Faculty of Engineering
Department of Interior Design
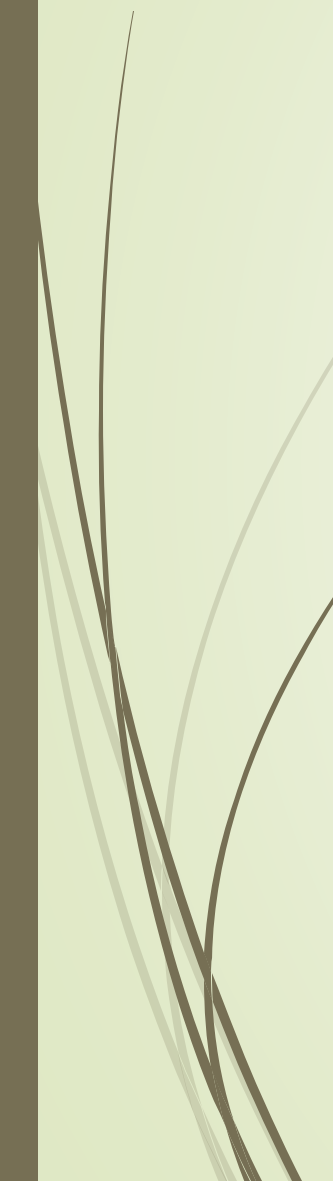
Interior Design Applications

3rd year – 2nd Semester

M.S.C. Madyan Rashan

Room No. 313

Academic Year 2018-2019

Course Name	Interior Design Applications
Course Code	INDS 321
Lecturer in Charge	Asst. Lecturer
Department/College	Interior Design / Engineering
Contact information	e-mail: madyan.maher@gmail.com
Time(in hours) per week	Theory: 2 h.
Keywords	
Objectives: At the end of this lecture, the students should be able to: • Establish basic concepts about **Space as language.**	

Week	Lecture Date	Number of hours	Topic
1	5/2/2019	2 h	Introduction, course overview
2	12/2/2019	2 h	Space as language
3		2 h	
4		2 h	
5		2 h	
6		**2 h**	
7		2 h	
8		2 h	
9		2 h	
10		2 h	
11		2 h	
12		2 h	
13		2 h	

Space as language

Course Reading List and References:

▶ Language of Space
by Bryan Lawson

Space

- Not all behaviour in space involves conversation, but much of our behaviour in space involves communication in some way or other.

- We use the **language of space**, for many purposes. Through it we can express both our **individuality** and our **solidarity** with others.

- We can communicate our willingness or otherwise to be approached, interrupted, greeted and engaged in social intercourse.

- We can control the proximity of others. We can demonstrate our dominance or submission and our status in society.

- We can use it to bring people together or keep them apart. We can use it to convey complex collections of rules of acceptable behaviour.

- Many design theoreticians and critics write about **architectural space** as if it were some entirely abstract substance.

- They discuss such ideas as form, proportion, rhythm and colour as if they were parts of a private language used by designers and design critics.

- Through such criticism, architecture and the spaces it divides and encloses become seen as a **refined art** to be appreciated by the educated connoisseur.

- This is of course an entirely understandable and reasonable position. It is possible to argue that there is a **distinction** to be drawn between architecture and mere building.

- If we accept this position, then buildings can probably only become architecture once they exhibit characteristics that we might also use to identify art.

The social art

- Buildings can be seen in many different ways , they can, for example, be viewed as works of art, as technical achievements, as the wallpaper of urban space and as **behavioural** and cultural phenomena.

- So we can treat architectural and urban spaces as containers to **accommodate, separate, structure and organize, facilitate, heighten and even celebrate human spatial behavior**, they will also be viewed as psychological, social and partly cultural phenomena.

The language of space

- Space, and consequently that which encloses it, are much more central to all of us in our everyday lives than purely technical, aesthetic or even semiotic interpretation would suggest.

- We could of course move from here into a debate about architecture as a system of **signs and symbols.** The post-modern period has produced much analysis of architecture on this basis, and such arguments are most often predicated on the fundamental notion that buildings can be read as texts.

POSTMODERN ARCHITECTURE

OnPostmodernism.com

CLASSICAL   MODERN   POSTMODERN
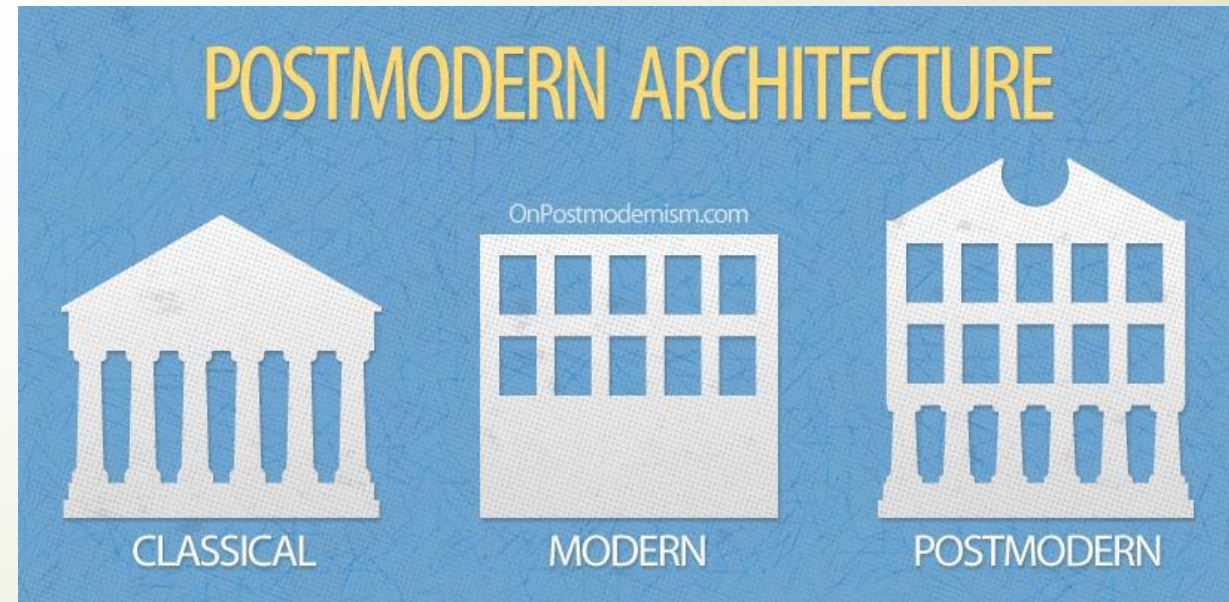
The language of space

- Architecture organizes and structures space for us, and its interiors and the objects enclosing and inhabiting its rooms can facilitate or inhibit our activities by the way they use this language.

- Because this language is not heard or seen directly, and certainly not written down, it gets little attention in a formal sense.

- When a person pushes in front of you in a queue, you feel offended not just because you are one place further back but also because they failed to respect the rules.

The language of space

- The queue is a most obvious form of conventionalized behaviour that is triggered by signals from the designed environment.

The language of space

- When we talk to each other, **the space between us is part of our communication.**

- We probably all know a friend or colleague who habitually stands too close when conversing, touches you just too much for comfort, and generally seems rather more familiar than feels appropriate.

- The verbal language might well be at odds with the communication through the language of space, and we feel uncomfortable.

The language of space

- Buildings can fail to speak the language of space properly just as much as people can.

Reading the language

- Of course good architecture does not actually *waste* space; it is just that often space is needed in order to prepare us for a change of mood, to establish relationships, to separate activities, and to suggest or invite appropriate behaviour.

- In fact it creates settings, which organize our lives, activities and relationships. **(Behavioural settings).**
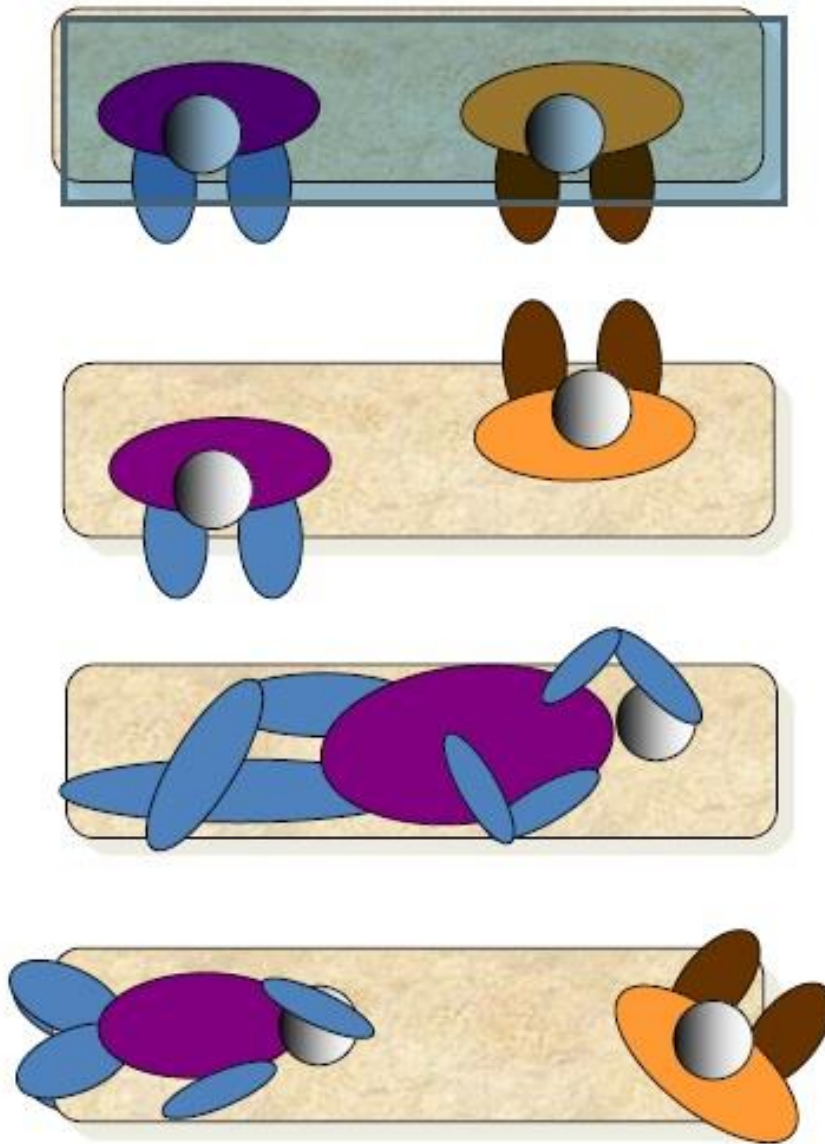
Behavioural settings

- Barker discussed psychology from what he called an ecological perspective (Barker 1968). He argued that places have synomorphy when there is congruence between people's actions and the physical and social setting.

- Space and society are clearly related.

- It is difficult to conceive of space without social content, or, to conceive a society without a spatial component.
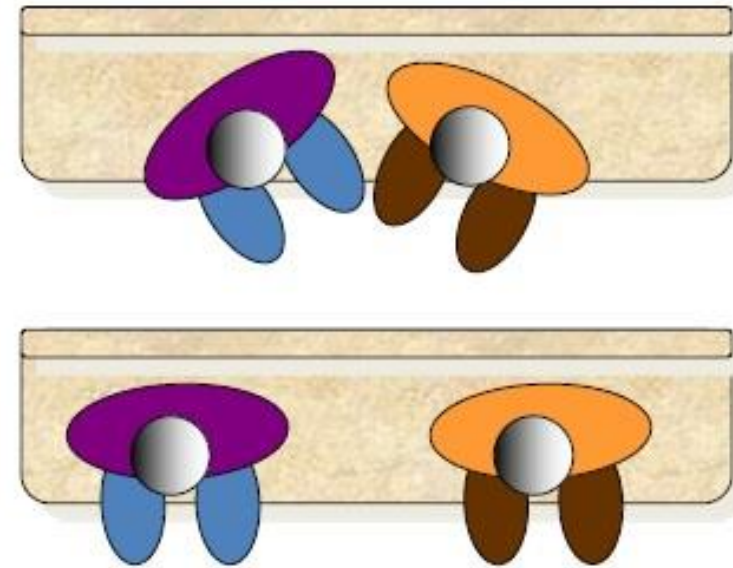
Behavioural settings

- The physical environment has a great effect on human behavior.
- They affect and change the environment, as it affects and changes them.
- There are two main viewpoints on the degree of environmental effect on people's actions:
- **1. Environmental possibilism**
- (people choose among the environmental opportunities available to them).
- **2. Environmental probabilism**
- (in a given physical sitting some choices are more likely than others)

Environmental possibilism

Environmental probabilism

Behavioural settings

- There are several great forces at the work of behavioural settings here, and perhaps the most important are those of **privacy** and **community**.

- These two appear in almost every building and space we inhabit in some form or other.

- Other great forces are those of ritual, display and surveillance.

- Some spaces exist almost solely to allow us to act out social rituals, as in a church.

- Others serve to display, not just objects as in an art gallery, but also ourselves in our society.

Behavioural settings

- Some spaces need to permit the supervision of some of us by others. This is most obviously so in a prison, but also more subtly in a hospital or a library.

- Space that facilitates display may not be good at providing for privacy.

- Space that is public domain may need to be recognizably different to space that is private domain.

- We rely upon space to create places appropriate to certain kinds of behaviour and to tell us what they are.

Behavioural settings

- The entrance to this simple house shows a gradation of space from the fully public domain of the street and pavement (not visible) through the semi-public space in the foreground and the semi-private space behind the gate to the fully private space that lies beyond the closed door.