

Chapter 13

“Limited Material” as an Input for Creativity in Interior Architecture: Design and Production With Using a Single Material

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ABSTRACT

This chapter mainly focuses on the influences of material as an input within different stages of design and production in the context of different dimensions that define the relations between user and environment. Properties of the material require discussion on different issues from the urban scale to the interior in a wide perspective such as the dialogue established by the interior and the urban space, psychological and social factors, sensation, temporality, mobility, portability, flexibility, sustainability, strength, durability, and economy. In this context, the topic is discussed through examples of the studies and experiences of the Interior Architectural Design Studio. Within the studio, sheltering alternatives for the homeless have been designed in Istanbul. The main intention is to discuss and question the possibilities of enabling the homeless to be socially integrated into the city and to provide them practical sheltering with using a single material. The limitations of the material increased the challenge while resulting in varied alternatives.

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INTRODUCTION

Similar to other design disciplines, the use of materials and making use of the different properties of materials are important determinants in terms of the essence of design and interaction of the product with user in the interior architecture discipline. Therefore, it is significant to consider the material and its determinant properties throughout the process starting from the design phase to the application. Considering that living environments that are composed of interior spaces and their components have strong interactions with the users and directly affect their daily lives, it is possible to say that the materials have effect not only on physical, but also social, psychological and cultural interactions in the context of the relationship between user and space in various ways.

In scope of this chapter, discussions are made on which and how different issues could be decisive in design and practice in interior architecture regarding the use of a single material and how varied design ideas from different perspectives could be generated based on the interior architecture studio experiences. In this study, with the term “limited material”, it is expressed to use a single and common material for producing a shelter in the project studio. During the studio process, it was stated that the selected material could not be changed and any additional materials could not be used in the design of the products. In this sense, the study provided potentials of working deeply with the selected material and eventually generating creative solutions for the students.

The chapter aims to present design alternatives for the homeless in Istanbul by using a single material, and the process of generating design ideas within the project studio that strives to ensure social improvement together with urban, social and socio-psychological components, and to reach an outcome by discussing these topics from the beginning of the design process to the final stage. Therefore, in addition to the properties of the material, issues that are crucial in scope of human-society-environment interaction such as sheltering, belonging, attachment, privacy, social integration and interaction have been important determinants of studio discussions and design scenarios. Furthermore, interior design practices within the urban space, potential interactions between urban space and interior space, and practice-generation of ideas on how to discuss the physical, social and socio-psychological dimensions are taken into consideration in the design process. Hence, the limitation in the use of materials has actually enabled a rich process to be experienced, which different issues of the design process of both application and usage phases could be discussed.

BACKGROUND

Influences of Materials in Interior Architectural Design

The architectural materials have been varied in the historical process according to their usage and requirements. Over time, studies on the fields related with usage, strength and interaction with other materials have shaped the identities of the interiors in architecture. Today, in interior architectural design, the studies on materials involve many areas that affect the atmosphere of space, from its physical structure to the building, construction, coatings, furniture and support systems (Sully, 2015). Users and designers have direct relationships to materials and their experiences are influenced by materials physically as well as psychologically. The direct relationship with material, surface texture and details in interior space determines how people perceive the materials (Leydecker, 2013). Besides, the way materials are

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