

Integrating Historical Monument Ornamentation and Modern Educational Technologies for Enhancing Wood Carving Education in Uzbekistan's Continuing Education System

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Abstract: This study aims to improve the methodology of teaching wood carving through modern educational technologies based on the study of historical monument ornamentation within Uzbekistan's continuing education system. An explanatory sequential mixed-methods approach was employed to develop and evaluate the proposed instructional model. The findings show that integrating historical ornamentation with digital educational technologies enhances learners' creative thinking, artistic competence, digital skills, and cultural awareness. The proposed methodology contributes to the modernization of wood-carving education while supporting the preservation and sustainable transmission of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage.

Keywords: Ornamentation; woodcarving; heritage; creativity; craftsmanship; monuments; architecture; digitalization; visualization; competence; methodology; innovation; sustainability.

Introduction: Traditional crafts are widely recognized as an essential component of cultural heritage, serving as a bridge between historical experience and contemporary cultural development. Beyond their artistic value, traditional crafts preserve accumulated knowledge, aesthetic principles, and cultural identities that have been transmitted across generations. Within this context, wood carving occupies a distinctive place among the traditional decorative arts of Uzbekistan. For centuries, master craftsmen have transformed wood into sophisticated artistic forms, creating architectural elements that combine technical excellence with symbolic and aesthetic expression. As a result, wood carving has become an integral part of

Uzbekistan's architectural heritage and a valuable source for understanding the artistic worldview of past generations.

The historical cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Shahrisabz, Kokand, and Tashkent contain numerous examples of exceptional wood-carving craftsmanship. Wooden columns, carved doors, ceilings, porches, and ornamental structures preserved in mosques, madrasas, palaces, and other architectural monuments demonstrate the richness of local artistic traditions. These works embody complex ornamental systems, geometric and floral compositions, proportional relationships, and decorative principles developed through centuries of practical experience.

Consequently, historical monument ornamentation represents not only a cultural asset worthy of preservation but also a significant educational resource capable of supporting the teaching of traditional arts and crafts.

Despite the richness of this cultural heritage, its educational potential remains insufficiently utilized in contemporary teaching practice. In many cases, historical ornaments are introduced to learners merely as visual references or decorative examples rather than as objects of analytical investigation and creative interpretation. As a consequence, students often reproduce ornamental patterns without fully understanding their compositional structure, artistic logic, symbolic meaning, or cultural context. Such an approach may contribute to the development of technical skills; however, it provides limited opportunities for cultivating independent artistic thinking, creative problem-solving abilities, and deeper engagement with cultural heritage.

At the same time, ongoing transformations in education have created new possibilities for improving the teaching of traditional crafts. The rapid development of digital technologies, graphic design software, virtual learning environments, interactive educational platforms, and artificial intelligence-supported tools has expanded the range of instructional resources available to educators. These technologies enable learners to examine historical ornaments in greater detail, analyze compositional structures, create digital reconstructions, and experiment with design solutions before implementing them in practical work. More importantly, technology-enhanced learning environments encourage active participation, independent exploration, and creative engagement, thereby strengthening the educational value of traditional craft instruction.

A review of contemporary research indicates growing scholarly interest in heritage education, craft-based learning, digital pedagogy, and the preservation of traditional artistic practices. Previous studies have highlighted the educational significance of cultural heritage, the role of traditional crafts in identity formation, and the potential of digital technologies for enriching learning experiences. Nevertheless, these areas have largely been examined independently. Limited attention has been devoted to developing an integrated pedagogical framework that combines the study of historical architectural ornamentation, wood-carving education, and modern educational technologies within a unified instructional model. Furthermore, the educational potential of wood-carving elements preserved in the historical monuments of Uzbekistan remains underexplored,

particularly within the context of the continuing education system.

This gap highlights the need for a methodological approach that moves beyond the conventional transmission of technical skills and places greater emphasis on the educational value of cultural heritage. Historical monument ornamentation should be considered not merely as a source of decorative motifs but as a pedagogical resource capable of fostering artistic perception, cultural awareness, analytical thinking, and creative competence. Integrating heritage-based learning with contemporary educational technologies may provide new opportunities for enhancing the quality and effectiveness of wood-carving instruction across different levels of education.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to improve the methodology of teaching wood carving through modern educational tools based on the study of historical monument ornamentation within the continuing education system of Uzbekistan. The study seeks to develop and evaluate an educational approach that integrates cultural heritage resources, traditional craft practices, and contemporary learning technologies in order to enhance learners' creative competencies, artistic thinking, cultural awareness, and practical skills.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The integration of cultural heritage into education has become an important area of research at the intersection of pedagogy, heritage studies, and art education. Contemporary scholars increasingly view cultural heritage not only as a historical legacy to be preserved but also as an educational resource capable of developing cultural awareness, historical consciousness, and creative thinking among learners. UNESCO's educational framework emphasizes that heritage should be understood as a living source of knowledge that connects past experiences with present and future generations. However, although UNESCO highlights the educational value of heritage, its recommendations remain largely general and provide limited guidance on how specific artistic heritage resources can be effectively incorporated into practical craft education.

This issue has been further explored by researchers such as Franco Niccolucci, Sorin Hermon, and Graham Fairclough, who have examined the educational potential of cultural heritage in the digital era. Their studies demonstrate that digital technologies can significantly enhance access to, interpretation of, and engagement with heritage resources. Virtual reconstructions, digital archives, and interactive

heritage environments have created new opportunities for heritage-based learning. Nevertheless, these studies primarily focus on heritage documentation and interpretation rather than on the pedagogical integration of heritage resources into craft and applied arts education.

Within the field of Heritage Education, scholars argue that engagement with historical monuments and cultural artifacts contributes to the development of cultural identity, critical thinking, and aesthetic appreciation. Wen-Jye Yan emphasizes that heritage-based learning encourages students to establish meaningful connections between historical knowledge and contemporary life. While these studies successfully demonstrate the educational benefits of heritage learning, they pay relatively little attention to how historical ornamentation can be transformed into practical artistic experience through craft-based instruction.

The relationship between art education and cultural heritage has been extensively discussed by Elliot Eisner, Howard Gardner, and Arthur Efland. Although their theoretical perspectives differ, they share a common view that art education should extend beyond technical skill acquisition and foster higher-order thinking, creativity, and cultural understanding. Eisner emphasizes artistic cognition, Gardner highlights the role of visual-spatial intelligence, and Efland views art learning as a process shaped by cultural context. Collectively, these perspectives suggest that artistic learning becomes more meaningful when learners actively interpret and reconstruct cultural forms rather than merely reproduce them. However, these theories do not specifically address the use of historical architectural ornamentation in wood-carving education.

Research on craft education provides a more direct connection to the present study. Chi-Sen Hung, Tien-Li Chen, and Yun-Chi Lee argue that traditional crafts serve not only as vehicles for skill development but also as instruments for transmitting cultural values and strengthening cultural identity. Their findings demonstrate that heritage-based craft education can simultaneously promote technical competence, creativity, and cultural awareness. However, most of these studies have been conducted within East Asian contexts, particularly in relation to traditional lacquerware and other regional crafts. Consequently, their conclusions cannot be directly applied to the historical and artistic traditions of Uzbekistan without contextual adaptation.

Studies on Uzbek and Central Asian decorative arts provide valuable insights into the historical and artistic

foundations of traditional ornamentation. The works of Gulyam Pugachenkova, Lidiya Rempel, and Akbar Hakimov have significantly contributed to understanding the evolution, symbolism, and compositional principles of architectural decoration and applied arts in the region. Their research demonstrates that ornamental systems preserved in historical monuments embody rich artistic, cultural, and aesthetic knowledge. However, these studies are primarily historical and art-historical in nature and rarely address how such resources can be utilized within contemporary educational practice.

Recent advances in educational technology have opened new possibilities for teaching visual and applied arts. The TPACK framework proposed by Mishra and Koehler highlights the importance of integrating technological, pedagogical, and content knowledge in instructional design. Similarly, Richard Mayer's multimedia learning theory demonstrates the effectiveness of combining visual and textual information in promoting deeper learning. These perspectives suggest that digital technologies can support the analysis, interpretation, and creative application of historical ornamentation in educational settings. Despite this potential, research integrating historical monument ornamentation, wood-carving education, and modern educational technologies remains limited.

A critical analysis of the literature reveals a common pattern. Heritage education scholars primarily focus on cultural awareness and identity formation, craft education researchers emphasize practical skill development and creativity, while educational technology studies concentrate on improving learning processes through digital tools. Although each field has generated valuable knowledge, they have largely evolved independently. As a result, the educational potential that emerges from combining cultural heritage, traditional craftsmanship, and modern technology has not been sufficiently explored.

Therefore, a significant research gap remains regarding how the ornamental elements preserved in Uzbekistan's historical monuments can be systematically integrated into wood-carving education through contemporary educational technologies. Existing studies do not provide a comprehensive pedagogical framework capable of connecting these three domains within the context of Uzbekistan's continuing education system. Addressing this gap constitutes the primary contribution of the present study, which proposes an integrated methodological approach aimed at enhancing learners' creative competencies, artistic thinking, cultural awareness, and practical skills through heritage-based wood-

carving education.

METHODOLOGY

This study employed an explanatory sequential mixed-methods research design to develop and evaluate an instructional methodology for integrating historical monument ornamentation into wood-carving education through modern educational technologies within Uzbekistan's continuing education system. The mixed-methods approach was selected because the research sought not only to measure the effectiveness of the proposed instructional model quantitatively but also to understand the pedagogical processes that contributed to learners' creative development. Quantitative data were therefore complemented by qualitative observations, expert evaluations, and analyses of students' creative works.

The experimental study was conducted during the 2025–2026 academic year in cooperation with two educational institutions representing different levels of Uzbekistan's continuing education system: an art-oriented secondary school and a pedagogical higher education institution. This arrangement made it possible to evaluate the applicability of the proposed methodology across different educational contexts while maintaining a unified instructional framework.

A total of 64 participants voluntarily took part in the study. Thirty-two students were assigned to the experimental group, while thirty-two students formed the control group. The groups were selected using purposive sampling because all participants had previously completed introductory courses in visual arts and possessed basic knowledge of ornamental composition. Prior to the experiment, diagnostic assessment confirmed that there were no statistically significant differences between the two groups regarding artistic performance, knowledge of historical ornamentation, or practical wood-carving skills ($p > 0.05$).

The experimental instruction was implemented over twelve consecutive weeks. During this period, both groups studied identical thematic content related to wood-carving education. However, the instructional approaches differed substantially. The control group received conventional instruction based primarily on teacher demonstrations, printed visual materials, and practical replication of traditional ornamental patterns. In contrast, the experimental group followed the instructional model proposed in this study, which integrated historical monument ornamentation, digital learning technologies, and creative design activities into a unified pedagogical process.

The instructional methodology consisted of five interconnected learning stages. Students first

investigated ornamental systems preserved in historical monuments located in Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent, and Kokand. They subsequently analyzed compositional structures, proportional relationships, rhythm, symmetry, and symbolic meanings embedded within traditional ornamentation. Following the analytical stage, learners reconstructed selected ornamental compositions using digital design software, including CorelDRAW and Adobe Illustrator, while generative artificial intelligence tools were employed to support visualization, design exploration, and alternative compositional development. The redesigned compositions were then transformed into practical wood-carving projects through studio-based instruction. The instructional cycle concluded with reflective evaluation involving self-assessment, peer assessment, and expert feedback.

The effectiveness of the proposed methodology was evaluated using a multidimensional assessment framework consisting of five competency domains: cultural awareness, artistic thinking, digital competence, practical wood-carving skills, and reflective ability. Student performance was assessed through standardized evaluation rubrics developed specifically for the study. Creative products were independently evaluated by three experts specializing in applied arts, wood carving, and art education. The final assessment represented the average score assigned by the expert panel, thereby reducing subjective evaluation bias.

Quantitative data were analyzed using IBM SPSS Statistics (Version 29). Descriptive statistics, independent-samples t-tests, paired-samples t-tests, and Cohen's d effect size were employed to determine the effectiveness of the instructional intervention. Statistical significance was established at $p < 0.05$. The internal consistency of the assessment rubric was evaluated using Cronbach's alpha coefficient, which yielded a reliability value of $\alpha = 0.91$, indicating excellent internal consistency.

Qualitative data obtained from classroom observations, semi-structured interviews, students' reflective journals, and expert commentaries were analyzed using thematic analysis. The integration of quantitative and qualitative findings enabled methodological triangulation, thereby strengthening the credibility and trustworthiness of the research findings.

The proposed methodological framework differs from conventional approaches by positioning historical monument ornamentation not simply as instructional content but as the central pedagogical resource around which digital technologies, creative design, and

practical wood-carving activities are systematically integrated. Consequently, the methodology contributes not only to improving technical craftsmanship but also to fostering higher-order creative thinking, cultural awareness, digital literacy, and professional competence within Uzbekistan's continuing education system.

RESULTS

The implementation of the proposed instructional methodology demonstrated that integrating historical monument ornamentation with modern educational

technologies substantially enhanced the quality of wood-carving education within Uzbekistan's continuing education system. The instructional process was organized around a sequence of interconnected learning activities beginning with the observation and analysis of historical ornamentation and progressing toward digital interpretation, practical wood-carving application, and reflective evaluation. As presented in Table 1, each instructional stage was designed to achieve specific pedagogical objectives through the appropriate integration of cultural heritage resources and educational technologies.

Table 1. Instructional Framework of the Proposed Methodology

Instructional Stage	Learning Activities	Educational Technologies	Expected Learning Outcomes
Heritage Observation	Observation of historical monument ornamentation	Digital image archives, virtual resources	Understanding of historical ornamentation
Analytical Interpretation	Analysis of compositional principles and ornamental structures	Digital visualization tools	Development of analytical and visual thinking
Digital Transformation	Reconstruction and redesign of historical ornamentation	CorelDRAW, Adobe Illustrator, AI-assisted design tools	Digital design competence
Creative Wood-Carving Practice	Practical application of redesigned ornamental compositions	Traditional woodworking tools	Artistic and technical competence
Reflective Evaluation	Self-assessment, peer assessment, expert feedback	Digital portfolio and assessment rubric	Creative competence and reflective thinking

The findings indicate that historical monument ornamentation functioned not merely as a source of decorative motifs but as an effective pedagogical resource for developing learners' analytical, artistic, and creative abilities. During the initial stages of instruction, most learners focused primarily on reproducing existing ornamental patterns. As instructional activities progressed, however, they increasingly demonstrated the ability to analyze compositional structures, interpret symbolic meanings, and generate original artistic solutions inspired by historical decorative systems. This progression suggests that the proposed methodology successfully shifted learning from mechanical reproduction toward creative interpretation.

The integration of digital educational technologies further strengthened this transformation. Graphic design software enabled learners to reconstruct

historical ornaments, experiment with alternative compositional arrangements, and evaluate multiple design solutions before beginning practical wood carving. Consequently, digital technologies supported not only technical design processes but also critical thinking, creative exploration, and independent artistic decision-making.

To evaluate the educational effectiveness of the proposed methodology, learners' performance was assessed across several complementary dimensions, including cultural awareness, artistic thinking, practical craftsmanship, digital competence, and reflective ability. The assessment framework presented in Table 2 demonstrates that the evaluation process extended beyond technical performance and incorporated broader indicators of creative and cognitive development.

Table 2. Assessment Framework for Creative Competence Development

Assessment Dimension	Evaluation Indicators	Educational Focus
Cultural Awareness	Understanding historical ornamentation	Heritage interpretation

Assessment Dimension	Evaluation Indicators	Educational Focus
Artistic Thinking	Originality and compositional quality	Creative thinking
Technical Skills	Accuracy of wood-carving techniques	Practical craftsmanship
Digital Competence	Effective application of digital technologies	Design and visualization
Reflective Ability	Critical evaluation of creative work	Self-reflection and continuous improvement

Comparative analysis conducted before and after implementing the instructional methodology revealed consistent improvements across all evaluation dimensions. Learners demonstrated greater confidence in interpreting historical ornamentation, stronger compositional thinking, improved digital design skills, and higher levels of originality in practical

wood-carving projects. In addition, engagement with authentic architectural ornamentation strengthened learners' appreciation of Uzbekistan's cultural heritage while encouraging the application of traditional artistic principles in contemporary creative practice. The overall pattern of improvement observed during the study is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3. Comparative Learning Outcomes Following the Implementation of the Proposed Methodology

Learning Outcome	Initial Stage	Final Stage	Overall Development
Understanding of historical ornamentation	Moderate	High	Improved
Creative thinking	Moderate	High	Improved
Digital design competence	Basic	Advanced	Improved
Practical wood-carving performance	Moderate	High	Improved
Cultural awareness	Moderate	High	Improved

Overall, the findings demonstrate that the proposed instructional framework effectively integrates cultural heritage, digital educational technologies, and practical artistic production within a coherent pedagogical system. Rather than functioning independently, these components collectively contribute to the development of learners' creative competence, artistic thinking, professional skills, and cultural awareness. The results therefore support the effectiveness of the proposed methodology as an innovative approach to enhancing wood-carving education in Uzbekistan's continuing education system.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study demonstrate that the integration of historical monument ornamentation into wood-carving education through contemporary educational technologies provides a broader pedagogical impact than traditional craft instruction. The proposed instructional methodology not only enhanced learners' practical skills but also strengthened their artistic thinking, creative independence, digital competence, and cultural awareness. These findings indicate that historical ornamentation should no longer be regarded solely as a cultural artifact to be preserved but also as an educational resource capable of generating meaningful learning experiences.

The present findings support UNESCO's perspective

that cultural heritage constitutes an essential educational resource for promoting sustainable learning and cultural identity. However, the present study extends this perspective by demonstrating that historical heritage can become an active component of studio-based artistic practice rather than remaining a subject of historical appreciation alone. In this respect, historical monument ornamentation functioned as a dynamic instructional resource that stimulated observation, interpretation, design thinking, and creative production simultaneously. The results are also consistent with Elliot Eisner's conception of art education as a process that develops artistic cognition rather than merely technical proficiency. Throughout the instructional process, learners gradually shifted from copying traditional ornamental patterns toward interpreting compositional principles and generating original artistic solutions. This transition reflects Eisner's argument that meaningful art education should cultivate visual judgment, imagination, and creative reasoning. The present study demonstrates that historical ornamentation provides an effective context for achieving these educational objectives.

Howard Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences offers another valuable perspective for interpreting the findings. Gardner argues that artistic learning involves the interaction of visual-spatial, intrapersonal, and creative forms of intelligence. The proposed

instructional methodology supported the simultaneous development of these dimensions by combining visual analysis, digital reconstruction, practical craftsmanship, and reflective evaluation within a unified learning environment. Consequently, learners were encouraged not only to acquire technical competence but also to construct personal artistic interpretations based on historical decorative systems.

The findings further reinforce Arthur Efland's view that art education should be understood as a culturally situated process through which learners construct meaning rather than simply reproduce artistic forms. Unlike conventional instructional approaches that frequently emphasize imitation of traditional ornamentation, the methodology proposed in this study encouraged learners to investigate historical decorative structures, reinterpret their artistic principles, and transform them into contemporary creative expressions. Such an approach reflects the transition from reproductive learning toward constructive and inquiry-based artistic education. The integration of digital educational technologies represents one of the most significant contributions of the present research. Mishra and Koehler's Technological Pedagogical Content Knowledge (TPACK) framework emphasizes that effective educational innovation emerges from the interaction between content knowledge, pedagogy, and technology. The instructional model developed in this study operationalizes this principle by integrating historical ornamentation as disciplinary knowledge, heritage-based learning as the pedagogical approach, and digital design technologies as instructional tools. Rather than functioning independently, these components collectively created an integrated learning environment that enhanced both creative production and conceptual understanding.

Similarly, Richard Mayer's Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning provides a theoretical explanation for the observed improvement in learners' analytical performance. According to Mayer, learning becomes more effective when visual and verbal information are processed in complementary ways. The use of digital visualization, graphical reconstruction, and interactive design activities enabled learners to examine complex ornamental structures more systematically than would be possible through conventional demonstration alone. Consequently, digital technologies served not merely as presentation media but as cognitive tools supporting deeper artistic analysis. Although previous studies have demonstrated the educational value of heritage-based learning, relatively few have attempted to integrate historical architectural ornamentation, digital educational technologies, and practical wood-

carving education within a single instructional framework. Most existing research investigates these components separately, thereby limiting opportunities for interdisciplinary learning. The present study addresses this limitation by proposing an integrated pedagogical model that establishes meaningful relationships among cultural heritage, creative design, and practical craftsmanship.

The findings also contribute to research on Uzbek applied arts. Previous studies by Akbar Hakimov, Gulyam Pugachenkova, and Lidiya Rempel have provided comprehensive analyses of the historical development, artistic characteristics, and symbolic meanings of traditional ornamentation. However, these studies primarily approach ornamentation from historical, cultural, or art-historical perspectives. The present research complements their contributions by demonstrating how the same artistic heritage can be systematically transformed into a contemporary educational resource capable of supporting creative competence development within Uzbekistan's continuing education system.

Despite these positive findings, several limitations should be acknowledged. The study was conducted within a limited educational context and therefore may not fully represent all educational institutions across Uzbekistan. Furthermore, the instructional intervention focused specifically on wood-carving education; consequently, the applicability of the proposed methodology to other branches of applied arts requires additional investigation. Future research may examine the integration of historical ornamentation into ceramics, metal engraving, textile design, architectural decoration, and other traditional artistic disciplines while also exploring emerging technologies such as virtual reality, augmented reality, three-dimensional modelling, and artificial intelligence to further expand heritage-based art education.

Overall, the discussion demonstrates that the proposed instructional methodology contributes to both theoretical and practical developments in art education. The study advances existing knowledge by integrating cultural heritage, contemporary educational technologies, and creative studio practice within a coherent pedagogical framework. More importantly, it redefines historical monument ornamentation from a passive object of cultural preservation into an active educational resource capable of developing creative competence, artistic thinking, digital literacy, and professional skills among learners. This integrated perspective represents the principal scientific contribution of the present research.

CONCLUSION

This study developed an integrated instructional methodology that combines historical monument ornamentation, wood-carving education, and modern educational technologies within Uzbekistan's continuing education system. The findings indicate that the proposed approach effectively enhances learners' creative thinking, artistic competence, digital skills, and cultural awareness while strengthening their understanding of national cultural heritage.

The study contributes to the field of art education by presenting a pedagogical framework that integrates heritage-based learning with contemporary educational technologies. The proposed methodology offers practical value for educators at different educational levels and supports the modernization of traditional craft education without compromising its cultural authenticity.

Future research should investigate the application of this methodology to other branches of applied arts and evaluate its effectiveness using broader participant groups and emerging educational technologies.

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