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The Design of Indonesian Furniture as a Solution to Human Life Balance Issues After the Pandemic

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Abstract: The focus on achieving life balance has been widely discussed in various aspects of human life after the COVID-19 pandemic. The increased level of stress is a result of the loss of boundaries between work and other aspects of life due to the lack of physical and temporal limitations, causing an imbalance. Indonesia, as one of the world's furniture material producers, needs to improve the quality of its design for the export market. This paper discussed the solution of interior product design for the European export market, as an activity that helps to address the imbalance of human life after the pandemic. The authors applied the Kelley design thinking method through the stages of empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. The wellness, sustainability, and home sweet home concepts were applied to the design as the emerging megatrends in Europe, while also considering the sustainable global cultural and aesthetic aspects. Natural materials from Indonesia were applied with this consideration. The main focus of the design system is on the easy installation concept to achieve product shipping efficiency to the European market. Three designs are discussed in this paper, including the Rotan Storage Credenza, Multifunctional Lounge Chair, and Sisal Lounge Chair. The resulting designs are expected to provide a solution for the European market's problems after the pandemic. The designs still need to be tested in the market through e-commerce and internationally-recognized exhibitions.

Keywords: Life balance; Post-pandemic; Export Interior Products, Cocooning Facilities



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1. Introduction

The issue of work-life balance after the pandemic is a serious matter that greatly affects human health. A comparative study conducted in companies in Poland, Lithuania, and Spain found that telework that emerged during the pandemic increased employee stress. The large-scale transformation requires quick adaptation that affects all aspects of human life (Erro-Garcés et al., 2022; Rymaniak et al., 2021) Life and work balance can be influenced if both do not have clear boundaries (Carvalho et al., 2021; Carvalho & Chambel, 2014). Well-being

during the pandemic and beyond depends on job sustainability (Robinson et al., 2022; Song & Gao, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken many business sectors and impacted employee well-being. Many employees risk all their efforts and time to maintain their positions at work. Several studies reveal a serious relationship between work-life balance and well-being (Clark, 2000; Fotiadis et al., 2019; Talukder et al., 2018). The latest development of the telework system causes workers to have no clear boundaries between working hours and other aspects of their lives. This condition has led to the emergence of more workaholic people after the pandemic. This occurs both in Asia and Europe (Krumov et al., 2022).

A person's ability to balance work and other aspects of life will have a positive impact on a better life. The inability of workers in work-life balance can have a negative impact on the company and the work they do. To achieve a balance between the two interests, there are several things that can be done, one of which is to separate professional and personal aspects. This means that the place used for non-work activities is distinguished from work activities. In an effort to further study trends and issues that Europe is currently experiencing as a whole, the author reports on design trends developed by CBI. CBI is a promotion center for imports from developing countries to the European market. Some problems that arise after the pandemic are the issues of home sweet home, sustainability, and wellness. The problem that is often raised to achieve work-life balance is to allocate time between work and non-work activities. The role of technology in various job fields blurs the boundaries of space and time (Cousins & Robey, 2015) To create these boundaries, an action of disconnection and cocooning is needed as a solution that can be offered. Home can be a cocooning facility that is separate from all work activities. The design offered for residential furniture must support activities that support human needs for rest and relaxation. Humans have the right to use time outside of working hours according to hobbies and activities of interest. In this article, several alternative export furniture designs are discussed as solutions to the problem of work-life balance for humans. The author collaborated with industry partners and SMEs in Indonesia who have the capacity in the export market, especially the European market.

2. Materials and Methods

The alternative furniture was developed using the Design Thinking method from Kelley (Camacho, 2016; Johansson-Sköldberg et al., 2013). The stages used in the design process include empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. The empathize stage involves understanding the existing problems or issues. It is the pure meaning of empathy towards a problem and getting to know it better. The design development process began with the expression of the partner industry's desire to develop interior products that have been marketed in the European and Australian markets. The industry partner wants to develop designs that are suitable for the needs of European society, especially after the pandemic. The issues, dimensions, needs, market preferences, and trends raised must refer to the European market. Since the problems observed in different parts of the world are different from each other, it must be carefully considered and studied what the problems are in the design that will be developed. Efficiency in the production and delivery processes needs to be considered in the design process so that the produced goods can be well received.

The Define stage refers to the data obtained in the Empathize stage and determines the needs and overall design outline. In the Define process, programming, and framework are generated regarding market trend research, product typology research, and European dimension standards research. In addition, mapping of various Indonesian materials and their processing processes is also carried out. Ultimately, the resulting framework can explain the direction of the design development. The main problem taken in this design is the concept of home sweet home, wellness, and sustainability. Manual or digital sketches are the results of the Ideate stage. Ideas that are conceived, possible or not, are visualized and can be understood through sight. The prototype stage is done to produce the actual shape of the selected product. The test stage is continued by marketing the produced products to partner companies.

The article uses materials that common in Indonesia such as wood, rattan, and sisal. These materials are highlighted as one of Indonesia's natural resources that can increase commodity exports. Sustainable global design is incorporated to maximize user activity time outside of working hours. The use of natural materials is expected to enhance the function of furniture as a cocooning facility.

3. Results and Discussions

Europe as an export target market has many issues that are very different from Indonesia. As a continent with higher levels of development and productivity, the level of stress among European communities is also much higher. This is also driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased the level of stress experienced by workers in Europe. The concept used in this design is home sweet home, wellness, and sustainability, in accordance with the issues offered by CBI as the import promotion center for the European market concept.

Work-life balance is one of the issues that can affect the well-being of society. Work-life balance needs to be established by setting clear boundaries between work and other aspects of life. The pandemic that has been going on for two years has eliminated the boundaries between work and other aspects of life. This has led to an even higher level of stress among humans. The "home sweet home" concept proposed by CBI offers a new difference that users feel when they are at home. Home becomes a cocooning facility that can hide users to relax and get out of work routines. There are several ways to achieve this goal, one of which is the application of other

cultures that can provide a different atmosphere. The application of global cultures in spatial design can provide a different color that can prevent users from boredom. Indonesia has many cultural and material varieties that can be offered in this concept. A touch of natural tropical materials can be an alternative in creating a cocooning effect.

Wellness has become more important since the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had many impacts on the well-being of society, particularly on job security. Many workers are under pressure due to significant changes in the economy during the pandemic. Many workers are at risk of being laid off, and during this time they experience a significant decline in mental health (Dawson & Golijani-Moghaddam, 2020; Pacheco et al., 2020). Human separation from their surroundings and fear of uncertain conditions make health a crucial factor. Health not only emphasizes physical health, but also mental health conditions. Happiness is one of the measures of mental health after the pandemic. Some groups of society who are directly connected to health workers experience the highest stress levels (Dhingra & Dhingra, 2020).

European society has different cultures and habits from Indonesia. Europeans are more individualistic, dominant in living in rented housing because of high land prices and like to spend time indoors due to changes in weather. They do not like noise in their residential areas. Apartments with balconies or yards have added value. European society generally likes to engage in outdoor activities, such as gardening. After the pandemic, humans have become accustomed to increasing their activities through online activities. Some activities that can be done online will be done at home through technology (Bin et al., 2021).

The consumers need products that can facilitate their relaxation activities, which is the core of the Wellness mega-trend. They tend to prioritize their health more. This trend provides an opportunity to produce products that can "facilitate" that comfort with a more affordable concept. Wellness is also a tool to achieve the desired effect. The concept of sustainability arises from the world's need for environmentally friendly materials to maintain the sustainability of the earth. Natural and eco-friendly materials are one of the choices that can be utilized as products used in conjunction with humans. Natural materials can be easily recycled and do not have adverse environmental impacts during processing.

On the other hand, the capacity of natural resources, resources, and the furniture industry in Indonesia also needs attention. Indonesia is one of the world's largest producers of natural materials such as wood and rattan. Data from the Ministry of Forestry shows that 80 percent of the world's rattan comes from Indonesia. Rattan has flexible and strong characteristics. Rattan processing can be done with bending, matting and vacuum techniques. Adequate natural resources need to be supported by skilled facilities and human resources that can process these materials into high-quality products with high value. Skilled labor capacity needs to be added to maximize export production. Production efficiency becomes an important focus in commodity export products. With a long shipping distance, products are targeted to be shipped efficiently, including covering compact packaging such as knockdown or foldable, as well as resistance to shipping conditions. Competition between furniture manufacturers is also one of the obstacles to the growth of the furniture industry in Indonesia. Local manufacturer's products are sold below the existing standardization, damaging the marketing of established branded products.

4. Produced Design and Prototype

This article discusses three designs that were created to respond to the trends of wellness, home sweet home, and sustainability, which have been emerging in Europe after the pandemic. The designs highlight the richness of local Indonesian materials in the interior product design used in residential homes. The focus of this article is how to apply new designs that address the problems in Europe, with a furniture system that facilitates shipping and installation.

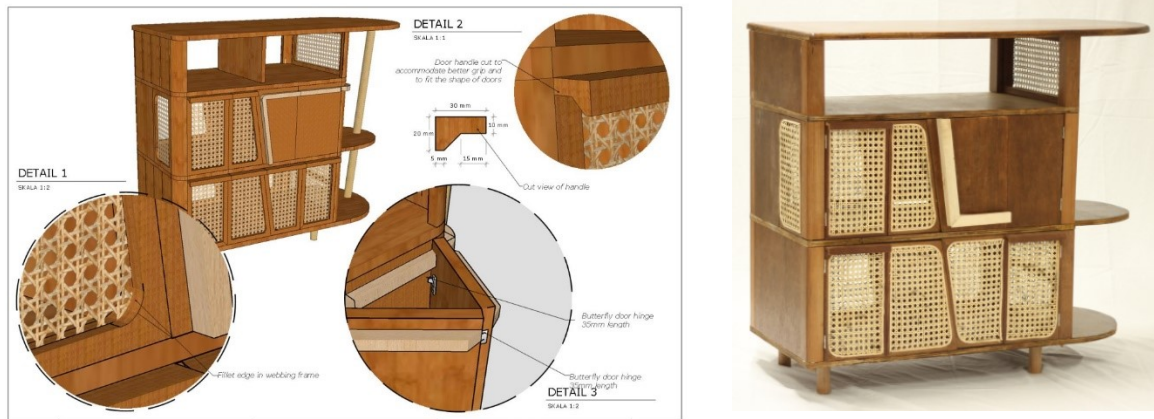
4.1. Rattan Storage Shelf

A home needs to be a cocooning facility that provides amenities that facilitate activities. Storage is one of the facilities that can organize the balance of life. This facility is a reflection of how humans can arrange their lives, including the need for necessary items. Each user will have a different arrangement according to their respective needs. This product is developed as the first solution to the issue of life balance after the pandemic. Humans need a container that helps them choose what they need according to their life priorities. This product functions as a versatile storage area that can be applied to the living room or dining room area. Each user is expected to have priorities regarding the position and placement of the items stored, which will reflect their life priorities. This product trains users to make arrangements that prioritize their life, including balancing work and personal time.

Physically, the product consists of several closed and open shelves, which allow users to freely organize their storage needs. The shelves can be accessed from two sides. The storage design is tailored to the dimensions of the residential needs, such as for two sets of utensils, books, and other equipment. The product has 3 access points, this credenza can be placed in the middle of the room and functions as an island table or space divider. The storage options available to users are given. The combination of rattan and solid wood materials provides a touch of Indonesian culture to the world audience.

The design uses natural materials, namely wood and rattan. Both are local Indonesian materials that can withstand and be applied in four-season conditions. The rattan weave is made semi-open, making it easier for users to visually access the inside of the storage. On the other hand, there are several parts that use wood as the material for the door leaves. This is intended to provide privacy for users to store more private belongings. The

product applies circular shapes and trapezium-shaped stylization designed by applying the golden ratio of 1:1.6. The visual comfort of the shape, color, and material used underlies the emergence of this design. The shape according to the golden ratio of 1:1.6 has been widely applied in historical buildings in the world such as Borobudur Temple, Pyramids of Giza, and many more (Meisner, 2018; Thapa & Thapa, 2018). Elements such as round and non-sharp shapes with the right size and ratio are the initial foundation in starting the ideation process or visual design sketches. The use of Indonesian natural materials maximizes the sustainable local material processing in the export market and provides a different touch in design. In addition, the use of easy-to-assemble construction such as knockdown will maximize production efficiency and shipping processes.



(a)

(b)

Figure 1. Design of Rattan Storage Rack **a)** Detailed picture of the rattan storage rack.; **(b)** Prototype of Rattan Storage Shelf.

4.2. Multifunctional Relax Chair

This chair is designed based on a survey of lifestyle and problems faced by people in several European countries. Most European residents live in apartments or tiny houses. The habit of share living is very common, where there are several generations living in one house. The house is inhabited by several people from different generations. This has a significant impact, especially after the pandemic. Some countries require workers to work from home. This phenomenon has resulted in high levels of stress due to the lack of clear boundaries between work and other life activities. This has led many people to adopt pets to reduce boredom. Owning a pet is one technique to reduce stress; owning a pet can help increase self-esteem, reduce loneliness, and minimize negative thoughts; this will reduce stress levels in humans. The habit of adopting pets has increased after the pandemic. People are looking for ways to balance their lives through hobbies and activities outside of work (Ho et al., 2021).

Shared living lifestyles also require furniture to have dual functions. In this design, a joint design is made that can accommodate the user's needs for relaxation while also being a facility for playing with pets. The facilities and materials used are tailored to the needs of the user and the pet's facilities. The dimensions are made according to European size restrictions. The chair legs are equipped with a scratcher facility made of twine. This twine is a facility that can be used by pet cats to scratch and sharpen their claws on a surface. This habit is intended to mark ownership or territory, exercise, and entertainment. Sharpening a cat's claws should be done by providing a facility to sharpen their claws with a surface that is not too rough or too slippery. In addition to the scratcher, the chair has a hammock-like facility under the user's seat as a facility for pet cats to lie down.

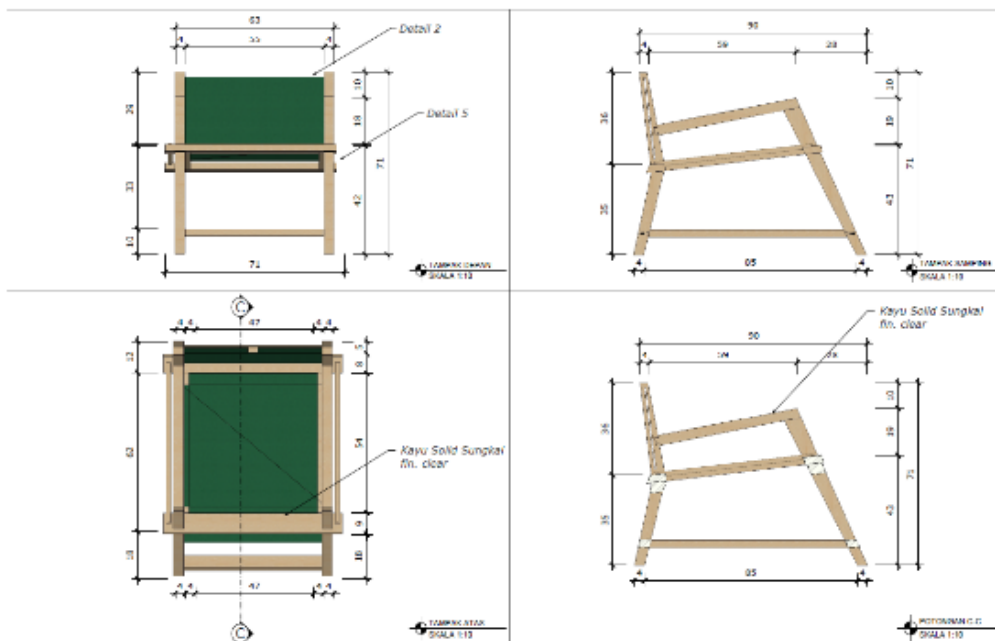


Figure 2. Multiview Drawing of Multifunctional Relax Chair

The chair is made of Sungsai wood material, as it has a good and prominent grain. Soft velvet fabric is used for the seat and backrest, making it comfortable to use. This material was chosen because it does not have a thread texture that can be torn by pet cat's claws. The product is designed and can be assembled using a knock-down system. This system simplifies the shipping transportation process. In addition, with the limited living space condition, the product can be easily dismantled when not needed. The flat pack storage system makes the product easy to store.



Figure 3. Prototype of Multifunctional Relax Chair

4.3. The Sisal Relax Chair

This chair adopts the concepts of wellness, home sweet home, and sustainability into its design. It is a comfortable and relaxing chair that allows users to experience comfort, tranquility, and privacy within their home to take a break from all activities. Its sturdy cocooning design is made from lightweight and strong materials that are easy to move around. The dimensions are adjusted to fit European users, and the chair can accommodate various sitting positions such as cross-legged and lying down. It is made using local Indonesian materials such as wood, cotton fabric, and ramie rope that are easily recyclable. Despite its large size, it is lightweight and easy to move. The seating system is decorated with ramie rope knots, which also provide the chair with strong resistance against the user's weight.

The Sisal Relax Chair is equipped with a knock-down concept to facilitate users who like to move their residence. The Home sweet home concept is raised as an application of a house concept that becomes a cocooning facility for its users. The size is made larger, adapted to the dimensions of Europeans, creating a comfortable and warm impression when sitting. Users can freely use this chair with various sitting positions. They can sit cross-legged and raise their feet, making it comfortable to sit like on a relaxing swing. The main structure uses wood, with soft cotton fabric on the backrest and seat. It is also equipped with Sisal weaving as an application of local materials in European design. This facility can be a container for users when watching TV, reading books, or even using electronic devices such as phones and tablets.

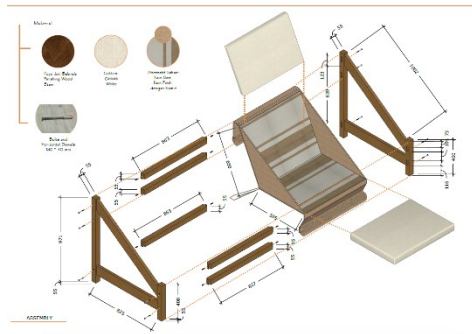


Figure 4. Design of Sisal Relax Chair **a)** Detailed picture of t Sisal Relax Chair.; **(b)** Prototype of Sisal Relax Chair

5. Conclusions

The designs produced are a result of addressing the issues that emerged after the pandemic. The aims of the interior product is to provide individuals with the opportunity to allocate time for themselves by managing the balance between work and social life, in order to maintain their physical and mental health. The interior products would serve as a facility for users to relax and engage in various activities at home while providing the best possible comfort. Sustainable materials are used, and the knock-down joint system is practical for transportation and usage. The design aims to assist individuals in organizing their daily necessities and other needs to achieve a balanced lifestyle. Further market testing is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and its application when in use. The next step that still needs to be taken is to intensify efforts to establish cooperation with the industry, small business partners, and the government to market the existing products. Experienced industrial partners in the export field have been involved in providing input on the existing design. Details of construction, materials, and delivery are important considerations in the export market. Ease of installation is also highly considered and influenced the final design produced.

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Original Article

The Design of Indonesian Furniture as a Solution to Human Life Balance Issues Post-COVID-19 Pandemic

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1. Introduction

The issue of work-life balance after the pandemic is a serious matter that greatly affects human health. A comparative study conducted in companies in Poland, Lithuania, and Spain found that telework that emerged during the pandemic increased employee stress. The large-scale transformation requires quick adaptation that affects all aspects of human life (Erro-Garcés et al., 2022; Rymaniak et al., 2021) Life and work balance can be influenced if both do not have clear boundaries (Carvalho et al., 2021; Carvalho & Chambel, 2014). Well-being during the pandemic and beyond depends on job sustainability (Robinson et al., 2022; Song & Gao, 2020). The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken many business sectors and impacted employee well-being. Many employees

risk all their efforts and time to maintain their positions at work. Several studies reveal a serious relationship between work-life balance and well-being (Clark, 2000; Fotiadis et al., 2019; Talukder et al., 2018). The latest development of the telework system causes workers to have no clear boundaries between working hours and other aspects of their lives. This condition has led to the emergence of more workaholic people after the pandemic. This occurs both in Asia and Europe (Krumov et al., 2022).

A person's ability to balance work and other aspects of life will have a positive impact on a better life. The inability of workers in work-life balance can have a negative impact on the company and the work they do. To achieve a balance between the two interests, there are several things that can be done, one of which is to separate professional and personal aspects. This means that the place used for non-work activities is distinguished from work activities. In an effort to further study trends and issues that Europe is currently experiencing as a whole, the author reports on design trends developed by CBI. CBI is a promotion center for imports from developing countries to the European market. Some problems that arise after the pandemic are the issues of home sweet home, sustainability, and wellness. The problem that is often raised to achieve work-life balance is to allocate time between work and non-work activities. The role of technology in various job fields blurs the boundaries of space and time (Cousins & Robey, 2015) To create these boundaries, an action of disconnection and cocooning is needed as a solution that can be offered. Home can be a cocooning facility that is separate from all work activities. The design offered for residential furniture must support activities that support human needs for rest and relaxation. Humans have the right to use time outside of working hours according to hobbies and activities of interest. In this article, several alternative export furniture designs are discussed as solutions to the problem of work-life balance for humans. The author collaborated with industry partners and SMEs in Indonesia who have the capacity in the export market, especially the European market.

2. Materials and Methods

The alternative furniture was developed using the Design Thinking method from Kelley (Camacho, 2016; Johansson-Sköldberg et al., 2013). The stages used in the design process include empathize, define, ideate, prototype, and test. The empathize stage involves understanding the existing problems or issues. It is the pure meaning of empathy towards a problem and getting to know it better. The design development process began with the expression of the partner industry's desire to develop interior products that have been marketed in the European and Australian markets. The industry partner wants to develop designs that are suitable for the needs of European society, especially after the pandemic. The issues, dimensions, needs, market preferences, and trends raised must refer to the European market. Since the problems observed in different parts of the world are different from each other, it must be carefully considered and studied what the problems are in the design that will be developed. Efficiency in the production and delivery processes needs to be considered in the design process so that the produced goods can be well received.

The Define stage refers to the data obtained in the Empathize stage and determines the needs and overall design outline. In the Define process, programming, and framework are generated regarding market trend research, product typology research, and European dimension standards research. In addition, mapping of various Indonesian materials and their processing processes is also carried out. Ultimately, the resulting framework can explain the direction of the design development. The main problem taken in this design is the concept of home sweet home, wellness, and sustainability. Manual or digital sketches are the results of the Ideate stage. Ideas that are conceived, possible or not, are visualized and can be understood through sight. The prototype stage is done to produce the actual shape of the selected product. The test stage is continued by marketing the produced products to partner companies.

The article uses materials that common in Indonesia such as wood, rattan, and sisal. These materials are highlighted as one of Indonesia's natural resources that can increase commodity exports. Sustainable global design is incorporated to maximize user activity time outside of working hours. The use of natural materials is expected to enhance the function of furniture as a cocooning facility.

3. Results and Discussions

Europe as an export target market has many issues that are very different from Indonesia. As a continent with higher levels of development and productivity, the level of stress among European communities is also much higher. This is also driven by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased the level of stress experienced by workers in Europe. The concept used in this design is home sweet home, wellness, and sustainability, in accordance with the issues offered by CBI as the import promotion center for the European market concept.

Work-life balance is one of the issues that can affect the well-being of society. Work-life balance needs to be established by setting clear boundaries between work and other aspects of life. The pandemic that has been going on for two years has eliminated the boundaries between work and other aspects of life. This has led to an even higher level of stress among humans. The "home sweet home" concept proposed by CBI offers a new difference that users feel when they are at home. Home becomes a cocooning facility that can hide users to relax and get out of work routines. There are several ways to achieve this goal, one of which is the application of other cultures that can provide a different atmosphere. The application of global cultures in spatial design can provide

a different color that can prevent users from boredom. Indonesia has many cultural and material varieties that can be offered in this concept. A touch of natural tropical materials can be an alternative in creating a cocooning effect.

Wellness has become more important since the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has had many impacts on the well-being of society, particularly on job security. Many workers are under pressure due to significant changes in the economy during the pandemic. Many workers are at risk of being laid off, and during this time they experience a significant decline in mental health (Dawson & Golijani-Moghaddam, 2020; Pacheco et al., 2020). Human separation from their surroundings and fear of uncertain conditions make health a crucial factor. Health not only emphasizes physical health, but also mental health conditions. Happiness is one of the measures of mental health after the pandemic. Some groups of society who are directly connected to health workers experience the highest stress levels (Dhingra & Dhingra, 2020).

European society has different cultures and habits from Indonesia. Europeans are more individualistic, dominant in living in rented housing because of high land prices and like to spend time indoors due to changes in weather. They do not like noise in their residential areas. Apartments with balconies or yards have added value. European society generally likes to engage in outdoor activities, such as gardening. After the pandemic, humans have become accustomed to increasing their activities through online activities. Some activities that can be done online will be done at home through technology (Bin et al., 2021).

The consumers need products that can facilitate their relaxation activities, which is the core of the Wellness mega-trend. They tend to prioritize their health more. This trend provides an opportunity to produce products that can "facilitate" that comfort with a more affordable concept. Wellness is also a tool to achieve the desired effect. The concept of sustainability arises from the world's need for environmentally friendly materials to maintain the sustainability of the earth. Natural and eco-friendly materials are one of the choices that can be utilized as products used in conjunction with humans. Natural materials can be easily recycled and do not have adverse environmental impacts during processing.

On the other hand, the capacity of natural resources, resources, and the furniture industry in Indonesia also needs attention. Indonesia is one of the world's largest producers of natural materials such as wood and rattan. Data from the Ministry of Forestry shows that 80 percent of the world's rattan comes from Indonesia. Rattan has flexible and strong characteristics. Rattan processing can be done with bending, matting and vacuum techniques. Adequate natural resources need to be supported by skilled facilities and human resources that can process these materials into high-quality products with high value. Skilled labor capacity needs to be added to maximize export production. Production efficiency becomes an important focus in commodity export products. With a long shipping distance, products are targeted to be shipped efficiently, including covering compact packaging such as knockdown or foldable, as well as resistance to shipping conditions. Competition between furniture manufacturers is also one of the obstacles to the growth of the furniture industry in Indonesia. Local manufacturer's products are sold below the existing standardization, damaging the marketing of established branded products.

4. Produced Design and Prototype

This article discusses three designs that were created to respond to the trends of wellness, home sweet home, and sustainability, which have been emerging in Europe after the pandemic. The designs highlight the richness of local Indonesian materials in the interior product design used in residential homes. The focus of this article is how to apply new designs that address the problems in Europe, with a furniture system that facilitates shipping and installation.

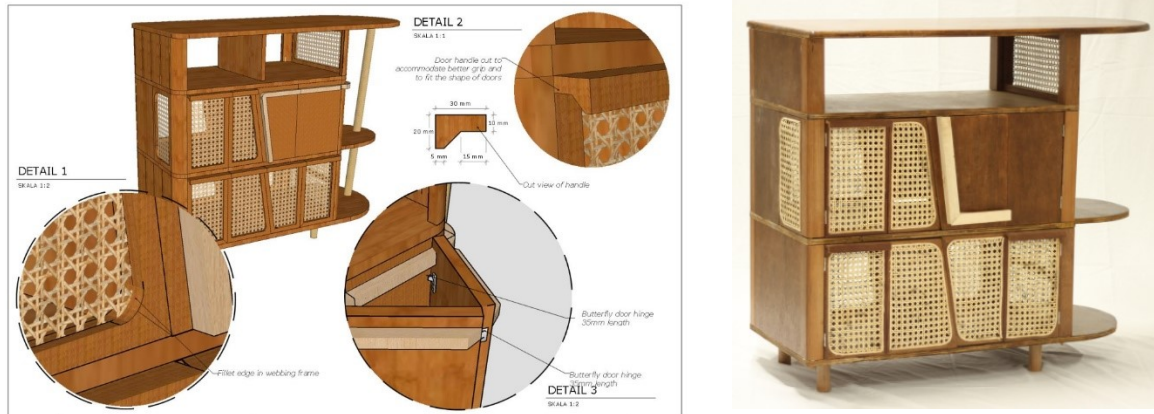
4.1. Rattan Storage Shelf

A home needs to be a cocooning facility that provides amenities that facilitate activities. Storage is one of the facilities that can organize the balance of life. This facility is a reflection of how humans can arrange their lives, including the need for necessary items. Each user will have a different arrangement according to their respective needs. This product is developed as the first solution to the issue of life balance after the pandemic. Humans need a container that helps them choose what they need according to their life priorities. This product functions as a versatile storage area that can be applied to the living room or dining room area. Each user is expected to have priorities regarding the position and placement of the items stored, which will reflect their life priorities. This product trains users to make arrangements that prioritize their life, including balancing work and personal time.

Physically, the product consists of several closed and open shelves, which allow users to freely organize their storage needs. The shelves can be accessed from two sides. The storage design is tailored to the dimensions of the residential needs, such as for two sets of utensils, books, and other equipment. The product has 3 access points, this credenza can be placed in the middle of the room and functions as an island table or space divider. The storage options available to users are given. The combination of rattan and solid wood materials provides a touch of Indonesian culture to the world audience.

The design uses natural materials, namely wood and rattan. Both are local Indonesian materials that can withstand and be applied in four-season conditions. The rattan weave is made semi-open, making it easier for users to visually access the inside of the storage. On the other hand, there are several parts that use wood as the material for the door leaves. This is intended to provide privacy for users to store more private belongings. The product applies circular shapes and trapezium-shaped stylization designed by applying the golden ratio of 1:1.6.

The visual comfort of the shape, color, and material used underlies the emergence of this design. The shape according to the golden ratio of 1:1.6 has been widely applied in historical buildings in the world such as Borobudur Temple, Pyramids of Giza, and many more (Meisner, 2018; Thapa & Thapa, 2018). Elements such as round and non-sharp shapes with the right size and ratio are the initial foundation in starting the ideation process or visual design sketches. The use of Indonesian natural materials maximizes the sustainable local material processing in the export market and provides a different touch in design. In addition, the use of easy-to-assemble construction such as knockdown will maximize production efficiency and shipping processes.



(a)

(b)

Figure 1. Design of Rattan Storage Rack **a)** Detailed picture of the rattan storage rack.; **(b)** Prototype of Rattan Storage Shelf.

4.2. Multifunctional Relax Chair

This chair is designed based on a survey of lifestyle and problems faced by people in several European countries. Most European residents live in apartments or tiny houses. The habit of share living is very common, where there are several generations living in one house. The house is inhabited by several people from different generations. This has a significant impact, especially after the pandemic. Some countries require workers to work from home. This phenomenon has resulted in high levels of stress due to the lack of clear boundaries between work and other life activities. This has led many people to adopt pets to reduce boredom. Owning a pet is one technique to reduce stress; owning a pet can help increase self-esteem, reduce loneliness, and minimize negative thoughts; this will reduce stress levels in humans. The habit of adopting pets has increased after the pandemic. People are looking for ways to balance their lives through hobbies and activities outside of work (Ho et al., 2021).

Shared living lifestyles also require furniture to have dual functions. In this design, a joint design is made that can accommodate the user's needs for relaxation while also being a facility for playing with pets. The facilities and materials used are tailored to the needs of the user and the pet's facilities. The dimensions are made according to European size restrictions. The chair legs are equipped with a scratcher facility made of twine. This twine is a facility that can be used by pet cats to scratch and sharpen their claws on a surface. This habit is intended to mark ownership or territory, exercise, and entertainment. Sharpening a cat's claws should be done by providing a facility to sharpen their claws with a surface that is not too rough or too slippery. In addition to the scratcher, the chair has a hammock-like facility under the user's seat as a facility for pet cats to lie down.

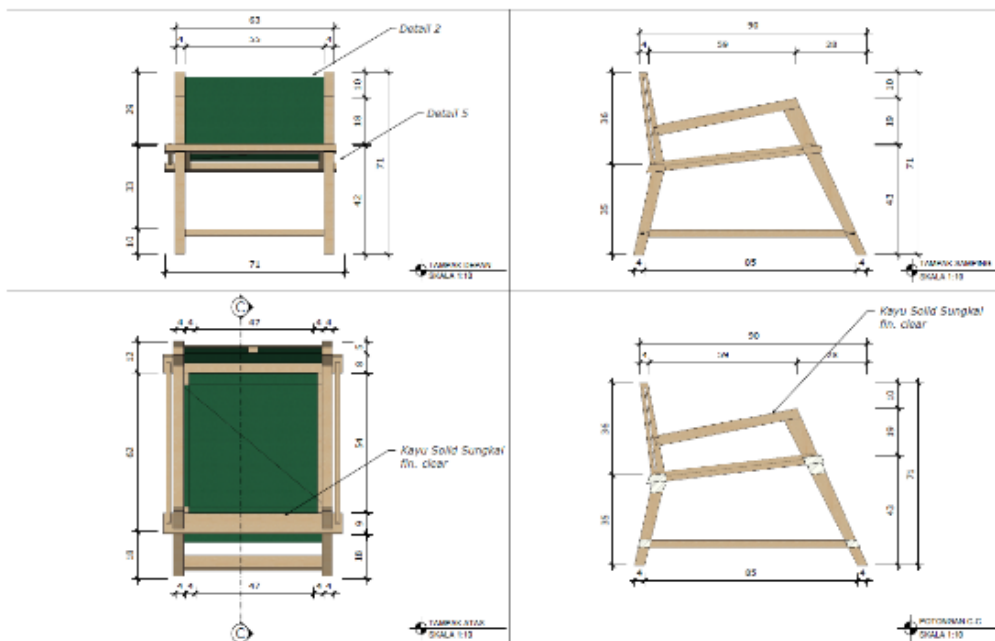


Figure 2. Multiview Drawing of Multifunctional Relax Chair

The chair is made of Sungkai wood material, as it has a good and prominent grain. Soft velvet fabric is used for the seat and backrest, making it comfortable to use. This material was chosen because it does not have a thread texture that can be torn by pet cat's claws. The product is designed and can be assembled using a knock-down system. This system simplifies the shipping transportation process. In addition, with the limited living space condition, the product can be easily dismantled when not needed. The flat pack storage system makes the product easy to store.

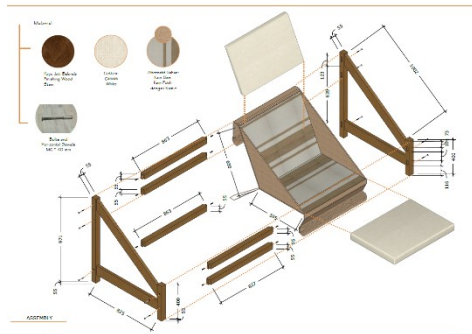


Figure 3. Prototype of Multifunctional Relax Chair

4.3. The Sisal Relax Chair

This chair adopts the concepts of wellness, home sweet home, and sustainability into its design. It is a comfortable and relaxing chair that allows users to experience comfort, tranquility, and privacy within their home to take a break from all activities. Its sturdy cocooning design is made from lightweight and strong materials that are easy to move around. The dimensions are adjusted to fit European users, and the chair can accommodate various sitting positions such as cross-legged and lying down. It is made using local Indonesian materials such as wood, cotton fabric, and ramie rope that are easily recyclable. Despite its large size, it is lightweight and easy to move. The seating system is decorated with ramie rope knots, which also provide the chair with strong resistance against the user's weight.

The Sisal Relax Chair is equipped with a knock-down concept to facilitate users who like to move their residence. The Home sweet home concept is raised as an application of a house concept that becomes a cocooning facility for its users. The size is made larger, adapted to the dimensions of Europeans, creating a comfortable and warm impression when sitting. Users can freely use this chair with various sitting positions. They can sit cross-legged and raise their feet, making it comfortable to sit like on a relaxing swing. The main structure uses wood, with soft cotton fabric on the backrest and seat. It is also equipped with Sisal weaving as an application of local materials in European design. This facility can be a container for users when watching TV, reading books, or even using electronic devices such as phones and tablets.



(a)

(b)

Figure 4. Design of Sisal Relax Chair **a)** Detailed picture of t Sisal Relax Chair.; **(b)** Prototype of Sisal Relax Chair

5. Conclusions

The designs produced are a result of addressing the issues that emerged after the pandemic. The aims of the interior product is to provide individuals with the opportunity to allocate time for themselves by managing the balance between work and social life, in order to maintain their physical and mental health. The interior products would serve as a facility for users to relax and engage in various activities at home while providing the best possible comfort. Sustainable materials are used, and the knock-down joint system is practical for transportation and usage. The design aims to assist individuals in organizing their daily necessities and other needs to achieve a balanced lifestyle. Further market testing is needed to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and its application when in use. The next step that still needs to be taken is to intensify efforts to establish cooperation with the industry, small business partners, and the government to market the existing products. Experienced industrial partners in the export field have been involved in providing input on the existing design. Details of construction, materials, and delivery are important considerations in the export market. Ease of installation is also highly considered and influenced the final design produced.

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Dear Grace Mulyono, Chong Yi Yun Eunice, Ingrid Georgina and Christopher Kevin Purnomo.,

We have reached a decision regarding your submission to the International Journal of Global Optimization and Its Application, "The Design of Indonesian Furniture as a Solution to Human Life Balance Issues After the Pandemic" after peer review process conducted by the Conference Committee (ICoGD). Thank you for joining the conference event and your contribution. This paper also has been revised and edited by ICoGD conference committee to fulfill the quality of published manuscript.

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Thank you for your interest in our Journal.

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Greetings

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I apologize as I have come across some errors in the data regarding the identities and email addresses of co-authors in the publication of the manuscript in this journal. Could the committee kindly assist in revising this data? Thank you in advance.

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Best regards,

Grace Mulyono



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Regards,

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SRN Intellectual Resources <srn.intellectual@gmail.com>
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Thank you for your interest in our journal.



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Greetings,

Chief Executive Officer

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The Design of Indonesian Furniture as a Solution to Human Life Balance Issues Post-COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

The focus on achieving life balance has been widely discussed in various aspects of human life after the COVID-19 pandemic. The increased stress level results from losing boundaries between work and other aspects of life due to the lack of physical and temporal limitations, causing an imbalance. As one of the world's furniture material producers, Indonesia needs to improve its design's quality for the export market. This paper discussed the solution of interior product design for the European export market as an activity that helps to address the imbalance of human life after the pandemic. The authors applied the Kelley design thinking method through the stages of empathizing, defining, ideating, prototyping, and testing. The wellness, sustainability, and home sweet home concepts were applied to the design as the emerging megatrends in Europe while also considering the sustainable global cultural and aesthetic aspects. Natural materials from Indonesia were applied with this consideration. The main focus of the design system is on the easy installation concept to achieve product shipping efficiency to the European market. Three designs are discussed in this paper, including the Rotan Storage Credenza, Multifunctional Lounge Chair, and Seal Lounge Chair. The resulting designs are expected to solve the European market's problems after the pandemic. The designs must still be tested in the market through e-commerce and internationally recognized exhibitions.



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