Product: *Chopstick Holder & Housing*
Medium: *Reclaimed Pine*
Finish: *hand-waxed*
Chopstick Holder (on the top)**:** *W 50 x L 235 x H 77 mm.*
Housing (on the bottom)**:** *W 79 x L 262 x H 72 mm.*
Course: *DR2009 Products in Asian Cultural Context (AY 2019-20, Semester 1)*
Project's title: *Wooden doll and its housing*
Designed & made by: *Tan Ying Hui (U1730916L)*
Photographed by: *Tan Ying Hui (2019)*

*The two image of source ideas: *(from left to right)*
STEAMY KITCHEN RECIPES (n.d.). **Xiao Long Bao – Shanghai Steamed Soup Dumplings;**
PARAGON (n.d.). **Din Tai Fung Xiao Long Bao**

Project's description

Eastern Attributes *(maximum 80 words)*

The way of Dim Sum dining is a wholistic one. Served in small bamboo baskets, they are usually shared between families and friends. It is a gathering that speaks of camaraderie and togetherness. The imbalanced form of the product plays on the interactivity between its own kind; in that physical action of support and reliance.

Harmony (material, form and ornamentation) *max 80 words*

To form a cohesive set with the previous rolling pin project, the cone shape outline and layering is repeated here, in the head and silhouette. There are echoes in the curves to visually tie the pieces together. The lid is matched with care to allow the grain of wood to flow naturally from left to right.

Originality or uniqueness *(max 80 words)*

Using the alternative sections of light and dark colours, their size and placement creates additional features to the doll such as hair and clothing.

Although the doll is designed to be used in multiples, where the higher tip rests on another's tail, it may also be used independently. Despite the slight instability, it will not tip to an extreme due to the shallow curved base. In fact, the weight of the utensils balances the doll evenly.

E-Journal

References (Asian abstract inspiration or inspired forms) *max 1 page*

It was after I saw this picture that I realised my doll need not be standing upright.

The change in posture fit better to the function.

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/495818240228659861/

Design trials (a sequence of stages in developing and embodying your ideas through **a series of sketches**, **mock-ups** and **technical drawings**) *max 3 pages*

The original idea for the housing was to contain a set of chopstick holders. This was to follow that idea that they were inter-dependent. Then the pattern on the box would reflect the interior to link them as a family, that the housing belongs specifically to the doll set alone. To emphasize that idea to make it even more exclusive, a void was added in the centre.
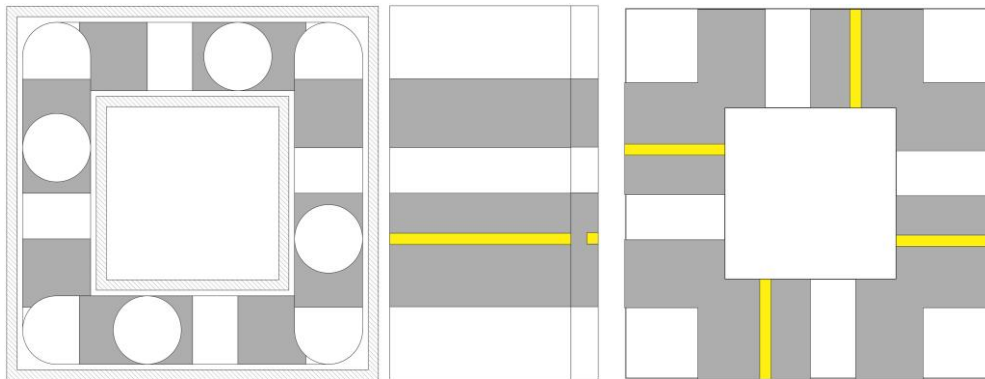

This design, however, had little visual connection with the rolling pin. So after the addition of the cone shape silhouette, the box becomes a complex octagon with angles that are too odd to calculate.
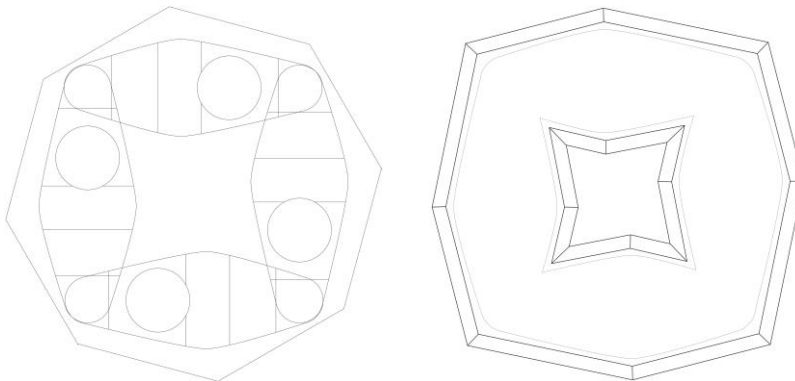

The solution, then, was to simplify the shape of the box and reduce the size to house just one doll. The exclusivity was not lost in the process as the lid still reflects the pattern of the doll and an opening will allow the head of the doll to peep through; retaining the particular belonging between the doll and its house.
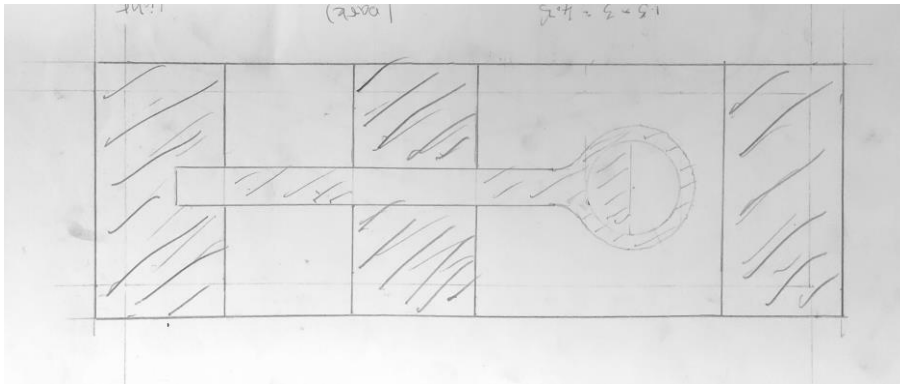
As for the doll, the function was decided from the start as I wanted to cover both ends of the Xiao Long Bao experience; from cooking to eating it. The chosen function did not go well with a standing doll, therefore further developments were made of a lying doll. Following the alternate layers of wood from the rolling pin, I tried them out in different directions on the doll.
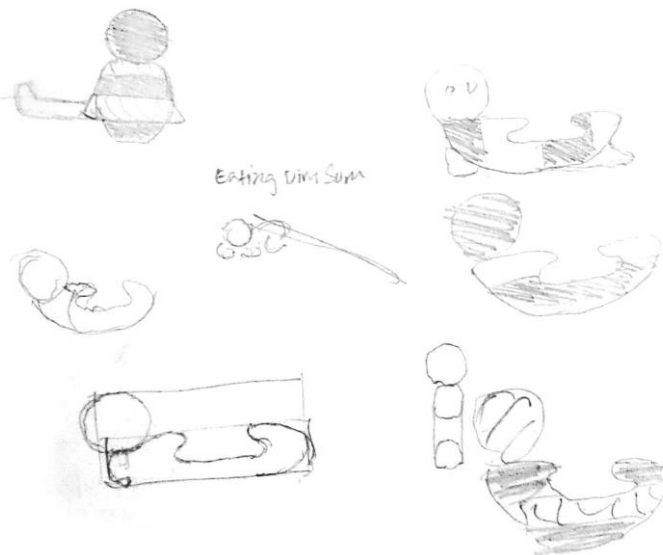

The below is the first shortlisted sketch of the doll.
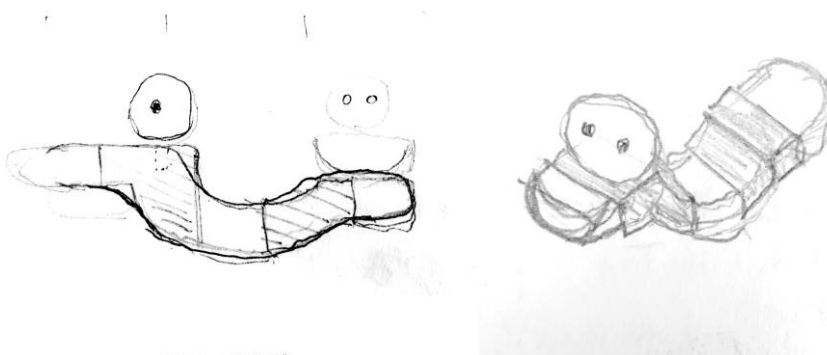
To fix the round head that sat awkwardly on the body, it was replace by the cone silhouette. A constant curve stretching from the top of the head to the tail was significant to indicate the link the two.
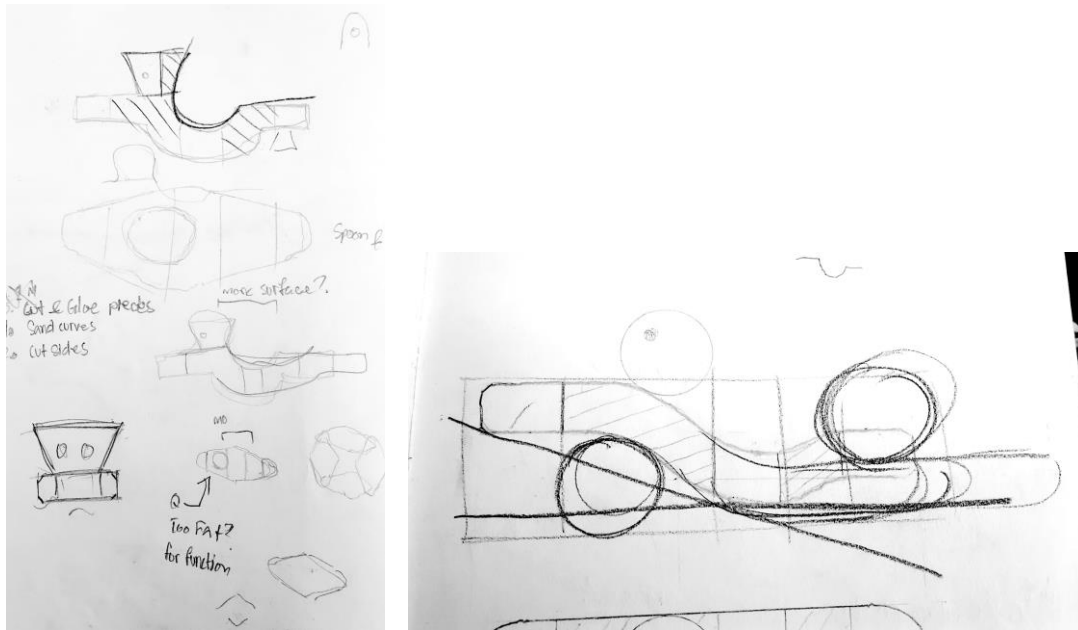
A more consistent approach to the concept of reflect and repetition was made in the revised version below. There is the addition of a foot and the body is modified by an echo of the circumference of the head which results in a form that is less rigid.
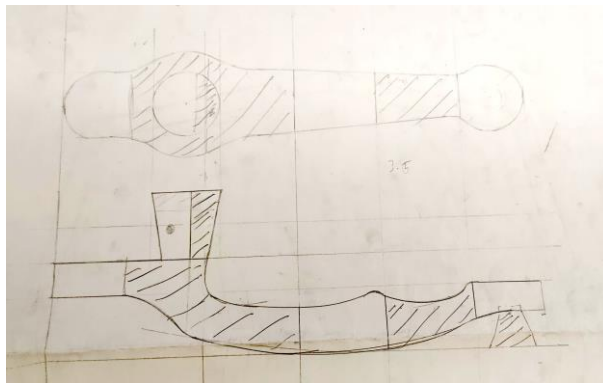
Problems and solutions (occurred while developing your doll and its housing)

max 2 pages

The biggest problem I had was my choice of wood. It was too soft and porous which made it prone to break while spinning. I had turned the foot multiple a total of four time and all of them broke. The below are two of the more successful attempts but were still unusable as the knobs were too short.

That is also why the neck of the head is so thick.

I also could not figure out why there is a black smear by the eye of my doll head. I would somehow sand or erase it but then it would appear again after I continued sanding.

I am not sure whether it is just pine, but there are a lot of holes within the wood. In the image above, I was going to make another head because of the ugly black smear. Unfortunately, the other side had the holes and the more I turned, the larger they got. It might be possible to remove them if I had time to get a hold of that really coarse sandpaper.

At the last minute, due to laminating end grains, the whole lid started warping. As such I could not proceed to sand any further.

The solution was to glue it down to a piece of plywood which was not completely successful because the whole thing was already wonky. It was difficult to tell if the whole surface was forced flat after clamping.

At first, I had glued the body without dowels. Since there was a skinny part, I was afraid that it would show after a mistake in the process of sanding the block down to shape. They were, nevertheless, required for structure. Thus, a new block was made.
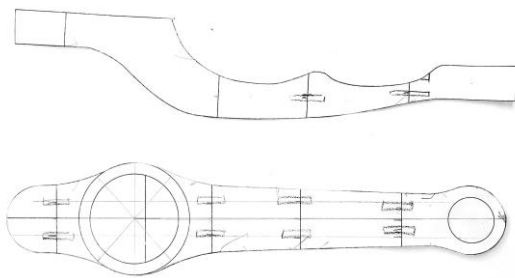
Top right: Second Attempt
Bottom Right: First Attempt

Self-reflection *(max 1 page)*

For this project, I took a little more time for planning than I did for the first and I think it paid off. Compared to the first project, the shape of the doll is much more complex than the rolling pin. Since there are many curves in the doll, the calculations and templates for the curves were important to not over-sand or over-cut in the actual production. As I took special care in adding more allowance for mistakes, the doll did turn out more like the original sketches that the rolling pin so that is a plus for me.

I learned to find ways to salvage the situation such as my attempts at sanding down the neck of the doll to fit the diameter of the drill bit. But I think I should not panic when I am stuck because I had thought that the 3.5 drill bit was missing and went ahead with a 4mm one. That was not ideal because the inlay was not as tight as it should be.

I have learned how to create a cohesive story between multiple products of different ideas and function. The use layering in the rolling pin, instead of representing the auspicious 18 folds in a Xiao Long Bao, was used as clothing and hair for the doll.

I think the best thing to take away is how to design within the scope of my abilities. For the first project, I was not experienced with the material and ended up with something I could barely work with. Therefore, for the second, I went with just pine and that worked well with me. I realise I do have big ideas and sometimes am unable produce satisfactory results. It does not only apply for Asian PD but other modules too.

Feedback (after the 2nd and the final presentation) *max 1 page*

The steps to production should be considered alongside ideation, with the consideration of time and probability of methods.

For better presentation, I should have waxed everything even if they were unfinished.