

Interior Design
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Lecture - 31

Interior Design: Professional Practice: Interior Services, Functional Importance

Namaste, hello everyone. Welcome again to my NPTEL course on interior design. Today we are at lecture number 31, and we are going to talk about professional practice. Specifically, we will discuss interior services and their functional importance with regard to professional practices, focusing on these services. So, the broad content is professional practice in interior design, which is very crucial. Interior services and their functional importance.

I would also like to discuss one case study: the Book Promotion Centre, Dehradun. It is a live project I recently completed for the Ministry of Education, specifically the National Book Trust of India. We will discuss those details. When we talk about professional practice in interior design, it entails a combination of specialized skills, education, and a client-focused attitude. All of these are very important when discussing professional practice in the field of interior design.

Characteristics such as pride in work, responsibility, eagerness to learn, and effective teamwork exhibit true professionalism in an interior designer. It depends on an individual—how they engage with clients and demonstrate their capabilities on the ground. So, of course, beyond educational aspects and professional practice guidelines, it is very much tied to an individual's personality. Rather than relying solely on credentials, interior designers must adopt a client-responsive approach, fostering collaborative partnerships that enhance creativity and align with client goals. So overall, personality, approach, and attitude are very important.

The real subject of interior design, as we all know, is an enclosed space. That is the setting within buildings that house human activity. First and foremost, interior designers are concerned with how people experience these settings and how their designs support different activities. These concerns form the core of interior design profession's specialized knowledge. In defining the professional practice of interior design, the Foundation for Interior Design Education and Research (FIDER),

provides the following outline of its scope. Starting by analyzing client needs, goals, and life safety requirements. Then integrating findings with the knowledge of interior design. Formulating preliminary design concepts that are aesthetic, appropriate, functional, and—very importantly—in accordance with codes and standards. This is important and is led by FIDER.

Developing and presenting final design recommendations through appropriate presentation media. This is also very important—how the presentation is done and how the recommendations are put forth. Of course, preparing working drawings and specifications. For non-load-bearing interior construction, then RCPs (reflective ceiling plans), lighting, interior detailing, materials, specifications, finishes, and the overall layout and space planning. Continuing with the working drawings, covering furnishings, fixtures, and equipment in compliance with universal accessibility guidelines and all applicable codes.

So these are very important. And there is a lecture where we have covered interior design drawings and representation techniques. So we have discussed in detail, you know, how to prepare these drawings and how to communicate them. Collaborating with professional services of other licensed practitioners in the technical areas of mechanical, electrical and load bearing design as required for regulatory approval. So collaborations are always important.

And having discussed these guidelines and this scope, which is, you know, laid by FIDER, I must also, you know, submit this before all of you that the scope is ever changing, ever evolving. So, as interior designers, we do also cover the load-bearing aspects of design and it's not just decor and non-load-bearing aspects. And we do collaborate, you know, for the technical expertise in other areas, mechanical, electrical and so on. But our basic education for interior design and along with practice and experience, a lot of things get covered and it's not just the bare minimum non-load bearing aspects and simple designs that are expected from interior designers.

We are quite capable of doing more. And again, this brings me back to the point why I keep saying interior architecture as an encompassing holistic discipline, you know, which makes us exposed to all kinds of details and equips us to be prepared with all sorts of tools. tools and practices and be able to deliver everything when we are on field. So that's very important that the scope is ever evolving, ever expanding, ever changing.

Particularly so because we have so much technology support and so many tools at hand, which were not earlier so, but we are now having them at our disposal.

And then the scope further continues and Preparing and administering bids and contract documents as the client's agent. Then reviewing and evaluating design solutions during implementation and upon completion. So these are all important points which are mentioned as scope under FIDR guidelines. Now talking about interior services and their functional importance.

We can try to understand first that the interior design services include in-person design, purchasing, project management, and installation among a multitude of associated tasks. So it's a plethora of tasks. It's a lot of activities, and it's a lot of expertise which is required. And we need interior design services to accomplish all these tasks and beyond what is mentioned here. The interior designer handles the entire project from initial concept to finishing touches, whether it's a new construction, renovation, or remodeling.

So this is also very important. It's not always a new construction. And when we talk about the field of interior design, renovation, remodeling, revamping, and adaptive reuse, these are very, very popular fields. And more often than not, the services of interior designers are required for these kinds of projects. So we have to understand all these nuances.

Each design firm has a unique way of approaching the design of a project. While these approaches vary due to the size of a project, project type, and the design firm's philosophy and resources, the basic scope of services is generally consistent from project to project and firm to firm. So, of course, there may be philosophical underpinnings and, you know, individualistic ideologies there. For each designer or each firm. But yes, the basic scope, the technical details, and the overall approach could have overlaps from project to project.

So I can give one example: the Chicago-based design firm, Eva Maddox and Associates, designs a broad range of project types—residential, healthcare, education, commercial, and corporate projects. So they have a very diverse range of projects, and, you know, they cater to each one of these, and they have a very interesting approach to working on these projects. So every firm, every designer would approach a project, you

know, in a philosophically diverse way, but they would have some of the scopes, you know, which are very basic and consistent throughout these different projects. The firm has combined the best-practice knowledge they derive from their diverse practice to construct the following scope of service chart. So this example I have particularly chosen is,

because they have come up with this very crucial, very functional, extremely informative, and important scope of service chart, which helps them approach, decode, and execute their projects in a very effective manner. We will see that chart. The chart is a snapshot in time, describing today's key interior services comprising the course of a project, from marketing to project closeout. So it lays everything in detail in a stepwise manner. These key interior services or key actions include coordinating the project, developing and monitoring the contract, fee monitoring, which is very important, scheduling,

Defining objectives, gathering information, establishing the big idea or the concept, which is the fundamental basis of the project. Patterning, wherever it is applicable, depending on the project type and scale. Of course, formatting the presentation, budgeting, designing, even the information architecture and the graphic design aspects. This means how the ideas are presented and communicated, and the documentation of the entire process, as well as maintaining a portfolio. So, this is the service chart that is shown here, and it has key actions, like what we saw in the previous few slides.

So, project coordination, contract, and fee monitoring, Within that, there are parameters which are covered, stakeholders which are accounted for, and roles which are defined. So, for project coordination: reviewing marketing information, reviewing scope, identifying deliverables, and so on. Then, project initiation: conducting team kickoff meetings. Development stage.

Again, continuing with conducting team kickoff meetings, maintaining client communication, and issuing meeting minutes. Design development. So here also, there are very important steps. Conducting in-house presentations two days prior to the client meeting. Documentation.

Documenting everything, including client approval, then the bids, preparing a list of qualified bidders, and then stamping appropriate documents, and so on. Continuing

with the site monitoring aspects: issuing field reports, field conditions, conducting client walkthroughs, and the project closeout. So, conducting project closeout meetings, distributing closeout reports, then closing out all project files, and so on. So, it's a huge chart, and at every step and for every stage, there is a very detailed and elaborate mention of all the important parameters, the roles, and the distribution of work. Then, for contract as a key action, there are again, you know, a set of parameters and stages laid out for fee monitoring.

So, confirming fee to work scope, reviewing fee and project work against budget, monitoring profitability when we talk about development. For the key action fee monitoring. So, it's like a matrix, and you have parameters on the x-axis and y-axis. And then, this entire inventory helps one understand, you know, also the relationship design between different stakeholders and different key actions. And therefore, it's a very, very important inventory and matrix for any kind of project, you know.

To be understood and developed, and it helps in executing it well and documenting the entire process. For more key actions over here, so there is scheduling, and scheduling actually at two levels. So, one is about the project schedule, and one is about the team and consultants and all the details over here. So, important aspects like reviewing the project schedule, assigning a team, defining and establishing project objectives for the key action objectives, and so on.

Here we have project closeout. So, schedule a closeout meeting, you know, evaluating the success of team members when we are talking about the schedule with regard to the team and consultants at the stage of project closeout. And so on. So this again, like I said, is a complete inventory, and it helps us understand this relationship design also. So, you know, I also teach design thinking at IIT Roorkee, and I always emphasize the importance of relationship design.

Understanding the key actions, the stakeholders, the different steps and stages involved, the entire value chain from procuring raw materials to packaging and transportation. So if we understand, you know, these aspects and we create charts like these for ourselves, It will make working on a project very, very easy. It will also showcase that one takes responsibility and is serious about their work. And it helps in very, very effective execution of work.

So these always help. So this is a very elaborate chart by this design firm, and it continues with key actions like information gathering, the big idea or the central concept behind the project, patterning, and the presentation formats. So these are very, very important aspects. It continues with the key action design, which is very paramount for any project. Graphics for communication, and then, of course, the documentation of the entire process, outcome, and everything.

So, in conclusion, the scope of services chart is an invaluable tool that reaffirms the functional importance of interior design services. By systematically outlining the specific phase services provided by interior designers, the chart helps prevent project hiccups, delays, and malfunctions, thereby significantly enhancing the likelihood of on-time completion of civil work. So, that's important. And I'm also highlighting the source that I have mentioned here.

It's a very valuable resource for all of us. Interior Design Handbook of Professional Practice. And If you write to me, whether over email or in the discussion forum, I would be happy to share the e-book with all of you. Looking beyond the spectrum of designer-client interactions, this chart offers valuable insights into the professional operations of interior design firms and the broader industry.

So, it's a very precious and useful tool. It highlights the extensive capabilities and involvement of interior designers in every project phase, from initial analysis and concept formulation to detailed specifications, regulatory compliance, and final implementation. Now, I will discuss a case study that will demonstrate the application of some of these services and the understanding we have hopefully achieved by now. It is called BPC, which stands for the Book Promotion Center. It is located in Dehradun.

And the project is for the National Book Trust of India, which is, you know, the Ministry of Education Agency. So Book Promotion Centre Dehradun is a recent addition to NBT's countrywide chain of stores. It was envisioned as an experience center catering to book enthusiasts of all age groups. So it is for promoting reading habits. It's for promoting different kinds of books.

So it's not a library as such, but it's a book promotion center. So the client, that is the ministry, They wanted to have a visually stimulating ambience, very nice user experience. And also the interesting part is that the NBT also, you know, collaborated

with the NIVH, the, you know, the previously known NIVH and now it is called NIEPVD, which is a very, very special institute for differently abled people. So they collaborated with them and this book promotion center is nestled within the campus of NIEPVD.

So it's an existing building and it had to be dealt very sensitively. So it's more like a project of adaptive reuse, not designing this from scratch. So while the design accommodates different formats of reading, it lays special emphasis on facilitating individuals with visual impairments. So another important aspect of the brief was to cater to the universal accessibility and keeping in mind that the BPC is housed within NIEPVD and it must also facilitate individuals with visual impairments and, you know, other differently abled people also. And another important part was that the BPCs opened to public and, you know, people from anywhere outside from the city could come.

And it was to engage them through very interesting books, you know, with very, very exciting illustrations and visuals. The store's design language is inspired by Uttarakhand's traditional designs and motifs, aiming to create a sense of belonging and awareness among visitors. So when I was approached to design this project, my intention was to create a unique design vocabulary. Because, you know, the center is going to be in Uttarakhand, and Uttarakhand has its very specific traditional designs, motifs, and a design language. So my team was trying to capture that while we were working on this project.

So to explain the site context, we refurbished an existing building, as I explained, by adding practical, universally accessible, and modern interior updates. That is what we wanted to do. And now I will explain what our approach was stage-wise. So this is the site location, as I was talking about the campus. NIE PVD and a very, very unique and special campus.

So our stage one, of course, was the site visit, and you know, we were doing the condition assessment and the analysis of the existing building. So this is one of the entrances, which is through the main block, and this is the alternate entrance, which is from somewhere over here. So entering from here, From here, you see this side, and from outside, this is towards the corridor. So this is the existing hall or the space where the books, you know, were displayed.

And this was, so to say, the bookstore, which we wanted to upgrade to a book promotion center. And these were just the tables and the kinds of furniture pieces displayed. Over which the books were displayed. And these were the corner details. The existing windows.

All of that. And then there is this office room. I will show the plan also. So we were given to work on this office room also. This was the existing billing counter.

And this is the model school. Which is for the differently abled kids and candidates. So, of course, there is a proximity to this school, and they demonstrate profoundly the principles of universal accessibility and how it is demonstrated through their designs. So the intention was to begin with the case study of the model school itself, try to understand and imbibe from there what the principles of universal accessibility are and the design elements which are already incorporated there.

That could form the continuum for us when we, you know, create this book promotion center. Along with, of course, the understanding and learning from more case studies and our experience as a team while working on different projects. So this is the existing space, and this is the entrance and the corridor that was visible on the previous slides. This is the entire space with, you know, an existing structure, the openings, and the way the books and everything were displayed over there. And we had to work in this space itself.

And here is that office space. So we had to cover this corridor space, enhance the user experience, you know, right from the entrance part all the way to going into this hall, which is now the book promotion center, and then detail this out completely. Flooring, lighting, electrical layout, everything. In fact, here... There was no ramp, and we are promoting universal access through this design, which is very important.

Accessibility, to be more precise. So we created a ramp over here. So all those details we had, you know, designed, developed, added, and did some upgrades to make this the current book promotion center. And I'll show you some of the pictures. And there is also a walkthrough later that you will get to see during this lecture.

So, identifying existing interior elements, structural elements, and the condition of the existing building is very essential to arrive at the required functional layout. So, we had to do all of that in detail, and you know, we had to conceal certain details that were not

going with the aesthetic. And where we had to add new details. All of that was, of course, developed and planned after doing the condition assessment of the existing site. Stage two was setting a focus, utilizing stakeholder insights.

So, of course, we met all these stakeholders. We had to understand what their inputs were and what their insight and vision for a book promotion center was. And that's how we started by doing meetings and talking to them. So, it's very important that we also keep in mind the anticipated impacts and benefits. So, we were talking about cultural preservation.

We were talking about functional optimization during all these meetings, including brainstorming among my own team members. User experience, sustainability. So, while we were talking about cultural preservation, our focus was community connection, heritage conservation, artisan empowerment, incorporating locally available materials and skills, creating a design vocabulary unique to Uttarakhand, promoting critical regionalism, empowering the artisans—all of that. We were talking about sustainability, so energy conservation. So, we kept in mind the orientation of the building to maximize the entry of daylight.

How can we maximize the views, and how can we alter, upgrade, or adaptively use the space with minimal structural interventions while trying to reduce the burden on resources? Eco-stewardship involves using materials like metal and nettle, and resource efficiency means procuring everything as close to the site as possible, ideally from within Dehradun itself. Functional optimization includes adaptive versatility, space utilization, and workflow efficiency. When we talk about user experience, we focus on inclusive design, immersive experiences, and enhanced comfort. So, we created mind maps and flowcharts like these within our team.

This is how we generally approach projects, as they are research-led design initiatives. I like to combine research and design, as it yields very interesting outcomes. Addressing the client's requirements to enhance reading experiences and community engagement by adopting a comprehensive set of focal points is what we aimed to achieve. Stage three involves identifying case studies with functional similarities and a shared vision. We studied some projects.

This is one case study that you see here. Another one, specifically focusing on the reading areas, the display of books, and the play of colors—all related to circulation. We are discussing NIEPVD, with a special focus on people with visual impairments and other challenges. We conducted case studies to help us understand these important aspects. These were our initial design proposals.

So we gave a lot of options and we had a lot of back and forth discussion and we got some inputs, you know, from the NBT and from the NIEPVD. Also within our team, we had inputs and we assessed the different options before coming to the final one. So, exploring functional possibilities by crafting multiple design solutions. We must always try to give multiple design solutions and then see what is the best possible solution which will cater to the client's requirements. Then, of course, stage five, the design finalization, taking design decisions.

This is one of the renders which is depicting the intended user engagement and views of the interior space. And we try to use, you know. Color as a defining element, we tried to incorporate elements from Uttarakhand to enhance the user experience and create a sense of belonging and identity. We kept in mind the aspects of universal accessibility. And we tried to create diverse experiences, you know, seating, standing, etc.

And then using this inbuilt furniture which is juxtaposed to the window opening so that there are views outside. So that's a very interesting space. And Providing, you know, physical books to Kindle stations, to different kinds of boards including the digital screen. All of those details were incorporated.

You know, the display of books, corners for storage and retail display, all of that. And then stage 6, execution via technical drawings. So, this is work in progress. Technical drawings, plans, sections, elevations and of course a lot more details constitute the most important part of professional practice in interior architecture and they are very important otherwise the work will not get executed properly on site. And they act as primary references and they are very crucial for you know executing the project.

This is the final layout and it has all the details that I was talking about from bag storage to retail display, books for different categories, a multi-purpose platform which is also designed with a unique design. joinery because you know if we need space over here

we can unfold and move it outside and then bring it back with digital screens and these whiteboards. Then the book display, kindle stations, seating juxtaposed to the window openings providing light and interesting views to the landscape outside. More display of books, digital assistive desk, billing counter details, new arrivals right at the entrance we get a peek on the new arrivals. And then you know this configuration of reading nooks and display shelves which are designed in a very engaging and visually stimulating manner while keeping in mind that there is enough circulation space.

And of course, there are details on the floor which provide the guiding tactile tiles for the visually challenged people. And there is also the provision of enough size of the door and opening that the wheelchair could be turned. So, we have kept in mind all these important aspects. And more so because it's nestled in the campus of NIEPVD. But in general also, these are very sensitive aspects and we as designers must hold responsibilities to keep in mind these important aspects and facilitate them through our designs.

So there is a dynamic placement of retail displays, audiovisual spaces, pinboards, and reading nooks, ensuring engagement for all users alike. That's what we have tried to create. And now, this book promotion center is already open to the public. Some of the sectional elevations are very important to help us understand the space configuration and detailing. So here, you know, when we walk through this corridor,

There are metal plates with braille information describing the artworks displayed here. These projects, particularly in Uttarakhand—the Himalayan state—include important details, such as the type of handrails and how they facilitate universal accessibility. The entrance door has likhai kaam, which is also very specific to Uttarakhand. It's basically wood carving. So we have included those kinds of details. We have created these interesting spaces for people to sit and read here.

They have turned out beautifully, along with all the details I showed you. From entering here to back storage, retail displays, books, audiovisual spaces in this section—storage of books, seating areas—everything is included. This multifunctional area can host workshops, book launches, or provide a space for kids to sit on cushions and sketch or paint. And then there are seating areas with views outside. So these are the details.

Hexagonal shapes offer clear guidance and feedback to individuals with visual impairments as they move through public spaces. So it's not just a visually aesthetic element that uplifts the overall space but also provides seating. But these geometric forms are also These provide guidance and feedback for individuals with visual impairments. They can move ahead toward the book once they encounter these geometric forms.

The depth within them also guides them for different functionalities. For this project, I collaborated with a dear friend, architect Priyanka Mangaonkar. She works with many children as well as elderly people. It was very useful to incorporate her inputs and guidance throughout this project. For interior services—since we are discussing them in particular—we provided detailed flooring tile layout plans, explaining the placement and type of tiles, including tactile tiles, stone tiles, different textures, and colors.

All these details are included in the working drawings, and there are also sections that you will see later. One section cut here and another section over here. Tactile tiles ensure seamless accessibility for users with visual impairments, so we made sure to use them. These are the sections I mentioned earlier. If you look here, this is a tactile tile.

So these tiles are, you know, used specifically for helping the people with visual impairment. Surface of tactile tiles should match stone tiles adjacent to it. So it has to be a very precise drawing so that there is no mismatch. Precise detailing is essential for error-free execution on site. And this is the another section.

And then the electrical services, again very important. So what we see over here, the fall ceiling layout plan which details the placement of all fans and lights integrated in the ceiling. So where should be the fan boxes and all those details, they are important. And, you know, continuing with the electrical services, this looping layout plan that is very, very important. We see these different loops over here.

The looping layout plan specifies which appliances to be connected to which switchboard and so on. And here we see, you know, a section depicting the positions of LED strip lights. So these are all very, very important details. indexing LD02, LD01 and so on. So we provided all these drawings and all the details and now some of the project outcomes and I am trying to highlight them through a before and after summary

And the functional upgradation that we could achieve. So facade and the signage that is how it looked like and there was no ramp. This was made later because of the designs that we provided. And this is the signage and the entrance how it looks now. With elements from you know typical motifs and designs from Uttarakhand including likhai which is the wood carving.

And here it was like this and now the ramp that I talked about with tactile tiles leading to this corridor and this entrance which is quite welcoming and along with the signage above. This is the existing, it was the corridor, you know, which existed when we were given the project. And now it looks like this with the handrails and the artworks are being put up. Still, they are not yet here in these photographs. They also wanted some storage space, you know, within these corridors to have extra books, you know, which can be put periodically or which are not always required or which can be taken there and the old ones could be brought here along with some folding chairs and some kind of, you know, important multi-use items.

stationary etc. So we provided this but not compromising with the width which is required for the wheelchair access. This is the display of the books and the reading spaces, how they looked earlier. And this is how they look now. This is my PhD student Aditya.

He has done a lot of work with me on this project. And this is the space that we created and then the views outside. And we try to use these eco-friendly materials. So metal and bamboo and ringal, all those details again from Uttarakhand. There is a walkthrough that will give you the understanding of the entire space upgradation and adaptive reuse program that we created for this book promotion center.

And the next lecture, we will continue with professional practice and we will specifically try to focus on bylaws and supervision. These are some of the references. Some websites. And this handbook that I told you and I could easily share the copy of this with all of you. Thank you so much.

I'll see you next time.