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SEMANTIC ASPECTS OF COLOR AND SPACE IN INTERIOR DESIGN

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Introductions.

Interior design is a complex and multidisciplinary field that combines artistic creativity, technical knowledge, psychology, and functionality. The primary goal of interior design is to create environments that are aesthetically attractive, comfortable, safe, and suitable for human activities. Modern interior spaces are no longer viewed merely as physical environments; they are considered dynamic settings that influence emotions, behavior, productivity, and overall well-being. Among the many elements that shape interior environments, color and spatial organization occupy a particularly important place. These components not only determine the visual appearance of a room but also carry semantic meanings that influence how people perceive and experience a space. Through the careful selection of colors and spatial arrangements, designers can communicate specific messages, evoke emotions, and support the functional purpose of an environment. In recent years, the importance of human-centered design has significantly increased. Contemporary designers pay special attention to the psychological and emotional effects of interior environments. As a result, the semantic interpretation of color and space has become an essential aspect of design theory and practice. Understanding these relationships enables designers to create interiors that meet both practical and emotional needs.

Aim.

The aim of this study is to investigate the semantic aspects of color and space in interior design and to analyze their influence on human perception, emotional responses, and spatial experience. The research also seeks to identify the role of color psychology and spatial organization in creating functional and aesthetically harmonious interiors.

Materials and methods.

The research is based on the analysis of scientific literature, professional publications, design theory, and contemporary interior design projects. Comparative and descriptive methods were used to examine the symbolic meanings of colors and the influence of spatial composition on human perception.

The study considers examples from residential, commercial, educational, and public interiors. Particular attention is given to the psychological effects of color, cultural interpretations of visual elements, and modern approaches to spatial planning. The collected information was analyzed to identify common principles and trends that characterize contemporary interior design.

Results and discussion

Color is one of the most powerful tools available to interior designers. It has the ability to influence emotions, create atmosphere, and shape the perception of space. The semantic meaning of color is formed through psychological associations, cultural traditions, and personal experiences. Therefore, color selection plays a crucial role in the design process [1].

Warm colors such as red, orange, and yellow are generally associated with energy, activity, warmth, and communication. These colors can stimulate social interaction and create vibrant environments. For this reason, they are often used in living rooms, restaurants, cafes, and public spaces where people gather and interact. However, excessive use of warm colors may cause visual fatigue or emotional tension.

Cool colors, including blue, green, and violet, are commonly associated with calmness, stability, and relaxation. Blue is frequently connected with trust, intelligence, and concentration, making it suitable for offices and educational spaces. Green symbolizes nature, harmony, and renewal, while violet often conveys creativity and sophistication. These colors contribute to a balanced and peaceful atmosphere.

Neutral colors such as white, gray, beige, and black also possess significant semantic value. White often symbolizes purity, simplicity, and openness. It is widely

used in minimalist interiors because it enhances the perception of spaciousness and cleanliness. Black is frequently associated with elegance, luxury, and authority. Gray creates a sense of balance and professionalism, while beige contributes warmth and comfort.

The perception of color can vary depending on cultural and social contexts. For example, white is associated with weddings and purity in many Western countries, while in some Eastern cultures it may be connected with mourning traditions. Such cultural differences demonstrate the importance of considering the target users when developing interior design solutions [2].

In addition to color, spatial organization is a fundamental component of interior environments. Space influences movement, interaction, functionality, and emotional comfort. Designers use spatial planning to organize activities, establish visual hierarchy, and create meaningful experiences [3].

Open-plan interiors have become increasingly popular in contemporary architecture and design. Such layouts provide flexibility, encourage communication, and maximize the use of available space. Open spaces are particularly common in modern offices, apartments, and commercial environments. They create a feeling of freedom and visual continuity, which many users associate with modern lifestyles.

At the same time, enclosed spaces remain important because they provide privacy, security, and concentration. Bedrooms, private offices, and study areas often benefit from more defined spatial boundaries. The balance between openness and privacy is one of the key challenges in contemporary interior design.

Spatial perception can be modified through various design techniques. The use of mirrors, lighting, textures, and color combinations can visually expand or reduce the perceived size of a room. Light colors typically make spaces appear larger and brighter, whereas dark colors create intimacy and visual depth. Similarly, natural lighting contributes to a positive emotional atmosphere and enhances the connection between indoor and outdoor environments. Furniture arrangement also affects the semantic interpretation of space. Well-organized furniture layouts promote comfort and functionality, while poorly planned arrangements may cause discomfort and

reduce usability. Designers must consider circulation patterns, ergonomic principles, and user behavior when planning interior spaces.

Another important trend in contemporary design is biophilic design. This approach integrates natural elements into interior environments to strengthen the connection between people and nature. Natural materials, indoor plants, daylight, and organic forms contribute to psychological well-being and create healthier living conditions [4]. The popularity of biophilic design reflects growing awareness of environmental sustainability and human wellness.

Technological innovations also influence the semantics of modern interiors. Smart home systems, adaptive lighting, automated climate control, and digital interfaces transform how people interact with their surroundings. These technologies improve comfort and efficiency while creating new opportunities for personalized design solutions.

Modern designers increasingly combine knowledge from psychology, sociology, architecture, and environmental studies to create spaces that respond to human needs. As a result, interior design has evolved beyond decoration and aesthetics. It has become a discipline focused on enhancing quality of life through meaningful and functional environments.

The interaction between color and space is particularly significant. These elements do not function independently; rather, they work together to shape perception and emotional experience. A carefully selected color palette can emphasize spatial characteristics, while effective spatial planning can strengthen the psychological impact of color. Their integration allows designers to create environments that are visually coherent, emotionally engaging, and functionally effective.

Conclusions.

Color and space represent fundamental semantic components of interior design. Their influence extends beyond aesthetics and directly affects human emotions, behavior, and perception. The study demonstrates that color psychology and spatial organization play a crucial role in creating comfortable, functional, and visually

appealing environments.

The semantic interpretation of color depends on psychological associations, cultural traditions, and contextual factors. Spatial planning determines how individuals interact with their environment and influences both functionality and emotional comfort. The successful integration of these elements contributes to the creation of harmonious interior spaces that support human well-being.

Contemporary interior design increasingly emphasizes human-centered and sustainable approaches. Designers utilize color, space, natural elements, and modern technologies to develop environments that meet practical needs while enhancing emotional satisfaction. Future developments in interior design will continue to explore the relationship between visual perception, psychological comfort, and environmental quality, confirming the importance of semantic aspects in the design process.

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