and the rapid development of software design. It does not go with the cultural shift towards design of both students and faculty members. Also, it does not satisfy the demands of the clients, design firms and designers, who prefer to see the final designs on a screen rather than done manually on paper (Joan Mc. et al., 1998, p.8).

As for the use of both methods, two-third (64%) of the faculty members surveyed in this study state that they support both the traditional and technological way. This means that they do not reject nor oppose the use of technology, but prefer to use it along with the traditional way rather than individually. They believe that this way is the best for students and design firms, according to the reasons explained earlier in the study.

To summarize, this study suggests that a comprehensive transition is needed towards the use of the technological method – computer. This transition should happen gradually. It should take into account all the aspects which need to be developed: study plans, facilities, design studios, design techniques and various display methods. The faculty members who supervise design and graduation projects should also be professionally developed and trained to be able to use technological methods of teaching. This should be done to meet the aspirations of students, faculty members, design firms and clients. Also, this step is essential to keep up with the technological advancements, since the advantages of using technology in design are numerous, as shown in this study and others (Michelle Mc. et al., 1999, pp.17-18, 24, Joan Mc. et al., 1998, pp.8-9). These benefits cannot be gained while using the traditional method, which as mentioned before, does not suit this era and the rapid technological developments today and of the future. It is important to respond positively to the needs of the students, clients and the market by preparing the students through effectively enabling them to work in the design profession with high efficiency. This will allow them to be innovative, creative and to continuously develop their knowledge, leading to the development of the profession itself, which leads to the development of the UAE society in general.

6. REFERENCES


