

CELEBRATING STUDENT PROJECTS IN RESEARCH AND RESTORATION



On a day marked by academic engagement and creative expression, the Faculty hosted two complementary events that highlighted the dedication, talent, and scientific curiosity of its students. The Scientific Student Circles Session and the vernissage of the Restoration Exhibition brought together research, practice, and dialogue in a setting that celebrated both individual initiative and collaborative learning. These events offered a valuable platform for presenting student projects developed within the framework of ongoing academic and practical training, reaffirming the role of universities as dynamic spaces for knowledge production and cultural continuity.

The Scientific Student Circle Session is a traditional yet dynamic environment that enables students to share their passion for research. The event offers them the opportunity to present their projects, case studies, or experiments developed under the guidance of their teachers, while encouraging the exchange of ideas, scientific reasoning, and the development of critical thinking. Participating in this session contributes to students' professional training by familiarizing them with academic communication and the specific requirements of research in their field.

For example, among the presented works was one study titled "The behavior of GLULAM beams made of two wood species in wet environments" that gave the students' a different light on addressing current and relevant topics in the wood construction field. The project follows the comparative analysis of the structural performance of glued laminated beams, used in high humidity environments, focusing on the influence of the wood specie used. Not only do these types of research harness the gathered knowledge within the specialty subjects but can contribute to the development of finding the right solutions for the industries' requests.

Another example of a topic addressed in this session is "Designing a furniture product for small animals (dogs)," which involves creating an object with dual functionality — both aesthetic and practical — adapted to the comfort and safety needs of pets. The project explored ergonomic design principles, the responsible selection of materials, and attention to construction details, highlighting the importance of expanding the field of furniture design to include other categories of users.



During this session, titled "The design, engineering and restoration of finished wooden products" there have been presented 16 projects, evaluated by a judging committee consisting of two teachers and two students. The committee awarded 3 prizes and 3 honorable mentions, in appreciation for the quality, originality and the professionalism of the projects:

- First place – The project "The esthetic of imperfections: from defect to effect in furniture design", authors Aida-Ioana Minciu and Marta Modi
- Second place – The project "Interactive furniture with a teaching purpose", author Lara Catharina Sabo
- Third place – The project "The behavior of GLULAM beams made of two wood species in wet environments" author Roxana Gall
- Honorable mention – The project "Furniture restoration – between challenge and approach. Case study: A chair in the baroque style", author Raisa Arsenie
- Honorable mention – The project "Chippendale style chair – issues in structural restoration", author Ana-Maria Moşoiu
- Honorable mention – The project "From wood to digital: data base with ornaments on wooden surfaces", author Ana Potopea



The second part of the day was dedicated to the exhibition of the XVII edition of Unity in Diversity – Challenge and Collaboration, which has presented projects made by the fourth-year students, specialization The Engineering and Design of Finished Wooden Products, during the furniture restoration subject's practical activities. The event has highlighted both the variety and techniques of the materials used, and the complexity of the intervention process of heritage products. Each individual piece in the exhibition pointed out the technical skills each has acquired and the profound understanding of the cultural meaning of restored goods.

The exhibition's title reflects the balance between the diverse approaches and the coherence of the obtained results through the collaboration between students and their teachers. The participation of Timeea Orban and Victor Marin has added value to the projects, graduates of the Bachelor and Master programs, invited as collaborators that through their active involvement have strengthened the professional dialogue between generations and offered an example in the forming of specialists in this field.



Before restauration



After restauration

Mug,
Restored by Maria Codreanu

Through the restorations made by students, a lot of objects that would have been thrown or abandoned are being restored and returned to their owners, in a way that will preserve their identity and historical value. Even though some of them can't be used to their original purpose, they acquire the status of cultural testimonies, becoming part of the material patrimony that deserves to be protected and passed on. The restauration is not only a physical repair, but a responsibility act towards the past and the memories that these objects hold.



Before restauration



After restauration

Baroque style chair,
Restored by Raisa Arsenie



Before restauration



After restauration

Chippendale style chair,
Restored by Ana-Maria Moşoiu



Traditional Bauernmöble chair,
Restored by Lara Catharina Sabo



The two events – one focused on research, the other on practical and creative activities – highlighted the important role of university education in developing critical thinking, creativity, and a responsible attitude toward cultural heritage. Both the Student Scientific Research Session and the exhibition “Unity in Diversity – Challenge and Collaboration” showed that initiative, teamwork, and commitment can work well together in the projects carried out by students as they prepare for future careers in the professional and academic fields.

**Ioana PANAITE – II-year Bachelor student,
Ana POTOPEA – II-year Bachelor student,
Lecturer PhD. Eng. Antonela LUNGU**