

# Democratic Design

**Welcome to a workshop about life at home and Democratic Design. It's about how IKEA designs for a more sustainable and circular world for the many people.**

Workshops at IKEA Museum are always based on Swedish national curriculums and syllabuses. We have used the latest updated versions (which come into force in 2022). This description contains:

- An outline of the purpose of the workshop.
- Examples of upper secondary school programmes and subjects the workshop can be linked to.

## Purpose and content

- To provide knowledge about how the IKEA vision, *'To create a better everyday life for the many people'*, permeates everything we do, and how sustainable enterprise protects people and the environment.
- To communicate what IKEA means by Democratic Design, and its foundation in people's everyday needs. Creating a better life at home always starts with IKEA caring about 'life at home'.
- In a playful way, to allow students to create their own prototype of a product that solves a challenge in their own lives at home, where everyday life perhaps doesn't work optimally.
- Through active creation, students can experience a design process from idea to finished prototype. This strengthens their ability to understand how IKEA works with design that considers different parts of people's lives.
- Our starting point is the history of Småland and Sweden, and the story of IKEA. In this way we convey information and insight about how the needs of society and people's homes have changed over the years. We also automatically look at how historical events can influence enterprise and products.
- With examples from the historical development of IKEA, we want to help boost knowledge about the value of working together and learning from your mistakes, to achieve everything from good results to a better environment.

## **For which courses, programmes, subjects and stages is the approach suitable?**

### **Upper Secondary School**

The fundamental values of upper secondary education in Sweden link to many of the aims we envision in the Democratic Design workshop. We feel that IKEA Museum can contribute to and complement the learning that goes on in the classroom. For example the norms and values that are important within IKEA, such as showing respect and care for both the immediate environment, as well as the environment from a broader perspective. IKEA Museum can see several common denominators in the fundamental values and goals of upper secondary school, including:

- That everyone working in the school should also encourage respect for the intrinsic value of each person and the environment we all share.
- That changes in working life, digitalisation, new technologies, internationalisation and the complexities of environmental issues impose new demands on people's knowledge and ways of working.
- That school should stimulate students' creativity, curiosity and confidence, as well as their desire to explore and transform new ideas into action, and find solutions to problems.
- That all students should be given the opportunity to develop their ability to take initiatives and responsibility, and to work both independently and together with others.

## **Concrete links to programmes and subjects in upper secondary school**

### **Business Management and Economics Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on a range of issues that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Business Management and Economics Programme. This includes knowledge in social economics, business economics, entrepreneurship and law. This includes:

- How society's resources can best be used to meet people's needs.
- The conditions for sustainable development, from an environmental, economic and social perspective.

The workshop also helps to develop the students' historical knowledge, so that they can understand the modern age and reason about causal relationships and the consequences of different decisions. This includes for example:

- Knowledge of companies' role in social development, locally, regionally, nationally and globally.
- Information highlighting legal and moral responsibilities resulting from enterprise.

### **Business and Administration Programme**

As part of the programme, students should be able to discuss and reflect on environmental aspects and the role of companies in society. This can be linked to the structure and content of the workshop by:

- Looking at matters of sales and logistics, marketing and product knowledge, industry knowledge, customer service and business development.

### **Handicraft Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Handicraft Programme. After their education, students should understand the role of the artisan in society, and have an insight into what consequences the choice and handling of materials have on people and the environment. These are matters that are touched upon in concrete detail in the workshop, along with other areas that contribute to goal achievement. For example:

- Knowledge of entrepreneurship and enterprise, including the importance of initiative taking, a range of ideas, independence, personal responsibility, working with others and personal drive.
- Knowledge of the creative process from idea to finished product, i.e. identifying needs, planning with drawings or sketches, selecting and handling tools, materials and techniques, executing and presenting the work, and analysing and assessing the results.

### **Industrial Technology Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Industrial Technology Programme. The programme aims to provide knowledge about how an idea develops into a finished product, and about the product's function and development until the point it is destroyed or recycled. This is covered in the workshop, along with:

- Knowledge of industrial production, raw materials and energy. This includes how companies can influence the consumption of raw materials and energy through their choice of materials, methods and technology. This applies both to sustainable development from local and global aspects, as well as business economics.

### **Building and Construction Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Building and Construction Programme. This relates primarily to helping develop the students' creativity and initiative, and their ability to work both independently and with others.

### **HVAC and Property Maintenance Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the HVAC and Property Maintenance Programme. It aims to increase students' environmental awareness and



develop their ability to translate knowledge of the environment, ecology and resource consumption into practical action. The workshop can also help to:

- Give students the opportunity to understand how efficient energy use contributes to sustainable development, through insight into how IKEA creates design with consideration for our planet.

### **Electricity and Energy Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Electricity and Energy Programme. The programme aims to provide knowledge of the conditions and economics of enterprise, as well as its direct and indirect environmental impact. Also:

- To develop students' knowledge of the supply of socially critical basic functions such as production, installation and distribution of electricity, energy and water systems.

### **Natural Resource Use Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Natural Resource Use Programme. The programme aims to develop students' understanding of the diversity of nature, and how different kinds of activity and enterprise affect nature and biological processes. The workshop uses concrete examples from the sustainability work at IKEA – for example our self-sufficiency on green electricity, and our endeavour to go beyond our own needs so that we can have an impact and become climate positive. The workshop also contributes to:

- Knowledge that using nature in a way that promotes sustainable development and nurtures ecosystems places requirements on biological, ecological, technical and economic knowledge.
- Knowledge of different energy forms and energy turnover.
- Inspiring critical scrutiny and reflection on sustainable development and the use of natural resources.

### **Restaurant Management and Food Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Restaurant Management and Food Programme. The workshop can be adapted to the programme and linked to the IKEA Museum restaurant, KÖKET, which works with sustainable food preparation and ingredient economy. The workshop can contribute to:

- Knowledge of entrepreneurship and enterprise.
- A deeper understanding of the ethical issues raised by food management, sales and sustainable development.
- Knowledge related to the working environment, sales, service, hygiene, nutritional science and special foods.

### **Social Science Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Social Science Programme. The programme aims to look at areas such as democracy, communication, ethics, gender and environment. The workshop contributes to:

- An understanding of how different factors affect the possibilities for building a sustainable society.
- Looking at power from economic, social and political perspectives, and which factors can impact and explain what is happening in society at the local and global level.
- Providing historical perspective, enabling the students to look at the past to understand conditions in today's society, and navigate societal changes in the future.
- Developing the ability to collaborate, creativity, independence, taking responsibility, and the ability to see opportunities, take the initiative and translate ideas into practical action.

### **Technology Programme**

The workshop provides knowledge and prompts thoughts and reflections on areas that can contribute to the graduation goals in the Technology Programme. The programme aims to develop students' knowledge of and skills in technology and technical development. It also aims to highlight the role of technology in the interplay between people and nature, with consideration for sustainable development. The workshop can be enhanced with examples from sustainable production development at IKEA, where new technology and new materials are important aspects. The workshop can contribute to:

- Showing connections between different parts of technological development processes, helping the students understand the entire chain in developing technology in a sustainable society.
- Knowledge of how technological development involves analysing needs, developing an idea, designing, technically designing, producing, using, selling and recycling.
- Developing a critical, creative and constructive mindset.