

Aesthetic Impact of Wall Finishes on Interior Spaces of Residential Buildings in Akure, Nigeria

Duke-Henshaw, Oluwadunsin Faith Omale, Reuben Peters

Department of Architecture, School of Environmental Technology, Federal University of Technology, Akure

Email of the corresponding author: rpomale@futa.edu.ng

Abstract

This paper aims at understanding the impact and value of aesthetics on wall finishes of interior spaces in residential buildings. Two estates were examined within this study in Akure Nigeria; they are Alagbaka and Oba-Afunbiowo estates. Twenty (20) residential buildings were investigated to achieve convenient results about interior residential spaces in Akure. Two types of data analysis were conducted; first, all qualitative data were analyzed by following the thematic analysis protocol, thereafter the assessment of the interior spaces, the analyzed data were obtained from the questionnaires that were administered. The results show that most users apply paints and wall papers on interior walls, while other types of finishes were barely used. The study found that users are not aware of other wall finishes and do not know the impact these materials would create by having them in private living spaces.

Keywords: Aesthetics, Architecture, Building materials, Finishes, Interior design

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1.0 Introduction

The interior space of a residential building is the actual living environment for humans. There are places visited that give memories of the feel one has of the environment, this is because of how beautiful and attractive the place is. Having a good interior space plays an important role in raising the morale of the individual and the feeling of happiness within the home. A good interior space helps create an attractive environment. There may be hotels or public spaces that are more impressive to visit, but people cannot always go for tour or holidays all the time. There is a home to return to and one of the best ways to always have a good impression about homes is by having a beautiful and attractive interior space. The importance's of the materials that are used for the finishing of these interior spaces play a significant role in the wellbeing of the users. This suggests why adequate attention should be given to the selection of building materials for better interior finishes and sustainable indoor quality (Folorunso and Ajulo, 2018). Also, the proper choice of finishing material for the building interior environment is critical, because it could bring significant benefits in terms of environmental, economic, and social aspects (Zhang, Liu, Zhao, and Mohamed, 2019). Choosing the right interior wall finishes give perfect statement which is relevant with trends and also adds to the overall aesthetics of a space which also enhances the works of a designer appreciated rather than leaving the interiors plain. With the minimalist movement: less is more and other trends, there has been increase in the usage of various types of wall finishes for the aesthetic purpose in exterior spaces, which can also be incorporated in interior spaces.

Aesthetics is defined as the study of sensory emotional feelings. Furthermore, it can also be said to be the theoretical name of art and also beauty experiences the suitable method of understanding art and beauty. Furthermore, it is a comparative way of philosophical knowledge (Hasse, Broekstra, Eberhart, and Volz, 2004). Thus, aesthetics is one of the issues which are part of concern to all human beings, and especially architects and urban planning designers (Soleimani and Mondegari, 2017). Generally, it is one of the most important factors to be considered in interior designs.

Walls are part of buildings forming the uprightness upon which roof rests. These walls are beautified as to promote the aesthetic value of the building. Wall coverings/finishes refer to anything used to design and decorate walls from wallpaper, paint to more creative materials like plaster or decorative fabrics. Wall covering choices depend on the room function, interior design vision, practical questions like maintenance, ease of installation, and even ability to change wall covering or its color (Al-Homouds, 2005).

This paper will help to analyze some of the wall coverings and types to use for finishing interior spaces of residential buildings, basically in living rooms, kitchens and bedrooms. The study of Akure is located in southwestern Nigeria. The atmospheric temperature ranges between 28°C and 31°C and a mean annual relative humidity of about 80 per cent. The study is narrowed to interior spaces of residential buildings in Akure. The focus of the study would be two residential estates (Alagbaka and Afunbiowo Estates) within Akure, Nigeria.

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Interior Spaces and Design

Interior space as an environmentally friendly space is the internal space that is constructed with materials that

contain the least harmful factors to human beings and environments (Park and Sukkyoung, 2001). Therefore, the built interior environment is a key player in establishing meaning in people's lives. It contributes to people's emotions, physical comfort of being, general wellbeing and sense of belonging. Interior designers play a key role in defining and shaping the spaces people live in, therefore have the ability and obligation to create spaces that meet those needs (Perolini, 2011).

Folorunso and Ajulo (2018) in Interior designers of Canada IDC (2013), define interior design as finding creative solutions for interior environments while supporting the health, safety and wellbeing of occupants and enhancing their quality of life. An interior is a distance that is enclosed by walls, floors, and roofs, It causes one or more entries/exits, and usually one or more openings, such as windows, for illumination and ventilations. Those enclosing elements may be composed of whatever number of materials and formed of innumerable patterns.

Kuzhleva (2017) also posits that Interior design is the art and science of enhancing the interiors, sometimes including the exteriors, of a space or building, to achieve a healthier and more aesthetically pleasing environment for the end user. An interior is a three-dimensional space that completely encloses in color, therefore, interior color is experienced quite differently from any other color use. In interior design, color has the most powerful, affective and the most mysterious influence (Reddy, Chakrabarti and Karmakar, 2012).

2.2 Aesthetics and Interior Space

Aesthetics means the study of what can be perceived emotionally and sensibility changes in various ways according to changes in the individual and the environment (Jang, Yoo, Kim, and Jung, 2015). According to Hasse et al (2004) aesthetics is a theoretical name for art and beautiful experiences, the suitable method of understanding art and beauty. It is a comparative means of philosophical knowledge. Furthermore, it can also be said to be the quality of being pleasing, especially to look at, something that gives great pleasure, especially through the visual sense. The concept of aesthetics is used in art, sociology, social psychology, and culture. Aesthetics in the place of interior design cannot be over emphasized as it is one of the key factors to be considered when designing a functional interior space.

What makes up the aesthetics of a space are; Form and shape, Color, Texture, Light and shadow. (Pazooki, 2011) emphasizes on texture and color. Texture brings the sense of life in a room and it is an element that can be seen and touched. One common use of texture is to add interest to a space which has boring, monochrome colors (Reddy, Chakrabarti, and Karmaka 2012). Texture has a powerful effect when looking at space; it shows the feel of the surface. Humans can touch the surfaces of objects and understand that it is rough or just see that feels it is rough. Therefore texture has a direct effect on the way people feel and also on the way it looks (Pazooki 2011). Color as an effective design tool influences people's emotions in interior spaces (Helvacioğlu, 2011), and good manipulation and use of color can make a small room appear larger or make a dark room lighter.

2.3 Color and interior design

Color presents itself as one of the most useful elements of interior design because it can drastically change the environment. Interior designers must therefore make perfect color choices to make their work attractive to the eye. The initial impression of the type of emotion they intend to convey must be taken into consideration (Karlen and Benya, 2004). Omale and Ekpeta (2020) investigated the psychological effects of colors in interior spaces of eateries and noticed the explicit use of red colors in interiors of eatery spaces. While the red color is synonymous to eateries globally, and affects the moods and emotions of customers, the study found that altering the conventional or traditional colors used in eateries slightly from the usual styles can create maximum emotional effects on customers.

Interior design is mainly used to decorate and protect interior walls and ceilings. Tator (2015) identified common ones as water-soluble Interior, synthetic resin emulsion interior wall paint (emulsion paint), solvent interior wall paint, colorful interior wall paint, symphony paint and the most commonly used paint which includes styrene-acrylic latex paint, ethylene-propylene latex paint, polyacetate emulsion paint and chlorine-partial copolymerization paint. Furthermore this kind of paint is mainly used for decoration of dry interior wall rather than kitchen, lavatory, bathroom where walls are usually wet. Also, colour of paints and interior wall finish materials is based on individual opinion about color. Sometimes choice of color may not necessarily be considered based on beautification however, people choose colour based on their perception for different purposes which can be influenced by the designer or the users of the interior spaces. Therefore, there is a need to study the aesthetic impact of wall finishes on interior spaces of residential buildings in Akure, Nigeria.

3.0 Research Methodology

The method used for this paper is the quantitative research approach. The target population is residential home users of Oba-Afunbiowo and Alagbaka area of Akure, Ondo state. Twenty (20) residential buildings are included into the study to achieve convenient results about interior residential spaces in Akure. As the first step, the case

study areas were observed and surveyed to define the problems, based on several parameters representing fundamental issues of interior finishing materials of the spaces. After the assessment of the interior spaces, few questions were asked through the use of an interview schedule to know the users opinion about the type of finishes that were used in their interior spaces.

The buildings were selected randomly and at least two people in a building were administered the questionnaires to respond to making a total of 40 respondents which are 18 years and above in which all the questionnaires were returned in order to get the opinions about the interior spaces in the buildings within one month (August- September, 2021). The data were analysed using descriptive statistics.

4.0 Findings and Discussions

All the general information regarding the respondents are presented in this section in tabular formats. Below are the tables showing the socio-economic status of the respondents. From Table 4.1, the result of the age group of respondents revealed the following. In Oba-Afunbiowo estate 10% of the respondents were between the age group of 20 - 30 years, 40% were between the age group of 31-40 years, 10% were between the age group of 41-50 years, and 40% were above 50 years of age, the average age of the respondent in Oba-Afunbiowo estate is 43.5 years. The table also shows that 5% of respondent in Alagbaka were between 20-30 years, 60% were between 31-40 years, 10% were between 41-50 years and 25% were above 50 years of age. The mean age accumulated to 38.5 years while the total mean age for both Afunbiowo and Alagbaka estate is 41 years which show that the sampled respondents are young adult and agile.

Table 4.1: The age group of the users

Variable	Afunbiowo		Alagbaka		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Age						
20-30	2	10	0	0	2	5
31-40	8	40	16	80	24	60
41-50	2	10	2	10	24	10
Above 50	8	40	2	10	10	25
Mean		43.5		38.5		41

Source: Author's analysis (2022)

4.1 Material Types and their Uses in the Interior Spaces

Table 4.2 below shows that 60% of the respondent use wall finishes in spaces within the range of 1-5 and 40% use it in spaces within the range of 6-9 for both Alagbaka and Afunbiowo estates, this range depends on the number of spaces in the building. This shows that all respondents use one or two types of wall finishes in their interior homes.

Table 4.2: Types of materials used in their interior spaces

Variables	Afunbiowo		Alagbaka		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Use of wall materials						
Yes	20	100	20	100	40	100
Number of space wall finishes was used						
1-5	12	60	12	60	24	60
6-9	8	40	8	40	16	40

Source: Author's analysis (2022)

4.2 Types of wall finishes used in the interior spaces

The result from table 4.3, reveal that 45% of the respondents use paints as wall finishes in their spaces in both areas, 40% of the respondents in Alagbaka use wall paper, and none use glass, while in Afunbiowo 25% used wallpaper, 30% use wall tiles and none use glass in this spaces. The total percentage for the finishes showed that 90% use paint, 65% use wallpaper, 45% use wall tiles and none use glass. The total percentage is more than 100% because there were options for multiple choices as many people uses more than one choice of wall finishes in their interior space. The result shows that paints and wallpaper is the most commonly used type of finishes.

Table 4.3: Types of wall finishes used in the interior spaces

Variables	Afunbiowo		Alagbaka		Total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Wallpaper	5	25	8	40	13	65
Paint	9	45	9	45	18	90
Glass	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wall tiles	6	30	3	15	9	45

Source: Author's analysis (2022).

4.3 Prioritization of Wall Finish Materials

Table 4.4 below, the result revealed in Afunbiowo show that user's reason for prioritization of wall finish materials is primarily based on the cost of the materials as 40% of the respondents show that the cost is the primary reason for the usage of a specific material. 30% of the respondents use wall finishes based on their durability, 20% use wall finished base on the beauty, and 10% choose it due to its comfortability. In Alagbaka 30% of the respondents choose a particular wall finish because it is cheap, 25% is due to its beauty and durability and 10% show that it was chosen by the respondents because it is trendy and comfortable for their use. This implies that users in the two estates choose to use any wall finish materials based on cost, this is against the findings of Aiyebgeje and Bamidele (2019) whose reports show that majority (52.1%) of house users did not use wall finishes due to security reasons in a work on security and building finishes in an organized residential estate, Ibadan, Nigeria.

Table 4.4: Users prioritize the selection of materials

Variables	Afunbiowo		Alagbaka		total	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Beautiful	4	20	6	30	10	25
Cheap	8	40	4	20	12	30
Durable	6	30	4	20	10	25
Trendy	0	0	4	20	4	10
Comfortable	2	10	2	10	4	10
Total	20	100	20	100	40	100

Source: Author's analysis (2022).

5.0 Conclusion

In this study, different interior finishing materials were discussed which are wallpaper, wall tiles, paints and glass. Also the analyses were made on the use of interior wall finishing materials, and all the discussions and analyses were based on these materials. Wall finishes are widely used by all the respondents in the study areas, but the types used vary. However, it revealed that paint and wallpaper are the most commonly used wall finishes in the interior spaces of residential buildings, and this is due to the availability and affordability of the materials. Some see it as being trendy although they are not exposed to other types of materials that are used as wall finishes. The results of the study also show that the types of wall finish used in interior spaces determine the aesthetic impacts it has in the spaces and thus affects directly the value placed on those spaces.

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