



Gyanmanjari
Innovative University

Syllabus
Gyanmanjari Institute of Design
Semester-I (CACD&DM)

Subject: History Of Design - DET2CD11205
Type of Course: Professional Core Courses
Prerequisite: No prior technical knowledge of design history is required. Students are expected to possess a curiosity for self-discovery, human-centric problem solving, and the evolution of spatial environments and material culture.

Rationale: Design is a continuous reflection of human civilization, adapting to dynamic socio-cultural, technological, and environmental constraints. As a Professional Core Course, this module moves beyond chronological memorization to establish historical theory as a foundational tool for contemporary industry practice. It empowers students to deconstruct historical spatial environments and material culture, translating core traditional philosophies into professional, interdisciplinary solutions. By bridging historical foundations with future-ready methodologies, the curriculum builds the core analytical and conceptual competencies required for professional problem-solving where clear purpose seamlessly integrates with refined aesthetics.

Teaching and Examination Scheme:

Teaching Scheme			Credits	Examination Marks		Total Marks
CI	T	P		SEE	CCE	
0	1	4	3	100	50	150

Legends: CI - Classroom Instructions; T - Tutorial; P - Practical; C - Credit; SEE - Semester End Evaluation; CCE - Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation



Course Content:

Sr.no.	Course Content	Hrs.	% Weightage
1	1. Introduction to Design History <u>Theory:</u> Introduction to Design History Meaning and Scope of Design History. Importance of Design History in Design Education. Relationship between Art, Craft, Culture, Society, Technology, and Design. Evolution of Human Creativity from Prehistoric to Contemporary Society. Understanding Design as a Reflection of Human Needs and Lifestyle. Development of Design through Different Civilizations. Elements Influencing Design Evolution. Introduction to Historical Research in Design. Visual Analysis of Historical Design Examples. Timeline of Design History. Appreciation of Design Heritage. Role of Design History in Contemporary Design Practice. Introduction to Museums, Archives, Heritage Sites, and Design Documentation. Ethical Responsibility towards Cultural Heritage and Preservation. <u>Practical:</u> 2. Prepare a chronological timeline showing major periods in Design History. 3. Study and compare examples of Art, Craft, and Design from different civilizations. 4. Conduct visual analysis of historical objects, furniture, architecture, pottery, textiles, or tools. 5. Prepare illustrated notes on the relationship between culture and design evolution. 6. Conduct a group discussion on the importance of Design History in present-day design practice. 7. Undertake a documentary or museum-based learning activity with reflective observation. 8. Prepare a case study of one historical design object and explain its cultural significance. 9. Research and present the evolution of human creativity through different historical periods. 10. Prepare a visual journal documenting historical design inspirations observed from books, museums, heritage sites, or	18	20%



digital resources.

11. Conduct a comparative study between historical and contemporary design examples.
12. Create a visual map connecting major historical developments with changes in human needs, lifestyle, materials, technology, and design practice.
13. Prepare a basic design-history research sheet using visual references, source identification, observation, and analytical notes.
14. Select one historical interior, object, craft, or material tradition and document its key design characteristics through sketches, photographs, or digital references.
15. Present a short visual case study demonstrating how historical design knowledge can inform a contemporary design idea.

Evaluation Method:

Sr. no.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE
1	Understanding Design History Students shall demonstrate their understanding of Design History by analyzing historical developments, cultural influences, design evolution, and the relationship between society, technology, art, and design through written responses, case studies, and visual analysis.	20	
2	History Around Me Students shall identify examples of historical design influences from their surroundings through observation, photographs, sketches, museum visits, heritage buildings, monuments, crafts, or everyday objects. The activity will promote historical awareness, observation skills, and appreciation of design heritage.		10
Total		20	10



	<u>Examination Style:</u> Introduction to Design History Analysis – 20 Marks Students shall demonstrate their understanding of the evolution of design by explaining relationships between design, culture, society, technology, art, and craft through analytical responses, visual interpretation, comparative studies, historical examples, and case-based questions. The assessment will evaluate conceptual understanding, analytical thinking, historical awareness, interpretation of visual references, and the ability to connect historical knowledge with contemporary design practice. Visual Research & Contextual Documentation – 10 Marks Students will explore their home, neighbourhood, campus, museums, heritage buildings, temples, monuments, public spaces, markets, or local craft traditions to identify examples of historical design influences. They will document selected examples through photographs, sketches, observation notes, or visual references with brief analytical explanations describing their historical significance, design characteristics, and contemporary relevance. Submissions may be presented as a visual documentation sheet, research journal, or digital presentation and shall be evaluated on observation, documentation quality, contextual understanding, analysis, and presentation.		
2	Early Human Design & Material Culture <u>Theory:</u> Study of early human design responses to fundamental needs such as shelter, protection, movement, storage, communication, and everyday living. Understanding primitive habitats, early spatial arrangements, tools, objects, and material culture as responses to environmental and functional requirements. Exploration of the relationship between geography, climate, available materials, technology, and early design decisions. Introduction to basic structural, material, and visual principles evident in early human-made environments and artifacts. Comparative understanding of early settlements and material practices across different cultures. Development of historical awareness by connecting early problem-solving methods with fundamental	18	20%



principles of contemporary design.

Practical:

16. Observe and document the spatial arrangement of an early human habitat or settlement through sketches and visual mapping.
17. Study selected early tools, objects, or artifacts and identify how material and form responded to functional human needs.
18. Prepare a visual timeline showing major stages in early human design development from basic shelter and tools to organized settlements.
19. Compare two examples of early habitats or material cultures, focusing on geography, climate, materials, construction, and functional requirements.
20. Create a visual deconstruction of one early structure, object, or tool to explain its material, structural, and functional logic.
21. Select one early human design principle and reinterpret it as a simple contemporary spatial, product, or wearable design concept.

Evaluation Method:

Sr. No.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE
1	Early Human Design & Material Culture Analysis Students shall demonstrate their understanding of early human design evolution by analyzing primitive habitats, spatial arrangements, tools, objects, and material culture through descriptive responses, visual interpretation, comparative analysis, and conceptual mapping. The assessment will evaluate historical understanding, functional reasoning, material awareness, and the relationship between environmental conditions and early design responses.	20	
2	Contextual Heritage Explorer Students shall identify and document examples of fundamental design principles through selected early		10



	habitats, artifacts, materials, or cultural references. The activity will assess observation, visual documentation, contextual understanding, and the ability to relate early human problem-solving approaches to basic contemporary design principles.		
	Total	20	10
	<u>Examination Style:</u> Early Human Design & Material Culture Analysis – 20 Marks Students shall demonstrate their understanding of early human design through analytical responses, comparative studies, visual interpretation, and case-based questions related to primitive habitats, early spatial arrangements, tools, artifacts, materials, structural concepts, environmental conditions, and fundamental human needs. The examination will evaluate historical awareness, conceptual clarity, material understanding, functional reasoning, and the ability to relate early design responses to fundamental design principles. Early Design Observation & Documentation – 10 Marks Students shall document selected examples of early design principles through sketches, photographs, visual mapping, research notes, or comparative studies. Submissions shall explain the functional, material, structural, or environmental logic of the selected example. Assessment will focus on observation, contextual understanding, visual documentation, analytical clarity, and presentation.		
3	Evolution of Design Paradigms <u>Theory:</u> Study of major shifts in design thinking from handcrafted and decorative traditions to industrial, functional, modern, and post-industrial approaches. Understanding the influence of industrialization, mechanized production, new materials, technological developments, and changing socio-economic conditions on design evolution. Exploration of changing relationships between form, function, production, aesthetics, and user needs across different design disciplines. Comparative study of ornamentation, functionalism, standardization, and human-centric	18	20%



approaches. Analysis of how historical design movements and ideological shifts continue to influence contemporary spatial, product, and wearable design practices. <u>Practical:</u> 22. Conduct a comparative case study of one handcrafted design and one industrially produced design, focusing on form, function, materials, production, and aesthetics. 23. Prepare a visual timeline showing major design paradigm shifts from decorative traditions to functional, modern, and post-industrial approaches. 24. Select one historical design movement or paradigm and visually deconstruct a representative object, interior, product, or wearable artifact. 25. Analyze the transition from ornamentation to functionalism through a comparative study of selected historical design examples. 26. Investigate how industrial production, new materials, technology, or socio-economic changes influenced a selected design movement or product. 27. Apply the core philosophy of one historical design paradigm to develop a contemporary spatial, product, or wearable design concept. <u>Evaluation Method:</u>			
Sr. No.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE
1	Evolution of Design Paradigms Analysis Students shall analyze major shifts in design philosophies from handcrafted and decorative traditions to industrial, functional, modern, and post-industrial approaches through descriptive responses, comparative evaluations, visual deconstruction, and case studies. The assessment will evaluate understanding of industrial transitions, changing aesthetics, functionalism, production systems, material development, and socio-economic influences on design evolution.	20	



2	Paradigm Shift in My Surroundings Students shall identify and document examples of changing design paradigms through visual research, sketches, photographs, comparative sheets, or design deconstruction. The activity will focus on identifying transformations in form, function, aesthetics, materials, production methods, and user-centred approaches within the built, product, or wearable environment.		10
Total		20	10

Examination Style:

Evolution of Design Paradigms Analysis – 20 Marks

Students shall demonstrate their analytical understanding of major historical shifts in design philosophies through descriptive and analytical responses, comparative case analysis, visual deconstruction, and design-history interpretation. The examination will address the transition from handcrafted to industrial production, changing aesthetic philosophies, functionalism, standardization, material developments, technological change, and the socio-economic influences that shaped design evolution. Evaluation will focus on conceptual clarity, comparative reasoning, historical awareness, and the ability to connect historical paradigms with contemporary design practice.

Design Paradigm Documentation – 10 Marks

Students shall identify and document examples of changing design paradigms in their surroundings, historical references, or selected case studies. Documentation may include visual research, sketches, photographs, comparative sheets, or a deconstruction exercise explaining changes in form, function, aesthetics, materials, production, and user requirements. Assessment will focus on observation, visual documentation, contextual understanding, analytical depth, and presentation quality.



4	Indigenous Aesthetics & Subcontinental Traditions <u>Theory:</u> Indigenous Aesthetics and Subcontinental Traditions. In-depth exploration of the diverse visual, spatial, and material culture across the Indian subcontinent. Analysis of vernacular habitats, regional spatial typologies, and traditional structural adaptations to localized climates and geographies. Study of indigenous craftsmanship, intricate textile traditions, handloom techniques, and the historical evolution of wearable arts. The intersection of cultural rituals, mythology, and local socio-economic structures in shaping indigenous design narratives. Exploration of sustainable practices inherent in traditional material usage, including wood, clay, metal, and organic fibers. Understanding the principles of subcontinental aesthetics, proportion, symbolism, and spatial harmony. Documenting the transition, challenges, and preservation of heritage crafts in the face of globalization. Applying the core philosophies of traditional Indian design to conceptualize sustainable and culturally rooted solutions in contemporary interior and fashion design domains. <u>Practical:</u> 28. Conduct a primary or secondary case study on indigenous craftsmanship and evaluate its relevance to sustainable modern design practices. 29. Develop a visual and analytical documentation folio of regional design aesthetics, focusing on either spatial environments or wearable textile traditions. 30. Explore traditional motifs, materials, and forms, and prototype their adaptation in a contemporary interdisciplinary design context. 31. Analyze the sustainable logic behind vernacular Indian architecture or traditional clothing systems and present findings through sketches and diagrams. 32. Create a reflective report on the impact of globalization on traditional Indian crafts, proposing design-led interventions for preservation and innovation. <u>Evaluation Method:</u> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sr. No.</th><th>Evaluation Methods</th><th>SEE</th><th>CCE</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td><td>Indigenous Aesthetics Analysis</td><td>20</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Sr. No.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE	1	Indigenous Aesthetics Analysis	20		18	20%
Sr. No.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE								
1	Indigenous Aesthetics Analysis	20									



		Students shall demonstrate their understanding of subcontinental traditions by analyzing regional vernacular habitats, sustainable material practices, and indigenous textile arts through conceptual mapping and visual interpretation.			
	2	Indigenous Heritage Documentation Students will explore and document regional design aesthetics, local craftsmanship, or traditional material applications through visual notes and sketches, fostering a deep appreciation for indigenous sustainable practices.		10	
Total			20	10	
<u>Examination Style:</u>					
Indigenous Aesthetics Analysis – 20 Marks					
Students shall demonstrate their understanding of subcontinental design traditions through analytical responses, visual deconstruction, comparative case studies, and interpretation of vernacular habitats, regional spatial typologies, indigenous materials, traditional textiles, craftsmanship, and historical sustainable practices. Evaluation will emphasize cultural understanding, regional adaptability, material logic, symbolism, visual interpretation, and relevance to contemporary interdisciplinary design.					
Indigenous Heritage Documentation – 10 Marks					
Students will explore and document local cultural sites, craft practices, traditional markets, regional materials, textile traditions, or indigenous design references. They will compile visual references, sketches, photographs, or documentation sheets with analytical notes explaining material logic, craftsmanship, cultural significance, and aesthetic principles. Assessment will focus on cultural awareness, documentation quality, visual presentation, contextual understanding, and analytical depth.					
5	Modern, Contemporary and Sustainable Design <u>Theory:</u>			18	20%



Contemporary Design Methodologies and Futuristic Paradigms			
Critical examination of post-modern and current design practices across spatial and wearable disciplines. The integration of advanced technological frameworks, including generative digital tools, artificial intelligence, digital fabrication, and smart materials in contemporary design workflows. Principles of sustainable systems, circular economy, and eco-conscious material selection in addressing global climate challenges. Human-centric approaches, universal design, and inclusive problem-solving in modern contexts. Exploration of speculative design, future-forecasting, and the ethical implications of technology-driven design solutions. The intersection of user experience, spatial dynamics, and personal adornment in the highly digitized age. Emphasizing iterative processes, design thinking, and cross-disciplinary collaborations. Cultivating adaptive design strategies to navigate the shifting landscapes of future lifestyle needs, commercial environments, and individual expression.			
<u>Practical:</u>			
33. Conduct hands-on exploration using contemporary digital tools, including Generative AI platforms and 3D conceptualization, to envision future-ready design solutions.			
34. Conduct a critical review of sustainable practices, material sourcing, and ethical production in current spatial or fashion industries.			
35. Develop a speculative design project conceptualizing a product, spatial layout, or wearable collection for a specific future socio-environmental scenario.			
36. Evaluate real-world examples of universal and inclusive design and propose improvements based on human-centric design principles.			
37. Develop a comprehensive research presentation illustrating the intersection of advanced technology, sustainability, and traditional design foundations in shaping the future.			
38. Prepare a visual presentation demonstrating how historical design knowledge influences modern and future design practices.			
<u>Evaluation Method:</u>			
Sr. No.	Evaluation Methods	SEE	CCE
1	Contemporary & Futuristic Design	20	



	Analysis Students shall evaluate modern design practices, the integration of emerging technologies (AI, digital fabrication), and sustainability principles through descriptive analysis and speculative case studies. Assesses innovative thinking and future-readiness.		
2	Future Design Explorer Students will investigate and document innovative, tech-driven, or highly sustainable design solutions from their surroundings or digital platforms to build awareness of future spatial and wearable trends.		10
Total		20	10

Examination Style:

Contemporary & Futuristic Design Analysis – 20 Marks

Students shall demonstrate their understanding of modern design methodologies and future paradigms through analytical responses, speculative design proposals, critical case studies, visual interpretation, and application-oriented questions. The examination will address contemporary design practices, generative digital tools, artificial intelligence, circular economy, human-centric design, universal design, sustainable systems, smart materials, and cross-disciplinary innovation. Evaluation will focus on the ability to connect technology, sustainability, human needs, and future design challenges.

Future Design Documentation – 10 Marks

Students will identify examples of innovative, sustainable, technologically advanced, or future-oriented design solutions within their physical or digital environment. They will document selected examples through visual media, sketches, research sheets, or digital presentation, accompanied by a critical analysis of functionality, sustainability, technological integration, human-centred characteristics, and future relevance. Assessment will evaluate observation, visual documentation, critical thinking, contextual



	understanding, and presentation quality.		
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Suggested Specification table with Marks (Theory): 100

Distribution of Theory Marks (Revised Bloom's Taxonomy)						
Level	Remembrance (R)	Understanding (U)	Application (A)	Analyze (N)	Evaluate (E)	Create (C)
Weightage %	15%	15%	20%	20%	15%	15%

Course Outcome:

After learning the course, the students should be able to:	
CO1	Comprehend the historical evolution of spatial environments and material culture, understanding how human needs, philosophy, and geography shape interdisciplinary design practices.
CO2	Analyze the major paradigm shifts in design history, evaluating the transition from indigenous craftsmanship to modern mass manufacturing and futuristic systems.
CO3	Evaluate the underlying philosophies of historical artifacts, architecture, and wearables, translating these core principles into professional, human-centric design solutions for contemporary industries.
CO4	Apply iterative exploration, visual analysis, and speculative thinking to reinterpret historical aesthetics for modern spatial and fashion design challenges.
CO5	Appreciate the integration of cultural heritage, sustainable practices, and emerging technologies (including generative tools) to establish a responsible, industry-relevant professional design identity.

Instructional Method:

The course delivery method will depend upon the requirement of content and the needs of students. A minimum of 20–30% of the course content shall be suggested to deliver through Flipped Learning, where students study digital learning resources before the classroom session. Classroom time shall be utilized for discussion, problem-solving, practical applications, and higher-order learning activities. Students shall be encouraged to use AI-powered learning platforms, simulation software, virtual laboratories, digital libraries, research databases, online certification courses, NPTEL, SWAYAM, MOOCs, and other technology-enabled learning resources to strengthen conceptual understanding and practical competence.

Continuous assessment shall be conducted through Active Learning Assignments (ALAs), quizzes, skill demonstrations, presentations, practical exercises, projects, case studies, innovation activities, peer assessment, reflective learning, and industry-oriented tasks instead of relying primarily on conventional written assignments.

Reference Books:

- [1] T. Hauffe, **Design: A Concise History**, 1st ed, London, UK: Laurence King Publishing, 1998.
- [2] D. Raizman, **History of Modern Design**, 2nd ed, London, UK: Laurence King Publishing, 2010.
- [3] K. Fallan, **Design History: Understanding Theory and Method**, 1st ed, London, UK: Bloomsbury Academic, 2010.
- [4] E. H. Gombrich, **The Story of Art**, 16th ed, London, UK: Phaidon Press, 1995.
- [5] H. Honour and J. Fleming, **A World History of Art**, 7th ed, London, UK: Laurence King Publishing, 2005.



Suggested Assessment Guidelines:**Module-1: Introduction to Design History**

Understanding Design History (20 Marks)		
Criteria	Description	Marks
Historical Understanding	Demonstrates understanding of the evolution of design, and how early human needs shaped both spatial environments and material culture.	5
Conceptual Clarity	Correctly identifies the core relationship between fundamental human constraints and the birth of functional aesthetics.	5
Visual Analysis	Accurate visual interpretation of historical objects, artifacts, and spaces, identifying their core aesthetic and functional features.	5
Critical Thinking	Demonstrates analytical thinking by relating historical problem-solving methods to contemporary design paradigms.	5
Total		20

Module-2: Early Human Design & Material Culture Analysis

Early Human Design & Material Culture Analysis (20 Marks)		
Criteria	Description	Marks
Historical Knowledge	Demonstrates understanding of early human spatial arrangements, primitive habitats, and material culture.	5
Comparative Analysis	Effectively compares the design responses of different early settlements without chronological bias.	5
Visual Interpretation	Interprets foundational structural and wearable designs through visual mapping and sketches.	5
Cultural Understanding	Explains the influence of geography, climate, and early philosophies on design interventions.	5
Total		20

Module-3: Evolution of Design Paradigms Analysis

Evolution of Design Paradigms Analysis (20 Marks)		
Criteria	Description	Marks
Historical Understanding	Demonstrates understanding of major paradigm shifts and the transition to industrial mass manufacturing.	5
Comparative Analysis	Compares shifting aesthetic philosophies, focusing on the transition from ornamentation to functionalism.	5
Visual Interpretation	Effectively deconstructs visual examples of spatial environments and wearable artifacts representing different paradigms.	5



Critical Thinking	Analyzes the socio-economic drivers behind design evolution and their impact on contemporary practices.	5
Total		20

Module-4: Indigenous Aesthetics & Subcontinental Traditions

Indigenous Aesthetics & Subcontinental Traditions (20 Marks)		
Criteria	Description	Marks
Historical Understanding	Demonstrates understanding of vernacular habitats, traditional textiles, and indigenous spatial typologies.	5
Cultural Appreciation	Explains the significance of regional adaptability, traditional craftsmanship, and local resources.	5
Visual Analysis	Effectively interprets regional motifs, material logic, and historical subcontinental aesthetics.	5
Application and Critical Thinking	Analyzes the relevance of indigenous sustainable practices for modern interdisciplinary innovation.	5
Total		20

Module-5: Modern, Contemporary and Sustainable Design

Contemporary & Futuristic Design Analysis (20 Marks)		
Criteria	Description	Marks
Conceptual Understanding	Demonstrates understanding of speculative design, circular economy, and tech-driven workflows.	5
Analytical Skills	Analyzes the impact of emerging technologies (e.g., Generative tools, smart materials) on modern design.	5
Visual Interpretation	Effectively interprets forward-thinking spatial layouts, wearables, and digital media.	5
Critical Thinking	Evaluates contemporary solutions based on human-centric approaches, universal design, and future readiness.	5
Total		20

