

Research Paper :

## Lattice smocking techniques: An innovative approach to smocking

RUBY JOSEPH, PRABHJOT KAUR AND SHAZIA MEHTAB

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See end of the article for authors' affiliations

Correspondence to:

**PRABHJOT KAUR**  
Department of Clothing and  
Textiles Govt. Home  
Science College,  
CHANDIGARH  
(PUNJAB) INDIA

### ABSTRACT

Lattice smocking technique is a fabric manipulation technique involving stitching from the back side of the fabric offering a unique and personal aesthetic charm of a hand work. The present study tends to highlight the development procedure of a product line with its co-ordination for a bed room range. The product line was developed using lattice smocking techniques by taking inspiration from Buddhist art and architecture. 50 designs of furnishing articles i.e. cushion covers, bolsters, lampshades, glass curtains, and draperies were created. Designs were evaluated and the most preferred design in each category was selected for construction. The market survey showed positive results regarding the acceptability and marketability of the articles.

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**Key words :** Moodboard, Lattice smocking technique, Product line development, Costing and Marketability

Needlecraft forms an integral part of the applied sacred arts and is used to create or embellish decorative or functional items for the home as well as clothing and personal accessories.

Hand smocking remains a favored form of decorative textured needlework evolving out of a practical sewing technique. Smocking is one of the oldest handicraft used as a tool by man to express his interest, sentiments and emotions consisting of making tiny, regularly spaced, decorative stitches to create round gathers and tucks on garments. (Hirst, 1967) Smocking was popular during the renaissance in Europe. Many paintings from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries show men and women wearing smocked men's shirts and women's chemises particularly in Italy and Germany. Lattice smocking technique has almost no elasticity to the stitched fabric. (Simon and Schuster, 1967). Garg (2010) conducted a study on uniqueness of smocking with applique creating a range of young girls garment which was adapted to their stylized designs using smocking with applique. Kaur (2008) conducted a study on "Magic of fingers" a detail study of smocking with special reference to its techniques, stitches, fabrics, and threads and designing a formal wear collection of dresses according to preference of female of Jalandhar between the age group of 19-23 years.

Aim and objectives of the study are as : to create a mood board, to develop different techniques of lattice smocking and to design and construct furnishing articles

for a bed room range using lattice smocking techniques.

### Limitations:

Only lattice smocking techniques was used.

Only six articles *i.e.* cushion covers(2)(one round and one square), bolsters(1), lampshades(1), glass curtains(1), and drapery(1) were constructed.

### EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

The present study was conducted to use lattice smocking technique and make designs suitable for furnishing articles. Various issues of textile magazines like Textile Trends, Indian Textile Journal, Clothesline has been read and material related to smocking techniques has been sorted out for reference. Google search engine has been used to visit various websites- www.fibre2fashion.com, www.emerald.com etc. Survey method was adopted to collect information regarding fabrics and interview schedules was framed to get their response regarding market acceptability from 10 shopskeepers dealing in household linens and 10 consumers from household shops and for further work, experimentation was done. Evaluation of fabrics suitability, colour and designs were done by 10 experts from the faculty of Home Science College, Chandigarh, 10 students of Masters in Clothing and Textiles and 10 of Bachelor in fashion designing because of their knowledge of textile designing as well as good aesthetic

sense. The data were then analyzed out of the recorded responses.

### OBSERVATIONS AND ANALYSIS

The main aim of present study was to create designs and construct furnishing articles with different techniques of lattice smocking techniques. The product line was developed using lattice smocking techniques by taking inspiration from Buddhist art and architecture.

#### Creation of mood board:

A story board was created by mixing the pictures of Buddhist sculpture which is artistic and innovative and had produced exotic pieces of art in architecture, pottery, and sculpture was taken as inspiration leading to development of different lattice smocking techniques (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 : Pictures of Buddhist sculptures

#### Selection of fabric:

Various cloth shops of Chandigarh were surveyed to find out the availability of suitable material for the furnishing articles using lattice smocking techniques. Investigators collected ten selected fabrics *i.e.* Velvet, Tissue, Chanderi, Check, Glazed cotton, Satin, Doted, Striped, Tie and dye, Chenille with different prints and drapes (varied thickness) to check the effect of lattice smocking (Fig. 2). Total ten samples from each group



Fig. 2: Selection of fabrics for furnishing articles

were prepared with basic lattice technique of smocking which were evaluated in order to choose best 4 fabrics for the development of different lattice smocking techniques, satin, chenille, velvet and tissue were selected. As doted, check, striped and tie and dye fabric destroyed the effect of smocking hence plain material was chosen for making furnishing articles.

#### Development of different lattice technique:

Six different lattices Smocking techniques were developed on selected fabrics of satin, velvet, chenille, and tissue (Fig. 3-7). Through these 4 methods 6 techniques were developed including basic technique, the hair dressed in large curls, the heavy face of Buddha, elongated ears and cranial bump inspired the collection.

#### Development of different lattice smocking techniques:

##### Creation and categorization of designs:

To design furnishing articles, they were divided into

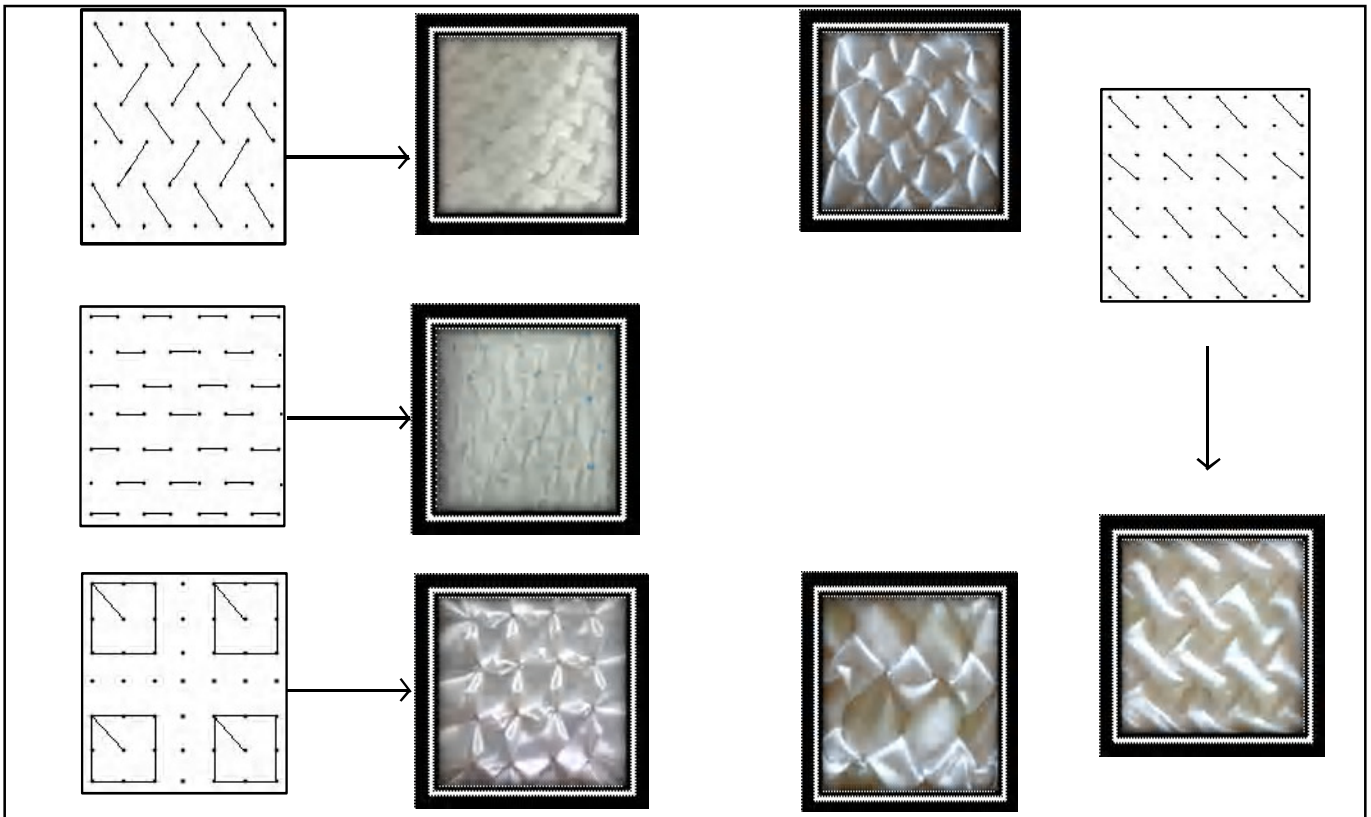


Fig. 3: Development of different lattice smocking techniques

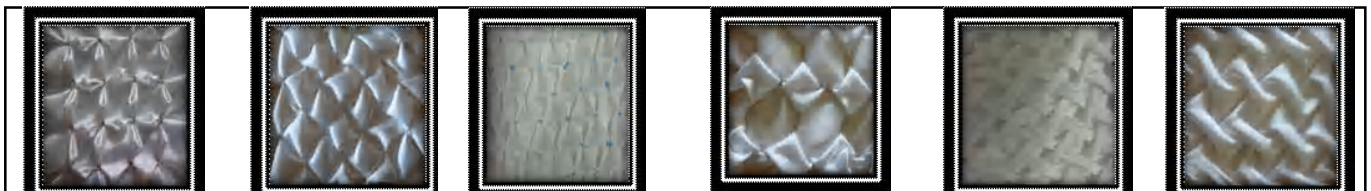


Fig. 4: Lattice smocking techniques developed on satin

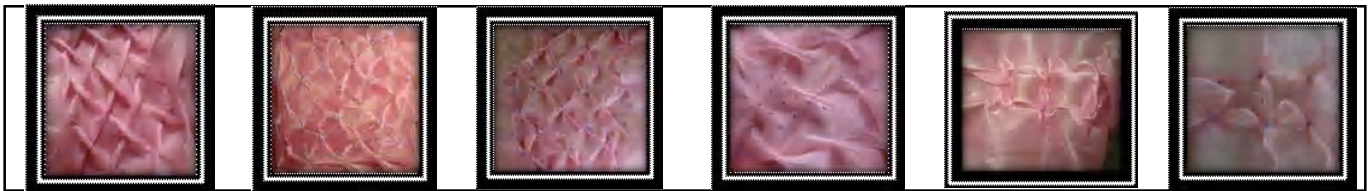


Fig. 5: Lattice smocking techniques developed on tissue



Fig. 6: Lattice smocking techniques developed on chenille



Fig. 7: Lattice smocking techniques developed on velvet

5 categories:

- Cushion cover- Square and round
- Bolster(1)
- Lampshade(1)
- Glass curtain(1)
- Drapery(1)

Total 50 designs using all developed techniques of lattice smocking were created with 10 designs in each category (Fig. 8-12).

**Evaluation and statistical analysis of designs for selected samples:**

50 designs were then subjected to evaluation by panel of judges (Fig. 13-17). The designs were displayed in 5 categories. The designs were numbered as A-1toA-10 for cushion covers, B-1toB-10 for bolsters, C-1toC-10 for lampshades, D-1toD-10 for glass curtains and E-1toE-10 for drapery (Fig.8-12). Judges were asked to accord their ranks in prescribed proforma. From each category,

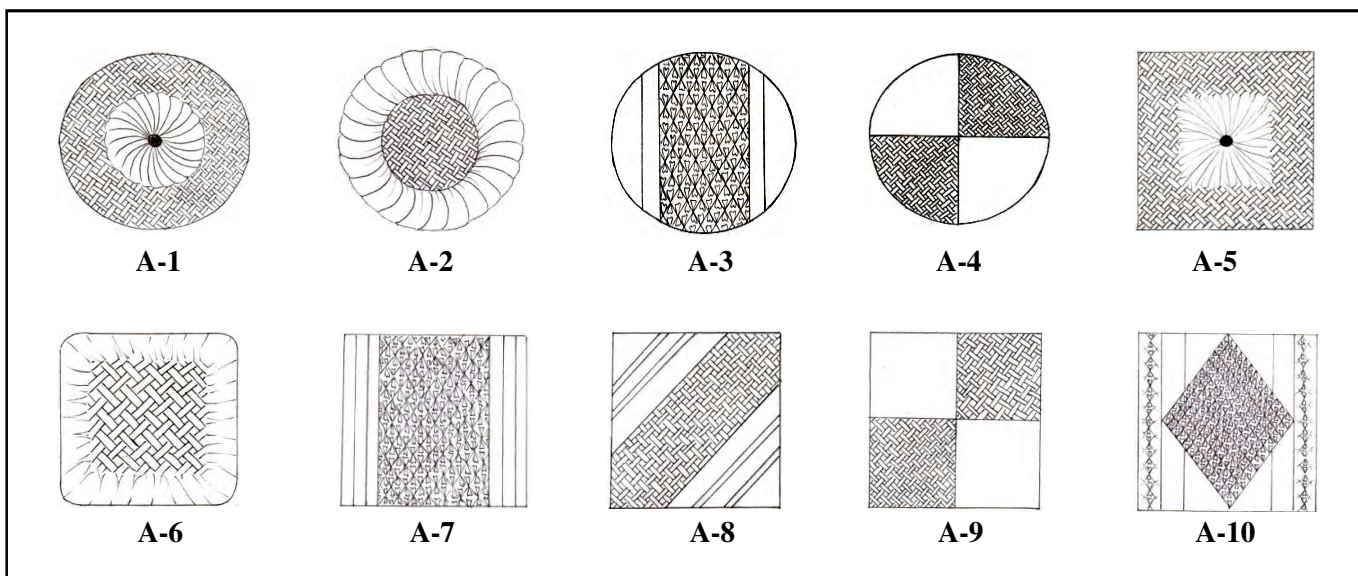


Fig. 8: Cushion design

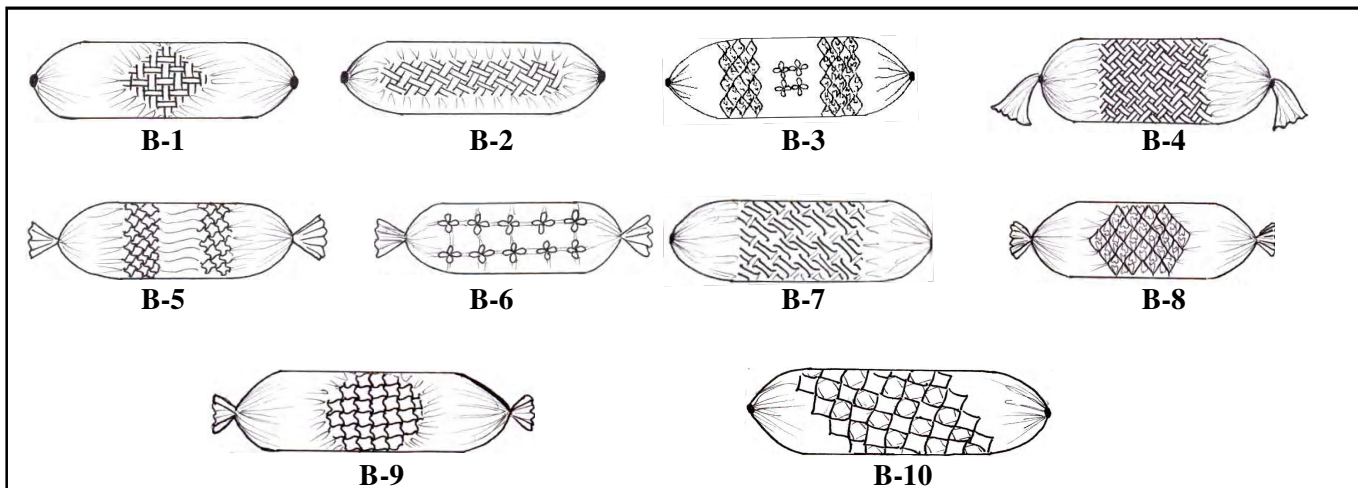


Fig. 9: Bolster Cushion design

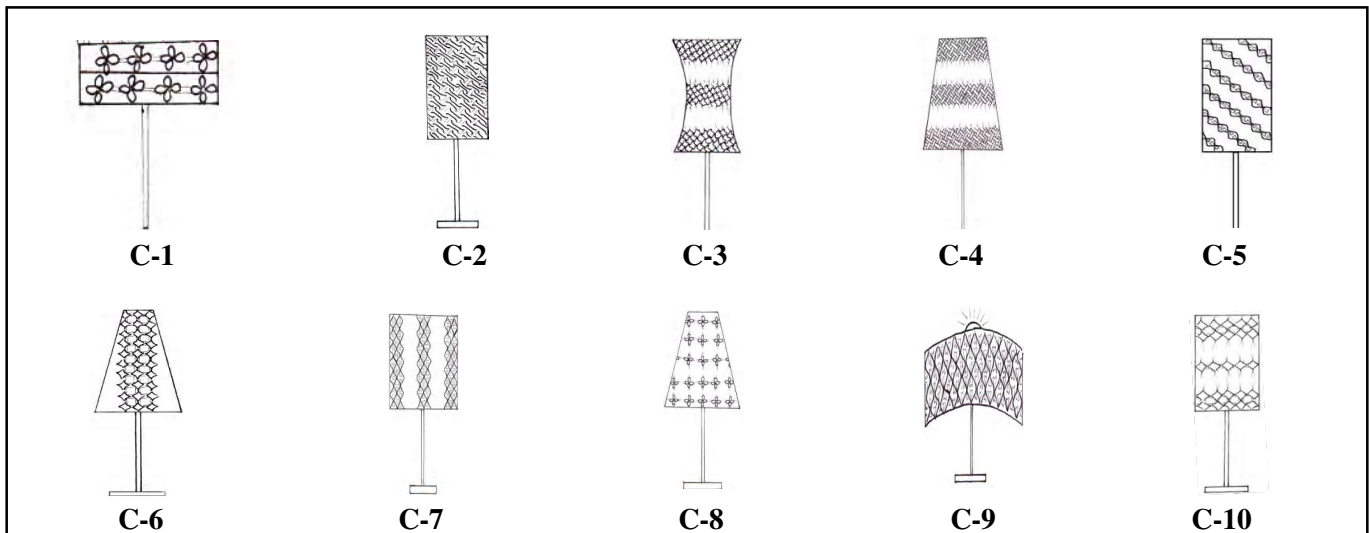


Fig. 10: Lampshade design

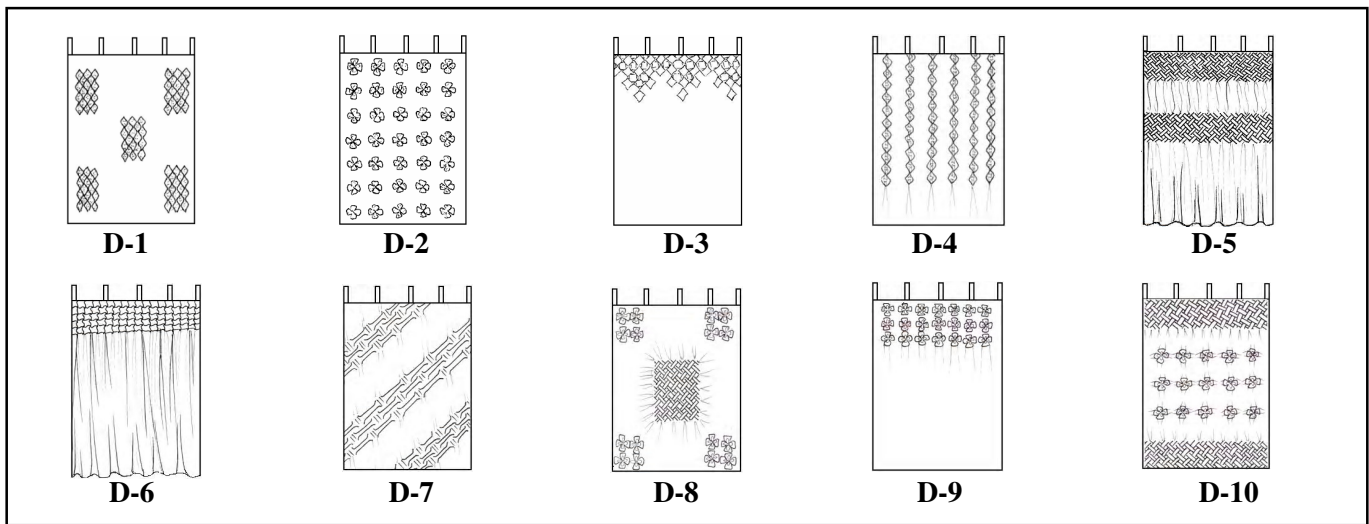


Fig. 11: Glass curtain design

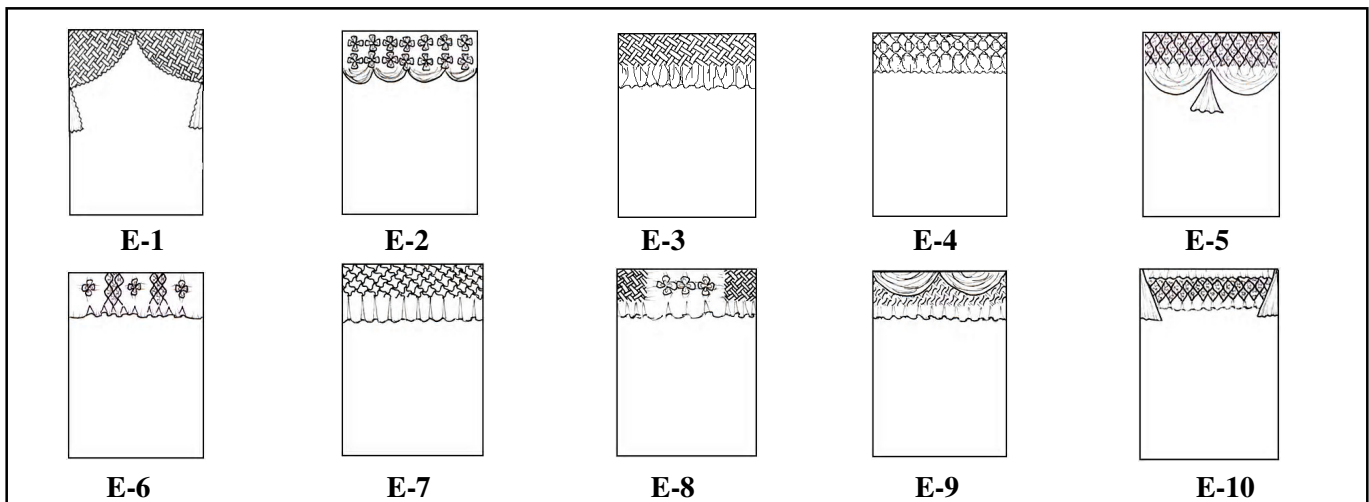


Fig. 12: Drapery design

one design was selected. White, grey, and black colour directly inspired from Story Board were selected for all the articles. Using interview schedule for the evaluation of fabric, satin and velvet were selected for cushion cover, bolster and glass curtain and tissue were selected for lamp shade and drapery.

**Costing and marketability of the furnishing articles:**

Before checking the marketability of furnishing articles, the cost of each furnishing article was estimated by adding the costs of fabric, zip, sponge, frame, lining and labour. Calculated cost of cushion covers was Rs. 192 (square) and Rs. 160 (round), cost of bolster was 380, cost of lampshade was 337, cost of glass curtain

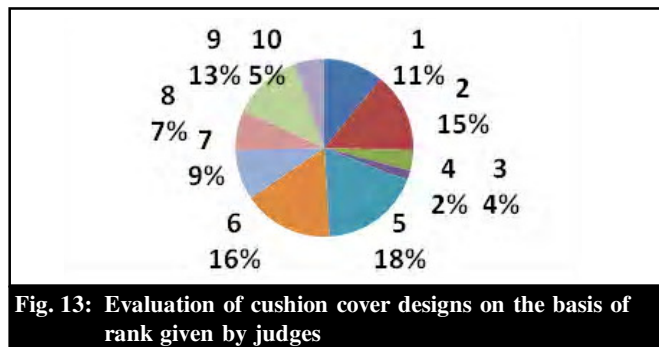


Fig. 13: Evaluation of cushion cover designs on the basis of rank given by judges

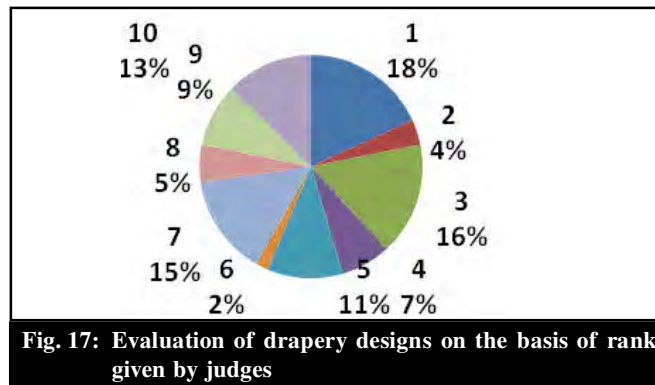


Fig. 17: Evaluation of drapery designs on the basis of rank given by judges

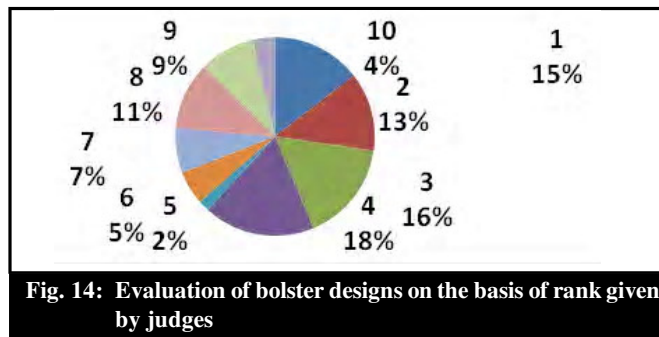


Fig. 14: Evaluation of bolster designs on the basis of rank given by judges

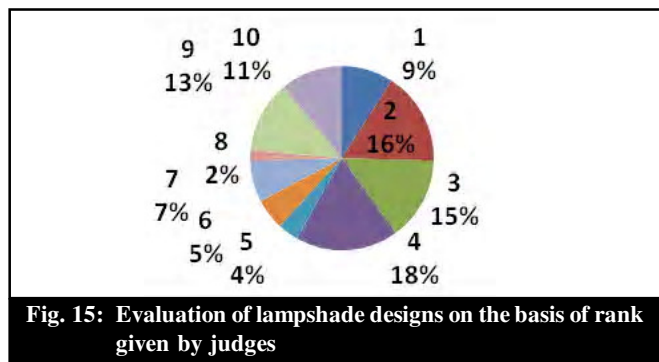


Fig. 15: Evaluation of lampshade designs on the basis of rank given by judges

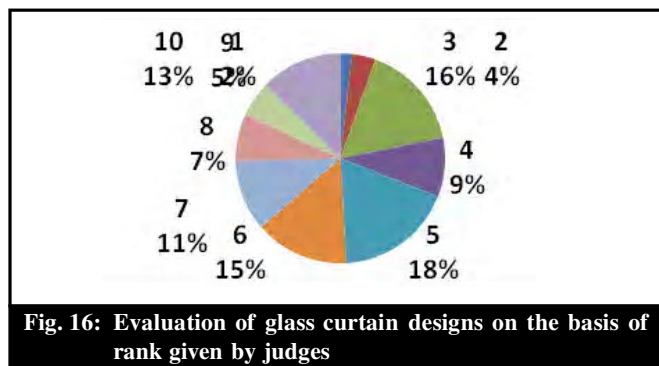


Fig. 16: Evaluation of glass curtain designs on the basis of rank given by judges

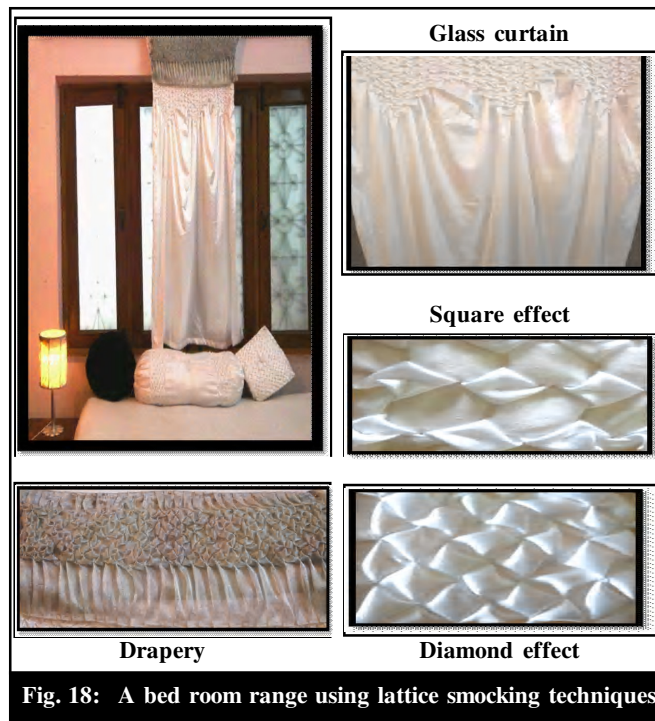
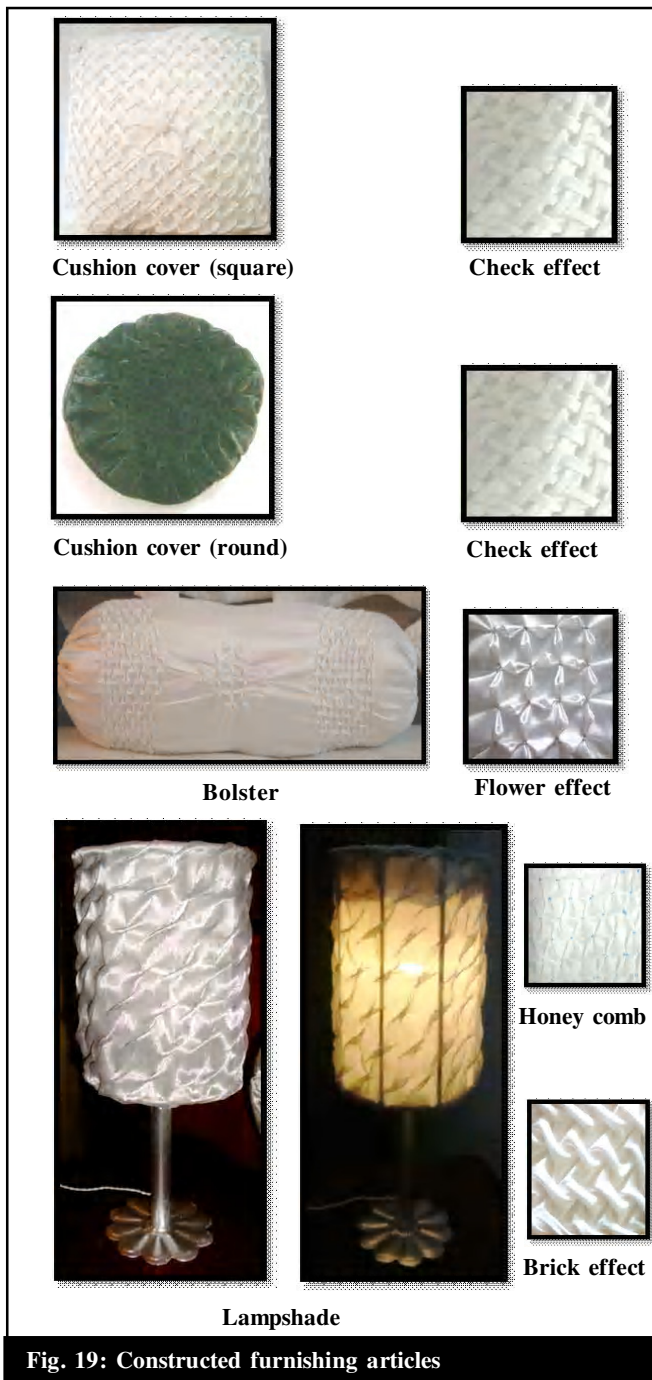


Fig. 18: A bed room range using lattice smocking techniques

materials was 688 and cost of drapery was Rs. 618. A market survey was conducted to see the market acceptability of the furnishing articles. The prices quoted were approximately Rs. 211/- (on satin) and 176/- (on velvet)-(cost of the article + 10% profit) for cushion covers, 418 for bolster, 370 for lampshade, 756 for curtain and 675 for drapery. The designing of the furnishing articles was greatly appreciated by the shopkeepers and the consumers. According to the 100% of shopkeepers



and consumers, the quoted price was reasonable and perfect for selling. 75% of the shopkeepers and

consumers want to buy the furnishing articles and remaining 30% did not want to buy as according to them, the furnishing articles were delicate with lattice smocking. They suggested that furnishing articles could be made in different colours.

### Conclusion:

In today's world, fashion changes every second and it is important to have innovative ideas especially in textile designing. Smocking as they are unique in themselves can help textile designer to give different outlook to textile decoration. The diversity of design technique gives the designer freedom to experiment and produce something new for consumers of textile products.

Authors' affiliations:

**RUBY JOSEPH AND SHAZIA MEHTAB,**  
Department of Clothing and Textiles, Govt. Home Science  
College, CHANDIGARH (PUNJAB) INDIA

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