



Preserve the Memory

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ABSTRACT

Nowadays, the world is constantly changing, and a lot of new things have happened, as well as old things have developed to keep up with the modern era. However, there is one thing that has remained the same from the past to the present, that is, the urn. It looks the same, has the same usage, so nothing has changed or been added from before. Therefore, the authors chose to undertake this project to increase the efficiency of the urn. Furthermore, a variety of threats have been added to the modern lifestyle that would be more responsive to the new generation.

Cremation has increased dramatically worldwide in recent years because of the major problem of burial on land. The population is increasing, so there is a need for more ground, but the world has limited ground. Moreover, the ground has gradually depleted and land prices are rising, so people have realized and turned to conducting cremations instead. As such, the increase in cremations equals the need for more urns.

In addition, at present people have a new way of life, and they love traveling and going to new places. Consequently, portable urns are a solution for the new generation who is rarely at home and likes to travel. or work away from home to bring their loved ones together with them to different places like when they were alive.

With the new urn, there are many styles to choose from, and various applications provide more choices. Unlike before when there was only one option to choose from, people can now choose an urn to match their own style. This urn is not only for storing ashes, but it can also store other things that need to be remembered, such as baby teeth, dog hair, etc. to help remind people of the past and more of those precious memories.

Keywords: Memory, urns, ashes, cremation

1. Introduction

Throughout our lives we have many memories, both good and bad, with each memory arising from various situations and feelings. Sometimes as time passes, those memories would begin to fade. As a consequence, people began to collect the memories they needed by bringing things to help remind them what happened that day and how did they feel during that time. Additionally, people can always rebuild memories until being breathless. When people die, no new memories arise. Their bodies are gone, but the memories remain in people's hearts. Therefore, there should be an urn to store all the memories of their loved ones.



An urn is the last thing left by the departed, and has been used by many civilizations. After death, the corpse is cremated, and the ashes are collected and put in an urn. Pottery urns, dating from about 7000 BC, have been found in an early Jiahu site in China (Hu, 2005), where a total of 32 burial urns were found, and another early find was in Laoguantai, Shaanxi province (Luan, 2006). There were also about 700 burial urns unearthed over the Yangshao (5000–3000 BC.) area consisting of more than 50 varieties of form and shape. The burial urns were used mainly for children, but also sporadically for adults (Wang, 1997).

About 2500 years ago, the Thai urn was large because cremations were not yet conducted, so the whole body was placed into a monument call a stupa. This was for only the royal family or nobles who made a stupa to show their honor and greatness. As Indian culture was introduced, cremation took place, and the urn was made smaller and many people could use it. As can be seen, an urn has been used to collect ashes from the past to present, and not only the Thai urn, but the urn of each country. Overall, they may have a slight difference in shape and size, but there is not much variety and it is very difficult to distinguish the country of origin. In Thailand, people do not have much choice as the urn is only made from brass and only has a stupa shape. Therefore, this makes the Thai urn not have a unique identity but looks old and scary. As such, they all look the same that can make people confused and difficult to find their family urn

Cremation has increased dramatically worldwide in recent years because the major problem is burial on land. The population is increasing, so there is a need for more ground, but the world has limited ground. Consequently, the ground has been gradually depleted and land prices are rising. Hence, people have realized and turned to cremation instead. Nonetheless, there is also the problem of transportation that the incineration can be moved more easily than a burial.

In only nine years, the cremation rate has increased noticeably. In Canada, for example, it increased from 58% in 2010 to 73% in 2019 (The Cremation Society of Great Britain,2020), thus, the increase in cremation has equaled more demand for urns. In fact, most Western countries are Christian, where people are not allowed to be cremated and only buried, but the era of religion has changed, so people are allowed to be cremated.

2. Objectives of the Study

1. To increase the choice for Thai people to use urns that have a variety of styles.
2. To reduce the use of space for the stupa that must be built to keep the urn in the temple.
3. To add uniqueness to each urn to be outstanding and reflect the identity of the departed.

3. Materials and Methods

3.1 Cremation

According to statistics from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) (2017), more than half of all Americans who die in 2017 will be cremated.



In 20 years, the NFDA predicts, nearly 80% of people would opt to have their bodies turned into ash.

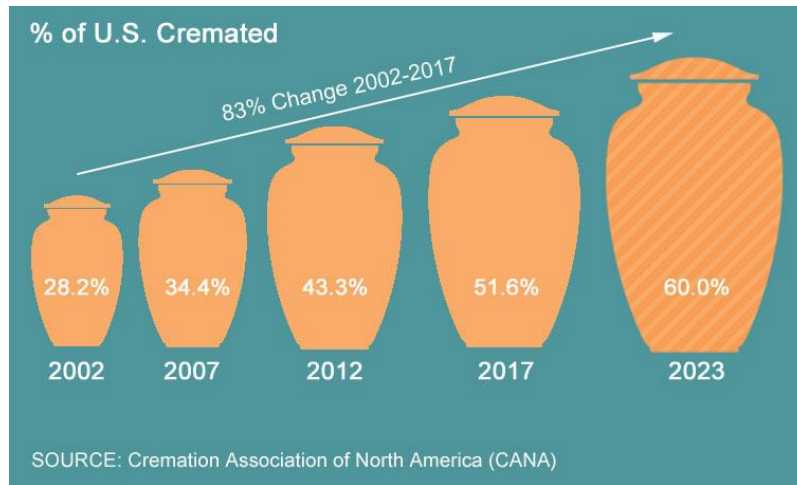


Figure 1. Percentage of cremations for 2002-2023.

Source: Sensible Cremation and Funerals

Factors contributing to the increase in cremation are the prices, transportation, and cremation site that is considered less costly since it lowers costs by saving on terrestrial space. Additionally, a cremation is a simpler process that also helps save ground space unlike in the case of a burial. Cremations are also more cost-effective than burials, as they do not require embalming. In addition, people have the option of storing the body in an alternative container instead of a coffin. Furthermore, global cremations have seen a marked increase; for example, Canada went from 58% to 73% within 10 years (The Cremation Society of Great Britain, 2020). As a consequence, when there are more cremations, the demand for urns also increases. Most funeral industry metrics use cubic inches as the standard of measurement. A cubic inch refers to an area measuring 1" wide by 1" deep by 1" high.



Figure 2. Cremation ashes measurements.

Source: Urns Northwest

For every kilogram that the person weighed prior to cremation, there would be one cubic inch of cremated remains (i.e., ashes) after cremation. For example, the remains of a man weighing 80 kilograms would generally equal about 175 cubic inches. The standard urn is 200 cubic inches (Urns Northwest, 2019).



3.2 Migration

International migration would probably increase during the next decades because migration drivers, including economic pressure, changing age structures, population growth, rapid urbanization, and environmental stress, are likely to persist and intensify. Destination countries that can manage the social and political tension caused by immigration would probably reap the economic benefits that could outweigh the fiscal costs of new migrants. Countries of origin are also likely to experience mixed results from more emigration, including critical skills gaps, decreases in unemployment, and improving education levels (European Union, 2020).

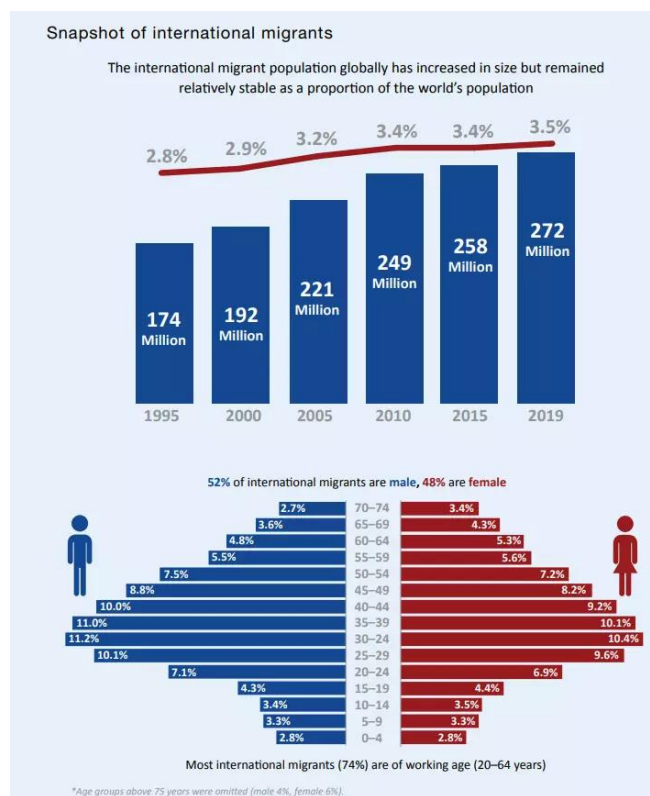


Figure 3. Migration information.

Source: World Migration Report, 2020 p. 40

3.3 Generation Behavior

After Generation X onward, people have become diverse and more open to ideas, as well as accepted differences and have their own identity. This would not be the same as previous generations that were quite conservative because the new generation has the Internet where they can find information and communicate with each other all the time. Therefore, it is not surprising that traveling abroad has become more and more common, such as studying abroad, working, vacationing, and emigrating (Indeed Career Coaches, 2022).

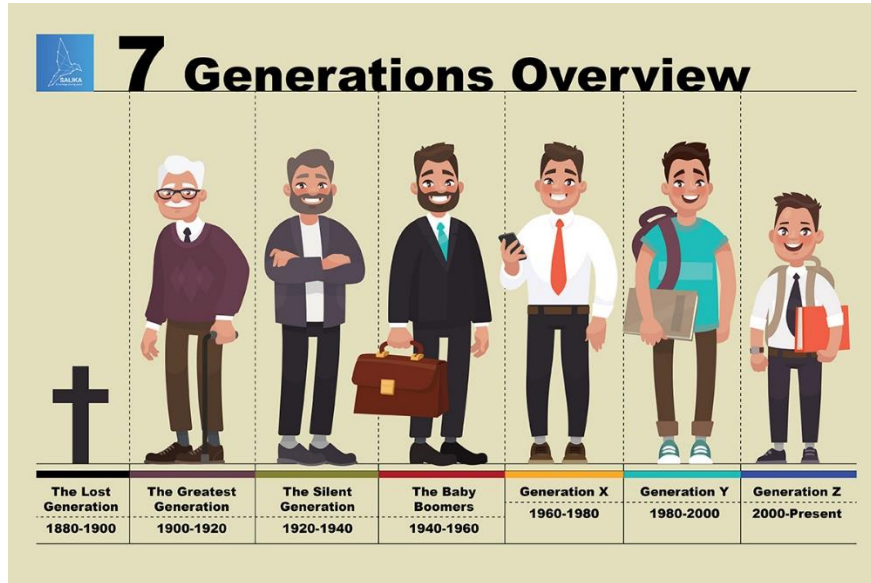


Figure 4. Generation overview.

Source: Generation Why (2018)

For this current study, the authors interviewed 47 Generation Y and Generation Z people aged around 18–35 years about changing the urn. Forty-three people (91%) wanted their own urns, and did not want to be like everyone else. Each person also had different approaches. The other 4 people (9%) said this was inappropriate. Thus, the findings from this interview showed that most of the younger generation were more open and independent.

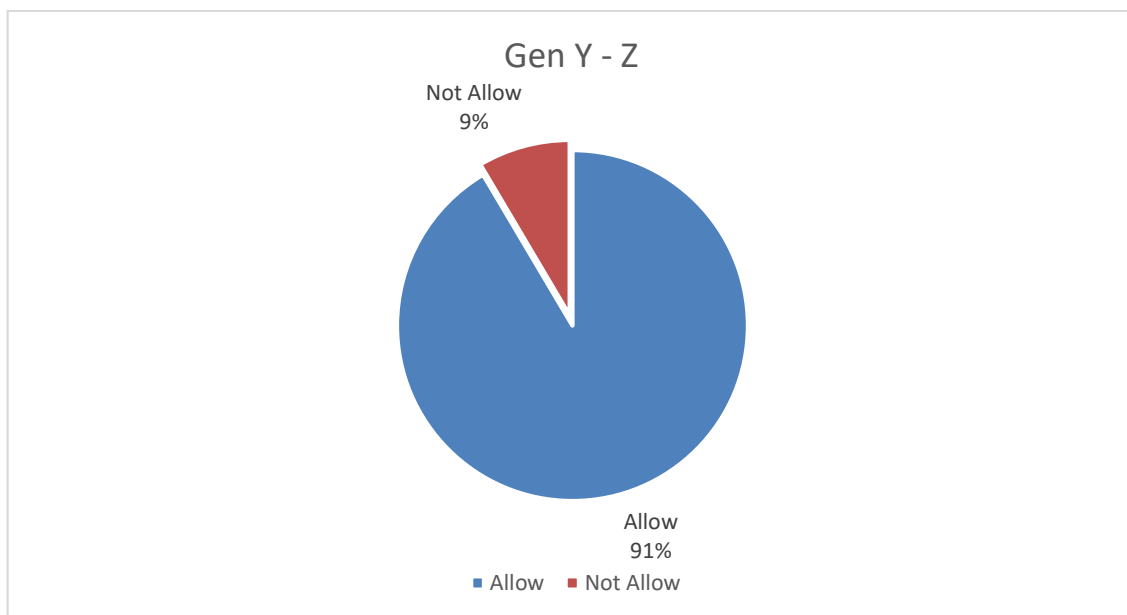


Figure 5. Interview findings.



4. Results

All the information from the interviews to this new form of urn that could meet the needs of modern people was compiled. It was found that people could choose according to their needs and personal lifestyle. Moreover, all the work could be seen, so that it was clear that the person could see the object inside. Thus, this would make it easier for people to retrieve memories and help them see the end of life, so they would live life carefully by getting the urn. This could be done as follows:

4.1 Urn card

A small card-shaped urn could easily be carried in a wallet. The inserted object could see the ashes inside. On the card would be the pictures and information of the loved ones. Whenever people thought of their loved one, they could take it out and look at it at any time. No matter what time or place, it would be like being together all the time like in the past when that person was alive.

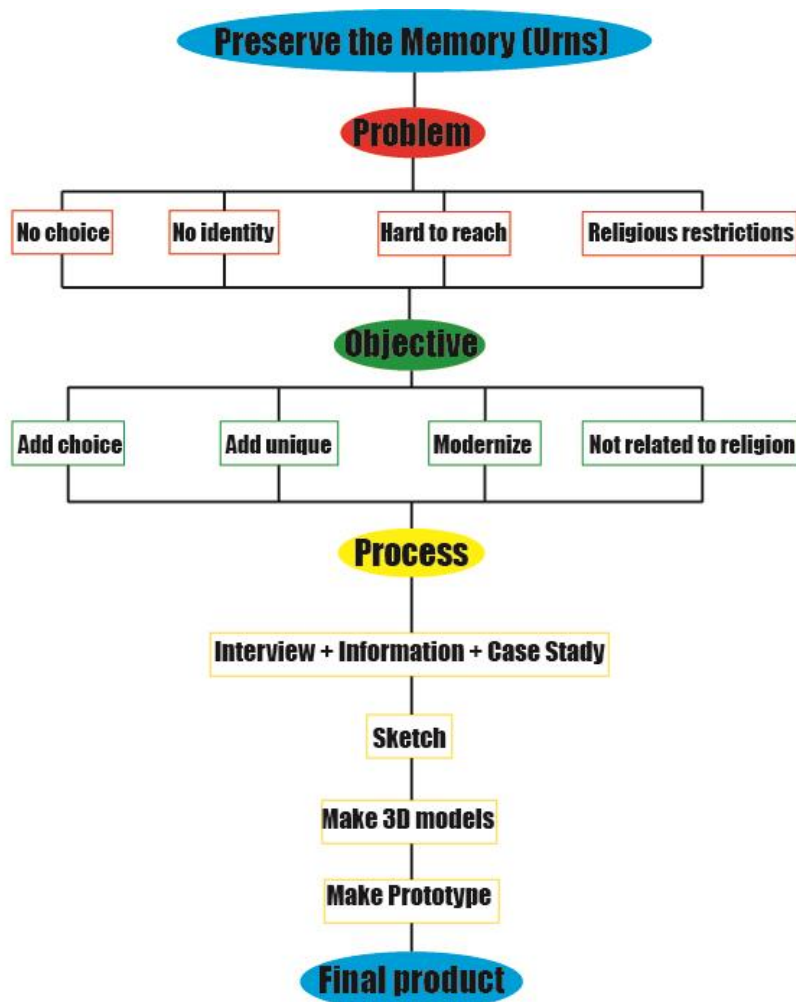


Figure 6. Framework

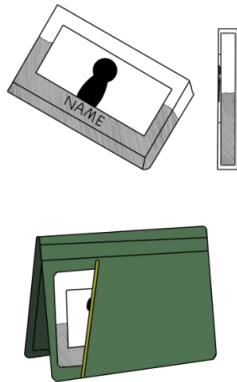


Figure 7. Urn card.

4.2 Urn flash drive

The flash drive-shaped urn would be small and easy to carry and could be made into a pendant. The inserted material would show the ashes inside. It could be used to store the information of loved ones, whether it were photos, videos, and/or various information, thus making it possible to carry this memory anywhere at any time. Just plug the flash drive into a computer, and people could recall memories of the good old days. This would come with a flash drive holder. When the flash drive is inserted into the storage, it would look like a small cemetery.

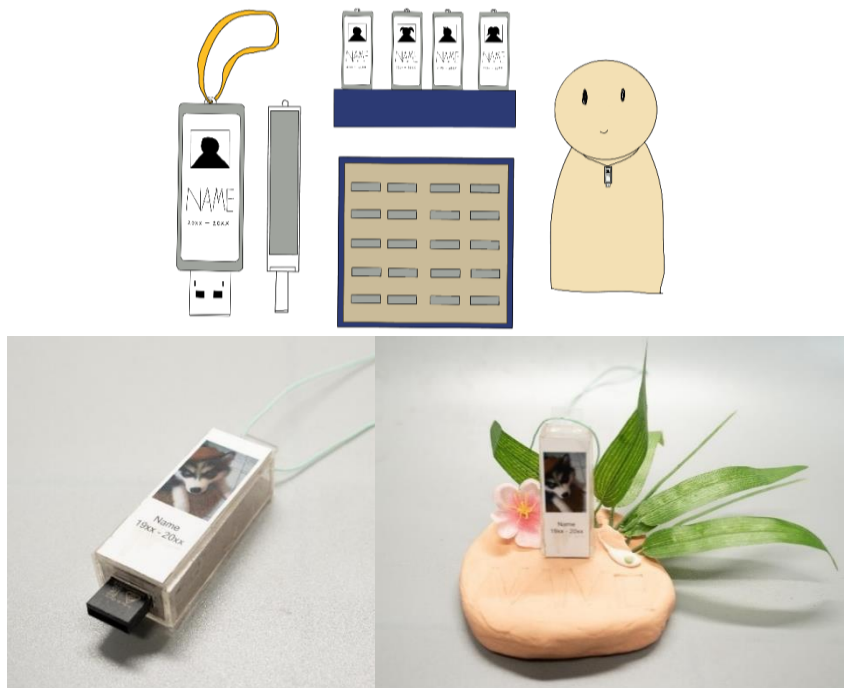


Figure 8. Urn flash drive.



4.3 Urn doll

An urn doll would be placed inside a room for children or people who could still not cope with the departure of a loved one. The doll would allow people to touch their loved ones again just like they used to hug them for physical and emotional warmth. This would make it feel like going back and hugging a loved one like when they were alive.

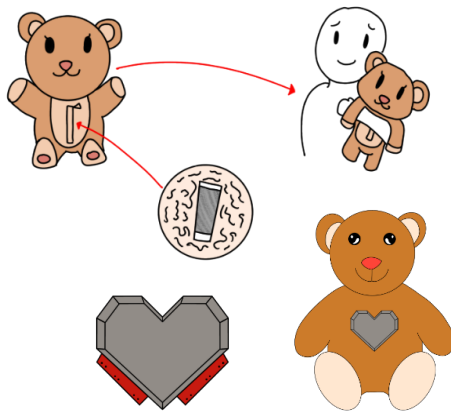


Figure 9. Urn doll.

4.4 Urn lamp

A lamp urn would illuminate after placing the ashes inside. When opened, a shadow would appear in the form of a loved one. The urn could be placed near the bed to feel like someone is protecting you while sleeping.

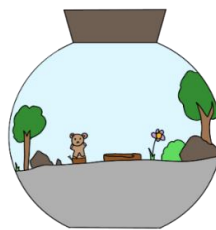


Figure 10. Urn lamp.



4.5 Urn lantern

An urn lantern would illuminate after placing the ashes inside. When opened, a shadow would appear in the form of a loved one. Furthermore, a scented candle and scented flower petals could be placed in the lantern to make an aromatic smell and relaxed feeling.

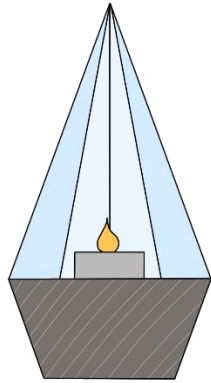


Figure 11. Urn lantern.

4.6 Urn collection

This would comprise an entire collection of urns that would allow people to choose freely according to their needs.



Figure 12. Urn collection.



5. Conclusion

This project would allow modern people to choose the urn for their individual preferences and needs without any relationship to religion and beliefs but still retain its value. Respecting the deceased is like an old urn where people would still maintain the meaning of the original urn that is respect and love, but just changed the shape to better fit in today's modern era.

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