

THE FACULTY OF FURNITURE DESIGN AND WOOD ENGINEERING AT EXPO 2020 DUBAI

The Transilvania University of Brasov, in partnership collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, created an interactive program at the Romanian Pavilion at the 2020 Dubai World Expo. Within this event, the Faculty of Furniture Design and Wood Engineering (FDMIL) organized for the visiting public a series of workshops under the general motto "Tradition reloaded: connect visually and emotionally with Romanian craft workers as they create art", from 21 November till 19 December 2021.

The Universal Exposition is an event that has been organized since the mid-nineteenth century. After 1931 it is organized under the supervision and auspices of the intergovernmental organization "Bureau International des Expositions" (BIE). It is a cultural event designed to showcase the most important achievements of nations, such as innovation, natural wealth or development.

Dubai Expo 2020 should have taken place 20 October 2020 – 10 April 2021, but in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic outburst worldwide, was postponed. The exhibition is currently hosted by the Dubai Exhibition Centre from October 1, 2021, till March 31, 2022, on the 2nd of December 2021, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Arab Emirates.



At the three workshops included in the program of the first group, which was at the Romanian Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai on November 21-30, visitors were delighted to interact with work techniques, materials, and tools they were unfamiliar, but also with students explaining the work steps and answering questions.

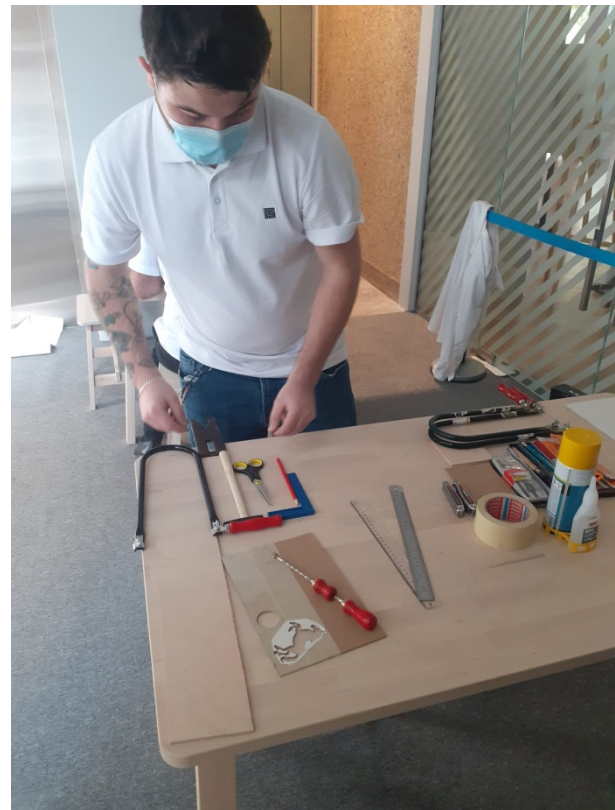
They acquired basic knowledge in the scroll sawn, traditional stitching, and traditional wood carving and the objects made by them remained as souvenirs. The team was made up of: Andra Ioana Vișcă, Violeta Elena Panait, Andrei Sebastian Dan and Antonela Cristina Lungu. The general coordination and the educational concept belong to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alin M. Olărescu. In addition to materials, tools, and techniques, the team worked with passion and creativity.





For a well-done job you need to be organized

During workshops, the first work team students used teaching and promotional materials which they had previously designed and prepared, like work materials, tool kits, utensils, and drawing instruments, brought by them from Romania.





Wearing their own traditional costumes, the students contributed to the specific Romanian ambiance within the Romanian Pavilion.





Workshops from the Romanian Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, conducted by FDMIL students were also a point of attraction for children, who participated in all types of activities.





Human-Nature Balance

The theme of the Romanian pavilion at The 2020 Dubai Expo is the concept of "New Nature", based on the balance between man and nature, which includes human manifestations, but also economic and scientific aspects. The participants in the workshops got to know the wood and found out about its properties. In the end, they expressed through photos the joy of being initiated in an ornamentation process and making an object.





The second group of students were Patrisia Caciura, Laura Fekete-Kászoni, Amalia Gabriela Nițură, Giulia Trandafir, Radu Emil Mărtinaș and Timotei Marcu. They taught the visiting public how to wave wood, with rattan fiber, between 1st and 10th December, coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Alin M. Olărescu.



The third group, students Avram Valentin and Molnar Minhea continued the activity of the previous group, between 11 and 19 of December.



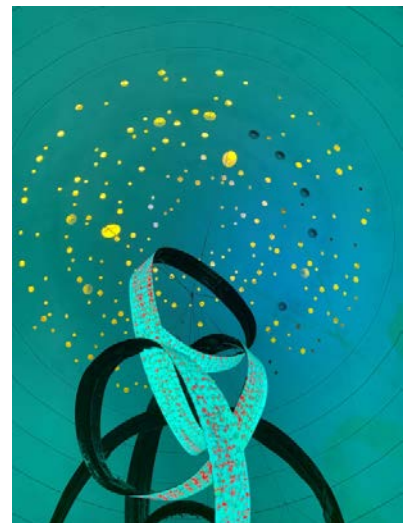
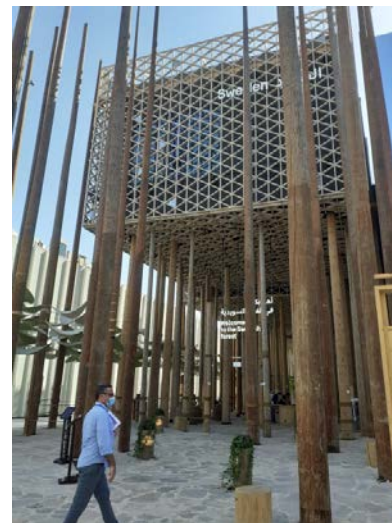
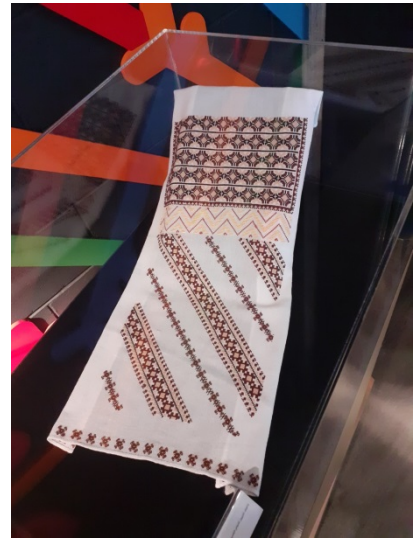
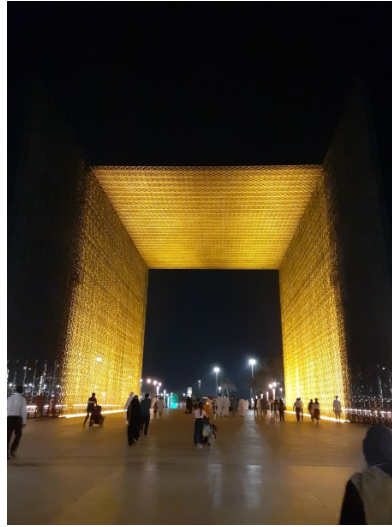


The 2020 Dubai Expo covers an area of 438 hectares between Dubai and Abu Dhabi. The layout concept, created by the American company HOK, involves organizing around a central market, called Al Wasl, surrounded by three large themed neighborhoods. Each is dedicated to one of the sub-themes of the current world exhibition - Opportunity (orange), Mobility (blue) and Sustainability (green). The Romanian Pavilion is located in the Sustainability area and includes a water bar, "H2RO", with a selection of bottled mineral waters from Romanian springs.



Connecting Minds, Creating the Future

192 countries and 10 organizations are participating in the current edition of the World Expo. For the first time in the history of this event, each country has its own flag. The 2020 Dubai Expo motto is "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future". In this spirit, the FDMIL students explored some of the pavilions of other states, obtaining from each one, in a souvenir passport, a stamp that certified their visit. Thus they interacted with unique architecture, different cultures, and inspiring innovations.



As part of our trip to Dubai, we also visited some of the tourist attractions

Burj Khalifa, until recently the tallest building in the world, has 828 m, 163 floors, and 58 elevators. Construction began on the 21st of September 2004, the exterior was completed on 1st October 2009, and the building was inaugurated on 4th January 2010. The total cost of the project was \$ 1.4 billion. On 1st December 2021, the tower was lit in the colors of the Romanian flag.



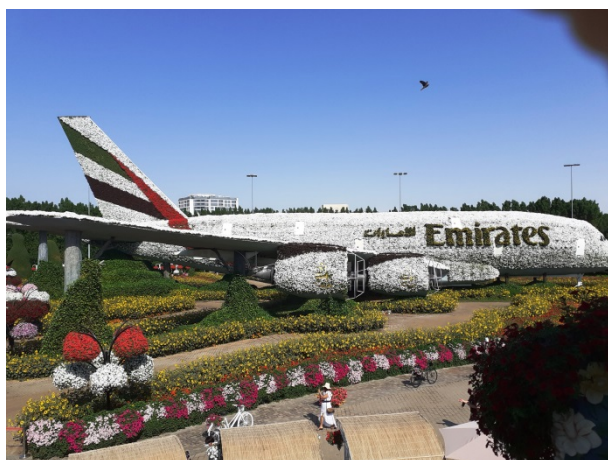
The Dubai Fountain is the largest artesian well system in the world. It activates every 30 minutes, starting at 6 pm, for 5-7 minutes. It offers a very beautiful show, everything taking place in the form of a special choreography, on a musical background. It blows up to 80,000 liters of water, with a maximum height of 140 m. Frequently heard songs include Michael Jackson's "Thriller" and "Time to Say Goodbye", performed by Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman.



Ibn Battuta, a building with impressive architecture that can be a source of inspiration for student projects, is the largest themed shopping mall in the world, located on Sheikh Zayed Road in Dubai. It contains 275 shops, located in six areas, each reflecting the regions through which the explorer Ibn Battuta traveled: Andalusia, Tunisia, Egypt, Persia, India, and China, 50 dining options, and 21 cinemas, including and an IMAX room.



Dubai's sights include **Miracle Garden** in the Dubailand district. With over 150 million plants in full bloom, this 72,000-square-foot paradise was opened almost nine years ago. Smurf village and Emirates A380 represent two of the attractions to be found in the region.



It was a unique and very interesting experience, through which we met people from all continents and shared with the part of our culture and at the same time, we enriched ourselves through what we saw and admired.

Photos were taken by the participating students.

Edited by:
PhD. student Antonela LUNGU