

Art-Engineering: An Approach to Create Synergy between Arts and Engineering

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Abstract

Art and Engineering has been two faces of a coin; they co-exist. For any product development both Art (*Form*) and Engineering (*Functionality*) are inevitable parts. However most of the Art or Engineering students never come across each other. Despite their interdependence in each other, both seem confident on their existence alone. In order to break this rudimentary belief of sole existence in Art and Engineering schools, **Art-Engineering** Workshop was initiated in Kathmandu University (KU) in the year 2012 and was strategically named “**Samyojan**” meaning integration. During this workshop, students and faculties from School of Arts and School of Engineering were brought together in a place for about a week. Different teams were made with a balance of students from both schools and every group was asked to make a product within the given time. First day, all the team members were introduced to each other and were given a day to brainstorm about their ideas. At the end of the day, each team would present their ideas along with the materials required and get it approved. Next day, they would scavenge a huge pile of junk available in the fabrication workshop for their product and book a store and workspace for them. Within next few days, the team would fabricate their concept and exhibit it on the final day. As expected, first few days were the most difficult days for the participants to get along but by the end of the workshop; this attempt of blending Art and Engineering together has definitely triggered curiosity in each other’s work. Moreover, the participants from both the schools have learned to respect each other’s profession and most importantly they have understood the importance of Art and Engineering working together for mutual advancement. It also demonstrated that if Designers/Artists and Engineers could combine the simple and basic engineering technology with aesthetic input it may also support to develop novice visual culture with functional values in the design world.

Observation, experience and output of Art Engineering as well as its challenges will be discussed in the paper.

Keywords:

Art Engineering, Lost-Wax Casting, Junk Art, Form & Function, Design