

**INTERIOR DESIGN STYLES IN BENIN CITY: STUDY OF THE FACTORS THAT  
AFFECT INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES AND BUDGET**

**BY**

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## **CHARTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

What is interior design? It is the art, science, and business planning of a creative, technical, sustainable, and functional interior solution that corresponds to the architecture of a space, while incorporating process and strategy, a mandate for well-being, safety, and health, with informed decisions about style and aesthetics. An interior designer is one who manages

The objective of the study is to find out where individual budgets and personal tastes tie in with various interior design styles and trends. The study aims to identify the already existing styles present in Benin City as well as highlight the styles ranging from the most pocket friendly styles to the ostentatious styles for individuals in Benin City.

With a rise in the population of home owners over the years, either through inheritance or purchase, there are a number of individuals who are oblivious to the importance of interior design within Benin city, where there is still a saturation of old mud and zinc buildings with the most interesting things about a typical house's interior being wood carved doors or ornaments, we take a dive into Benin society so as to uncover the reasons for the apathy towards style and aesthetics when it comes to decorating and designing a space. There is a clear lack of intentionality present among Residents of the city of Benin, when it comes to interior design.

Over the course of various years, the cultural Influence mixed with contemporary design styles has been present in a majority of residences across the city. Only until more recent years has interior design styles in Benin City seen an increase in the variety of applied styles.

Moreover, the study will also explore the range of styles available both for those with more humble tastes and finances and for those with more extravagant tastes and higher budgets. By identifying the simplistic and cost effective designs as well as ostentatious design styles prevalent in Benin City. This will help in understanding the preferences of individuals with various spending capacities and provide insights for designers and businesses catering to this segment.

To achieve these objectives, the research will employ various methodologies such as surveys, interviews, and observational studies. Surveys and interviews will be used to gather data on individual budgets, personal taste preferences, and the styles of interior design they currently employ. Additionally, observational studies will be conducted to analyze the different interior design styles present in various locations within Benin City.

The findings of this study will have practical implications for both individuals and professionals in the interior design industry. Individuals will gain valuable insights into the styles that align with their budgets and personal tastes, enabling them to make more informed decisions when revamping their living

spaces. Interior designers and businesses in Benin City can also leverage the study's findings to tailor their services and offerings to suit a range of budgetary requirements and design preferences.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF RESEARCH PROBLEMS**

A large number of residents in Benin City are currently unable to identify the interior design styles that are within their budget and match with their tastes. This in turn could cause some of them to give up entirely on creating or personalizing spaces that suits their tastes and resort to just purchasing or curating items without any proper thought process beyond solely for the sake of acquiring usable furniture and interior pieces.

Individuals are also unaware of their own tastes, what they like and what they might want out of a space, which in turn causes them to make poor interior design choices or mix and match pieces that don't go together or fit their tastes.

There are also a number of factors that affect the budget directly, from the individual Pockets to the quality of desired pieces, overall size/ room layout, Total number of pieces needed , even custom details.

### 1.3 JUSTIFICATION FOR RESEARCH

Nicola Harding states that, *'Don't just think about what you want, think about why you want it. Often people believe they need something without thinking about it thoroughly, deferring to something that is in fashion, or that other people have, or that they grew up with.'*

Micheal Murphy said that, *"Beauty matters: Spaces around us that are designed with beauty say that we matter as an individual"*.

Putting this into context, individuals don't really know what they want out of a space and are out of touch with their tastes, often times they acquire interior pieces because they have seen it in some neighbor's home or it's showcased in the outside world as the current craze or they're tastes are held back by the nostalgia of where they grew up and unwillingness to change.

The concern is that a lack of objective thinking along with no knowledge of how to plan for better interiors has stunted the creativity and tastes of a large population of Residents in Benin city.

Growing up in a traditional Benin home in the Siluko region in my earliest years, I got to observe the typical elderly Edo woman in her home and her furniture pieces as well as wall paint and finishes, coupled with the cluster of unnecessary items littering the entire home. This brings me to the conclusion that there is a need for individuals to be educated on proper interior design.

## **1.4 RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

The following research aims to ask the important questions, such as

- What does one want out of space
- How well do individuals know their tastes
- What is your income class
- How willing and/or interested in acquiring an optimal space for you.

## **1.5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The necessity of discovering one's own distinctive taste in home design is also emphasized by this study. It acknowledges that everyone has different aesthetic preferences and that it's important for them to recognize and comprehend their preferences. Gaining insight into one's preferences can help people make design decisions that are in line with their personalities and produce places that are authentic representations of who they are.

This study also acknowledges the necessity of taking financial limitations into account while carrying out interior design initiatives. It acknowledges that not everyone has unlimited funds to spend on pricey furnishings or high-end materials. As a result, the study offers suggestions and methods for achieving a person's ideal style while keeping a budget in mind. It enables people to change their lives by providing helpful advice and original solutions

The primary goal of this study is to educate individuals on the need for an optimal interior design while crafting an analysis of different styles and revealing the cost of implications and benefits of each one. Also helping individuals discover the importance of finding their personal tastes and how to execute them to whatever degree with their budget in consideration.

## **1.6 RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS**

The guiding theory of this research is that ;

- There might be a lack of awareness and understanding among individuals in the City of Benin regarding the importance of proper interior design.
- It is posited that people of different income classes may face challenges in aligning their personal preferences and tastes with their budgetary constraints when making decisions about budgeting, style, materials, quality, color, and related aspects of interior design.
- As regards the stated activity. Individuals of different income classes cannot make it to the point where their respective tastes meet their pocket's capabilities.



## **1.8 LIMITATIONS OF RESEARCH**

The potential limitations of conducting this research could come via Literacy factors as not all individuals would be capable of providing usable data . There is also the accessibility and/or availability of individuals, some people would be against allowing strangers into their homes or even speaking to them at all. In addition, the research may have problems with bias and subjective interpretation. Individual perspectives may affect the data collected, resulting in skewed findings. Additionally, researchers could subjectively interpret the data, which might compromise the objectivity of the conclusions. Additionally, doing study in people's homes can raise ethical questions. Participants may experience invasions of privacy or discomfort. To protect participant privacy and well-being, researchers must obtain informed consent and take appropriate precautions.

Last but not least, the research can be constrained by time and budgetary constraints. It can take a lot of resources to conduct research in people's homes. It needs money, enough employees, and logistical preparation—all of which might not always be possible. Another obstacle could be the time and effort needed for data collection and analysis, particularly if the study wants to elicit detailed information from each participant.

## **CHARTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW & FRAMEWORK**

### **2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW**

An art form and a way to express oneself, interior design has a big impact on how a place feels to live and work. Numerous elements, such as personal tastes, cultural origins, and financial limitations, have an impact on how people choose interior design styles. The available research on these aspects is examined in this literature review, with an emphasis on how individual interior design budget allocations and style preferences are affected.

Augustin, S., Frankel, N., & Coleman, C. (2009), in “Place advantage: Applied psychology for interior architecture”. Sally Augustin, an applied environmental psychologist, provides design professionals with understandable environmental psychological insights into how aspects of the physical environment affect people's attitudes and behaviors. She presents the fundamental ideas of place science and demonstrates how elements like colors, odors, textures, and the spatial layout of a space, in addition to personality and

cultural identity, have an effect on how a place is experienced. These guidelines are used for a variety of building types, including homes, offices, hospitals, schools, and retail establishments. The book describes a concept called, 'Place Science', as well as its applications. Place science is a system discipline, much like Physics or Genetics, that uses structured thinking to establish how the place you're in currently directly influences one's mental state and determines what changes (if need be) are required to be made in a space to achieve personal and professional objectives.

Place scientists have systematically gathered information about human responses to color, smell, textures, furniture and furniture arrangements, ceiling heights, acoustics, shapes, and practically everything we can find around ourselves.

Style, according to Chan, C. S. (2001). An examination of the forces that generate a style., style is manipulated by prominent two-dimensional (2D) or three-dimensional (3D) entities (which are termed features) generated by design processes, it is possible to see that a style is a product of certain factors that occurred in a design process. The process of architectural design is a unique thinking process that involves the use of logical reasoning, manipulation of images, 2D or 3D representation to reveal forms generated in the designer's mind, and many other mental parameters. The typical conception of the classical theory of style was not as a theory. In the majority

of fields, it was taught and learned as an undeniable definitional fact rather than as an empirical hypothesis. As a result, designers have been a focus of historians, critics, and theorists' studies of style. For them, a work of art's style serves as a means of expression, and they utilize it to describe the relationships between various people, eras, or geographical areas. These academics emphasize interpreting product features to learn about period, group, regional, or vernacular styles and how they develop as well as what their developments mean in a social, cultural, political and psychological context because they use style as a tool to distinguish works of art.

According to Maslow's 1943 Hierarchy of Needs According to Maslow's theory, human needs are arranged in a hierarchy, starting with physiological requirements and ending with self-actualization. Understanding where preferences for interior design lie within this hierarchy can help reveal the psychological demands that are driving such preferences.

## **2.2 EXPLANATION OF FACTORS**

### **2.2.1 HUMAN FACTORS THAT AFFECT INTERIOR DESIGN**

Having an area of personal territory in the office space, is a significant feature of numerous architectural designs which can reduce the negative impacts of crowding in metropolitan environments (Calhoun, 1947). With this information, researchers have investigated the interior and individual

behavioral responses to the interior environment. Ritzman, Bradford and Jacobs (1979) address that depending on the standards and function, office layout problems vary and may be due to competition for the same resources.

Human Factors in Interior Design according to Nielson and Taylor (2010) include Standard clearances, anthropometrics, proxemics and territoriality, and crowding. Human factors fell into the four highest contributors which confirmed the importance in protecting the welfare of occupants and were therefore selected as variables for this study (IDBOK, 2010).

Human factors (ergonomics) deal with the subject matters of human-technology and environmental relationships that co-exist in self-regulating domains mainly in cognitive, behavioral, and physical sciences (Ahasan, Hassan & Imbeau, 2015). Basically, it involves the interaction of humans and other elements of an object/ system/ environment. In this way, the object/ system or environment design should be based on the physical and psychological characteristics of its users. Human factors and ergonomics may be an autonomous area since it covers an extensive range of knowledge, skills and experiences.

Ergonomics combines anthropometrics (human body measurement data), physiology, and psychology in response to the needs of the user in the environment. For the purpose of this study, the study focuses on biological factors (body dimensions, capabilities, physiological processes) and physical

factors (conditions of the environment; objects - tools, furniture, etc.) within the interior structure. Movement areas within any building interior should be as free as possible of obstacles and should be noticeable depending on the type of space, size, layout and user requirements (Mahmoud, 2017). Henceforth, attention needs to be paid when designing office interiors because of the increase in staff numbers (Vink, Bakker, & Groenesteijn, 2017).

### **2.2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND CHOICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

Various studies have come out with different descriptive indicators in different settings such as: spatial identity, social including human expectations and requirements, physical (location, climatic) and economic factors (Proshansky, 1978; Proshansky, Fabian & Kaminoff, 1979, 1983, 1995; Proshansky & Fabian, 1987; Bell, Fisher, & Loomis, 1978; Dickson & White, 1997; Khaslavsky, 1998; Bozdayı, 2004; Knieling & Othengrafen, 2009; Yalçın, 2015; Orchowska, 2017). In this view, Wohlwill and Harris (1980) asserted that there is a complex and broad relationship between aesthetic preference and the existence of man-made features in natural settings.

Levin (1996), in his paper "Design for multiple indoor environmental factors In Indoor Air" categorised the indoors as four broad categories: chemical, physical, biological, and psychological. His position was that the design of an indoor environment should lessen sickness, irritation and uneasiness in the user

as these symptoms can result from external aspects such as noise, deprivation of privacy, poor lighting, lack of territoriality and other environmental factors. Bluysen (2013) maintained that the relationships between environmental factors and the interior matter by stating that any intrusion of external and internal stressors may intensely limit any feeling of intimacy, control and safety, thus diminishing psychological and social functions of the interior. Then, badly situated offices could affect physical well-being and health of people (Yakubu, Akaateba & Akanbang, 2014).

The built environment consists of the design of the interior, its surroundings and layout of a space, (Rijnaard, van Hoof, Janssen, Verbeek, Pocornie, Eijkelenboom, Beerens, Molony, & Wouters, 2016; Kort, Duijnste, Rutten, Henson & van Hoof, 2016; Eijkelenboom, Verbeek, Felix & van Hoof, 2017). Eijkelenboom et al. (2017), agreed that within the built environment, factors that influence perception/ preference and comfort that could be altered by the external environment included look and feel, the outdoors/ landscape, location, privacy, personal effects, technology. Security is another concern, beginning with the perimeter to the interior, since there could be an unclear breach between the exterior and interior security (Fischer, Halibozek & Walters, 2018). This means that, if users experience high levels of perceived environmental stressors within the interior, they are less likely to choose that interior as a good space (Waroonkun, 2018).

### 2.2.3 COGNITIVE FACTORS AND CHOICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN

A major argument is the fact that there is no evidence that fundamental perceptual and cognitive processes vary between cultures (Cole & Scribner, 1974; Kennedy, 1974), thus, these may be the best measures among different cultures or people rather than age, sex and other measures. The quality and complexity of conscious experience change throughout a person's life as affective-cognitive structures are formed (Izard & Buechler, 1980). The views of Altman and Chemers (1980), support this by maintaining that there is a significant influence between cognition and countless aspects of persons' relations with the physical environment. As a result, there is a strong correlation between cognition and choice.

In the view of Perez and Arce (1997), there is an interaction between culture and cognition, where cognition is the mental action or process through which one acquires knowledge and understanding of the objective world through thought, experience, and the senses. Similar findings were reported by Wu (2011). He stated that perceptual/ conscious attention as a process of selecting specific perceptual inputs which leads to attention influencing the way things perceptually appear. Several characteristics of the perceiver can affect the interpretation of what they sense. The major characteristics of the perceiver influencing perception are: attitudes, motives, interests, expectations and

experiences. Cognition is particularly broad, starting from perceptions, automatic thoughts, intermediate beliefs, up to schemas, self-concepts, existential life goals and more generalized concepts (Beck & Haigh, 2014).

Abdelrazik (2015) argues that perception is part of cognition. As a result, choice is usually made due to one's perception of what is aesthetically pleasing, good or bad, due to the individual's experiences, interests and expectations of the interior subsequently creating the concept of "cognitive factors". Önal and Turgut (2017), may help to explain the interaction between the user and interior as their study found that conceptual structures which allow people to store perceptual and conceptual information about his/her lives and interpret these experiences and expressions (cognitive schemas) are important.

It can be deduced that human factors fell under the five abstract knowledge factors in the knowledge areas (Kas) of the IDBOK, including some aspects of Environmental factors. These affect perception on specifications of any interior and could affect the safety and happiness of the occupant. The relationship between these factors sets design for welfare directly on responsible practice of the interior design profession (IDBOK, 2010).

### **2.3 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This research paper aims to establish a framework for understanding the complex interplay of factors that influence individual preferences and budgets

in interior design. By integrating relevant theories from psychology, economics, and design studies, this study will provide a comprehensive foundation for future empirical studies in this field. Theoretical foundations are drawn from a range of academic sources, ensuring the robustness and validity of the overall research.

### **2.3.1 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

Conceptual frameworks are used to demonstrate and explain the relationships between the variables used in a study. The main variables in this study are the aspects that affect perception of the interior (human factors, cognitive factors and environmental factors) which in turn affect choice of interior design. Determinants that affect perception and choice of the interior are essential to identify in order to reduce any problematic interiors.

### **2.4 METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF RESEARCH**

The framework for acquiring data for this research would be set up in line with identified factors that could affect individual Preferences such as;

#### **2.4.1 HUMAN FACTORS (HF)**

Based on Nielson and Taylor (2010), human factors were measured using:

- **Standard clearances:** movement flows/ traffic paths within the interior (Panero

& Zelnik, 1979).

- **Anthropometrics:** measurement of the human body with disabilities in mind

(Panero & Zelnik, 1979).

- **Proxemics:** distances needed by people to communicate in social settings or the way people use space and the way that use is related to culture (Hall, 1966).

- **Territoriality:** a study of proxemics where focus is on how people choose the size of their own space and the need to have one's own space (Hall, 1966). MEN

- **Crowding:** number of people/ objects in a room; less than 8-10 sqm per person

in residence (de Lauwe, 1959). BTS

#### 2.4.2 COGNITIVE FACTORS (CF)

Based on a study by Renninger and Riley (2013), cognitive factors were measured

using:

- **Interests:** desire to know or learn about the interior.

- **Experience:** practical contact with and observation of the interior.
- **Expectation:** seeing what one already imagines to see.

### 2.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS (EF)

Based on physical factors affecting construction projects Loosemore (2003), environmental factors were measured using:

- **Weather:** the conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place and time (including wind, sunshine, rain etc.).
- **Location:** a particular geographical area or place the building and interior are situated (e.g. views the users will have from the window, sounds etc.).
- **Safety:** being free from danger whether occupational, ecological, mental, physical and so on.

### 2.4.4 CHOICE OF INTERIOR DESIGN (CI)

Based on the gestated fundamental principles of aesthetic order in visual design by Graves (1941), choice of interior design factors were measured using:

- **Color:** The property of an object where it is visually perceived as a result of the way it reflects or emits light.
- **Space:** A two-dimensional or three-dimensional area which is open or closed.
- **Shape/ Form:** a two- or three-dimensional element defined by other elements of design.

- **Texture:** A replication of three-dimensional surfaces through various drawing and media techniques to be experienced by touch or vision.
- **Line:** A point in motion, with only one dimension length and has both a position and a direction in space. The variables of line are: size, shape, direction/ pattern, position. Points create lines, lines create shapes or planes and volume. Pattern: a repeating part of shape or form.

## **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

The study was conducted from June 2023 to August 2023, across Oredo, Ikpoba-okha, and Egor Local Government Areas of Edo State, Nigeria. This time frame was committed to searching the study areas for individuals and families that possess residences and also interior designers and furniture suppliers. Data collected from this were used for the study (i.e. physical observation).

### **3.2 DATA TYPES AND SOURCES**

#### **3.2.1 THE PRIMARY SOURCE**

The primary source of the research's data will be statistical information obtained from questionnaires that were distributed to a variety of inhabitants of Benin (both temporary and permanent), as well as interior designers and furniture suppliers, who have participated in the study. Content of the

questionnaires would include the ages of individuals and their yearly gross incomes.

### 3.2.2 SECONDARY SOURCE

The secondary source of the research data would be data for articles and other publication data on around about Forty (40) interior design styles and the average cost of interior design in 2023.

### 3.3 RESEARCH DATA MATRIX

Demographic characteristics of respondents and their current accommodation.

**TABLE 1: Sex of respondents**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Male		
Female		
<b>Total</b>		

*Table 1 reveals the sex of the respondents, representing male and female. Source: questionnaires .*

**TABLE 2: Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
25-30		
30-40		
40-50		
<b>Total</b>		

*Table 2 reveals the age of the respondents, representing various age groups. Source: questionnaires .*

**TABLE 3: Accommodation Description**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage%</b>
Old		
Renovated		
New		

<b>Other</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

*Table 3 reveals the nature of the respondents' own spaces. Source: questionnaires .*

**TABLE 3: Ownership Status**

<b>Ownership Status</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Personal House		
Rented		
<b>Total</b>		

*Table 3 reveals the nature of the respondents ownership of their current accommodations. Source: questionnaires .*

**TABLE 4: Average Yearly Income**

<b>Yearly income (naira)</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage%</b>
<b>100,000-1,000,000</b>		

<b>1,000,000-2,000,000</b>		
<b>2,000,000-3,000,000</b>		
<b>Total</b>		

*Table 4 reveals the average yearly income of the respondents. Source: questionnaires .*

**3.4 RESEARCH POPULATION**

The research population would be various inhabitants of Benin City.

**3.5 SAMPLING FRAME**

The following sample frame was taken into account in order to get results that were impartial and accurate.-- Age range between 25 and 50 years Sex comprises of Male and Female

**3.6 SAMPLE SIZE**

A number of Benin City residents were randomly selected for the study.

**3.7 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES**

After the individuals were selected, the questionnaire was then distributed accordingly via digital media.

### **3.8 DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENT**

The instrument for data collection was a questionnaire

### **3.9 PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION**

The researcher gave copies of the questionnaire to the selected individuals. The questionnaire was used to collect data. The individuals selected were given digital access to the questionnaire, which they were asked to fill out and return to the researcher.

### **3.10 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS**

The quantitative data analysis approach is the data analysis technique used in the study. A closed-end ranking order asking approach using a 4-point Likert scale was used to answer the study questions, and a basic percentage analysis technique was used to evaluate the results.

### **3.11 DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS**

Both the questionnaire's questions and the criteria for collecting data (such as the age and sex of the respondents and their yearly gross income.) were initially created. After the prepared questionnaires were given to the respondents, they were asked to complete them correctly before a collated

analysis was performed. Subsequently, the surveys will be examined for mistakes such as duplicate entries or numerous data. After then, certain data will be changed or relocated. Concrete statistics numbers are produced by computing and converting the confirmed raw data. The results will finally be evaluated and used for the current study as well as future studies.

## **CHAPTER 4: ANALYSIS, FINDINGS, DISCUSSION**

### **4.1 INTRODUCTION**

The preceding chapter presented the methodology employed for the study. Chapter Four however, presents the data collected, summarized, organized and analyzed according to the objectives and research questions of the study. It begins with an analysis of the background data of respondents and then follows with the analysis of responses to the research questions.

Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to analyze the background characteristics of the respondents and their work environments, while ranking was used to analyze a research objective. Finally, the remainder of the research objectives were tested through inferential analyses by assessing the direction, strength and level of significance. In all, questionnaires were administered to the sample size with over 70 respondents.

## 4.2 ANALYSIS

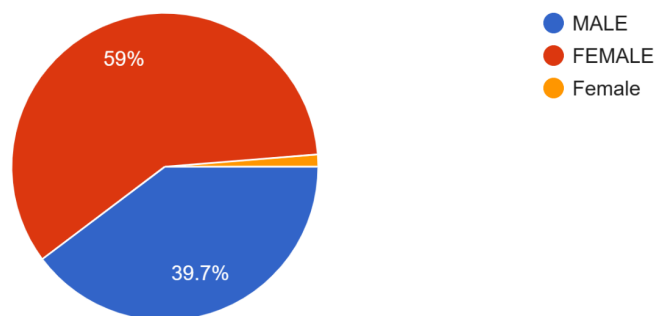
Characteristics of Respondents and Work Environments The background characteristics of the studies included sex, rank, income range, age, ownership of accommodation and whether or not their office building is disabled-friendly.

The following charts were gathered via google forms and analyzed there to provide percentile analysis of the various responses to the questionnaires .

### 4.2.1SEX?

SEX?

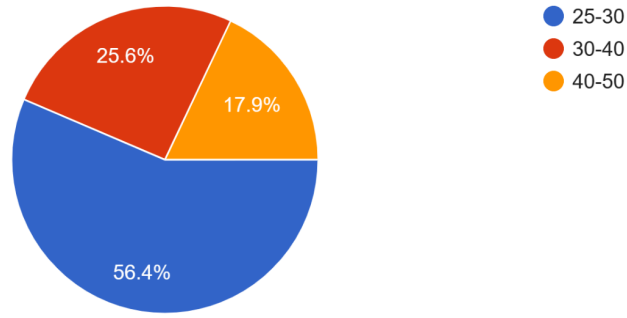
78 responses



#### 4.2.2 AGE?

##### AGE

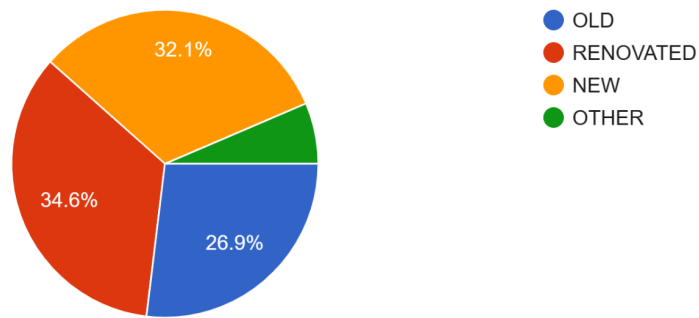
78 responses



#### 4.2.3 ACCOMMODATION DESCRIPTION?

##### ACOMMODATION DESCRIPTION

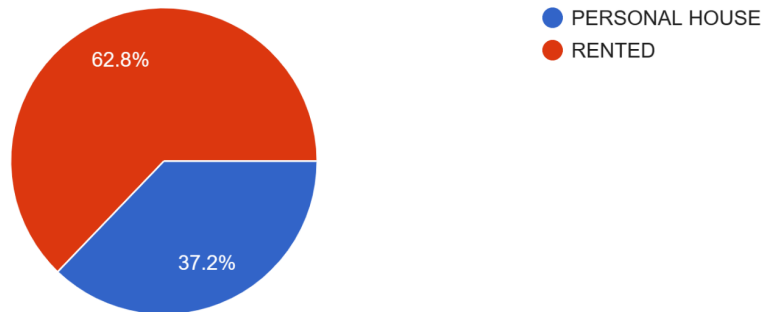
78 responses



#### 4.2.4 OWNERSHIP STATUS OF CURRENT ACCOMODATION?

### OWNERSHIP STATUS OF CURRENT ACCOMODATION

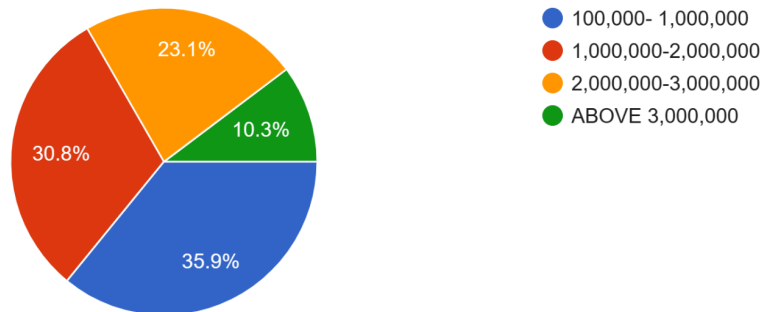
78 responses



### 4.2.5 AVERAGE YEARLY INCOME ?

#### AVERAGE YEARLY INCOME

78 responses



### 4.3 RESULTS OF THE FACTORS

The following charts would represent an analysis of the factors that could affect choice of interior design, obtained and analyzed on google forms. The data was curated via the use of questionnaires sent out to various individuals, with the sole aim of grasping the current state of each and every one of their respective spaces. The categories of these factors are split into:

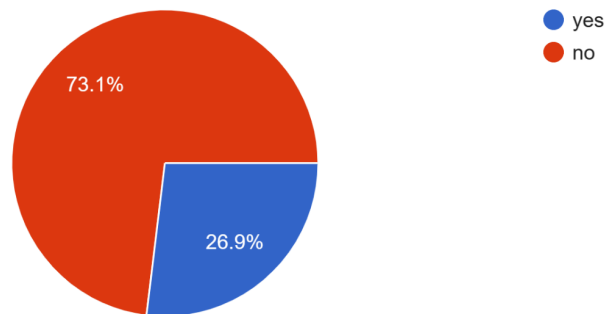
- Human factors (HF)
- Cognitive factors (CF)
- Environmental Factors (EF)
- Choice of interiors (CI)

#### **4.3.1 HUMAN FACTORS**

The charts represent the responses of individual regarding questions tailored towards the human factors affecting interior design choices. These factors revolve around various human related factors such as; Anthropometrics, the state of the current space, measurements, accessibility and quantity.

HF. does the nature of your interior feel like it was designed for you?

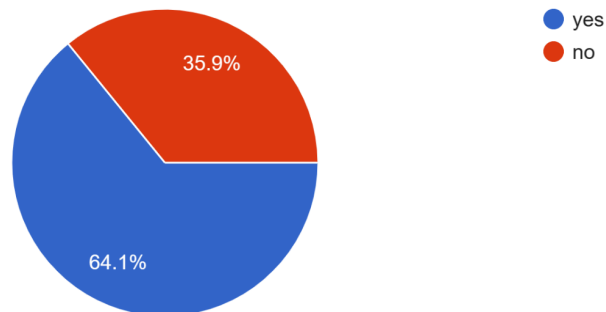
78 responses



*This shows that 73.1% of respondents do not feel like their immediate interior spaces have been designed to their tastes while 26.9% are living in spaces with personalized interior design.*

HF. Is moving around the interior easy?

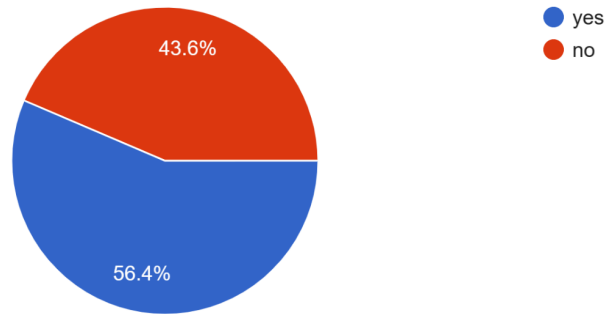
78 responses



*The results here show that 64.1% of respondents find it easy to traverse within their interior suggesting good furniture layout within the space, while 35.9% do not find it easy to navigate within their space, suggesting inadequate layout of furnishing.*

HF. Is the furniture good?

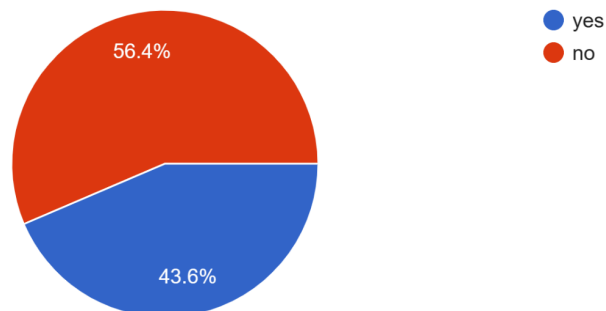
78 responses



*These results suggest that the furnishing quality within the space of 56.4% of respondents is adequate enough, while for 43.6% of respondents their furnishing might not be so decent.*

HF. can a disabled person easily access the space?

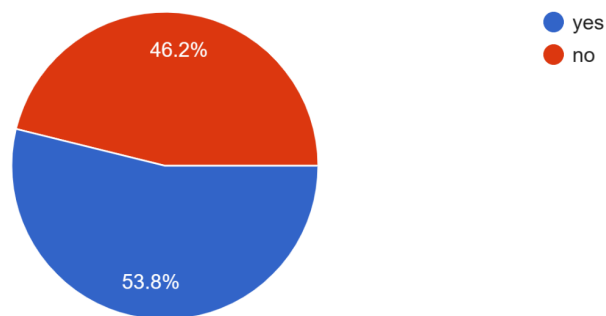
78 responses



*These results show that the accommodation of 43.6% of respondents made available means for handicapped individuals to access the spaces, while for 56.4% of respondents the situation is the opposite, suggesting developers did not into account disabled individuals.*

HF. Is there enough space ?

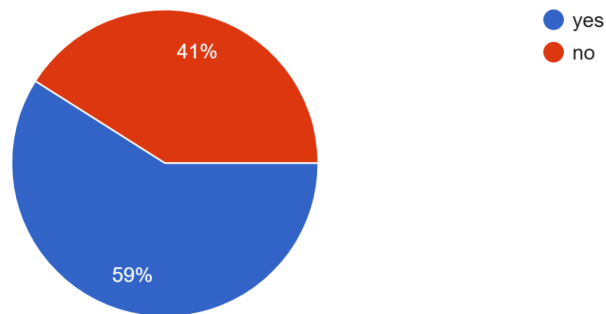
78 responses



*The results show that there is adequate space within the accommodation of 53.8%, while for 46.2% there is not enough space within the interior, this could affect movement, making the space feel restrictive.*

HF. Can you easily make changes to your own space?

78 responses



*About 59% of respondents can easily edit their spaces as they please with the scale available...While 41% can not do the same as it is more restrictive for them.*

According to the quantitative analysis, human factors bring about a change in the user's choice of interior design. The interior is built to host the people who live there but most important to suit the occupant(s). Thus, interior ergonomics /such as standard clearances, crowding, proxemics, anthropometrics and territoriality are vital. Objective 1 established the most prevalent issues within the interiors as standard clearances, crowding and proxemics. Spaces come in different sizes as some of the spaces were small and could not accommodate additional persons or the extra furniture that were situated in the rooms but others were large enough.

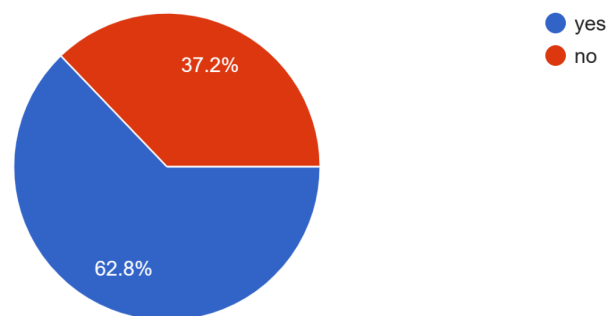
### 4.3.2 COGNITIVE FACTORS

According to Kaplan (1982) everyone differs in preferences due to cognition and the choice of interior design should allow the user to avoid harmful environments and adapt

(Ulrich, 1983; Kaplan, 1987). Thus, using the variables of the study : interests, experiences, expectations, it is evident that choice is controlled by these, In the quantitative data, there was a positive significant relationship between cognitive factors and choice of interior design. This is explained by the things the researcher observed, answers to from statements made by the respondents, and various articles reviewed.

CF. Are you aware of the design and decor within your interior?

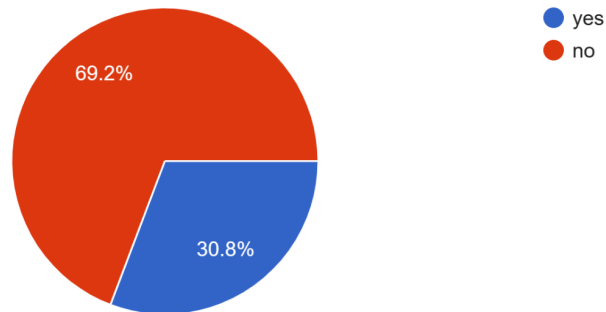
78 responses



*62.8% of respondents are conscious of the interior design within their space, while 37.2% are unconscious of the immediate interior design or decor around them*

CF. Are you fascinated by what your interior looks like?

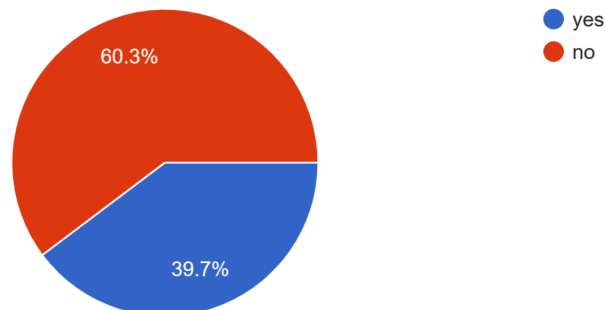
78 responses



*30.8% of respondents are fascinated by their interior design suggesting they could explore it further, while 69.2% of the respondents are not all that intrigued by it as their interest was not peaked .*

CF. Is the interior well done?

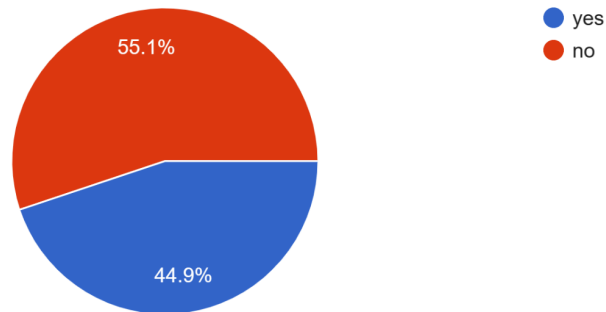
78 responses



*39.7% of respondents state that their interiors are well done, while 60.3% do not believe that their spaces are well designed.*

CF. Do you like the furnishing in your interior?

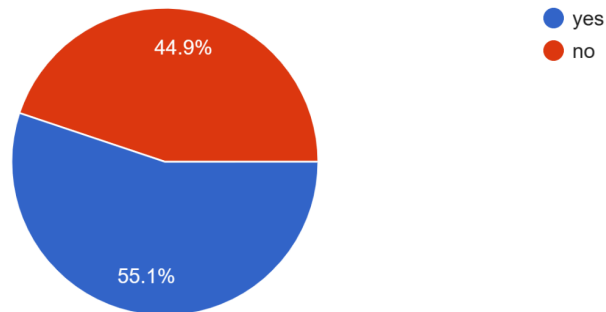
78 responses



*44.9% of respondents are satisfied with their interior furnishing, while 55.1% are unsatisfied with the furnishing available.*

CF. Did you add your personal style to your space?

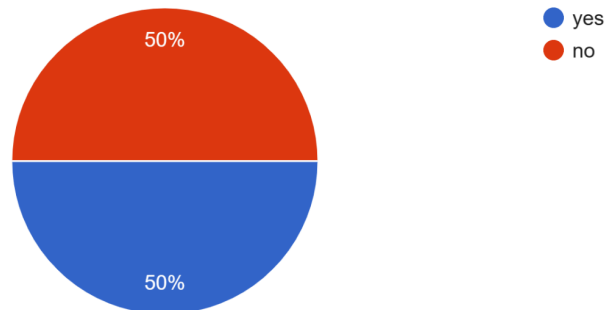
78 responses



*56.1% of respondents claimed to have added their personal style the interior design of thor space, while 44.9% of individuals did not.*

CF. Is there a need to change the appearance of the interior?

78 responses



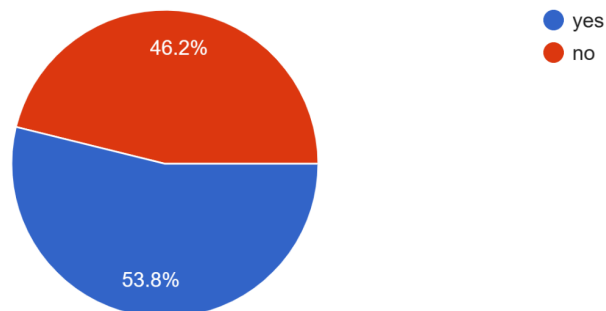
*The results are split because 50% of respondents claim to have a need to change their interiors, while 50% do not have a need to do so at the moment.*

#### **4.3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS**

Environmental factors such as location, weather and safety were evidently important variables from the results of the interviews from the sample.

EF. Is the air quality good?

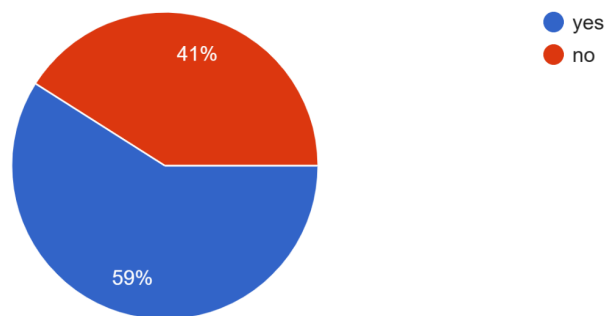
78 responses



*53.8% of respondents claim that the air quality of their spaces is good, while 46.2% of respondents claim that theirs is poor, this may be due to fenestration issues or the quality of the external environment.*

EF. Are there any physical discomfort in your interior?

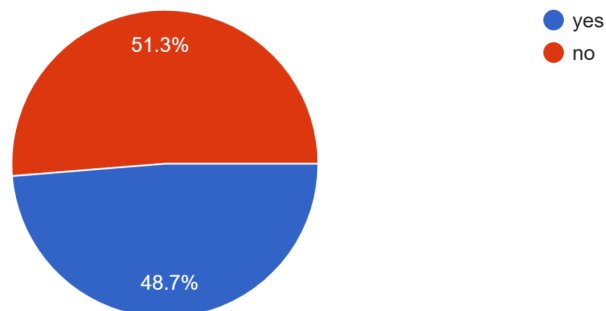
78 responses



*59% of respondents claim to have physical discomforts within their environment, while 41% claim to not have any.*

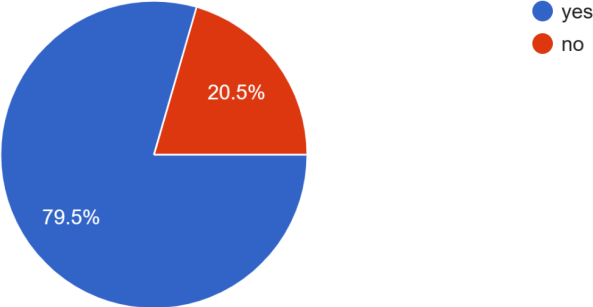
EF. Are noise levels high?

78 responses



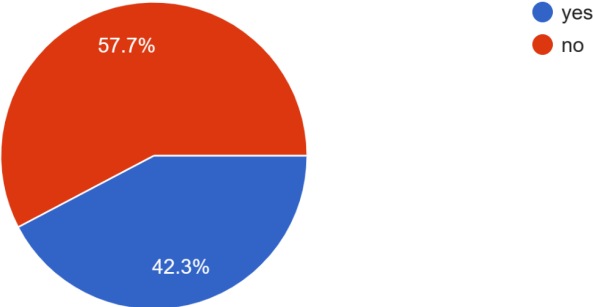
*48.7% of respondents claim to have increased noise levels, while 51.3% of them claim to not have such. Higher noise levels produced by a polluted environment cause discomfort for individuals and health issues*

EF. Do Doors and windows contribute to the lighting?  
78 responses



*79.5% of individual claim that doors and window contribute to the lighting of the space, while 20.5% claim that it does not.*

EF. Are there cracks in the building?  
78 responses



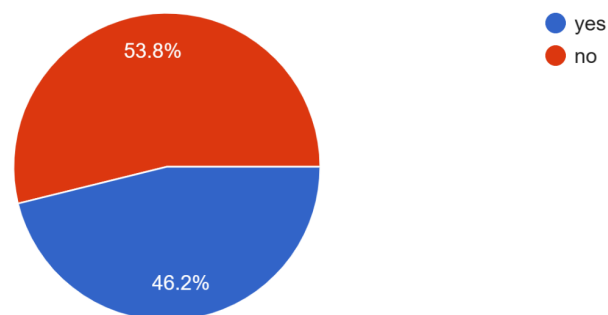
*42.3% of individuals have observed cracking on the structure they live in, while 57.7% claim to have not observed any of such.*

#### 4.3.4 CHOICE OF INTERIOR

The aesthetics of the interior should align with conventional topics from environmental aesthetics, aesthetics of daily life, and philosophy of art (Fisher, 2016). In the end, setting up an interior design involves deliberately designing designs that satisfy the user's needs, wants, values, and satisfactions on a psychological level. Interior architectural accessibility and circulation designs differ based on the kind of space, its dimensions, its arrangement, and the needs of its users (Mahmoud, 2017). According to Von Castell, Hecht, and Oberfeld (2018), it's important for daily living to perceive interior space and have enough distance between the head and the ceiling.

Cl. Are the combinations of Furnitures harmonious?

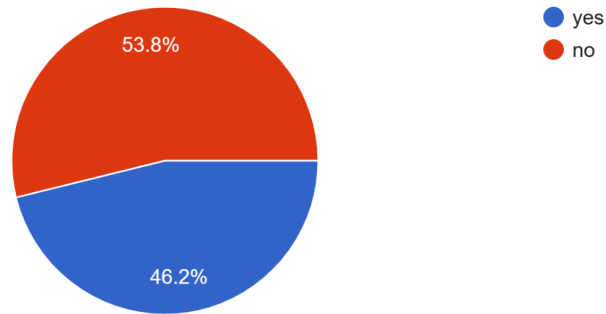
78 responses



*46.2% of respondents claim to have a harmonious furniture layout and combination, while 53.8% claim to not have such.*

CI. Are there uniformed patterns in the interior?

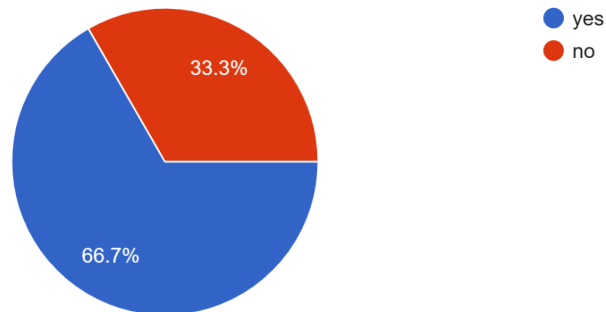
78 responses



*46.2% of respondents claim to have uniformed patterns within their interior, while 53.8% claim to not have such.*

CI. Is there enough natural and artificial lighting ?

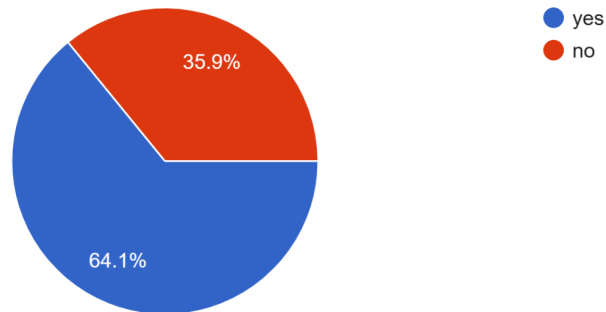
78 responses



*66.7% of respondents claim to have decent natural and artificial lighting, while 33.3% of the claim to have inadequate natural and artificial lighting.*

Cl. Is the space functional?

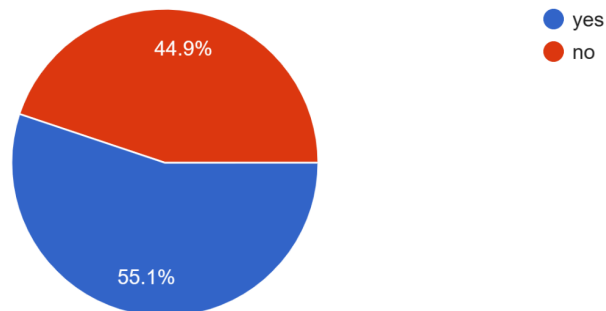
78 responses



*64.1% of individuals claim to have functional spaces, while 35.9% of them claim to not have functional spaces.*

Cl. Is the wall color satisfactory?

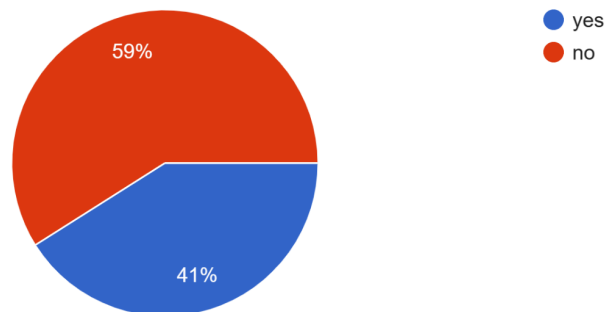
78 responses



*55.1% of individual claim to be satisfied with the wall color of their space, while 44.9% of individuals claim to be dissatisfied with theirs*

CI. Is there a variety of textures in the space?

78 responses



*41% of respondents claim to have a variety of textures within their interior design, while 59% claim to not have such.*

#### **4.4 DISCUSSION**

Drawing from the research, the most crucial factor in interior design is taking the needs of the inhabitants into account (Hendy, 2011), as cognition has a significant influence on decision-making. Reviewing the amount of effort, money, and quality may be necessary if the client is not satisfied. Creating an interior to a user's specifications comes at a cost, particularly if they have high standards for their interior design. This includes redesigning, furnishing, and other things that could wind up costing the user, department, or university a lot of money. The project team and client require time to jot down thoughts

and develop various concepts and models. Audits, meetings, and an interior designer are all part of the project management team.

The quadruple restrictions are impacted by human, environmental, and cognitive factors that influence interior decision. This is due to the fact that, in terms of cognition, how the user perceives themselves as the customer impacts whether or not the project is deemed successful (Ghanbaripour, Langston & Yousefi, 2017). The arrangement of the interior and the presence or lack of specific items like cupboards, seats, curtains, fans, and so on can be explained by human factors. The arrangement of the room has an impact on how many items and people fit inside.

#### **4.5 SUMMARY**

As per the study's aims and research questions, this chapter has compiled, arranged, scrutinized, and deliberated over the gathered data. It examined the respondents' background information, the answers to the research questions, and the results of semi-structured interviews. The results of the analysis showed a direct, substantial, positive association between the independent factors and the interior design option.

## **CHARTER 5: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 SUMMARY**

There has been a noticeable rise in the construction of new structures with a range of purposes in recent years, including institutional, residential, and commercial. Each having a distinct style of design. In addition to the building's façade, which is visible to most people, the interior of the structure is equally significant because it directly impacts the people who use the space. The purpose of this thesis is to examine how different income levels and their interior design preferences relate to one another, budgets, as well as the variables affecting these choices. The study will investigate the interior design preferences, budget allocation, and decision-making processes of people from various income groups for a range of building applications. Using a combination of approaches, such as interviews, surveys, and interior design analysis on market patterns. The underlying socioeconomic aspects will be investigated in this research. Cultural factors, living goals and individual preferences influence interior design decisions across different socioeconomic strata. In the end, this thesis' findings will shed light on the dynamics of interior design decision-making and advise the field on how to best serve Benin City's diverse population's requirements and preferences, regardless of their financial status or kind of building.

The scope of the research was streamlined to only cover the residential aspect of interior design and over the course of the research several factors were indeed discovered, factors that influence individual choices when it come to interior design preference.

These underlying factors are; Human factor(HF), Cognitive factor(CF), Environmental factors(EF), Choice of interior design( CF).

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

Interior design factors have a major role in influencing decisions regarding what kind of design is considered appropriate and functional. These elements are crucial in determining how well the end user responds to the environment and whether the design is appropriately customized for each person, preserving their safety and well-being and guaranteeing their ability to work productively. Consequently, the following deductions are made.

For some people, however, interior layout greatly influences their choice of interior design. Moreover, a residential space that presents detrimental environmental circumstances is less likely to be rejected as a suitable location. Some, though, have adjusted to these circumstances, so they have no bearing on the user's choice. This suggests that, in cases where customers are pressed for space and have few options, factors like location, weather, and safety do not actually affect their choice of interior design. EPT contends, however, that

the location's exterior beauty should also influence interior design decisions. Nevertheless, after getting to know a certain setting, one might find strategies to lessen the negative effects of unwelcome external pressures on their interior.

The idea and results provide evidence that cognition plays a key role in preferences for specific surroundings. This implies that the user will be more inclined to select a given interior the more interested, expecting, and experienced they are in it. Interest either pushes someone to make changes or keeps them from doing so.

### **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Interior design styles in Benin City can greatly depend on individual preferences and budgets. Several factors can influence the choice of interior design style. Including:

- **Culture and Tradition:** Benin City has a rich cultural heritage, and many people influenced by their tradition may prefer traditional interior design styles. These styles often incorporate natural materials, earthy colors, and local crafts.
- **Socio-economic status:** Budget is a significant factor that affects individual preference. People with higher budgets may opt for more luxurious interior design styles such as contemporary, modern, or eclectic.

styles, which often involve high-end materials, custom furniture, and designer pieces. On the other hand, individuals with lower budgets may prefer more economical options, such as minimalistic or bohemian styles, which can be achieved with thrifted or repurposed items.

- **Lifestyle and functionality:** Individual preferences are often influenced by lifestyle factors, such as the need for practicality, comfort, or functionality. Some may prefer open-concept layouts with multifunctional furniture, while others may prioritize specific areas like home offices or entertainment spaces. This can impact the choice of interior design styles, like Scandinavian or industrial for a minimalist and functional approach.
- **Personal Taste and Trends:** Individual taste and current design trends can also affect interior design preferences. Some individuals may prefer classic and timeless styles like Victorian or Art Deco, while others may be drawn to the clean lines and simplicity of a contemporary or mid-century modern design. Following design publications, social media, or working with an interior designer can help people stay up-to-date with the latest trends and find their preferred styles.

It's important to note that these factors are not exclusive, and individual preferences can be a combination of various influences. Ultimately, budget

plays a significant role in the choice of interior design style, as it determines the availability of resources and materials. However, it's also essential to consider factors like culture, lifestyle, and personal taste to create a space that reflects one's identity and meets their needs.

#### **5.4 CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE.**

The findings from the research provides the researcher some insight into the publics' views on the current Interior Design Styles in Benin City, the level of awareness on the topic and the level of the measures being taken to further improve this state.

#### **5.5 AREAS OF FURTHER RESEARCH.**

This study sets the ground for future studies on interior design in other tertiary institutions, living spaces, office spaces and in Benin. It is suggested that the relationship among the other factors/ components of this study and other variables affecting perception and choice of interior design, that is, what is viewed as suitable and functional for the occupant, should also be examined . Since the three dependent variables accounted for the variance in choice of interior design, research could be done to discover the other variables that

account for the other in variance choice of interior design. Cognitive factors/ personal preference may also be used as a mediating factor. The environmental preference theory and its constructs may also be used in interior design project studies. Accordingly, providing in-depth explanation concerning the roles of the elements to consider when designing an interior to enhance users' likelihood to choose that type of design.

Furthermore, a replication of this study on a longitudinal basis will make known trends within the variables in the West African context as a result, enriching the quality of recommendations made to public and private institutions within Benin. The role of familiarity in affecting preferences could also be researched.