

The Selection Criteria of Beauty by the Residents for Interior Floor Finishes Preferences

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ABSTRACT

The residents need a shelter or known as residential unit for them to do their daily activities and for mean of security and privacy. The professional construction members for instance interior designers, architects, planners and others should be well-thought-out of the residents' preferences on interior finishes as they are very important to guide the residents to become accustomed with their living environment. The consideration of the residents' preferences on interior floor finishes may increase their satisfaction degree. Interior floor finishes give more impact to interior living environment as they are the elements that the residents step on every day instead of wall or ceiling. The aim is to identify the most chosen selection criteria of beauty of interior floor finishes. Beauty is one of the selection criteria on interior floor finishes that should be specified more as it is the first thing visually seen by human beings. The selection criteria of beauty are colour, texture, patterns and motives, shapes and form, surface textures, size and trend. As a conclusion, the residents did renovation in their interior surrounding to fulfil their satisfaction, needs and desires. Consequently, all the professional construction members should thoughtful of the selection criteria of beauty for common interior floor finishes.

Keywords selection criteria, beauty, preferences, interior floor finishes, living environment

INTRODUCTION

Built environment and natural environment are the components of living environment. It is attainable to the inhabitants of the place who accomplish various categories of religious, political, social, economic, cultural activities which inspire uniqueness in the living environment character. Therefore, the researcher defined living environment as the combination of all the residents' activities and natural environment which constantly changing due to the continual interlinked evolution that happen from time to time.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Selection Criteria of Beauty

Beauty is defined as the quality of being pleasing, especially to look at, or someone or something that gives great pleasure, especially when people look at it. It is also known as physically attractive, the quality that gives pleasure to the senses or pleurably exalts the mind or spirit. Although the outcome of beauty may be hard to be measured, but it accentuates the aesthetic necessity. The beauty aspects provide unique visual differentiation of surfaces. Therefore, the interior floor finishes should be classified by means of colour, texture, pattern and so on as supported by Bilge Sayil Onaran (2009). The selection criteria of beauty are colour, texture, patterns and motives, shapes and form, surface textures, size and trend.

Colour

Colour is one of the most important elements in determining the interior space atmosphere due to it commands such strong visual attraction. It is well-defined as a phenomenon of light (such as red, brown, pink, or grey) or visual perception that enables one to differentiate otherwise identical objects. It also can be demarcated as the appearance aspect of objects and light sources that may be described in terms of hue, lightness, and saturation.

The properties of colour are hue, value and saturation (Corky Binggeli, 2007). Hue is known as the attribute which human recognize and describe a colour for example red or purple. On the other hand, value is the degree of colour darkness or lightness in relation to white or black. Saturation is the colour dullness or brilliance and depends on the amount colour hue. Larger and cooler which the right colour choices resulting coziness to the residents (Zulkifli Hanafi, 1986; Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005 and Edition 145, September 2011; Emma Callery, 2007).

Colour affects the residents in term psychologically and physiologically. The colour of interior floor finishes affects the shape, temperature and size of the spaces in the residential units. Dark, warm and intense colour as well as natural colour make the interior space look elegant, relaxing, calming and smaller and conversely warmer but pastel, cool, dull and lighter colour make the space appear. The effect of colour on people has been well covered in literatures. The first formal discussion on the effect of colour on people was published in the 19th century. In 1810, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a philosopher discussed optics and the physiological effects of colours (Bro and Popow, 2000). By understanding how colour impacts the psychology of building occupants, the performance of a building in terms of colour can be better appraised.

Colour can also be utilized as an architectural quality in a systematic way to create harmonious feelings, which promotes the occupant's well-being. Previous research has proven that colour affects the human organism on both a visual and non-visual basis (Suziyanti Matori, 2014). Colour is an extremely subjective topic in which everyone has their favourite colours. There are numerous studies in the field of psychology, which believe in the relationship between human behaviour and colour. However, colour studies in the environmental design field are still lacking and almost non-existent (Tofle et al., 2004). Previous researchers have found variations in colour preferences across age, gender, climate and culture.

This interior floor finishes also have other pros for instance it is high in aesthetic value, long lasting, various colour to bring different mood and visual, enhance the warm feeling effect and give comfort in the interior spaces (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005; Materia, 2009 and Drew Plunkett, 2010).

Tiles has many benefits in term of selection criteria of colour such as it has high aesthetic value, comes in a wide variety of sizes and shapes (square, rectangular, octagonal, hexagonal or even irregular shape); enduring appeal and with a variety of designs and colours (Drew Plunkett, 2010). On the other hand, timber floor finishes also have advantages on colour. It has natural sheen and the vibrant colours to attract the residents to choose timber floor finishes as their interior floor finishes. Natural material such as timber give many advantages for instance, it gives the full

satisfaction with great aesthetic value, promoting natural look especially teak and ‘merbau’ which aged beautifully and develops a silver-grey staining (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005).

Instead, the carpet’s benefits are it has lots of colour choices to suit the interior spaces to visually warm expression the interior spaces (Drew Plunkett, 2010). Moreover, it enhances the interior spaces as it can be laid on top of the dull coloured any interior floor finishes. Nonetheless, marble has beauty value with vast choices of colour and multicolours mixes which provide wide choices of decorative schemes. The specialty of marble is none of them are the same. Natural material like marble give advantage such as give the full satisfaction and great aesthetic value by giving natural look. One piece of marble is one of a kind on this earth as none of them are identical thus, it makes this interior floor finishes is very unique (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005); Pooja J. Chavhan et al., 2014; Drew Plunkett, 2010). Nevertheless, vinyl is aesthetically pleasing and available in a wide range of colours which can be design to resemble timber, marble, concrete, stone and so on.

Patterns and Motives

Patterns and motives play an active role in determining interior space characters, for example, how the interior floor finishes are laid related to the visual pattern created. Pattern is defined by Cassandra M. Lozada-Figueroa (2004) as a structural or applied configuration that has a particular shape or form either repetitive or individual that makes up a large model. Neutral and pattern less serve as a simple background or vibrant and jagged pattern for dominant background. Pattern and motives can be used to define spaces, suggest movement paths and provide textural interest.

A small-scale pattern seen as a fine texture or a blended tone rather than a composition of individual design elements or ‘busy’ or the full pattern makes the interior spaces feel smaller. Correspondingly, avoid using interior floor finishes with too many patterns in small interior spaces as it makes the spaces look tight and claustrophobic (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005). For modern style, interior floor finishes with heavy pattern or motives must be avoided (Impiana Edition 152, April 2012). To unite the spaces, use the same pattern of interior floor finishes. (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005).

Tiles and mosaics are available in a range of patterns. A piece of it can be arrange to produce a set of beautiful patterns or to create random pattern. Moreover, if a piece of tiles or mosaic is broken, the whole interior floor finishes can be used just by changing the broken piece.

Additionally, a set of mosaics is a sheet-mounted in a diverse variety of patterns, including so-called herring bone, basket weave, hexagonal and square which is attached to a mesh backing that can be cut and glued to the floor. Therefore, unique designs can be produced just by using creative imagination. But then again, most of mosaics consist of tiny, flat, square and coloured glass or stone pieces called tesserae.

On the other hand, timber floor board is very unique on its own due to it is made of real wood. This interior floor finishes have natural look beauty and there are no two pieces exactly alike. In contrast, one of the carpet benefits is it has lots of variety of pattern or motives to complement the residents’ needs for the interior spaces (Drew Plunkett, 2010).

The weaknesses of marble are it is quite impossible to get the same pattern of marble, although they are from the same big boulder. Nevertheless, if the residents are considering its uniqueness, this selection criteria can be the benefit for the marble. Nonetheless, vinyl is aesthetically pleasing with wide range of pattern which resemble wood, terrazzo, concrete, stone and others (Shashank Singh, 2017).

Shapes and Forms

Other than selection criteria of patterns and motives, shapes and forms are also crucial for interior floor finishes. Shapes can be well-defined as an outlined of the objects which forming two-dimensional configurations. On the other hand, forms are demarcated as three-dimensional configurations or mass of objects. Usually, interior designers classify shapes and forms by basic configurations, for example, rectangle, oval, circle, triangle, square and diamond. In psychology, different shapes and forms bring different interpretation. Francis D.K. Ching et al., (2005) suggests that the circle represents unity, continuity, stability, self-centred and have motion and on the other hand, the triangle represents stability, used in structural systems, dynamic and flexible. Square signifies pure and rational, equality, regularity,

visual clarity, no preferred, no dominant direction, stable and tranquil. In Aronoff, Woike, & Hyman (1992) previous study showed that, naturally, a dangerous object, for instance a knife or 'V sharp shaped' can impose a negative sense of threat whereas, round shaped conveyed the meaning of warmth. Tiles and mosaics have many advantages and one of them is they come in a wide variety of shapes for example square, rectangular, octagonal, hexagonal or even irregular shape. These interior floor finishes can be cut into custom-made designs by using a special machine regardless their density and hardness (Drew Plunkett, 2010).

In contrast, timber floor board is cut into long plank shape and secure with grooves to make sure that every piece is fitted nicely with each other. Conversely, carpet manufactured in a form of tiles, sheet and plank to suit the residents' needs and function of interior spaces. On the other hand, marble also can be cut-to-size or custom ordered sizes and can be purchased from suppliers of manufacturers. The custom-made marble also can be cut into any shapes with special cutter.

On the contrary, vinyl comes with shapes and forms of laminate plank or laminate tile or in rolled. The interior floor finishes are design with different shape and form to make them flexible for the purpose of to fit the shape of the interior spaces.

Surface Textures

Selection criterion of interior floor finishes surface textures is also important in interior spaces. Texture is defined as the visual and tactile qualities of the carpet. It can also be defined as an intrinsic characteristic of interior floor finishes used to define, furnish and embellish an interior space (D.K. Ching et al., 2005). Textured surface of interior floor finishes also has good traction and less slippery to avoid slip and fall. Surface textures also play important roles in determining the level of formality and coolness or warmth feeling of a space. Either rough or smooth, hard or soft, shining or dull, transparent or opaque, all these are the classification of surface textures. P.F. Collier (1995) argued that soft matte interior floor finishes resulting warm and comfortable environment. In contrast, smooth and hard interior floor finishes produce 'cool' and more 'business-like' environment.

The matte surface texture of tiles is to prevent from slipping normally used in restroom and kitchen due to the presence of water, oil and dirt. On the other hand, the residents can always expect different surface textures or grain textures of timber floor finishes which are distinctive depending on particular tree species. Nevertheless, the advantages of carpet are it has wide range of surface textures which visually warms expression of overall the interior spaces (Drew Plunkett, 2010). Nonetheless, carpet comes in five categories of fibre whether it is natural or synthetic namely nylon, olefin (polypropylene), polyester, acrylic and sheep wool. Moreover, there are also different types of carpet loop such as level loop, multilevel loop, saxony, cut pile, plush, cut and loop, level cut and loop as well as frieze that determine the surface textures. In contrast, marble and mosaics are slippery when getting wet, greasy and dirty but, it can be mitigated by having the stone textured with sandblasting or by purchasing naturally textured stone. Even so, vinyl comes in many surface textures as it is imitating marble, stone, timber and other materials. Interior designers must carefully consider surface textures to avoid fatal incidents such as slip and fall in a residential unit.

Size

Size is demarcated as the relative extent of something; an objects' overall dimensions or magnitude; and also defined as how big something is. The residents choose interior floor finishes with larger than normal size which resulting minimal grout lines for the purpose of reducing the uninteresting view due to the grooves. It is also for the perseverance to create sleek, reduced visual interruption and spacious feeling of the interior spaces as suggested by Gerhard Hausladen et al., (2010).

There are many sizes of tiles for example 300x300mm, 300x 600mm, 600 x 600mm, 800x800mm, 1000x1000mm, 600x1200mm and others. But this interior floor finishes can also be cut into custom-made. On the other hand, timber floor board comes in many sizes for instance, single strip which measure 600-1800/1090/2200x 127/155/180x2.7/14/19mm; two strip 2200x180x12.7/14mm; three strip 2200x195x 14mm; herringbone 508 x 90/127x 4mm; and other sizes such as 3000 x 200/250/300 x 19mm; 2200x180x14mm; 2200x195x14mm; 2200x 95x14mm and others.

Nevertheless, carpet has variety of sizes to suit the residents' needs. It can be divided into rolled carpet and tiled carpet. Rolled carpet is usually comes in a width of 12 feet and can be rolled out to cover the entire length of an interior space whereas, tiled carpet is obtainable in squares of 18, 24 or 36 inches. Other sizes are 4.3 x 3.0 m, 3.4 x 2.4m, 2.9x2.0m and 2.3x1.6m. Conversely, marble measures 12x12 inches with generally 3/8 inches thick are the most common; 16x16inches with 7/16 inch thick is also quite common; and 24x24 inches with typically ½ inch thick usually is the largest size available for interior floor finishes. But, marble have its own specialty as it can be cut out into custom-made. On the contrary, the sizes of mosaics that are available are 32.7x32.7cm, 31.7x31.7cm, 26x31cm, 31x31cm, 30.6x30.6cm, 30x30cm, 29.7x29.7cm,29x29.5cm with 4-8mm thickness (Official website of Malaysia Mosaics Sdn. Bhd. <https://www.mymml.com/products/mixit/>, retrieved 28.12.2020 11. 54a.m).

In contrast, vinyl tiles standard sizes are 187x1230mm, 914.4x200mm, 1219.2x184.15mm, 1219.2x228.6mm, 304.8x609.6mm, 457.2x457.7mm, and typically with 3mm thick. Nevertheless, the vinyl plank sizes are 184x950mm with 3mm thick. On the other hand, the vinyl rolled or sheet measures 6 to 12 foot with 3mm thick (<https://timasiaflooring.com/products/vinyl-flooring/> retrieved 30.12.2020 11. 54a.m; <https://primelay.com/product/luxury-vinyl-flooring-tiles-malaysia>;retrieved 29.12.2020 9.10 a.m.).

Trend

A trend can be well-defined as a general direction in which something is developing or changing, a fashion and a topic that is the subject of many posts on a social media website or application within a short period of time. A style is defined as to copy the style, manner or appearance of something; design, shape or make something in a particular (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary). According to Francis D. K. Ching et al., (2005) by following current design trends, the residents are able to impress other people and enhance their status. There are many trends or style of interior spaces for example, modern, contemporary, minimalist, industrial, mid-century modern, Scandinavian, traditional, transitional, French country, bohemian, rustic, shabby chic and others.

Tiles are never gone out of trend as well as timber floor board. This natural material is one of the most versatile interior floor finishes which promoting natural and trendy look (Impiana, Edition 72, August 2005). However, since centuries carpet is well-known for its flexibility on styles by placing on top of the old and dull interior floor finishes (Drew Plunkett, 2010).

On the contrary, natural stone flooring such as marble provides sophisticated and glamour trend. Nonetheless, mosaics and vinyl also have captured the residents' hearts nowadays which align with currently trend. It is foreseen that bold vibrant colours, light grey to dark grey shades, blue with a shade of grey, and ombre or multicolour are the colour trend scheme for the following year.

However, interior floor finishes should align with the trend or style for the whole unit which resulting satisfaction to the residents (Impiana, Edition 145, September 2011 and Edition 152, April 2012).

CONCLUSION

As a conclusion of this study, the residents have preferred the common interior floor finishes namely tiles, timber floor board, carpet, marble, mosaic and vinyl based on their advantages for the living environment. The residents' main purpose is to enhance their living environment by considering the beauty selection criteria for example colour, texture, patterns and motives, shapes and form, surface textures, size and trend. Beauty is one of the most important selection criteria of interior floor finishes that should be given more thoughtfulness as they are the first thing the residents see when enter their residential units. Even though this research findings are not a great contribution to the knowledge body, but then again more or less there researcher hope it can be beneficial and accommodating to the professional construction members to offer the best interior floor finishes preferences based on the beauty selection criteria by the residents.

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