Emergence of Interior Design as a Profession

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Abstract

In recent times the population is interested in designing their residential and commercial spaces according to their likes and needs. They wanted to make their requirements and imagination to come alive in front of them. The demand of interior designers is noticeable and it is increasing day-by-day. In recent years there is an increase interest in interior design as a profession. The profession of interior design is result of the society of that time and the architectural development. The researcher wanted to impart knowledge as well as awareness to students, researchers and everyone who wanted to know about the immergence and development of the field of Interior Design as a profession. The search of effective use of space and design has contributed to the development of the interior design as a profession.

Keywords: Interior Design, Profession.

Introduction

The Need to beautify our surroundings, the desire for comfort and convenience, the expression of individuality and the inventive solution to problems are as old as humankind. Before structure was build, natural cave shelters were arranged and decorated to meet functional and aesthetic needs. (Faulkner, et. al., 1994) Designing is the blend of artistic talents and creativity. In last few decades the profession of interior design has become popular. Earlier architects were used to do all the designing work. They were doing both exteriors and interiors of residential and commercial project by themselves. The interior design as an individual profession was unknown to everyone. The researcher wanted to impart knowledge as well as awareness to all fellow students and researchers about the development of Interior Design as a profession. The researcher collected information from books and internet websites.

Interior designing is the arrangement of living space for example, organizing, managing and planning of the interiors of rooms at homes, offices, retail shops, showrooms, hotels, airports, exhibition halls, conference centers, theatres, Television and film studios and commercial establishments. An interior designer is someone who coordinates and manages projects. Interior design is a multifaceted profession that includes conceptual development, communicating with the owner of the project. The designer manages and executes the designs according to needs, interests and requirements of the client (4).

According to Pile (2003), Interior design describe a group of various yet related projects that involve turning an interior space into an "effective setting for the range of human activities" that are to take place on location. The important aim of designing space is to create the right kind of atmosphere with functionality and for the right budget given by the client. The people are now more in to designing their residential and commercial spaces. They wanted to make their requirements and imagination to come alive in front of them. The demand of designers is noticeable.

In recent years there is an increase interest in interior design as a profession. Common man with an interest in art and design wants to try to learn the basics skills of the profession. Due to resent interest of people in the profession the researcher wanted to get knowledge about the interior design as a profession and the basic history of interior design.

The Interior design concerns itself with more than just the visual or ambient enhancement of an interior space. Interior design seeks to optimize and harmonize the uses to which the built environment will be put. Thus, in the words of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, interior design is "practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise or improving life style" (8). The term "Design" covers a number of various fields. Mainly designing can be divided into four categories. They are Fashion designing, Product

Graphic designing and Interior designing. The Fashion designing deals with clothing and textiles, Product designing deals with designing the products and graphic designing deals with designing for websites, movies and logos. Interior design deals with designing the whole place given to the designers. The designing for others as a profession, began in America with the society decorators of the late 19th century, led by Elsie de Wolfe. (Faulkner, et. al., 1994)

History of Interior Design

Earlier Interiors were put together instinctively as a part of the process of building construction. The profession of interior design is result of the society and the architectural development of that time. The search of effective use of space, user well-being and functional design has contributed to the development of the interior design profession. In ancient India, architects used to work as interior designers. All the work was done by group of hand craftsmen with the instruction of architects. The "Vishwakarma" one of the gods in Indian mythology was the architect and designer of palaces and temples on heaven and earth. It was also seen on the sculptures depicting ancient texts and events were seen in palaces built in 17th century India (10).

The 17th century included big windows with table. The purpose of having window was just for light and air circulation. The fireplace was always in the corner of the room to keep oneself worm. In the course of the 18th century, regional variation increased in line with the growth of folk art. The furnishing was dominated by furniture made for the house, including fitted furniture (5). Fixed furniture like cupboard and bottom shelf were parts of interiors. Most of the objects had a particular function and very rarely was something made for a purely decorative purpose. The interior of 18th century contained relatively few objects and of these very few were personal possessions of the owner of the house (7).

From 17th and 18th century and the early 19th Century, interior decoration was the main concern of the homemaker who was the one doing the entire decoration by herself. The homemaker was in general the wife of the owner. And in other cases an employed upholsterer or craftsman who would advise on the artistic style for the interior space was employed to do it by the owners. In that time the architects would hire craftsmen and artisans to complete interior design for their buildings (10).

By the 1940s, the terms "interior design" and "interior designer" were used primarily by those individuals providing services to a small but growing number of business clients (8). In 1960s development of sofa came, as requirement of 3-seater, 2-seater and 1-seater. The sofa and chairs were in demand due to the invention of Television set. After the Second World War sofa was in demand. The stuffed furniture, such as sofas and armchairs had a long history. The furniture like these becomes common property after the 1970s. The interior of the house have always been arranged by their occupants or completed as part of the building process by the architects.

By the 19th century homes had different layout and it became more common in that time (5).

The kitchen was separated; there were living room and bedrooms. Cupboard, shelf, table, bed, bedside table, chest and drawers, separate working space in kitchen, dining table and sofa become the dominant furniture in interiors in 19th century. Curtains and pot plants became normal objects in residence. The Mass-produced objects became available to all and the number of objects in the home increased.

Interior design facilities, services and work extended at the remarkable rate in mid to late 19th century time. In that time middle class population in industrial countries grew in size and in fortune. They began to desire the home furniture to show their wealth and to support their new status. The new decoration and furniture firms began to reach out into general interior design and management. The firms offered full house furnishings in a variety of styles. This business model flourished from the mid-century to 1914. In that time the role of decoration and designing was taken by independent and often amateur new designers. It resulted in the rise of the profession called interior design in the 20th century (10).

Due to incorporation of various objects in the house the owner were drown the idea of proper placement, designing of the house. Growing prosperity, the building and population boom, commercial development and the adaption of war technology to the production of more affordable goods brought an increased demand for designing services by the general public (7). With it came the growth of the profession and the birth of specializations such as residential space planning, commercial space planning and industrial design.

The 20th century, amateur advisors, interior design and publications were begin to challenge the control that the large retail companies had on interior design. English feminist author Mary Haweis wrote a series of essays in the 1880s. Mary Haweis supported the individual adoption of a particular style. She preferred designing according to the individual needs and preferences of the customer. The move towards decoration as a separate artistic profession unconnected to the manufacturers and retailers, received an encouragement with the 1899 formation of the Institute of British Decorators. It represented almost 200 decorators working around the country. In 1915, the London Directory listed 127 individuals as interior decorators in which 10 were women designers (10).

Interior design as a profession became more established after World War II. From the 50s onwards spending on the home become greater than before. The Interior design profession courses were established at rapid rate. It is requiring the publication of textbooks and reference sources as educational material (7). Organizations to regulate education, qualifications, standards and practices were established for the profession. Historical accounts of interior designers and firms distinct from the decorative arts specialists were made available. Interior design was previously seen as playing a secondary role to architecture.

Interior design profession has many connections to other design disciplines. It is involving the work of architects, industrial designers, engineers,

builders, and craftsmen. For these reasons the government of interior design standards and qualifications was often negated was not until later that specific representation for the interior design profession was developed. The US National Society of Interior Designers was established in 1957, while in the UK the Interior Decorators and Designers Association was established in 1966. In Europe, other organizations such as The Finnish Association of Interior Architects (1949) were being established and in 1994 the International Interior Design Association was established.

The professional interior designer is qualified by education, experience and examination to enhance the function and quality of interior space. According to Faulkner, the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity and protecting the health, safety of the public. The activities of interior designer are limited to interiors of the project. An interior designer may wish to specialize in a particular type of interior design in order to develop technical knowledge specific to that area. The profession of Interior Design is relatively new, constantly evolving, and often confusing to the public. It is an art form that is consistently changing and evolving (6). Interior design includes a scope of services performed by a professional design practitioner. They are qualified by means of education, experience and examination. The main aim of interior designer is to protect, to enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) (9).

The field of interior design is still developing with evolving technologies, regulations, requirements, new materials and processes. The profession of interior design is not clearly defined. Terms such as decorator and designer are often used interchangeably. Interior Designer implies that there is more of an emphasis on Planning, Functional design and effective use of space involved in this profession as compared to interior decorating.

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