V Skills
Skills for a secure future

Certified Interior Designer
Sample Material

V-Skills Certifications

A Government of India
&
Government of NCT Delhi Initiative

Skills for a secure future

1. HISTORY OF INTERIOR DESIGN

Creativity is one of the main attributes that distinguishes man from other life forms and makes him the dominant species on the planet. It is a part of the human psyche that has been practiced and developed for over a millennia. The desire to leave an indelible mark on our surroundings combined with the need to make our environment better and more comfortable can be seen in how we organize the places that we inhabit and the aesthetic that we create for them.

The earliest evidence dates back to prehistoric times when early humans started to settle and built homes in the forms of caves, grottos, etc. Although the main need consisted of use and necessity, but the inscriptions, symbols and paintings found on the walls reveal a primal instinct and is also an indicator of our superior intelligence. This legacy was then carried forward by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks and the Romans. The Egyptians were known for their mural paintings which aptly depicted their beliefs, history and way of life. Their system of interior designs for their religions and beliefs can still be seen in today's society. On the contrary the Romans and Greeks designed structures to suit their tastes in architectural style. The Greeks especially preferred massive pillared buildings and often used beautiful paintings and vases to decorate their homes.

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries witnessed a remarkable transformation, increased prosperity resulted in an increase in demand for more comfortable and elegant homes. Sophisticated architects and skilled craftsmen were employed to produce and achieve ambitious designs. Distinctive design styles emerged in Europe, particularly Gothic architecture during the Italian Renaissance. Here too the focus was on religious carvings, tapestries and murals spread over ceilings and walls. By the nineteenth century the development of print media and the industrial revolution helped in the spreading of various decorative art forms. Fashion magazines and prints introduced this art form to the general public leading to the amalgamation of various art forms stretching over the length and breadth of the globe giving interior designing its present day outlook and personality.
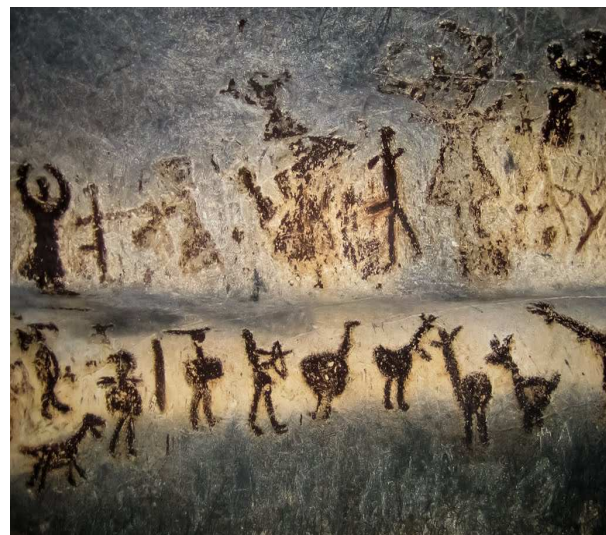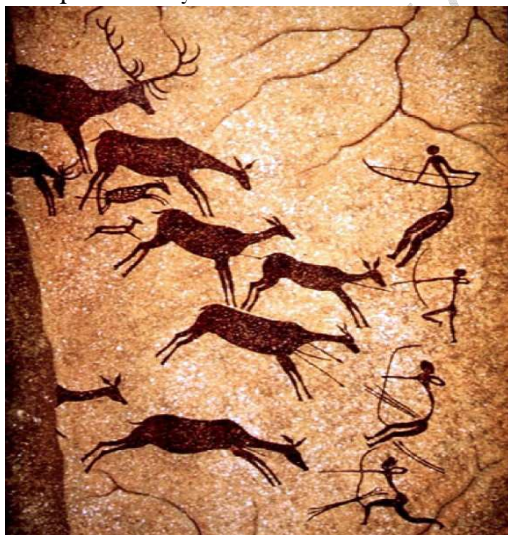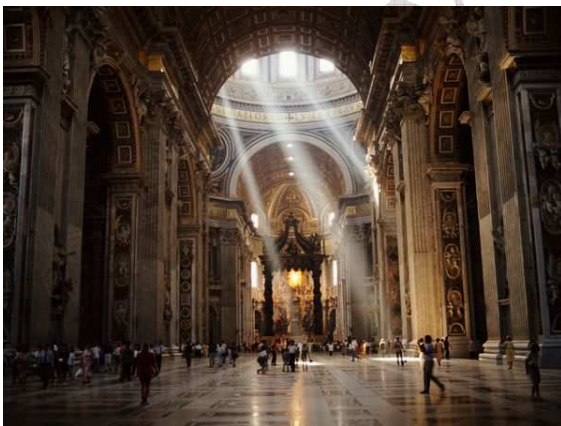

(Pre historic cave art)

(Egyptian wall murals)

(Frescoes at Ajanta caves)

(Gothic architecture- Westminster Abbey)

(Renaissance art: St. Peter's Basilica)

(Present day Interior designing)

1.1. Interior Decoration as a profession

Need for professional Interior decorators or designers

The interior design is so much more than 'what looks right?'. It is about taking a holistic view of the way that individuals use and enjoy the spaces that they inhabit. It is about finding and creating a coherent answer to a set of problems and dressing the solution so as to unify and strengthen our experience of the space. A good interior design adds a new dimension to a space, it can increase our efficiency and adds depth, understanding and meaning to the built environment. Hence, keeping the aforesaid points into consideration, we can effectively conclude that to achieve the optimum interior design it is imperative to employ a professional to handle the nuances of design that any amateur cannot.

Interior design describes a group of various yet related projects that involve turning an interior space into an "effective setting for the range of human activities" that are to take place there. An interior designer is someone who coordinates and manages such projects. Interior design is a multifaceted profession that includes conceptual development, communicating with the stakeholders of a project and the management and execution of the design. The professional interior designer is qualified by education, experience, and examination to enhance the function and quality of interior spaces for the purpose of improving the quality of life, increasing productivity, and protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

Distinction between Interior architecture, interior design and interior decoration

These terms are often used interchangeably and some confusions do exist pertaining to these. What is the distinction between these professions?

Architects use planes (walls, floors and ceilings) to define the volumes (spaces) that combine to make up a building. They are trained to design structures from scratch, taking the intellectual and practical considerations into account.

Interior decorators generally work with existing spaces that do not require physical alteration. Through the use of colour, light and surface finish, they can transform the look of the space with very little changes in the structure of the building.

Interior designers usually lie between interior architects and interior decorators. The scope of their functions varies from purely decorative ones to ones where a great deal of structural change is required. An interior designer handles space planning and creation of decorative schemes along with the major structural changes.

1.2. Emergence of professional Interior designer

In the mid to late 19th century, interior design services expanded greatly, as the middle class in industrial countries grew in size, prosperity and influence, they began to crave for visceral cravings of affluence and grandeur to cement their new status. Large furniture firms began to branch out into general interior design and management, offering full house furnishings in a variety of styles. This business model flourished from the mid-century to 1914, when this role was

increasingly usurped by independent, often amateur, designers. This paved the way for the emergence of the professional interior design in the mid-20th century.

To meet the growing demand for contract interior work on projects such as offices, hotels, and public buildings, these businesses became much larger and more complex, employing builders, joiners, plasterers, textile designers, artists, and furniture designers, as well as engineers and technicians to fulfill the job. Firms began to publish and circulate catalogs with prints for different lavish styles to attract the attention of expanding middle classes. These firms were equipped to accomplish every aspect of interior furnishing including decorative paneling and mantels, wall and ceiling decoration, patterned floors, carpets and draperies.

The interior design profession became more established after World War II. From the 1950s onwards spending on the home increased. Interior design courses were established, requiring the publication of textbooks and reference sources. Historical accounts of interior designers and firms distinct from the decorative arts specialists were made available. Organizations to regulate education, qualifications, standards and practices, etc. were established for the profession.

Interior design was previously seen as playing a secondary role to architecture as it had many connections to other design disciplines, involving the work of architects, industrial designers, engineers, builders, craftsmen, etc. For these reasons the government of interior design standards and qualifications was often incorporated into other professional organizations that involved design. It was not until later that specific representation of the interior design profession was developed.

The US National Society of Interior Designers was established in 1957, while in the UK the Interior Decorators and Designers Association was established in 1966. Across Europe, other organizations such as The Finnish Association of Interior Architects (1949) were being established and in 1994 the International Interior Design Association was founded. Having achieved this, interior design became an accepted profession.

1.3. Modern Interior Design Features

The dynamics of interior design have evolved continuously with time and has come a long way from the pre historic cave painting and murals to today's sophisticated and advanced planning and execution. Today interior design is not confined to the areas of mere decoration and arrangement, nowadays interior design not only encompasses various technical works but also legal and official works like submitting bids, preparing contracts, bills, patenting, copyright works, green clearances, sustainability, etc.

Analyzing the client's needs, goals and life safety requirements

An interior designer must always take into account the needs and requirements of the client in order to create the optimum design. The designer must always design for the client incorporate any changes after intimating the client.

Designing of structures must also take into account the safety criteria such as flammability, strength, toughness, durability, etc.

Formulating preliminary design concepts that are aesthetic, appropriate, functional and in accordance with codes and standards.

The designs and plans must conform to the codes and standards set out by the required organizations. Keeping the designs in accordance to these may help in investigations in case of any failure or disasters. Also this helps in avoiding any legal backlash if any.

Drawing up working drawings and specifications

These need to be prepared for non-load bearing interior construction, reflected ceiling plans, lighting, interior details, materials, finishes, space planning, furnishings, fixtures and equipment in compliance with the universal accessibility guidelines and all applicable codes.

Collaboration

Collaborating with professional services of other licensed practitioners in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical and load bearing design for regulatory approval.

Estimation of quantities

The interior designer may be required to draw up the bill of quantities (BOQ) to estimate the final quantity and the price of the material required for designing and decoration.

Bidding and preparing contracts

Once the required material quantity is determined the cost estimate can be calculated by multiplying the quantity with the price per unit. Once the cost is arrived at the appropriate bidding process may begin. After the job has been awarded the contract is drawn up. It is imperative that in today's time the interior designer is acquainted with all these processes to prevent cheating, manipulation and exploitation.

Proper monitoring and review

The execution of the project must be monitored and controlled in the most effective manner. Reviewing and evaluating of design solutions during implementation and upon completion is necessary to ensure sound execution.

Green clearances

This aspect of interior design has gained paramount importance in recent times due increased focus on environmental degradation. Using eco-friendly materials and processes that do not have any adverse effects on the health of the workers and the environment.