

Project Summery

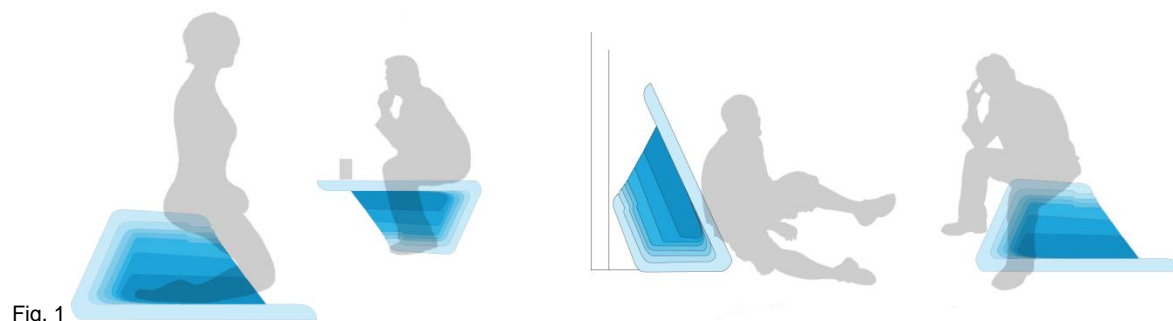
For my final project I have designed a seating device that I feel is a better alternative to conventional chairs in regards to suitability for the human body. My design primarily takes into account evolved human anatomy and ergonomics but is also influenced by evolved preferences towards form and color.

In its primary position (fig 1) my chair comfortably supports a kneeling position. Such a position is more natural for the body. The urge to slouch is minimized by an angled seat which tilts the pelvis into a position similar to that of standing. Despite the chair not having a back, the position of kneeling along with the angled seat creates a comfortable support which would not weaken back muscles over time as conventional chair backs do.

Another feature of the chair is flexibility. The chair itself can be turned in different ways to support different body positions. Being in one position for too long has proven to have negative effects on the body so a feature such as this encourages movement and also allows for adaptability to different environments, tasks and situations.

Human preference for color is something I also considered. It has been observed that in many ways our experiences determine how we feel about the colors but also that there are general trends in color preferences. Evolutionarily the primary theory is that we like colors that relate to things which are healthy and promote survival. For example a blue sky indicates calm weather and blue tends to be a favored color across cultures. With this in mind I decided upon different shades of blue for my chair as it is favored among most and is evocative of calmness and relaxation. It has also been found that humans have a preference for curved forms, perhaps because they are often found in nature. Considering this, my design implements curved edges to appeal to this human sensibility but also features some angled elements that allow it to blend into modern (often angled) built environments.

The form of the chair is composed of layers that wrap around and in its primary position, encase the lower part of the body. The human drive towards wanting to be physically sheltered and safe is what drove this formal language. Materially I wanted the chair to be firm yet comfortable, therefore it would be composed of wood lined with felt.



Bibliography

- (1) Sohn, Emily “*Color Preferences Determined by Experience: How we feel about a color depends on our relationship with that particular shade*”. Oct 1, 2010.
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- (4) Stringer, C., and P. Andrews. 2005. *The Complete World of Human Evolution*. Thames & Hudson, London.

