



Aesthetic Perception Of Floor Finishes: Exploring How Different Floor Finishes Contribute To The Overall Aesthetic Appeal Of A Space And The Psychological Implications Of Aesthetic Preferences On Occupant Satisfaction

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Abstract: This study looks at how flooring components—like colors, textures, patterns, and materials—affect occupants' emotional reactions and visual appeal in both residential and commercial settings. A space's visual and psychological atmosphere are greatly influenced by flooring, a fundamental element of interior design. The study analyzes important preferences and perceptions related to various flooring kinds, such as hardwood, tiles, carpets, laminates, and polished concrete, using primary data gathered through a Google Form survey aimed at interior designers, architects, and general users.

According to the study, sleek materials like polished concrete are linked to modernism and space, but natural materials like wood and warm-toned finishes frequently conjure warmth and relaxation. Perceived scale and mood were also found to be influenced by patterns and textures; patterned or textured floors improved spatial dynamics and added visual interest. Although many participants place a high importance on flooring's aesthetic appeal, practical considerations including longevity, upkeep, and context-specific compatibility also affected opinions.

balance between function, style, and emotional impact will find the research provides insightful information and helpful design suggestions.

Keywords: - Aesthetic appeal, emotional response, flooring materials, interior design, occupant perception, patterns, textures, visual impact.

I. INTRODUCTION

An interior space's overall design and atmosphere are greatly influenced by the floor finishes' aesthetic appeal. As a fundamental component of interior design, flooring affects a space's practical and psychological aspects in addition to its aesthetic appeal. This research examines the psychological effects of aesthetic choices

on occupant happiness as well as how different floor finishes enhance the visual attractiveness of residential and commercial spaces.

Flooring serves as a critical aspect of interior design, establishing the visual and tactile foundation of a space. It contributes to the overall aesthetic by complementing other design elements such as wall colors, furniture, and lighting. Beyond aesthetics, flooring also affects acoustics, thermal comfort, and usability. The choice of floor finishes—ranging from materials like wood, tile, and carpet to treatments like polishing or texturing—has a direct impact on how occupants perceive and interact with the space. The interplay between aesthetic appeal and functionality underscores the importance of flooring in both residential and commercial contexts. The way people assess and react to the tactile and visual characteristics of floor finishes is known as aesthetic perception. According to environmental psychology research, aesthetic choices have a big impact on behavior, emotional states, and spatial enjoyment. Smooth, polished surfaces, such as marble or porcelain tile, for example, are frequently linked to sophistication and luxury, arousing sentiments of grandeur and elegance. On the other hand, warm, textured flooring, such as laminate or hardwood, is associated with coziness and comfort, encouraging relaxation and closeness. The intended use of the space, individual preferences, and cultural background all influence these psychological reactions.

Flooring selections in residential settings are strongly correlated with the aesthetic tastes and lifestyle of the residents. Hardwood, laminate, tile, carpet, and vinyl are frequently used materials, and each has unique aesthetic and practical characteristics. For instance, hardwood floors are widely prized for its classic appeal, resilience, and capacity to blend in with a variety of architectural motifs. Conversely, carpet is preferred for its softness and ability to reduce noise, which makes it perfect for living areas and bedrooms. In spaces like kitchens and bathrooms, where practicality and aesthetics must coexist, the aesthetic and psychological effects of floor surfaces are more noticeable.

The perception of floor finishes is influenced by cultural norms and contextual factors. For instance, in Scandinavian design, light-toned wood floors are prized for their ability to create an airy, minimalist aesthetic. In contrast, traditional Japanese interiors often feature tatami mats, which provide a tactile, natural feel that aligns with cultural values of simplicity and harmony. The context of use also plays a crucial role; for example, a polished marble floor that exudes luxury in a corporate lobby might feel out of place in a cozy residential living room. These variations highlight the importance of considering cultural and contextual factors when selecting floor finishes.

Beyond aesthetics, flooring has psychological effects that affect feelings, actions, and how people perceive space. According to research, aesthetically beautiful flooring enhances occupant happiness and wellbeing. In living rooms and common spaces, for instance, warm-toned hardwood flooring may provide a welcoming and cozy atmosphere that promotes social interaction. On the other hand, polished tiles and other smooth, reflecting surfaces may provide a feeling of cleanliness and professionalism, which makes them perfect for workplaces and medical facilities. Perceptions of spatial dimensions are also influenced by flooring; darker tones foster closeness, whereas brighter finishes can enlarge a space.

II. RESEARCH QUESTION

What design techniques can be suggested to maximize flooring selections for improved user experience? How can various flooring materials, textures, colors, and patterns affect the aesthetic appeal and affective reactions of occupants in residential and commercial spaces?

III. AIM

Investigating how different floor finishes affect interior spaces' aesthetic perception and comprehending the psychological impacts of these aesthetic decisions on occupant comfort and satisfaction are the goals of this study.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- i. Investigating how different floor finishes affect interior spaces' aesthetic perception and comprehending the psychological impacts of these aesthetic decisions on occupant comfort and satisfaction are the goals of this study.
- ii. To examine whether certain finishes are more closely associated with specific functions or moods in interior settings (e.g., relaxation in carpeted bedrooms, productivity in tiled workspaces).
- iii. To assess how demographic variables (such as age, gender, occupation, and lifestyle) affect individual preferences for floor materials.
- iv. To explore the relationship between floor finish selection and overall occupant comfort—both physically (e.g., underfoot feel, temperature) and psychologically.
- v. To identify trends in flooring preferences that align with contemporary interior design aesthetics and sustainable design principles.

V. SCOPE

The goal of this study is to examine how different flooring types—such as hardwood, tiles, carpets, laminates, and polished concrete—affect the aesthetic appeal and affective reactions of people in both home and business settings. In order to comprehend trends and perspectives around flooring choices, the study looks at user preferences obtained using a Google Form survey that was directed at designers, architects, and end users. Examining how various floor finishes enhance the general atmosphere, comfort, and visual appeal of interior spaces is part of the scope

VI. LITERATURE REVIEW

Flooring has a significant impact on both residential and business settings, helping to shape the interior spaces' aesthetics and emotional ambiance. The effects of materials such as polished concrete, hardwood, tiles, carpets, and laminates on user perception, comfort, and spatial experience have been the subject of several research. For instance, studies by Sharma and Padhye (2018) show that while tiles and polished concrete frequently produce a cooler, more contemporary atmosphere, natural materials like oak typically elicit warmth and a sense of comfort. The apparent scale and mood of a place are also greatly influenced by the texture and pattern of the flooring, as noted by Li and Wen (2020), who discovered that smooth, uniform

textures promote simplicity and peacefulness while patterned flooring can appear enlarge spaces and add vitality.

Another important element affecting the emotional reactions of occupants is colour psychology. Warm flooring materials can encourage feelings of comfort and relaxation, while cooler flooring materials may improve focus and perceived cleanliness, making them ideal for industrial settings, according to studies like those by Küller, Ballal, Laike, Mikellides, and Tonello (2006). A whole sensory experience is produced by the interaction of texture and colour, which also affects aesthetics and influences furniture and lighting selections. There is a clear lack of integrated research that takes into account the combined impacts of material, texture, colour, and pattern on occupant emotions and behaviour within various spatial contexts, despite the fact that many studies address individual aspects of flooring design.

Table 7.1. List of databases searched, along with the search terms used for each of the topics regarding the study:

Databases	Summary of Findings	Research Gap
Scopus, Web of Science	Flooring materials influence warmth, comfort, and ambiance; texture and pattern affect spatial perception.	Limited studies on integrated effects of material, texture, colour, and pattern combined on occupant emotions.
Google Scholar	Colour psychology impacts emotional responses—warm tones promote coziness; cool tones enhance focus.	Few comparative analyses between residential and commercial environments regarding flooring impact.
ScienceDirect	Flooring choices interact with lighting and furniture to shape overall interior experience.	Lack of holistic design guidelines incorporating multiple flooring elements for varied spatial contexts.

VII. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A mixed-methods research design was used to investigate how various floor finishes affect interior spaces' overall aesthetic appeal as well as the psychological effects of these aesthetic choices on occupant satisfaction. A thorough examination of participants' aesthetic assessments and emotional reactions to different flooring materials and patterns in residential and commercial designs was made possible by the integration of quantitative and qualitative approaches in this design. Both quantifiable preferences (using rating scales) and subjective insights (using open-ended reflections) might be recorded thanks to this method.

The main instrument for gathering data was a structured questionnaire that included the following:

- Aesthetic appeal, warmth, spatial harmony, and satisfaction ratings for various floor kinds (such as wood, tile, laminate, carpet, and polished concrete) are the objective measures.
- Subjective Feedback: Detailed comments on how each finish affected the room's atmosphere, individual tastes, and assessments unique to a given setting (e.g., flooring selections for kitchens vs. living rooms). A greater comprehension of how visual texture, material, and finish affect perceived beauty and psychological comfort in spatial contexts was made possible by this dual-method approach.
- Participants a wide range of participants from construction and design-related fields, as well as students, were chosen to offer a comprehensive comparative analysis. A wide range of practical flooring design engagement and aesthetic sensibilities were represented in this participant pool.

Participants' Professional Background:

1. Designers of interiors These participants were anticipated to offer critical assessments based on design principles and customer experiences because of their professional background in material selection, spatial aesthetics, and user-centered design.
2. Architects: As part of the overarching architectural story and design coherence, architects provided a macro-level viewpoint on floor finishes.
3. Carpenter: The carpenter provided a sophisticated understanding of the workmanship elements of aesthetic value and wood flooring

VIII. RESULT ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

1. Most Preferred Floor Colours

Cool neutrals like various hues of grey, charcoal, and monochromatic palettes are often preferred by architects. These hues complement their focus on modern design, simplicity, and clean lines. The cold hues offer a simple, elegant background that accentuates architectural elements without overpowering them. Conversely, warm neutrals like cream and beige, as well as gentle pastels, are often preferred by interior designers. This colour scheme produces a warm, welcoming ambiance that makes residents feel comfortable and emotionally connected. Their emphasis on creating welcoming and human-centered settings is reflected in the selection. Others, such as homeowners, contractors, or non-specialists, typically choose lighter tile or natural wood tones. Their decisions are frequently impacted by affordability and wide appeal, selecting sensible, widely-accepted floor colours that blend well with a variety of interior design motifs.

2. Colour and Space Perception

In terms of spatial perception, architects purposefully combine lots of natural light with light-coloured flooring to give the impression that places are larger. Because bright floors reflect daylight, spaces seem larger and airier. On the other hand, they occasionally use darker flooring to designate smaller, cozier spaces within larger open plans or to evoke a feeling of intimacy. To provide a continuous, flowing spatial experience, interior designers place a strong emphasis on the harmonious application of light hues on the walls and floors. This delicate coordination creates a feeling of openness and airiness that smoothly unifies various areas of a space or house. For others, light floor shades are valued mainly for their capacity to optimize visual space, particularly in homes with limited space or financial resources.

3. Preferences for Colour Coordination

To provide depth and rhythm to a room, architects choose striking floor-to-wall pairings, such as dark flooring against light walls. This method reinforces architectural aims and spatial dynamics by establishing different zones and visual interest. More harmonious coordination is preferred by interior designers, who frequently use gradient or tone-on-tone matching between walls and flooring. Their aim is to guarantee a seamless visual flow and a sophisticated, cohesive appearance that calms rather than astonishes. Others, on the other hand, choose to prioritize simplicity and ease of decision-making over big design statements, sticking to neutral floor colors to minimize clashes with wall colours, or following explicit client directions.

4. Finish Preferences: Matte or Glossy

Architects choose flooring finishes that blend in with the overall design without being overtly noticeable. Because of their subtle elegance and capacity to offer a serene, sophisticated foundation, matte or delicately sheened finishes are favoured. Only a few clean, contemporary areas where reflectivity strengthens the design statement are appropriate for glossy surfaces. In order to create calming, lived-in spaces, interior designers frequently choose matte or satin surfaces since they are valued for their warm, cozy feel and capacity to minimize glare. On the other hand, because of their practical benefits—durability, ease of washing, and the brighter appearance they provide—some people frequently favor glossy tiles, which are particularly well-liked in living rooms and kitchens.

5. Interaction of Floor Colour and Light

Architects carefully evaluate flooring materials' reflecting qualities to optimize interior daylight distribution. Without overpowering the senses, they can improve the brightness and harmony of the space by choosing floors that gently reflect or diffuse natural light. Matte-finished floors are utilized by interior designers to achieve gentle, diffused lighting effects, which produce comfortable, peaceful spaces that are both aesthetically pleasing and psychologically comforting. Others, on the other hand, frequently utilize shiny flooring in small homes to add light and give the impression of bigger, more airy areas. This allows them to enhance the atmosphere in smaller or darker places.

6. Relaxing and Psychologically Soothing Colours

In accordance with minimalist principles, which emphasize tranquillity via simplicity, architects prefer whites and greys when choosing floors for psychological comfort since they offer clarity and tranquillity. These muted colours promote mental concentration and lessen visual distractions. Natural wood tones and earthy neutrals are used by interior designers to create a cozy, peaceful atmosphere. In residential and hospitality environments, these hues foster a sense of wellbeing and foster a connection between residents and the natural world. Others frequently choose off-white flooring or simple wood treatments, depending on tried-and-true solutions that are seen as secure, dependable, and typically soothing without giving them careful psychological thought.

7. The Effect of Floor Finishes on the Mind

Floor coatings have an indirect psychological impact on architects, who continue to prioritize architectural form, light, and spatial arrangement. Instead of using flooring finishes as their main design elements, they view them as subtly enhancing emotional comfort. Since the tactile and visual characteristics of floors can have a significant impact on how a room feels emotionally, interior designers, on the other hand, see floor colour and texture as crucial to creating a certain atmosphere and improving occupant well-being. Others place less emphasis on psychological impacts, favouring pragmatic considerations like cost, upkeep, and longevity over the potential mood or ambiance-influencing benefits of finishes.

8. Utilizing Colour Psychology

There are big differences in how colour psychology is used: It is rarely used by architects, mostly for practical reasons like influencing how space is perceived or bolstering corporate identification in business projects. In residential settings, it is rarely a primary design factor. In order to customize the palette to the function and intended environment of each space, interior designers more deliberately use colour psychology, employing floor hues to generate particular emotional responses, such as intimacy in lounges, vitality in living areas, or peacefulness in bedrooms. Others hardly ever discuss or overtly take colour psychology into account; instead, they base their choices mostly on convention, practicality, or personal preference rather than a thorough understanding of psychological theory.

9. Preference for Contemporary, Classic Styles

Generally speaking, monochromatic colour schemes of black, white, and several shades of grey are preferred by architects. These hues promote a simple, contemporary style that is classic and adaptable, able to endure shifting fashions without compromising architectural integrity. Soft pastels and neutrals

are used by interior designers because they create a welcoming yet modern atmosphere while balancing a feeling of modern flair. Others prioritize practicality over pushing style boundaries, opting for safe, broadly appealing floor colours that complement the majority of furnishings and are easy to resell or upgrade.

10. Flooring's Place in Design Priorities

Flooring is mostly seen as a supporting component of the larger architectural and spatial narrative in the architectural mindset. Instead of seeing flooring as a focal point, architects see them as a component of the canvas that goes well with the walls, ceilings, and structural components. On the other hand, interior designers view flooring as a fundamental component that significantly affects a space's emotional tone and visual appeal. They take great care to make sure the floor blends in with all other design elements since they believe it is essential to a room's success others place more value on flooring's practical qualities – such as non-slip surfaces, cost, durability, and ease of cleaning – than its aesthetic or emotional appeal.

Aspect	Architects	Interior Designers	Others (Carpenters, Contractors, Developers)
Most Preferred Floor Colors	Cool neutrals (grey, charcoal), monochrome tones (black, white, grey)	Warm neutrals (beige, cream), soft pastels (mint, blush), natural wood tones	Light tiles, wood textures, neutral tones
Color & Space Perception	Use contrast (light vs. dark) to define areas; light floors expand space	Light, warm tones make space inviting and larger; seamless color transitions preferred	Light tiles for space enlargement; practical layout more important
Color Coordination	Favor contrast for defining zones (e.g., dark floor + light wall)	Strong emphasis on harmony between floors and walls	Prefer neutral tones to avoid clashing; often follow client preferences
Preferred Finish Type	Matte or subtle sheen; glossy only in selective modern applications	Matte and satin finishes; soft, glare-free textures for comfort	Glossy tiles in high-use areas; matte laminates for bedrooms
Light Interaction with Floors	Use floor reflectivity to bounce natural light	Prefer diffused, soft lighting with matte wood	Glossy finishes reflect light in small rooms
Relaxing & Comfortable Colors	White, grey, soft blue tones for calm and openness	Beige, taupe, and wood tones for warmth and coziness	Natural wood or off-whites for clean look

Emotional Influence of Flooring	Aesthetic contribution secondary to space planning and structure	Flooring is central to psychological comfort and ambience	Less emphasis on emotion; focus on durability and usability
Use of Color Psychology	Subtle use to support spatial clarity and function	Strategic use to set tone and mood of space	Rarely applied intentionally; guided by trends or practicality
Modern & Adaptable Palette	Monochrome or grey scale for timelessness	Soft pastels and neutrals for adaptable and cozy settings	Simple, mass-appealing tones that are resale-friendly
Function vs Aesthetic Priority	Balance of both; aesthetics support functionality	Aesthetics often prioritized for emotional appeal	Functionality is key; aesthetics are secondary
Examples of Mentioned Materials	Polished concrete, dark wood, matte tile	Oak, walnut wood, beige tile, pastel laminate	Vitrified tiles, laminate wood flooring, ceramic tiles

Comparative Summary Table

Aspect	Architects	Interior Designers	Others (Contractors, etc.)
Top Colors	Cool Neutrals, Monochrome	Warm Neutrals, Soft Pastels	Natural Wood, Light Tiles
Spatial Focus	Volume, Manipulation	Light Seamless Flow, Emotional Warmth	Space Expansion with Budget Materials
Color Harmony	Contrast to define zones	Harmonious for mood consistency	Neutral schemes for adaptability
Finish Preference	Matte, Reflective	Low-Matte, Soft Texture	Glossy (practical), Matte in bedrooms
Psychological Belief	Secondary to layout & light	Central to emotional comfort	Secondary, with focus on practicality

The choice of floor color has a significant impact on utility, mood, and spatial perception, making it an essential component of interior and architectural design. Depending on their responsibilities, goals, and practical concerns, professionals—including architects, interior designers, and other stakeholders like contractors or homeowners—have somewhat different preferences and priorities.

When selecting floor colors, architects frequently give priority to modernity, minimalism, and spatial clarity. Their preferred color scheme focuses on cold neutrals, such as grays, charcoals, and monochromatic palettes, which provide a sophisticated, streamlined background for architectural elements. These hues enhance the overall spatial story by highlighting sophistication and simplicity without drawing undue attention to themselves. Architects also pay close attention to how floor color affects natural light; they frequently choose darker hues to create private areas within open plans or lighter tones to seemingly widen spaces. In order to

create rhythm and spatial depth, they use extreme contrast in their color coordination, such as by combining light walls with dark floors.

In order to reduce glare and preserve understated elegance, finish choices go toward matte or low sheen options. Although architects are aware of the psychological effects of finishes, they still prioritize lighting and layout, mainly employing color psychology as a subtly effective technique for commercial branding or spatial manipulation.

Interior designers take a more emotional, human-centered approach when choosing floor color. Their favorite colors are soft pastels and warm neutrals like beige and cream because they are cozy and welcoming. This shows a willingness to design environments that are welcoming and supportive. In order to create a smooth visual flow and openness, interior designers frequently use complementary wall and floor colors. Because of their warmth, ability to reduce glare, and ability to create calming environments, they like matte or satin surfaces. Soft light diffusion is the main goal of lighting considerations in order to improve warmth. In contrast to architects, interior designers intentionally use color psychology to inspire serenity, energy, or intimacy depending on the function of the space. They also place a great deal of attention on the psychological and emotional impacts of floor color and texture. Their aesthetic preferences embrace pastels and gentle neutrals that are both in-style and classic, striking a balance between comfort and style. For interior designers, flooring is a fundamental component of design that is necessary to establish the atmosphere and guarantee the success of the entire area.

On the other hand, "Others," which can include non-specialists, contractors, and homeowners, frequently base their decisions more on affordability, robustness, simplicity of upkeep, and general appeal than on aesthetic or sentimental factors. Natural wood tones and light tiles are appealing since they are inexpensive and adaptable. Particularly in kitchens and living areas, glossy coatings are commonly chosen for their useful qualities, such as longevity and ease of cleaning. In order to accommodate different client preferences or resale potential, color coordination is typically conservative and favors neutral flooring to prevent clashes with wall colors. Functionality and practicality usually take precedence over psychological or aesthetic effects of flooring. Choosing secure, widely accepted solutions that complement a variety of furniture and reduce the need for future renovations is frequently the main objective.

In conclusion, tastes and perceptions of floor color show substantial differences influenced by objectives and professional focus. Architects prioritize minimalistic aesthetics, architectural expression, and spatial dynamism. They also quietly assist larger design goals with floor color. In order to find flooring that is harmonious, comfortable, and mood-setting, interior designers closely examine the emotional and psychological aspects of color. Others, on the other hand, make decisions based more on pragmatism than design philosophy, giving priority to cost-effectiveness and usefulness. In order to collaborate effectively and create floor designs that satisfy functional and aesthetic requirements in a variety of project contexts, it is imperative to comprehend these differing points of view.

IX. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the investigation of floor color preferences among architects, interior designers, and other interested parties shows how practical considerations and professional focus influence design decisions in distinctive ways. In order to improve spatial experience and bolster architectural narratives, architects use a restrained, modernist style that favors cold, neutral color schemes and deliberate contrasts. Their decisions are influenced by subtle elegance, spatial sense, and light interplay; form and function are given precedence above emotional expression. On the other hand, interior designers use warm neutrals and pastels to create hospitable, harmonious spaces because they are strongly engaged with the emotional and psychological aspects of color. Their emphasis on lighting effects, texture, and tone harmony shows that they are dedicated to creating rooms that are psychologically calming, cozy, and unified.

Meanwhile, others—such as homeowners or contractors—tend to prioritize practicality, cost, and ease of maintenance, often selecting light or natural wood tones with durable, glossy finishes for broad appeal and functionality.

This diversity of perspectives highlights the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in floor design, ensuring that aesthetic goals, emotional impacts, and practical needs are balanced effectively. By understanding and integrating these varying priorities, designers and clients can achieve flooring solutions that not only complement architectural intent and interior style but also meet real-world demands of durability and budget.

In order to create rooms that are aesthetically beautiful, psychologically pleasant, and operationally appropriate—resulting in designs that resonate on numerous levels and endure—it is ultimately important to balance these criteria when choosing floor colors.

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