Significance of Aesthetics and Landscape in the Libraries.

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Abstract

This study explores library aesthetic and environmental condition as motivating factors for learning purpose and how a user is affected by their surroundings and the type of environment they would prefer to study in. Online survey was used as instrument for extracting information on preference of library aesthetic and landscaping from the respondents. While majority of the respondents indicated that library aesthetic would motivate library usage. The paper concludes by recommending focusing on both developing resources and its environment.

Keywords: Library, aesthetics, environment, landscaping.

Introduction

The study discusses about library ambiences which would be suitable for all age groups. Library is a space where people spend their time to learn and develop their knowledge. Through this survey, various aesthetical and environmental interests of a user visiting the library were identified. Therefore, a questionnaire was prepared, where the samples were categorized into 4 age groups from kids (8-16), teens (16-30), adults (30- 60) to senior citizens (60 and above). The questions ranged from the amount of time spent in a library to the types of aesthetics and colors a user would prefer in their surroundings.

Therefore, this analysis is to create a space where the users would often visit and stay for a longer period of time because of its various interior aspects such as space, aesthetics, and environment which would provide users a peaceful, comfortable, learning experience in a library.

Literature review

Before conducting this study, articles and research papers were taken into consideration to have a better understanding about the topic.

Andrews and Wright, considers about the meeting changing user needs for 21st century libraries. During a major library renovation in 2007, Mann Library—responded to students' need for more group work spaces with the unveiling of a new collaborative center. Through surveys, interviews, usability tests of collaborative technologies, and participatory design exercises,

Team gathered feedback on the study behaviors and needs of students in terms of technology, furniture and ambiance including activity zones. After receiving feedbacks from student, certain design considerations were analyzed.

John(2016),The author provides an overview of how design is being used as a tool to enhance the experience of the users and the change the behavior of staff in public libraries in twelve locations across five countries in two international context , it tells how the simplest design turns out to be most successful design –open plan with good visibility across the floor plate and excellent connectivity – allowing staff customers greater freedom to change the form and function of the library over time, it provides us with data on how people interact with library services and spaces , and also responds to the call from the architects and interior designers for more information on the relationship between people and buildings.
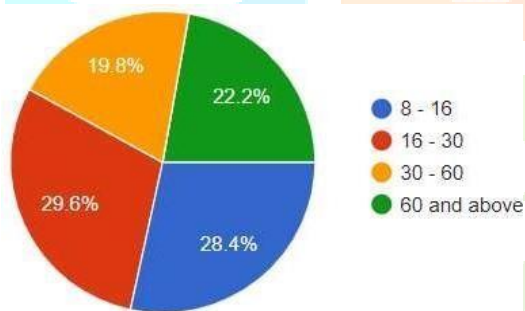
Uzzell and Lewand. (January 1990). Psychology and Landscape Design. University of Surrey Guildford. The study discusses about people-environment transactions. I; e the relationship between the physical surroundings and the people who create & use them. It strives to build bridges not only between psychology, sociology, and geography, but also between the social sciences and the design disciplines such as architecture, landscape architecture, urban planning, and space planning and interior design. The study says the people who manage environment need to know what people expect and want from the natural environment, what aspects of the environment fulfil these expectations and wishes, and how important are these demands. A

research study was undertaken with the idea that landscape design and evaluation should incorporate both the physical features inherent in the landscape, eye perceptions and meaning to it. From research, we come to know that design can enhance the therapeutic process such as giving peace of mind. He concluded by setting. Experiment was taken place by 20 people which involved professionals & 18 designers, landscape designers by giving26 word cards having naming such forest, garden etc. on it.. Study proved that there was lots of difference between quantities and qualitative features of landscape design. Individuals were asked to place the cards into groups of their own choice. Professionals focused on aesthetic and designer focused on emotion connectivity with theuser.
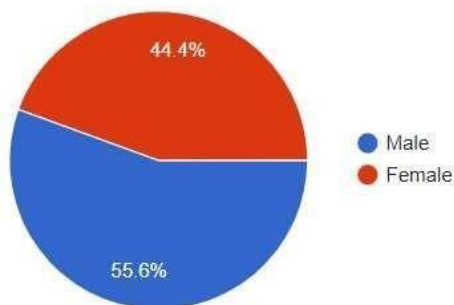
Results and Analysis

All copies of online survey administered on the users accessing the library were retrieved and savedin an excel format. The finding tells that the users knew the importance of aesthetic and environmental condition of a library as it affects their reading and motivates in knowledge development.

Figure 1: Distribution of age group

The online forms were evenly circulated to the age groups so that the analysis would give an overall view on the preferences of different users. There were 23 (28.4%) responses from kids, 24 (29.6%) from the teens, 16 (19.8%) from the adults and 18 (22.2%) from adults. These respondents were in their mentally active
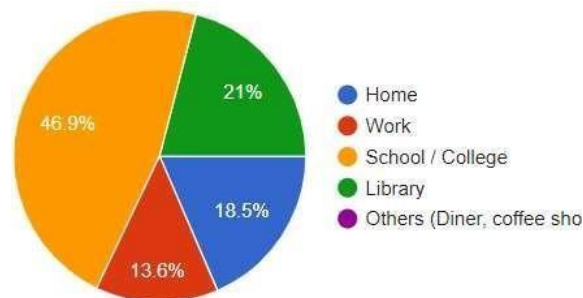
Figure 2: Gender

stage, who could read and learn about academic, art, technology and world knowledge.

Figure 2 shows that 45 (55.6%) were male users while 36 (44.4%) were female. This infers that the genders were fairly divided in the study also, it suggests that there were majority of male users in the library at the time the study was carried out.
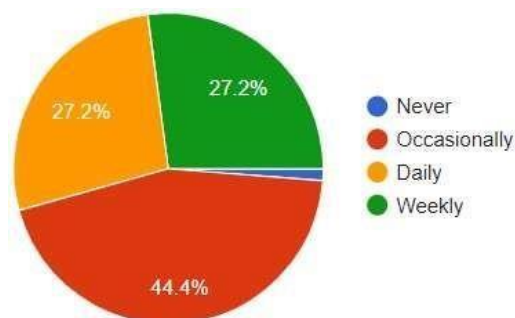
Figure 3: Location of studying

Respondents were given 4 different choices of location, along with the choice of spaces they would prefer (not mentioned). They were asked to choose their most preferred setting to learn.

Location	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
ne	3	2	-	4
k	-	-	9	1
cational library	20	15	5	-
lic Library	-	7	4	13

Majority of kids and teens chose educational library (46.9%) as a place to develop their knowledge, while public library (21%) was favored by the adults and seniors. Home was chosen by the respondents who did not have access to either educational or public library and the least favored location was work related spaces (13.6%). Generally, the users do not prefer work-related spaces to study.

Figure 4: Visiting the library

The percentage of library use was also surveyed. The results of the finding in Figure 4 shows that 36 (58.7%) of the respondents visited the library

occasionally, 23 (28.3%) visit weekly, while 22 (13%) make use of it daily.

Visitors	ids	ens	lults	nior
Daily				
Weekly				
ionaly				

Majority of the respondents visited the library occasionally for the reason that they had tuitions, extra lectures or overtime (offices). Daily (27.2%) and weekly (27.2%) were selected by the users who accessed it for intellectual development (newspaper, research etc.).
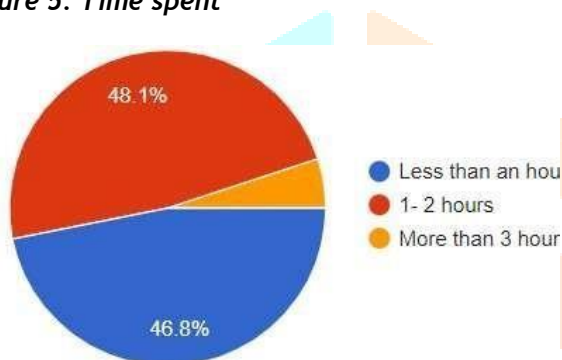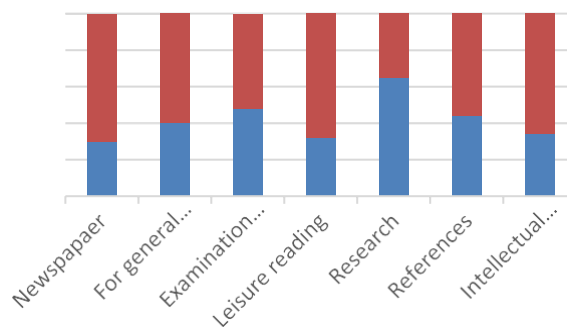
Figure 5: Time spent

Figure 5 represent the amount of time the respondents spent in the library.

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The results shows that, majority of the users spent 1-2 hours (48.1%) in the library for references and exam preparation, while 46.8% spent less than an hour for leisure reading.
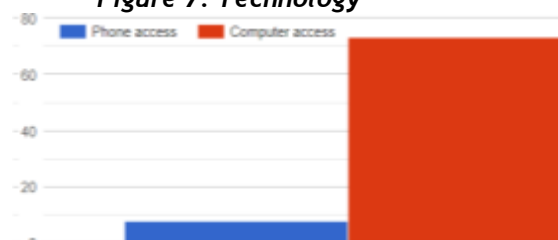
Figure 6: Purpose of using the library

Purpose of using a library is to provide information through variety of media resources. It helps them to cultivate reading habit and bring interest in the world of books. Increased availability in a particular topic is enhanced by getting similar references from the library. It gives an easy access for social interaction and gaining knowledge.

Visitors	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
For general information	11	2	2	4
Newspapers, Magazines	-	-	3	11
For examination preparation	9	11	1	-
Leisurereading	-	3	3	8
Research	-	4	5	-
To read lecture notes/textbooks	3	4	2	-
To enhance intellectual development	-	3	12	1

Library is a space which helps kids in developing a better reading and writing habit. For teenagers, it is a quiet place to study and for the adults and senior citizens prefer reading newspapers & magazines (leisure reading) as they act as a great resource for them. It provides an aid for social interaction and community welfare.
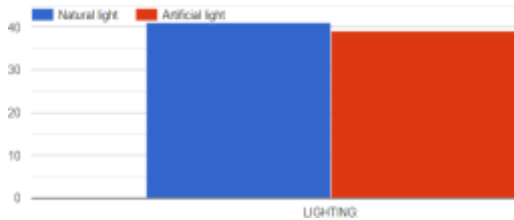
Comfortability level requirement
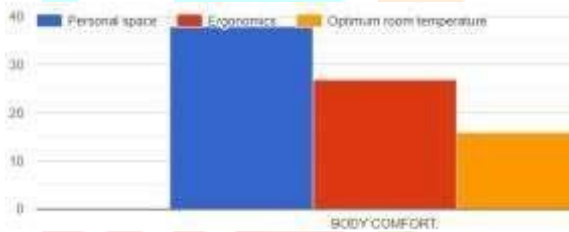### Figure 7: Technology

As per technology, kids feel computer access is a better experience to be comfortable and enjoy their time in library, while for teenagers it creates an easy access for research and study resources. Adults and seniors citizens access it for official and social works (emails, bills, documentation etc.)
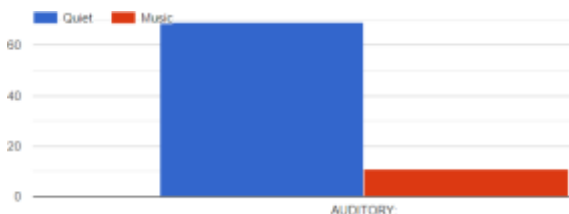
Figure 8: Lighting

Majority respondents of each category preferred natural lighting, usually in the role of kids they don't sit at one particular space as they perform different activities (such as reading, playing etc.), for teenager and above they chose natural as well as artificial lighting according to their personal needs.
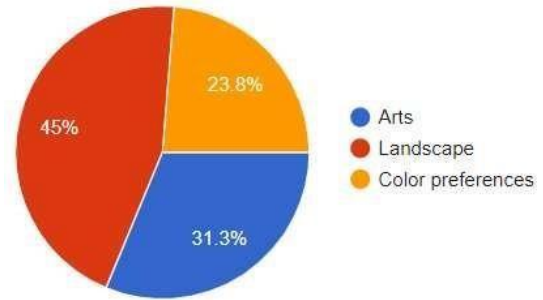
Figure 9: Body comfort

Kids love having their own space with comfortable furniture for reading and playing.
For teenage – both are preferred for comfort.
For seniors – optimum room temperature and personal space for preferred a lot as they are old their body should resist the temperature with respect to the number of hours they are in library.

Figure 10: Auditory

Mostly all ages had a one common answer saying that they would love a quiet place for reading in library.
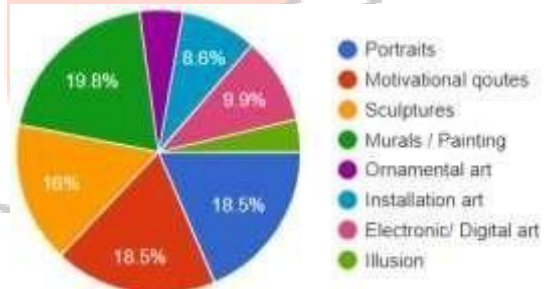
Figure 11: Aesthetics

Visitors	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
Arts	5	2	11	9
Landscape	12	16	2	6
Color preference	7	6	3	3

For kids –landscape was their 1st choice for it and other was colors as they love colors.
Teenage - were preferred by teenage so that they enjoy watching and being in that area and read / study.
Seniors – mostly landscape was preferred as it helps in making person stress free and read for more time.
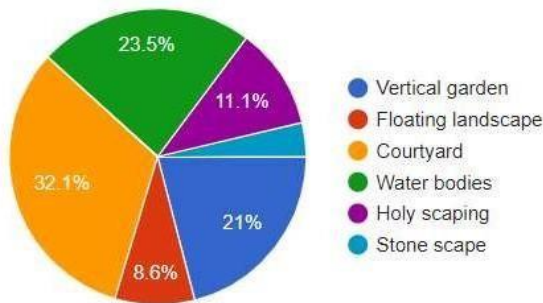
Figure 12: Arts

Visitors	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
Portraits	1	2	6	6
Motivational quotes	6	5	4	-
Sculptures	5	3	1	4
Murals / Painting	4	3	2	7
Ornamental art	1	2	1	1
Installation art	-	4	2	-
Electronic/ Digital art	-	6	-	-
Illusion	3	-	-	-

For kids – it's mostly preferred as sculptures and then murals/ paintings as they love watching new art and get happy to see some still arts considering them as library part and get acknowledged.

For teenage – its motivational quotes for most people as they can get motivated or inspired by reading it or passing that particular section.

For seniors –its painting as they old age people are more inspired by such arts as they is some hidden message in the paintings.
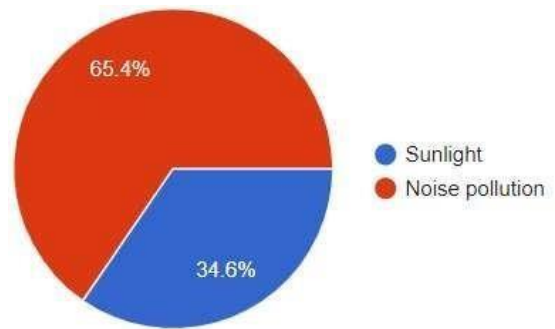
Figure 13: Landscape

Form of indoor landscape motivating in learning. – It's a special character which arise from human influences and natural. They have unique relationship with humans and space and have strong sense of belonging.

Visitors	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
Vertical garden	7	3	6	-
Floating landscape	1	3	4	2
Courtyard	6	6	1	11
Waterbodies	4	9	2	-
Holy scaping	3	3	1	1
Stonescape	-	-	2	1

For kids they prefer mostly courtyard as they a better and free space for moving around. For teenage and seniors – they mostly prefer mixture of vertical garden and water bodies as it makes the place look attractive as well as cooler than room temperature. Also good for focusing in reading. The sounds of water calm you off while reading or learning.

Figure 14: Distractions

The figure represents which forms of the exterior surroundings distract respondents in learning.

Majority of the respondents chose noise pollution (65.4%) which is distracting for concentration as compared to sunlight (34.6%) as some of the respondents prefer reading in diffracted sunlight.

Kids are most likely to be affected by sunlight while studying and reading whereas adults prefer sunlight and are distracted by noise pollution because most of adult and teens visit library during exams or to read lecture notes.
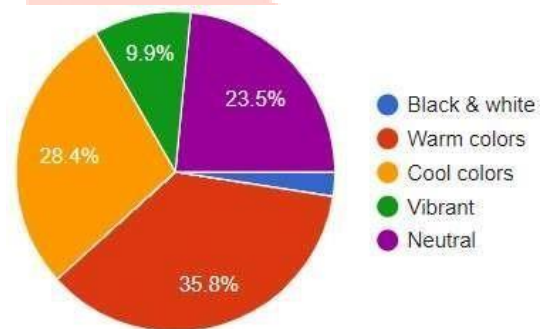
Figure 15: Color pallet

Figure represents the color preference of the respondents in the library. Warm colors were most liked by the respondents (35.8%). The least liked color palette was black and white chose by the respondents.

Color preference	Kids	Teens	Adult	Senior
ack andwhite	-	2	-	-
Warm colors	7	2	10	10
Cool colors	6	9	3	5
Vibrant	8	-	-	-

Almost every age group chose neutral and warm colors by stating it helps them to concentrate in reading. (See table).
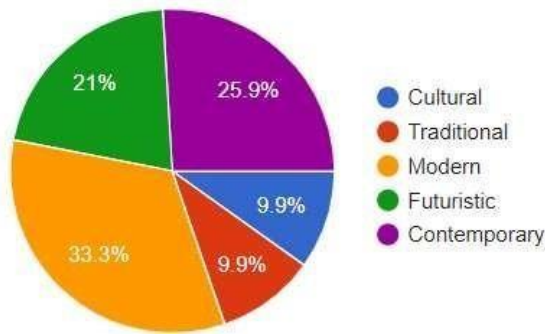
Figure 15: Art style

Figure represents which art style makes the library more approachable. The following results show majority of people prefer modern libraries (33.3%) whereas the least preferred style is cultural library (9.9%).

Visitors	Kids	Teens	Adults	Senior
ural				
litional				
lern				
iristic				
temporary				

The results are divided into sub categories according to the age group .which states majority of kids and teens chose modern and futuristic library and least preferred style was cultural library. Adults chose contemporary style. Senior respondents were more into cultural library.

Conclusion

The library building must be able to accommodate and change readily since its primary goal is to provide an effective library with aesthetics and landscape facility and its environmental condition must motivate the users and respond to the services. In this study, the researches wanted to understand which type of environment works for the users for their perceived success at studying and conducting research.

Thus, the paper concludes certain factors such as natural lighting, personal space, motivational quotes, computer access, warm lighting, and tech- rich facilities play an important role in learning space whereas other factors such as noise, black and white (color scheme), and traditional and cultural art styles are least preferred in present time.

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