may like traditional Tandoori chicken as a free dog.
But I prefer
Imported chicken nuggets which my boss gives



Mud gem
Tradition is Great
If it can delete blind beliefs, baseless prejudices
and hatred for other beliefs!

Recent additions

- [Training of Trainers-video](#)
- [TOT challenge 2 Tools and Small technologies.](#)
- [TOT3 Moulds,Jigs, Fixtures and Templates](#)

My thoughts

Power of the tradition - TOT for Post Modern Era
a g rao

*When we look at Bamboo Craft in India, we can see the power of 'Tradition'.
Just look at one product: 'winnowing fan'.
It is called*

Soop in Hindi,

Soopdi in Gujarati

Chaata in Telugu

Chajj in Panjabi

Mora in Kannada

Muram in Tamil

Muram in Malayalam

Kulaa in Bengali,

Todpen in Konkani

Tadpe in Tulu

Siksil in Mizo

...

...

.....



It is still used all over India to dehusk, clean grains like rice at home. It is simple weave with two corner nodes. Four nodes make in to a basket.

I came across a soop in Meghalaya beautifully made.



Craft person had no hesitation to add plastic binding in the corner which is functional and makes it attractive to look at

We do not know since when soops(winning fans) are being used in India! Some 'design research' is needed to see its 'mention' in Sanskrit or other early texts. A commonly used product gets little attention from scholars.

Just compare this to Coins(money). A special subject Numismatics deals with it.

In fact scholars have innovative methods of how many times a minted coin got circulated in a kingdom/period by finding the weight loss in used coins. A coin loses a fragment of its weight when it is exchanged/ used. The loss of weight can be used to estimate number of times it got exchanged! An ingenious method indeed!

We have not discovered such methods to find how many pieces of 'Soop' or 'Winnowing fan' has been made over the years! We can easily say every house hold in India was using it!

Made in Millions or Billions over a long period, it has been a mass production, in multiple places by multiple number of craft persons with same design, same technique in bamboo!

This is the Power of Tradition and Power of Culture!

When we look at names in local languages more cultural connections and transformations emerge. Same design was also made with palm leaves in Kerala and Tamilnadu. It was often used for dust collection. Design research needs to address these Craft, Culture connections.

Surely these Soops/winnowing fans will vanish soon with changing patterns of life. It is less and less used in cities as processed grains are bought. It may remain as an 'art object'! In West Bengal, images of god like 'Ganesa' and 'Durga' are kept in soops (small winnowing fans) and sold! Here the 'Form' of Soop becomes 'auspicious.'

Can we position craft in a postmodern context?

Encoding 'form': manifested(rupa) and unmanifested (arupa), in a contemporary idiom is the new challenge for 'Design'!

Keeping the 'craft culture' continuity is also a big challenge for craft-persons. The aspirations of craft community is 'not to' remain in the disadvantaged 'economic

and social' boundary which traditional craft has been offering. But exposure of Craft Tradition is important for the Craft Trainer as much as for a designer!

Here comes a new challenge for 'Design Educators': Can we bridge the gap between 'craft and design' education?

In this context the craft trainers working with M. Des. students on an 'Abstraction' task in Bambu studio of IDC becomes an important experiment in 'Design Education'. (pl. see the video: Training the Trainers).

Further Challenge is to find a regular format for such tasks rather than one time event. Issues like providing 'logistic support' needs to be addressed. TOT in craft can acquire a new meaning with such efforts in 'Design Schools'

Mean while

two more articles are uploaded on TOT Challenge, with more to come!
