

RESEARCH THEME

XXXVIII cycle – a.y. 2022/2023

Title of the doctoral research Sustainability in the Furniture Sector

Proponent professor James Postell

Abstract

This research focuses on thematic areas of sustainability in the Furniture Sector, (i.e., the circular economy, furniture design and manufacturing) reflecting upon the challenges, strategies, and outcomes made by European furniture companies. The goal is to explore guidelines and assessment criteria for how the design, manufacturing, and use (service design) of furniture can contribute to broad goals of sustainability and specifically, to a climate neutral Europe by 2050 with a sustainable economy that leaves no one behind. How are European furniture companies adapting to a circular economy model? What companies are industry leaders. What products, companies, and designers are actively contributing to sustainability in the furniture sector and what are their strategies?

A circular economy aims to preserve the value of products, components, and materials within a larger economic system. It is oriented to achieve more efficient production and consumption systems, thanks to continuous and regenerative cycles. It also focuses on reduction of raw materials and energy consumption, waste, and emissions generation in the production processes. The adoption of the circular economy requires a change of business, territorial, and individual visions, and to rethink ways of producing and consuming.

This research study evidence of the circular economy values, such as reuse, recycle, remanufacturing in the European furniture sector. By developing the knowledge base for greener and smarter manufacturing processes, it is possible to understand and plan for a sustainable and more democratic European design culture.

Keywords

Sustainability, Furniture, Circular economy