

Winning design has natural elements

ONE of The One Academy's students, Novia Putri Wijaksana took part in the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) Furniture Design Competition (FDC) 2019 and bagged the second prize.

The theme was on "Millennials Workspace Furniture" and participants were tasked to create pieces of furniture that reflect the current trends brought on by the millennial workforce.

Moving beyond the idea of furniture being only a necessity, contestants were required to design furniture that reflects lifestyle and trends.

Besides promoting the development of the Malaysian furniture industry internationally, the MIFF FDC also aims to encourage the creation of an identity for Malaysian furniture products.

The top three winners walked away with cash prizes, trophies and certificates whereas the finalists' designs will be showcased at a special exhibit during the MIFF.

Novia's design titled "Dele" incorporated various plants or natural elements into it to provide a fresh outlook on furniture.

She said she could identify the current needs and problems that the furniture market was facing and come up with an appropriate solution through research and consultations.

Besides that, she also stressed on the importance of time management.

"I made a timetable, managed my work and prayed for the best," she added.



Novia holds the awards she won in the competition.

The ideas and inspiration started flowing in after her research and discussion with lecturers, people from the industry, friends and more.

To her, the most memorable part of the competition was the development of the prototype. She made the prototype back in her hometown in Indonesia.

She wasn't sure how to go about it at first.

After visits to experts in the acrylic industry, she created a 1:5 scale of her 2D design.

"It was truly an eye-opening experience for me as I got to speak

to and get advice from many different people within the industry," said Novia. Her advice to future participants is to really commit to doing the research required.

"Go into details such as target market, efficiency of design, how to use it, what the innovations are or modern mechanisms available on the market, types of materials and more.

"Consult with the lecturers and people from the industry and test your design out on friends.

"By doing so, you will understand whether it is user-friendly or not," she added.