

Eunji Bae

My experience in Stamps as an international student has been so inspiring and precious to me, so I always wanted to study abroad in other countries besides the United States. In the summer of 2018, I studied abroad at DIS in Denmark to study furniture design. During the course, I not only acquired great skills of woodworking and Scandinavian design concept but also learned how to respect one's own culture and art. Danish designers try to preserve their own culture and design concepts by keep reviewing and studying their history. I was deeply amazed by their attitude, and this experience allowed me to think of my own culture and background.



Picture of Floor Chair that I made during study abroad at DIS

During the course, I learned the importance of reviewing their own history as a designer, and I made a Floor Chair that addresses my multicultural identity. Sitting styles are an example of the cultural differences between the East and West. In Korea, people usually sit on the floor emphasizing commonality. I made a Floor Chair that shows my identity as a Korean but it also has Scandinavian style.

After the great trip, I kept questioning myself if I know much about my own culture. It is a serious problem that South Koreans, especially the young generation, do not respect and are ignorant about their tradition. Traditional Korean clothes, hanbok, is one example of disappearing Korean tradition and most people never wear hanbok in their life now. For my IP project, I brought Hanbok into modern style by reinterpreting the typical shape of traditional Hanbok like Danish designers do with their chairs! I kept the beautiful lines, colors, and fabric that traditional Hanbok has, but Hanbok that I made has been updated to remove aspects that highlight gender inequality from Confucian philosophy. I do not believe my project would have been as strong if I had not studied abroad in Denmark.



Images form Senior IP Project



Classmates with DIS professor, Tina



Images of people from different cultures experiencing my Floor Chair