

Current Trends of Interior Design Research in Korea

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I. Introduction

Interior design, evolved from interior decoration of the 20th century, is one of environmental designs which contribute to the overall well-being of human life—physically, psychologically, and emotionally. Moreover, it is also a complex and multi-faceted profession that requires a strong understanding of not only human behaviors and the impact of the designed environment on them, but also of changing technologies and their potential effects. Furthermore, design is a participatory process which requires the application of research, and theoretical knowledge to resolve issues addressing the society. Indeed, there has been various kinds of researches in the interior design field that came about.

Through scrutinization of master's theses and doctoral dissertations, this study intends us to grasp the current trend of interior design researches.

II. Methodology

1. The Subject of Analysis

Theses and dissertations related to interior design and

architecture were the sources for this study.

The subject of the analysis for this study was limited to the 516 titles of such like these, published from 1970 to 1994 by graduate schools related to interior design or architecture.

2. The Method of Analysis

First, in order to analyze 516 theses by their titles, the subjects were classified into 3 categories and 12 sub categories, with reference to Kilmer's 'Designing Interiors' (1992).

Second, contents of the theses were analyzed as follows : subjects of the researches, contents of the researches, dispositions of the research intentions, and spatial characteristics of the subjects.

Contents of the researches were classified into three parts : design, history, and theory. Dispositions of the research intentions were divided into 3 categories: theory, theory-based application, and application.

Spatial characteristics of the subjects were categorized into hypothetical or real space (refer to Table 1).

The research titles on furnitures and windows were classified into 5 categories: theory, design, history, arrange-

(Table 1) Contents of the Researches

Spaces Contents	Residential Env.				Commercial Environment										Public				Recreation & Cultural	Transportation	Others	Total	
	Traditional Housing	Modernized Housing		Office	Financial Institutions	Retail Shop & Shopping Centers	Hospitality		Health Care	Institutional			Others	Library	Museum	Exhibition	Religions						
		General	Elderly				Restau- rants	Hotel Motel Inn		Kindergarten & Day Care	School	College & University											
Design	Space	6	63	19	15	1	22	25	23	32	25	6	2	7	4	7	23	10	11	6	7	477 (78.9%)	
	Color	1	7		1		1	1	1	1	1	3											3
	Material	1	2				1	1	1														2
	Lighting		4		1		2	1				1				1	2	1	1				3
	Decoration	3	12						1														1
	Facilities		7						1														3
	Technics		1						1								1						3
	Display						13	3									2						1
History		3	3				1	1		1							1	1		2		3	16(3.1%)
Behavior		1	20	5	3									1									32(6.2%)
Theory	Environmental		14	4			1	2					1	1							2	2	61 (11.8%)
	Methodology		2		1		3	1	1	1					1	2						10	
	Scope & Standard	2	2						2	1	1											2	
	Others	1	1																2			2	
Sub Total		18	138	28	21	1	44	33	30	36	27	10	3	8	5	9	31	12	16	8	38	516	
Total		184 (35.7%)				332 (64.3%)																	

ent, and behavior. And the categories were analysed without spatial classifications.

III. Results

91.7% of the theses analyzed was on the environment and 8.3% of them was on furniture and windows. Accordingly, this study emphasised on theses on the environment.

1. Contents of Researches

The study revealed that 64.35% of the subject of the researches included commercial environment. Moreover, the main content of the researches, being 78.9% (Table 1), was on the area of design.

2. Dispositions of Research Intentions

65.2% of the researches intended to apply the results to practical designing fields, 30.3% of the researches intended to consider theories for application, and no more than 4.8% of the researches intended to focus on related theories (Table 2).

3. Spatial Characteristics of The Subject

(Table 2) Dispositions of Research institutions

Spaces	Residential Env.			Commercial Environment															Others	Total		
	Traditional Housing	Modernized Housing		Office	Financial Institutions	Retail Shop & Shopping Centers	Hospitality		Health Care	Institutional			Public			Recreation-al & Cultural	Transportation					
General		Elderly	Restaurants				Hotel Motel Inn	Kindergarten & Day Care		School	College & University	Others	Library	Museum	Exhibition			Religions				
Dispositions of Research Invention	Theory	4	9				2											3	64	25(4.8%)		
	Theory Based Application	10	65	11	6	13	8	6	4	2	1	1			3	5	2	2	2	14	156(30%)	
	Application	4	64	17	15	1	31	23	24	32	25	9	2	8	5	6	25	10	11	6	18	336(65.2%)
Sub Total:		18	138	28	21	1	44	33	30	36	27	10	3	8	5	9	31	12	16	8	38	516
Total:		164			332																	

(Table 3) Spatial Characteristics of the Subject

Spaces	Residential Env.			Commercial Environment															Others	Total		
	Traditional Housing	Modernized Housing		Office	Financial Institutions	Retail Shop & Shopping Centers	Hospitality		Health Care	Institutional			Public			Recreation-al & Cultural	Transportation					
General		Elderly	Restaurants				Hotel Motel Inn	Kindergarten & Day Care		School	College & University	Others	Library	Museum	Exhibition			Religions				
Characteristics of the Subject Space	Hypothetical	13	100	19	19	1	42	20	21	25	15	6		5	4	5	21	9	13	1	23	360(69.8%)
	Real Application	5	38	9	9		2	12	9	11	12	4	3	3	1	4	10	3	3	7	15	156(30.2%)
Sub Total:		18	138	28	21	1	44	33	30	36	27	10	3	8	5	9	31	12	16	8	38	516
Total:		164			332																	

69.8% of the subject space was hypothetical and 30.2% was for real (Table 3).

4. Trends by Years

516 researches was examined by every 5 year period. The results are as follows : researches on interior design which could hardly be found in the early '70s increased rapidly since 1985.

In terms of the subject space, residential-related researches were more than commercial ones until 1979. However, commercial-related researches have increased gradually since 1980s, especially in the case of retail and health care design research.

IV. Conclusions

Since the '80s, there has been active researches on the interior design field. The subject space has extensively been expanded in its area, especially in the case of commercial environment. The content of those researches have focused on space design with the intention of applying the results to hypothetical one.