

Final Project 1

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Project: Adaptive Reuse in Interior Design: Transforming
Old Buildings into Modern Spaces

Faculty of Management
Midocean University

Graduation Project - 1
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Project Title: Adaptive Reuse in Interior Design: Transforming Old
Buildings into Modern Spaces

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Chapter 1: Introduction

The interior design has a huge contribution toward making a particular area functionally aesthetic and responsive to modern needs. Among the few trends is adaptive reuse-a sustainable mode of looking at an old structure for a new purpose while maintaining the essence of its history and architecture. A good number of historic buildings today face demolition then though transforming the present lay-out into something modern may want them repositioned, urban metamorphoses make many of such buildings obsolete. But adaptive reuse will breathe new life into them without raising them above their cultural relevance.

Adaptive reuse has emerged as one of the viable strategies toward urban development and environmental conservation. Transposing existing buildings means decrease in construction waste, consumption of resources, and, moreover, keeping the charm of historic spaces. However, certain challenges had to be overcome. These challenges included structural constraints, heritage mains, and the addition of modernistic features. This research study focuses on the ways a designer incorporates all adaptive reuse projects and balances the interests of historical integrity and functionality.

Adaptive Reuse in interior design is a creative way to convert existing, regularly derelict, buildings into usable and modern interior spaces while keeping the historical aspect and architectural integrity of buildings in mind. In recent years, adaptive reuse has gained much popularity as urbanization destroys historic buildings on a massive platform.

Instead of tearing down old buildings for newer developments, adaptive reuse is a greener option that preserves cultural heritage and provides new usages. Architects and designers are allowed to introduce modern functionality within historically relevant spaces, enabling old buildings to keep functioning by reusing existing structures.

Apart from promoting history, adaptive reuse promotes sustainability through reduced construction waste, improved material conservation, and lower environmental impact. Other cases do realize that retaining existing buildings is far cheaper than constructing new ones since adaptive reuse takes advantage of existing structures rather than mining and processing raw materials. This research focuses on how interior designers can effectively incorporate adaptive-reuse practices into one's balance of aesthetic values, historic preservation, and modern-use functions to keep historic buildings applicable in today's developing city.

1.1 Research Background

Adaptive reuse in interior design is a sustainable strategy to remodel old buildings for new functions while respecting their historical and architectural significance. As urbanization and changing needs find their way to include demolition of many historic

sites for new projects, adaptive reuse provides a fresh option for conservation regarding cultural heritage while still a positive meeting of contemporary needs.

Through the reinvention of space as facilitated by interior designers, these professionals maximize the usability, aesthetic, and functional values without compromising the cultural and historical integrity of the building. The best balance between innovation and conservation for a successful adaptive reuse project would be one that honors the original integrity of the building while meeting new requirements.

Adaptive reuse is, in simple terms, a design process involving the mode of reusing the old or historic buildings to provide a new function while preserving the architectural fabric. As urbanization and modernization go on, many old historical structures face risks of demolition by ignorance of how much they can be reused. Adaptive reuse is an approach to sustainable design that fosters architectural heritage preservation, contributes to waste reduction, and encourages the optimization of land utilization. The list of buildings that were once industrial warehouses, churches, or railway stations but are now successful residences, offices, and commercial spaces is almost endless.

With increasing demands for sustainable alternatives in the build environment, adaptive reuse has surfaced in the modern practice of interior design. Repurposing an existing structure to accommodate contemporary uses mitigates impacts on the environment from fresh construction while saving the integrity of cultural landmarks.

1.2 Research Problem

Rapid urbanization is creating new cities where historic sites are getting demolished to make way for modern developments. Instead of using the existing structures, it is now more economically feasible to replace them with new buildings. This removes cultural history and often generates excessive construction waste. Although adaptive reuse could happen, no approaches articulate a harmonious blend of modern design and historic preservation.

Since many cities may lack these policies that support adaptive reuse, many historic buildings may become victims of replacement. The challenge is in the balancing of economic, environmental, and cultural aspects of repurposing older structures. The aims of the study are to analyze the obstructions to adaptive reuse and to explore how innovative interior design solutions can facilitate this transformation while preserving architectural heritage.

1.2.1 Theoretical Gaps

The literature on adaptive reuse is rife with information and theoretical references on architecture but much less specific on the interior design interventions. Although literature on heritage conservation is plentiful, there seems to be scant attention on how

interior design can spearhead these spaces' function and aesthetics. There has also been little discussion about how modern materials, energy-efficient systems, and clever technologies will be accommodated in historic spaces.

Another conceptual gap is the absence of a guiding framework for adaptive reuse projects. Most studies involved case studies but provided no generalizable guidance for designers and architects. This research will fill these gaps by developing an interior design-based adaptive reuse framework that does not compromise historical integrity.

1.2.2 Practical Gaps

One of the prime challenges that the adaptive reuse faces is the financial feasibility of refurbishing old buildings. Restoration costs can be tremendous, thus preventing developers from considering reuse as a viable option. A great number of historical structures have structural limitations, outdated building systems, and inefficient layouts that demand extensive modifications to reach modern functional standards.

In addition, the complexity of building regulations and heritage preservation laws may impede the adaptive reuse process. Designers often get conflicted amid compliance with or creative freedom, yielding diluted compromise outcomes. This is meant to showcase practical solutions to overcoming the adaptive reuse barriers, as a way for interior designers to efficiently alter the aging buildings as functional yet in compliance with the regulations.

1.3 Research Significance

Adaptive reuse in interior design is theoretically and practically very relevant. It protects historical and cultural monuments while embracing sustainable development practices. Many heritage buildings have architectural detailing that will never be recreated in modern construction, making it a first-priority area to conserve. Interior designers, while really contributing to urban regeneration through adaptive reuse processes, can minimize the negative environmental consequences produced by demolition and new constructing processes. In addition, as urban spaces become more congested, the adaptive reuse of built structures provides a viable solution to decreasing the spread of urban sprawl.

Another very important aspect to the significance of adaptive reuse is the practical, economic merits that flow from it. Many abandoned or underused buildings can be converted to vibrant commercial, residential, or mixed-use spaces that meet contemporary needs. Such transformation improves the function of, and re-asserts the identity of, an old locale. Professionals may also create good-looking and functional interiors while preserving historical context and upholding the needs of contemporary requirements through the careful application of interior design principles.

1.3.1 At the Theoretical Level

The research contributes to the academic discussions on adaptive reuse by bridging the divide between architectural conservation and interior design strategies. The study sets forth a novel, integrative view of how an old building can be redefined without losing its venerable shadow, where sustainability, a modern aesthetic, and heritage conservation coexist and speak to one another.

Furthermore, it is theoretical derivation by which designers can approach adaptive reuse. It dictates an organized methodology that allows interior design considerations to take precedence among other reuse strategies, with modern leads on sustainable urban development.

1.3.2 At the Practical Level

This study aims to present interior designers, architects, and urban planners with benevolent guidelines on adaptive reuse techniques. It will illustrate best practices worthy of implementation in actual projects through analysis of successful case studies. It will further provide policy guidelines to promote the action of encouraging adaptive reuse in the urban planning practice.

Another key practical implication is sustainability. The conclusions of this research, therefore, would reinforce the implementation of eco-friendly design solutions that would mitigate resource consumption as well as one's carbon imprint through the ongoing building processes.

1.4 Research Questions

1. How can adaptive reuse preserve architectural heritage while creating functional, modern spaces?
2. What are the main challenges in transforming old buildings into contemporary interiors?
3. What interior design strategies can be used to enhance the sustainability and usability of repurposed buildings?

1.5 Research Objectives

1. To examine the role of interior design in adaptive reuse projects.
2. To identify common challenges faced during the transformation of historic buildings.
3. To propose effective interior design solutions that integrate modern functionality with heritage conservation.

1.6 Research Hypotheses

1. Adaptive reuse contributes to sustainable urban development by preserving historic buildings.
2. Interior design plays a crucial role in balancing heritage preservation with modern usability.
3. Effective adaptive reuse strategies can enhance both cultural heritage and energy efficiency.

1.7 Research Model

1.8 Research Methodology

1.9 Scope of the Study

1.10 Suggested Project Structure

- **Chapter 1:** Introduction
- **Chapter 2:** Literature Review
- **Chapter 3:** Research Methodology
- **Chapter 4:** Data Analysis and Results
- **Chapter 5:** Discussion and Conclusion

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

2.2 The Independent Variable

2.3 The Dependent Variable

2.4 Relationship Between the Independent and Dependent Variables

2.5 Conclusion

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