



Special Theme
Interior
Architecture

The universe of interior architecture

Rooms have the ability to move us, capturing and engaging each of our senses with their stylish and welcoming character enriching and inspiring our lives. Be it our own homes, workplaces, nurseries and schools, shopping malls, cafés, museums, cinemas or gyms; we spend more than 80 per cent of our time indoors.

TEXT: VERA SCHMITZ, BDIA PRESIDENT, TRANSLATION: EMMIE COLLINGE

And if the quality of our stay is enhanced in a natural and appealing manner by the space's orientation, usability, use of materials, colours, lighting and acoustics, then our time is rendered even more satisfying.

The individual at the core

This is where the art of interior design comes into the equation. While we tend to think primarily about architects when considering buildings, the idea of a classic high-rise architect is more of a city-based concept. With houses designed

as cubes and volumes, their facades set the stage for an urban public space, taking what is essentially a sculptural approach. Conversely, interior designers base their concepts on what is inside; on the structure and materials present and on the individuals who will use and enliven the space. These two vastly different perspectives can – and should – complement one another to ensure that any scale building works optimally and enriches our world. It soon becomes clear that interior design has little to do with fancy loft apartments or selecting pretty

materials. On the contrary, work carried out by interior designers must meet certain social and cultural obligations – along with our vision for a sustainable future.

Social responsibility

Research and trends create a foundation, which needs to be constantly reviewed. The anticipated changes in our demographic have altered the demands put on our free time, living situations and workplaces. Today, the nomadic, globalised and media-savvy Generation Y expect apposite living spaces, whose formulas perhaps only partially exist so far. People are getting older, living longer and looking for accessibility and barrier-free spaces; a decentralised infrastructure. The challenges of the turnaround in energy policy also impact significantly on the built environment, particularly when it comes

to valuing and reclassifying current constructions. New concepts need to simplify the process for humans to understand and implement energy efficiency, environmental consciousness, and living comfort as interrelated entities.

More than just precisely identifying habits, processes and patterns of movement, our profession can 'materialise' these, transferring them into a complex environment. A propos complexity: the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park affected the entire ecosystem. As the wolf reduced the number of deer, fewer saplings were eaten, the forests stabilised on their own and insects and birds multiplied. Beavers found large trees, and their dams and ponds impacted positively on biodiversity. Soil erosion declined massively and entire river courses changed. We have a dream: space as the 'third educator', provided to every child at nurseries and schools at the highest quality. A cascade of positive experience, from early personal development right through to self-determined and interested adolescents, will lead to a strong and tolerant society.

Space as language

While good rooms can be chance, the majority of rooms are meticulously planned and created. Much more than trendy

decorations, interior design solutions, often seemingly quiet and unspectacular, create interior treasure troves that unobtrusively and unswervingly permeate our lives. These rooms deserve our attention and respect, leaving lasting impressions on us. The magical scent of a chapel, the tantalising coolness of a shady house in the heat of summer, the vibrations of your first airplane take-off, the comforting sounds of entering your own home – subconsciously and comprehensively, we experience and judge rooms and materials, even beyond rational criteria. "Rooms work like language," explains Professor Axel Büther, an expert in perception research. "Perception of space follows the principle of probability, which can be easily observed in the learning process of children. From using things and discovering opportunities for interaction, action routines develop, so that we hardly notice that there is a process of appropriation in our perception of space. A quick glance is usually sufficient to orientate us to recognise the potential for action and make a judgment."

Individual solutions for any budget

All building projects should unite the diverse competences of architects and interior designers, letting creativity flow between tradition and innovation. As part of an education in interior design, the

issues of complexity and differentiation are dealt with, particularly in regards to quality and sustainability. Consequently, as specialists they are able to glean the best possible solution for every commission and guarantee optimal use of the space – regardless of budget. At your next business meeting, social event or stroll, open your eyes to the universe of interior design and allow your senses to be awoken.

The BDIA Bund Deutscher Innenarchitekten (Association of German Interior Architects/Designers) has been promoting and strengthening the profession for 60 years by defining, designing and implementing interiors with a high quality – with the individual, their needs and quality of life at the core. With more than 2,000 members, the BDIA is Europe's largest association of interior architects/designers.

www.bdia.de

Main image: Library in office space by Reuter Schoger, Berlin

From top left:

Private house by Berschneider + Berschneider, Pilsach

Training academy by DESIGN IN ARCHITEKTUR, Darmstadt

Bank by bkp kolde kollegen GmbH, Düsseldorf

From bottom left:

Private house by qbuis innenarchitektur, Hannover

Private house by Ecker Architekten, Heidelberg

Hair salon by studio lot, Altötting

Sachsenring school by Raum und Bau GmbH, Dresden

All images are from the current BDIA interior architecture handbooks.

