

# Research Developments in the Field of Interior Design Education



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## Abstract

To gain insight about researches undertaken by researcher and to find research gaps in it, the researcher collected data on various sections of learning in the field of interior design education. The aim of this research was to collect information regarding the latest research development in the field of interior designing. The researcher included researches on educational interior design, residential design, security systems designing, status of female interior designers, cultural influence on interior design of establishments, furniture retailers and history of furniture in interior design studies published in last 10 years. The review was gathered from the internet by the researcher. For ease of understanding literature for the present paper had been organized under the following sections: Researches on Residential Interior Design, Researches on Interior Design Curriculum, Researches on Women Interior Designers, Researches on environmental Practices in Interior Design, Researches on Culture Practices and Beliefs in Interior Design, Researches on Security System in Interior Design, Researches on lighting in Interior Designing, and Researches on Historical Interior Designing. Some of these sections in researches are yet to be explored in Indian context. This research will provide knowledge to interior designing educators, students and other who wish to gain knowledge about the field of interior designing.

**Keywords:** Research Development, Interior Design.

## Introduction

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 built environment (12). According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2008), Interior design is "practical, aesthetic and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise or improving life style" (35). According to the National Council for Interior Design Qualification (2008), Interior design is a practice that responds to changes in the economy, organization, technology, demographics, and business goals of an organization. Interior design includes a scope of services performed by a professional design practitioner, qualified by means of education, experience and examination, to protect and enhance the life, health, safety and welfare of the public (27).

The researcher had provided the literature related to the development in research in the field of interior designing. An effort has been made to collect the review, related to the interior design project, researches and studies by referring various secondary sources. The researcher included researches on educational interior design, residential design, security systems, female interior designers, culture influence on design, furniture retailers and history of furniture in interior design studies published in last 10 years. The review was gathered from the journal of design by the researcher. For ease of understanding the reviewed literature for the present paper is organized under the following sections:

1. Researches on Residential Interior Design
2. Researches on Interior Design Curriculum
3. Researches on Women Interior Designers
4. Researches on environmental Practices in Interior Design
5. Researches on Culture Practices and Beliefs in Interior Design
6. Researches on Security System in Interior Design
7. Researches on lighting in Interior Designing
8. Researches on Historical Interior Designing

The researcher gathered the literature related to the development in research in the field of interior design published in last 10 years. The various researches conducted from the year 2003 till year 2014 were included in present study. The review was gathered from the e-journals published on internet by the researchers and their institutions.

**Findings of the Study**

For understanding the review of literature in the present paper it had been organized in 8 sections. These studies (researches) were written in abroad. Each section has researches done in that area.

**Researches on Residential Interior Design**

In the field of interior design the researcher had collected studies on homeless shelter, old age cottage, bedroom in home. Residence is where family live together. Sources indicate that homeless shelter dormitory bedrooms are highly crowded with low privacy, which may affect quality of experience that lead to residents' perceived loss of control and helplessness. Thus this was investigated and gives opportunity to design a proper environment for homeless families in the research. In the year 2005, Kaya et, al., conducted research on, the privacy needs of older adults were investigated in a research. Adults residing in assisted living and independent living settings were selected for the research. The researcher found that in addition to facility policy and staff protocols, space planning and the manipulation of design elements may decrease perceived crowding and increase adjustment to the living environments. In another research by Volmer, et, al, information on statistical data on housing trends, literature on the history of the bedroom from the colonial period to the present and literature on family sleep practices were discussed in research conducted in 2005. The researcher added that, "owner's bedroom is an individual-private domain that functions to ensure adult privacy and increase physical barriers between parents and children".

In the year 2011 Lichtman and Joelle researched on, cottage design for elder population was undertaken. This research proposes a new design for Better Housing for Tompkins County's elder cottages that can enhance the lives of the residents and encourage the use of elder cottages as a safe housing alternative for the growing older adult population. Pable in the year 2012 studied on, the homeless shelter in United States of America found that, "The altered bedroom was perceived as more private and less crowded than the unaltered room (with unchanged square footage) and supported the parents' need for child monitoring and ability to act as an authority figure." Researches on Residential Interior Design section included research on examining the relationship between parenting practices and private space of home like the bedroom, perceptions of bedroom controls in homeless shelters environment and the evaluation the designing of (BHTC) elder cottages. These researches has emphasized on the requirements of parents, children and elder population. The designer as researcher tried to incorporate some modification by the researches above in residence or in bedroom area.

**Researches on Interior Design Curriculum**

An increasing number of practice-based disciplines are coming in the field of teaching. The field of interior design has various specializations in them. There are many researches being undertaken and published in the field of interior design curriculum. The researcher also came across study undertaken in the year 2006, describing the importance of narrative technologies in the field of interior design. Research

in design curriculum is discussed below. Danko (2006), researched on Interior Design Curriculum came across studies on "the benefits of a narrative inquiry in a studio setting on design process". It was found that, based on self-reported changes in design process suggested that narrative method was a driving force in promoting a heightened sense of user understanding. The narrative method enhanced multi-sensory conceptualization and visualization and a greater tendency towards holistic thinking. This was true for each of the phases of the design process, in which narrative method was applied: Programming, Concept Development and Presentation.

In the year 2007, Hill studied on, "analyzing the interior design studio climate to understand the educational environment". The findings clearly suggest that understanding the studio classroom climate could be an effective tool for design educators as they seeks to respond to changing student's populations and to create educational settings that maximize student achievement. Dickinson et, al., in 2009 researched on "perception and perceived value of research by the interior design educators". The educators in present study valued research and 80% believed that research finding provides useful information to the profession. The findings also revealed that many of the subjects in present study were unclear on whether interior design educators, practitioners or specialists in other fields should be conducting interior design research. The majority of subjects valued what research had brought to the student. Zollinger et, al., in 2009 researched on, "Incorporate integrating service-learning in an interior design curriculum". The paper proposed a framework, a tool that can guide programs' decision making of how and if to integrate a service-learning project in the curriculum.

The researcher had come across research on 3D- visual furniture design in virtual showroom with selection and placement can be changed by the software in 2010. The researcher called Yoon et, al., studied on, "how to identify preferences for selection of furniture style using an online virtual showroom application by design students". The survey results demonstrated significant differences between males and females in their priority considerations, style preferences for furniture and the number of possibilities they try before making final choices. The researcher have also come across some study that, identifies, classifies and names ongoing In-types (Interior Archetypes) in archetypical interior design practices and Spatial Graphic Design archetypes in the year 2011 and 2012. Wang et, al., (2014), research project on, "The collaboration between design students and local communities to doing-with model for design studio." The study revealed that the exchanges between university students and local residents generated design solutions that fit the local context. The doing-with approach to actual design projects in existing neighborhood promoted a willing way to generate funding. All above researches covered different area in design education research.

**Researches on Women Interior Designers**

Researches on Women Interior Designers had centered on the objectives like, "the development and current state of literature regarding the history of

the interior design profession” and “Bio-grapy of three famous women interior designers” was included in this section. The women in the field of design had done many remarkable work of design the historian researchers mention and documented that in these researches.

In the year 2008 Blossom and Turnip studied on, Women’s roles as arbiters of taste were consistent with the social construction of the female gender at the turn of the century. Despite the fact that the leading figures and pioneers of the education of interior design were men, the students were almost exclusively women in 19th century (3). The section seeks to explain this and describes women who were famous interior designers and decorators in the profession. According to Nissen, et., al. (1994), the home maker were the first person who decorates the house. The responsibility of decoration falls on the shoulders of the home maker”. Turpin (2007) researched on women’s place in interior design history. The historians should think and rewrite the design history keeping the women designers and decorators in their minds. The overall conclusion was encouraging for the status of these female designers, but a great deal of efforts had to be done for these female interior designers.

#### **Researches on Environmental Practices in Interior Design**

Each year landfills receive a growing amount of waste that could be eliminated by recycling practices supported through the design of kitchens. According to Macy and Thompson (2003), the single biggest issue facing the design professions in the world and interior design in particular is consumption problem. They had researched on the consumer’s recycling behaviors. Research findings indicated that including an area for recycling in the kitchen or a space that was directly adjacent such as an attached garage helped in promoted recycling behavior. Convenience was found to be a primary factor in the recycling behaviors of highly altruistic individuals. According to Phil Harrison, “architects today can easily handle the challenges of sustainable materials, water and environmental friendly known technologies. Nowadays, the designers can easily design environmentally sustainable interior in the field of residential and commercial interior design (25)”.

Lee (2012) had done a study on the green interiors simulations and analyses. The paper discussed interior design pedagogical issues with using BIM-based simulations and analyses including student learning experiences as well as the challenges and benefits of incorporating green simulations to interior design projects. In 2012 Lee provided information about CO<sub>2</sub>-based DCV and suggested implications for interior design practitioners and educators. The researcher found that, CO<sub>2</sub>-based demand-controlled ventilation (DCV) is a ventilation method that resets outdoor air supply rates using CO<sub>2</sub> as an operating parameter. The CO<sub>2</sub> in DCV is a good indicator of occupancy in indoor spaces. Therefore, CO<sub>2</sub> is an effective parameter for controlling ventilation based on occupancy level.

In 2013 Lee et. al. researched on interior designers motivations for specifying sustainable materials to plan residential design. The factors

affecting interior designers' sustainable material choices were the objective for the study. The result depicted that, attitude toward adopting sustainable flooring materials were significantly related to environmental beliefs but not to health beliefs. Findings implied that the TPB framework could provide valuable insights for developing more effective and comprehensive strategies. These were some of the studies that the researcher had incorporated. The similar green sustainable design projects can also be undertaken for the commercial interiors as well as residential interiors.

#### **Researches on Culture Practices and Beliefs in Interior Design**

The role of tradition and the attachment to homeland culture remain prerequisites that guide the development of the interior home environment. The concept of a “home” had an important place in the heart and mind of any community. Space appropriation and the use of artifacts illustrate the rooted sensory need to reaffirm the attachment to the homeland's social and cultural values; additionally, these trends symbolize the enduring values of the group and render the home interior a place apart (1). The researcher had come across certain researchers that depicting the cultural practices and the influence of culture in the residential designs. Researches on Culture Practices and Beliefs in Interior Design section had studies on “role of tradition and its influence in shaping the home interior's physical environment”, “sense of place”, “influence of different cultures on the lighting of the hotel guestroom design”, “Korean temporary residents' housing perceptions and adjustment behaviors”, “compare the development of cultural and art consciousness in interior design students” and “Designed: Israeli Interior, in 1960 to 1977 as shaping identity” were included in present section. The difference in cultures can make a remarkable impact on the designing interiors.

Amor (2006) studied the Arab-American Muslims' Home Interiors in the US. Findings indicated and confirmed that cultural forces remain a pivotal role in influencing the design of the home interior. More importantly, it was found that despite the attachment to traditional values, a growing indifference to homeland ideals could be seen as the household undergoes generational, social and cultural transformation. In 2010 Phuong and Groves researched on influence of local belief on interior of hanoi's shop-house. The study helped to explain how sense of place was understood by owner-builders and how such a view was important to consider when attempting to design and make the home interior a better living place for residents in Hanoi and elsewhere. The study examined sense of place and “phong thuy” application in (re)designing a shop-house, the most popular building type in Asian high-density cities like Hanoi.

The cultural preference in hotel guestroom lighting was researched by Park et. al. in 2010. Findings indicated that North American subjects preferred the hotel guestroom with low intensity and warm color lighting the most, whereas the Korean group preferred high intensity and warm color lighting the most. North American participants also perceived

dim lighting as more arousing than bright lighting, whereas Korean participants perceived bright lighting as more arousing than dim lighting. The findings suggested that design criteria for hotel guestroom lighting should be revised to account for distinct cultural differences. A research conducted by Lee and Park on adaptation of cultural differences in residential designs by the Korean families in 2011 was included in the section. Results of study indicated that planned total duration of stay and length of residency in the United States was the primary factors affecting housing perception and adjustment. Consequently, four representative types of cross-cultural temporary residents were proposed to define different consumer housing types.

#### **Researches on Security System in Interior Design**

Researches on Security System in Interior Design like "surveillance systems related to interior design" and "the relationship between physical design features and security techniques in retail environment" were covered in this section. The security systems are fixed everywhere. The designers are emphasizing on these system as they part of design. According to Hadjiyanni T. and Kwon J. (2009), "security is imperative knowledge for the designer, yet little integration currently exists between security and interior design". Recently, security issues have been dominating the headlines and policy makers' lists of promises. According to Candy Carmel-Gilfilen (2011), "the notion of security has long been integral to interior design, the current reliance of security measures on surveillance systems that use cameras and video monitor warrants revisiting the role of interior designers". The researcher collected some selected studies undertaken of security systems of various areas.

#### **Researches on lighting in Interior Designing**

Researches on lighting in Interior Designing "new framework for understanding light as a design element", "effect of the color quality of light in a retail environment on consumers", "light as a design element in the composition of interior spaces" and "the occupant's use of daylight and daylight control in perimeter offices and suggest improvements to the design process" were incorporated in the section. Light has an important role to play in any interior space design.

Daylight has the potential to positively impact occupants and reduce energy consumption in buildings if utilized correctly (Edwards & Torcellini, 2002). As an important component of a retail store's atmospherics, lighting can affect the emotional responses that influence consumer shopping behavior. As referred to as "the prime animator of space," light is a subject of broad application within the environmental design disciplines (Ching, 1987). Brown (2004) undertaken a research on aesthetic composition of light as a subject of academic inquiry, Park and Farr in 2007 studied effect of lights in consumers, perceptions of light-space compositions were researched in 2009 by Beever and Blossom and in 2012 a Daylight design case study was done by Day et. al. were included in this section.

#### **Researches on Historical Interior Designing**

The history of interior design practice has been well charted as "art/design history," in the field of

design. The historical researcher gives vast variety of knowledge to designing students and educators. The roots of designing were deep, starting from caves to castles till now. Historical designs were the building blocks of future design. In this section the researcher had included research by Tucker in 2008 on the Architects' Small House Service Bureau (ASHSB) was included in this section. The paper describes design work, story of the ASHSB and places it within its larger historical context. The researcher had presented the readers the information about Architects' Small House Service Bureau (ASHSB) from its inception and the work carried out by the organization between 1920s to 1930s.

A study by Brooks (2011) on white house oval office interior was undertaken. All 13 Presidential Oval Office (White House) designs for over 76 years were selected for the study. The particular time period was chosen because it covers the inception of the Oval Office in its permanent location through the present times. These four branding strategies were classified as symbolic, static, personal or expunged and propose a new framework to view the décor of the 13 Oval Offices. The Oval Office, the White House locus of the president's formal office, was one of the most well-known interiors in the world. It is part of a living museum, where rules and tradition often dictate the placement of furniture and objects, yet the décor changes as each president.

The exploration of cave for the first interiors by Huppatz in 2012 was studied. The findings reviled Paleolithic cave was re-evaluated as both an historical origin that distinguishes interior design history from architectural and art history and as a speculative, theoretical space rich with possibilities. The older historical surveys of the discipline typically located the origins of interior design in ancient civilizations such as Greece or Rome. The recent historical surveys had followed an art historical convention in locating the origins of interior design in the Paleolithic caves of Europe.

Research work by Burton and Pedersen (2013), studied the Pugin's Church of St. Augustine for the research. Opportunity to compare the written words of a designer with the products of their design process was rare to come in any work. As both client and designer Pugin followed written principles closely as descriptions of the interior spaces, furnishings and decorative objects reveal. Today, St. Augustine's Church stands as a manifestation of Pugin's written principles.

A research on the house furnishers of 19th century London by Edwards in 2013 The paper offered an overview of the rise, maturity and change of the house furnisher as the contributor to the supply of interior design/decoration advice and products in the second half of the nineteenth century. The finding explored the nature and pre-history of professional interior design service providers in the period. And in 2013 a study on the work of Beaux-Arts architects by Shihabi were selected for the present section. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, state governments commissioned capitols, libraries and other public buildings. These monumental buildings were frequently conceptualized and designed by architects trained in the Beaux-Arts tradition. The

study presented findings that applied to a postmodern research methodology combining practice, material culture analysis and historical techniques. Findings clearly demonstrate that George Post integrated a French academic architectural ranking and ordering classification within an American democratic infrastructure.

**Conclusion**

As going through present research the researcher noticed that the Indian researchers have not touched various topics yet. The light study and design still is in developing stage in India. The studies related to designing security system in various areas like departmental stores, offices, home and bank were still untouched in India. The historical design can be observed and describe in various monuments available in India. The researches on first Indian designer or famous interior designers could be studied with Indian context. The green sustainable design projects can also be undertaken for the commercial interiors as well as residential interiors in Indian context.

The influence of culture on designing various projects and preferences of clients of various cultures can be looked into. The similar projects can be developed for the other international, regional, cultures and art practices within and outside India too. In India the field of designing still in its infancy stage by reviewing various design projects the design students, educators and interior designers can get motivated to design projects describe in present research paper.

The findings of the present research will be helpful for the design students in specific line will get inspired to develop similar researches. Design adaptations of various religion or culture or with other ethnic backgrounds of different community of population residing in India. This data on research development would also serve as a platform for the new designers, who wish to design interiors. It would be useful for the students of Interior design and other students who will be pursuing education related to interiors as it will disseminate knowledge to them about the various researches published outside India.

The students will get a chance to know about the architecture, their works, methods used in data collection and implementation in research. The design elements that the craftsmen, designer, architect, selected in the research can become a useful to design students to prepare research in their design curriculum. The academicians teaching interior courses will benefit as these researches would provide them with the additional information base to be passed on their students. These developments in research would also provide a base for new researches in India.

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