

**ARCHITECTURE OF INTERIOR; THE ROLE AND HUMAN PERCEPTION OF
ART AND ARTEFACT.**

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ABSTRACT

Interior design is the art and science of understanding people's behaviour to create functional spaces within a building. However decorations is the furnishing or adorning of a space with fashionable or beautiful things. Meaning that, interior designers may decorate, but decorators do not design. The use of arts and artefacts as decorative elements and interior furnishes dates back to the ages of man's early development of houses for shelters. He brings home beautiful carvings and bones and places them in his interior space, some being hung on walls; their interiors were put together instinctively as a part of the process of building. Our study aims at exploring the use of arts and artefacts as veritable elements and tools for interior furnishing. A structured questionnaire was prepared and distribute to assess students view and perceptions on the satisfaction derived from use of art and artefact for interiors spaces. The study also utilises a field survey to see were these elements have been practically used or installed and its effect to the space. It reveals that for an interior space to be exciting and heavily visited/used it needs rich embodiment of features of art and artefacts. It concludes that 'rich' interior spaces are always associated with art works.

Key words

Interior design, art, artefacts, spaces, building, furnishing

INTRODUCTION

An architectural structure is an expression of cultural principles and deliberate design choices based on current technology and understandings.(Henry Hildebrandt 2004) Interior architecture manifests itself as the meaning imbedded within the building inside as well as out, and as such must be housed within the practice of architecture and professional architectural services; all these cumulates into a form of art.

Over the years, there has been efforts to define art in a universally acceptable way. However, art means a lot of different things to different people, especially due to the numerous classifications of art (such as visual art, fine art etc.). Another reason is the mode and level of interpretations that many different individuals give to art (be it same piece or different art pieces). Today, art enjoys a wide network of study, dissemination and preservation of all the artistic legacy of mankind throughout history.

Arts refers to the theory and physical expression of creativity found in human societies and cultures. Major constituents of the arts include literature—including poetry, prose and drama, performing arts - among them music, dance, and theatre; and visual arts— including drawing, painting, photography, ceramics, sculpting and architecture— the art of designing and constructing buildings. Some art forms combine a visual element with performance (e.g. cinematography) or artwork with the written word (e.g. comics). From prehistoric cave paintings to modern day films, art serves as a vessel for storytelling and conveying humankind's relationship with the environment.

Artefacts (usually in American English) or artefact (British English) (from Latin phrase arte factum~ars skill + facere to make) is something made or given shape by man, such as a tool or a work of art, especially an object of archaeological or historical interest. In archaeology, however, the word has become a term of particular nuance and is defined as: an object recovered by archaeological endeavour, which may be a cultural artefact having cultural interest.(The American Heritage Science Dictionary 2011)

The terms, art and artefacts, are often interchangeably used. This can be said to be largely due to the fact that one is often not mutually exclusive of the other; although, for the sake of clarity, “art” is often used to encompass the two terms, in sweeping definitions.

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Art can come in many different forms, both in 2D, 3D and life scale of which all can be used effectively as decorative elements within a space. Interior architecture of a space is defined by its details and the subjectivity of art (and artefacts, for that matter) makes a room. It is a matter of well-considered appropriateness and a force to be reckoned with by interior designers and architects. Unfortunately, several do not consider it a vital piece in the design planning of a space and often end up confused and clueless as to why, where and which art or artefact to use within a space.

From as far back as ancient times, people have used arts and artefacts to add (or subtract) a certain energy in a space. Nowadays, more people are fascinated by art, and this has reflected positively on the art industry; for homeowners, interior and product designers alike, art is paramount, powerful and primary. (Anya Cooklin-Lofting 2018). Today markets are flooded with unique and antique home art and artefacts. It has become a major component in space building and design in modern times. It is worthy of note that interior designers often use arts and artefacts to add calm or a dramatic effect to a space; thus, enhancing the true potentials of the space. Sometimes, the art piece acts as a complementary elements, other times, it is used as the focal point of design in the space (from which all other design elements radiate from). The best buildings and the best interiors are those in which there is no obvious disparity between the many elements that make up the totality. (Arnold & George 2018). The Choice of a decorative piece of art reflects who you are and what you love, because it varies from individual to individual and the process of selection is as inspiring and engaging as the piece you eventually choose. Human perception and satisfaction derived from the choice of decorative art used is subjective. Therefore the key here is not to go overboard; be subtle, yet deliberate; find something that speaks to you.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study adopted the survey design that implores the inventory method collection of data incorporating in it distribution, collection and analyses of data from 35 sample population. A structured questionnaire designed by the researcher was targeted for 35 respondents in University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus and out of the 35 distributed only 30 was collected back by hand and returned. Also the researchers visited public, private and commercial building to assess and evaluated the level of usage of art and artefacts as decorative elements in interiors. With knowledge from advanced architectural photography, live photographs were taken of such places visited as evidence and documented in this work under findings.

RESULTS

Percentages of Response							
sn	Question	0-19	20-39		40-59	60-79	80-100
1	What is your approximate age?	45 – 54,	15-24	35 – 44	25 – 34		
2	Indicate your marital status		Married				Single
3	What type of area do you live in?	Suburban-single family home	Rural	Suburban-town home or apartment	Urban-single family home		
4	Have you heard of interior design and decoration?						yes
5	What style do you prefer?	Contemporary	Trendy	Mixed styles	Classic		

6	What best complete your definition and perception of spaces decorated with art	Scatter and unappealing space	Clean, attractive and convenient traditional space		sophisticated modern Creative	
7	What type of art work do you like and prefer to be drawn in your interior space.	landscape	photography/posters		Abstract	
8	Do you enjoy interior space been decorated with arts and artefact?					Yes
9	Do you see furnishing of interior space as diabolic in action?		Yes		No	
10	What is the 3three biggest problems with any interior space you ever wish to furnish?		Choice of colour scheme,	Choice of Furniture	Choice of Art work and artefacts	
11	Which of these solutions do you prefer?	Solution A				Solution B
12	Would you like your interior designer to	Find you some furniture,	Give an artistic dimension to your lighting and make it adjustable		Find you an ornaments or unique artwork or paintings	

FINDINGS

The survey findings is made up of photographs and pictures taken from various public, commercial, residential and religious building showing the invaluable role art and artefact plays in the design and furnishing of interior spaces. Below are picture evidence of the survey



Figure 1. Interior of UBA banking hall UNEC showing counter decorated with artwork painting.
Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 2. Interior of OPD of eastern medical centre Enugu with painting on reception wall
Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 3. Interior of a Private Residence in Enugu decorated with artworks.
Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 4. Interior eating area of Roots Restaurant Enugu State with hand crafted furniture.
Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 5. Outdoor siting of a Roots Restaurant Enugu showing the elaborate embellishment with artefacts. Source; researcher's field work (2018)



Figure 6. Interior scape of St. Mulumba catholic Chaplaincy University of Nigeria Enugu Campus showing the beautiful scared art works.

Source; researcher's field work (2018)



Figure 7. Interior shopping area of shop rite mall Enugu showing art work used within for displays
Source; researcher's field work (2018)



Figure 8. Interior of a view of Shoprite lobby decorated with art vase

Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 9. Interior private dining of roots restaurant Enugu furnished with Africana arts and artefacts

Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 10. First floor lobby of roots restaurant Enugu furnished with artefacts of animal skin. Source; researchers' field work (2018)



Figure 11. Outdoor eating area of Spar shopping centre Enugu

Source; researchers' field work (2018)

DISCUSSION

From the results it can be inferred that 100% of respondent have heard of interior design and decoration and they enjoy art work being used as decorative element for their interior spaces. It reveals that the use of arts and artefacts is indispensable in the decoration of any interior space. It goes forward to explain that although some like the use of art, 20% sees it as diabolic in action. They attach some spiritual undertone and superstition to their visual perception of these elements in their interior spaces therefore are very selective of the art work to display in their interior spaces. This means that it is a subjective decision which is based on individual human perception. Consequently, art can be assumed to be the creative combination of the principles of biomimicry and or biomorphosis. Biomimicry has been applied as a method for informing design in many fields including architecture, (Okeke, F.Oetal 2017) therefore it is seen and perceived as pleasurable imitation of nature in interior spaces by many others.

Deduction from study also explains that the satisfaction or utility derived from use of interior spaces adorned with art and artefacts diminishes on frequent visits. It is most enjoyed at first sight or perhaps first few weeks after installation or furnishing, but with constant usage it attracts no visual pleasure but and experience of common sight. This is very true because variety is the spices of life.

Subsequently, from response to question number 10, I drew a conclusion based on this survey that choice of art and artefacts to decorate a space is the biggest problem most people encounter in their bid to furnishing their interior apartment. Some attributed it to high cost of

purchasing it while some pinned it down to numerous beautiful variety of works available to pick from and therefore would employ the services of an interior designer to design and implement or execute it.

Furthermore it was observed that a high percentage of respondents see interior space being furnished with arts and artefacts as sophisticated modern Creativity and invariably they applaud its usage. In the same vein they concluded that it is going to be the job or task they will assign to their interior designer and architect if eventually they hire one to furnish their space.

RELEVANCE OF ART AND ARTEFACTS TO INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

- **Arts and Artefacts reflect people and cultures of an era past**

What better way to create the look and feel of a bygone era than the use of artefacts that belong to that era. It can infuse in a space/home a touch of old world charm. Plays a vital role in establishing the ethnicity of the décor, this is especially true of homes that have ethnic themes.

- **It enhances the Aesthetic appeal of the space**

Artefacts play a pivotal role in home furnishing as it enhances the charm of the living place. Just like jewellery worn by women to enhance their beauty, art and artefacts are more creative adornments which could be used in spaces to make them eye gazer, more innovative, apt for refuge, friends and relaxing place for family. Without its adornments, a home will appear drab and bland so to make it enliven, accessories should be placed.

- **Art serves other Utilitarian Function.**

Art and Artefacts could be used almost anywhere in a house - the living room, the kitchen, walkway, stair halls, bedrooms etc. Apart from the already established decorative function it serves in a space, some artefacts are purely for utilitarian function, as modern technology have incorporated them into home appliances, fittings, fixtures and domestic furniture, creating a unique yet pleasant look and feel.

- **It Creates a Focal Point**

One of the most basic principles of interior design is that every room needs a focal point, or a single design element that will instantly draw the eye into the space and give the viewer a sense of what to expect. It goes without saying that a great piece of wall art or artefact could easily fulfil this position.

- **It Makes the Room Appear Finished**

Many relegate wall art to the side lines, and miss out on amazing design opportunity. Wall art is the finishing element that can help pull a space together and make it feel complete. It is that little touch which will uplift the interior space from simply looking functional to appearing as if it should grace the pages of an interior design magazine.

- **It Brings a Sense of Texture**

Rough textures are more likely to make a space feel intimate and grounded while smooth textures bring a sleeker more aloof tone to the architecture of the interior. These extra bits of texture can help add much needed visual weight, emotional satisfaction and tone of the space\or how it feels.

RECOMMENDATION

One of the most common misconceptions is that art should be the last item on the list to be selected, it somehow becomes an after-thought. It shouldn't. Art should be considered at the onset of a project and referred back to at each stage of the design process. This will help to make decisions on colour and material palettes. Selecting art doesn't have to be as overwhelming as it sounds. Art can be subjective, therefore below is a check list for its selection:

- Buy what you love
- Find pieces that speak to you and makes you happy each time you look at them, it should not be psychologically intrusive.
- Pay attention to the placement and the scale and proportion of the art to ensure the furniture and décor surrounding it is complimentary.
- The overall look needs to be balanced and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.
- It is essential to select the right frame for paintings. Some frames can detract and compete from a painting and complete. Speak to a professional framer for advice on framing solutions.
- When selecting artwork to be framed in glass, always request anti-reflective glass or anti-reflective acrylic for large scale works.
- Painted canvases look great in a shadow box frame – without glass.
- Avoid placing art in direct sunlight that will cause it to fade.
- Do not forget to highlight the artwork with appropriate lighting.

CONCLUSION

An artwork is more than just a perfectly positioned sculpture or a painting on the wall. An artwork must work closely with an interior to create a story that will leave the viewers with a memorable experience. Just as importantly, art needs to sit harmoniously within the interior. Its purpose is to enhance, not to upstage or detract from a space.

Art and artefact bring beauty and sophistication to our surroundings. The sheer presence of art can encourage intellectual and emotional reflection, it can define a space and make or break an interior. Consequently, it allows you to make each of its spaces your own. Without it, your interior can be missing the most important piece of the puzzle. Therefore architects and Interior designers should never underestimate the importance of Art and the value that it can bring to an interior space, it can provide a source of inspiration at the beginning of a project or be selected as a pieces of art and artefact often create a theatrical backdrop and influence in the right degree despite the individual perception.

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