

ECO DESIGN IN REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Diana VLEJU

*Technical University of Moldova, Faculty of Mechanical, Industrial and Transport Engineering,
Department of Industrial Design, Group DI 191, Chișinău, Republica Moldova.*

Scientific coordinator: diana.vleju02@gmail.com

Summary. *Although recycling may seem like a modern concept introduced with the environmental movement of the 1970s, it's actually been around for thousands of years. Prior to the industrial age, you couldn't make goods quickly and cheaply, so virtually everyone practiced recycling in some form. However, large-scale recycling programs were very rare -- households predominantly practiced recycling. Nowadays, the amount of materials that industrial design engineers can choose from to materialise their designs keeps increasing and this is for the better. Today we're witnessing the emergence of a new recycling trend, driven by the luxury design industry. The Republic of Moldova supports the industrial designers so they can develop the art of recycling all around the country. Some of the Moldavian influencers try really hard to be eco-friendly in order to encourage the rest of the population to have a careful attitude to nature.*

Keywords: *nature, eco, art, industry, planet*

Recycling is a pretty simple concept: take something that isn't useful anymore and make it into something new instead of just throwing it away. In reality, recycling can get pretty complex - how it interacts with our environment, our politics, our economy and even our own human behavior patterns will play a major role in the future of our planet.

The history of recycling is remarkable because it all started in 500 B.C. and continues up till now, even though people tend to forget about the health of our planet and suffocates oceans, woods and animals with all the plastic thrown away on purpose. Fortunately, designers have many solutions according to the problems mentioned above, so we hope that in 10 years from now, our planet will not suffer so much.

The plastic pollution problem in Moldova and the alternatives

The Republic of Moldova has recently approved new regulations regarding the use of plastic bags in retail trade. Therefore, starting from January 2019, the use of shopping bags with or without a handle, with a thickness equal to or greater than 50 microns, is forbidden. Plastic bags with a thickness of less than 15 microns will be banned from January 2021, except for those used as packaging. Additionally, the use and sale of plastic plates, glasses, other disposable tableware, as well as cotton buds made of plastic, shall be prohibited from 1 January 2021. It is a big step that might help us as a society and we truly believe that it is possible to reduce plastic from our shopping routine. The other alternative for the plastic bags are the eco-friendly cloth shopping bags that can be personalized with the help of our designers therefore „it is cool to be eco“. More and more producers of cloth shopping bags are ready to offer their products to the public. ITorba, Iuvas, Pangea Art. Eco. Love, Torbesc, Kasandruta, Mesto, Ponti and so many more options are already available.

More and more cafes from the Moldovan capital offer biodegradable paper or even metal straws to their drinks. There are already companies and organisations in Moldova that are involved in sorting waste disposal, as well as plastic and metal recycling (ABS Recycling Moldova, Sanin) or companies that produce wood industrial packaging (Rikipal). The Environment Agency of Moldova displays more than 100 non-governmental organisations that are in charge with raising awareness about the environmental issues in Moldova.

These are by far not the only initiatives. More is yet to come when both the government, businesses and individuals will cooperate.

The eco design inspires the Moldovans

Gramatschii Design Studio is a creative studio based in Kishinev, Moldova. They create contemporary brand identities, industrial design and packaging solutions. Most of them are eco with an amazing design and texture. „Zebu” is a perfect example of eco design.

Zebu” is a functional and decorative wall hanger. Inspired by nature, the object represents more than a simple silhouette. A great texture comes from the solid wood it’s made of. The fibers of the wood are made more subtle by treatment with waxes, oils and natural pigments. It is practical because it has two to three hanging points, the third one being a strap of leather that serves to hang hooked items such as hangers, umbrellas and much more. Zebu is a useful and beautiful addition to our space. It is designed and produced manually in Moldova. There are a lot of interesting products that they make including “Koki” which is a functional and decorative tape dispenser made with the special techniques: metalworking and woodworking.

The idea of eco design inspires even the TV host Lilia Ojovan which opened her own store full of ecological things from books till soap. She was interviewed about the horrible situation that is happening in the world so that is what she said “Every minute, a million of plastic bags are thrown around the world. And we live surrounded by toxic waste. It's so hard to sew, buy some peat, and have them handy - in the bag, in the trunk? And to use them for many years? It has to start feeling ashamed our behavior, for the waste we do. Let's do "trendy" fashion - be ECOol.

Recycling becomes increasingly important in a world where the population is booming. and. If these products are not recycled at the end of the product life, it will take generations to break down or decompose. Eco design is a new beginning for our society so we should support designers and people who want a beautiful and green country. The young generation is the solution and hope for our country’s ecological future, therefore I totally agree with these two people and I truly want to encourage even my friends to learn from their doings.

Bibliography:

1. <http://gramatschii.com/services/>[online], [accesat 18.02.2020].
2. <http://ea.md/a-pus-pe-roate-o-noua-afacere-fii-ecool-linia-de-traiste-marca-lilu-ojovan/>[online], [accesat 18.02.2020].
3. <https://www.ukessays.com/essays/environmental-sciences/why-is-recycling-important-environmental-sciences-essay.php>[online], [accesat 19.02.2020].
4. <https://www.buschsystems.com/resource-center/page/a-brief-timeline-of-the-history-of-recycling> [online], [accesat 21.02.2020].