

**Interior Design**  
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**Lecture - 4**  
**Interior Design: Case Studies and Examples**

Namaste. Hello, everyone. Welcome to my NPTEL course on interior design. Today we are going to talk about case studies and examples in lecture number 4 and we will see some very interesting projects. So, for contents I have today some residential building projects, luxury interiors, low cost interiors, an outdoor cafe, some international commercial projects, commercial projects in India and some references. Let's see some residential building projects first. So, this is Four Leaves Villa and the architects are KIAS. It's a Japan based project and to just give the idea of the area, it is 225 square meters in area and the year of construction is 2018. And it's located in Japan. It is, you know, in the middle of a forest.

And it's a very, very interesting sort of a retreat, you know, which capitalizes on the natural environment at a mountain retreat, which is 150 kilometers away from Tokyo. And what you see over here interestingly is, you know, that there are roofs which are designed as curved surfaces like gently twisted leaves. And this gives a very interesting form to the overall, you know, built form. And there is a combination of concave and convex roofs that we see over here. And again, it's like, you know.

Overall very interesting and very sort of full of mystery until and unless we are in the space. It's difficult to understand whether it's compact or expensive but the overall form itself is quite mysterious and interesting. These are some of the images of the project. And I find this wooden joist very, very interesting. So, there is a series of wooden joists which is exposed, you know, on the ceiling and it gives some kind of a dynamism to this entire space.

And there is this very interesting character the living space acquires because of this dynamism. This is the site plan and we can see again the dynamism in terms of, you know, the way the blocks are placed. And I always talk about interior architecture, which begins, you know, from the site planning. So, we will be talking about projects

in terms of interior architecture. And we will try to see some structural details all the way to some maybe decorative panels.

But it's like an entire package. Like we always say, why interior architecture and not as much interior design or interior decor? So, the site is treated very interestingly over here. And this is a scale model, which itself is like a delight to watch. There is another project, which is the container house.

It is in Brazil. It is 60 square meters and it is from the year 2019. So, this is quite compact. And here, what has happened is that the architect has tried to transform the shipping containers into a very modern and functional house. And the time frame for elaboration and execution of this model of construction is quite small, clean, fast, dry, and within the 100% reuse of materials.

So, there are, you know, two 40-foot containers which are attached alongside, and there are spaces which are generated. So, living space, kitchen space, laundry, a comfortable bathroom, etc. So, it is an example and demonstration of reuse. And we see a lot of use of shades of white. Again, it makes the space look quite expensive and big.

So that is again a strategy by design. And the house has a very interesting external area, which is very pleasing, you know. And it has this sort of bench, which is sculpted in Brazilian granite. And on top of it, there are 204 identical stone plates. Which sort of frame this spiraling impact on that.

Then there is this YAO residence and this is in Thailand. This is 1300 square meters, quite big compared to the previous projects. And this is 2019. And again, the site placement, the overall landscape and the way the built form is shaped in terms of the mass and void and the punctures and the fascia of the entire, you know, building blocks. That's very, very interesting.

And there is a profound emphasis, you know, on the courtyard. And we are talking about this interior architecture vocabulary. So, again, focusing on the courtyard, the play of light and shadow, the entry of the sunlight. And, you know, when the rain falls, the falling of rain and its sounds, etc. All of those sensory experiences have been sort of captured over here.

And this sort of forms the center of the building. Some more images like, a very huge floor plate with these nice views outside you know the pebbles entire setting the step seating all of those interesting dimensions through which this entire space is designed and continuing with the interior architecture vocabulary and the expression you know

that we get in a space through different elements that we put together it becomes very very important that the entire structure is also thought about So again, in terms of like thinking about an interior space architecturally, thinking in terms of structure, thinking in terms of the overall planning from site all the way to the, you know, coasters kept on the table. So that's interior architecture. And that's the demonstration over here in this project.

Some more images. Then there is this another project which we are talking about today. This is Aculco house and it's Mexico. It's also compact 90 meters square 2017. And here if you see again it is such a compact space but again utilizing the settings of the site and

Very interesting sort of, you know, utilization of the surrounding space and closeness to nature and the kind of retreat. So, like it's a holiday home and therefore we see this kind of a setting more so meaningful for this kind of a project. Completely disconnected from the city in the middle of the nature. And it works as a resting space actually. So it's close to impressive cliffs and it's a very interesting space.

And another important aspect is that the construction is based on solid quarry block walls, you know, and there are mud floors over here and these block walls that we see here. And there are lots of materials which are used here and they are preserved in their natural state. There is also use of wood and glass. So, the material palette is very interesting and there is an attempt to preserve the materials in their natural state. Then some of the luxury interiors we can see over here.

This is a project called Mission Hills in Canada, and it has some very interesting features. Now, what is actually happening here is that the ceiling heights are approximately 9 feet, and they exclude low headroom areas due to mechanical systems, which results in dropped ceiling areas. So, whenever we talk about these mechanical systems and servicing, the ceiling height gets impacted, of course, and therefore we have to design accordingly. They have used baseboards throughout this home, which are almost five inches tall.

These are complemented by three-inch casings on windows, doorways, and flat arches to provide a design vocabulary and definition. So, again, considering some of the interior features, painting the interior doors and trim white was a deliberate decision. Interior walls are also painted off-white. So, these are shades of white. Then there are natural oak veneer stairs.

In the lecture where we focus on timber materials, we will explore veneers, laminates, etc. So, there is a natural oak veneer stair. There is also the application of natural oak for pickets and handrails. So, these are some very interesting features and design elements that we see here.

And, of course, you know, to get a good oak veneer finish is sort of a luxury. So, in that sense, these are some superior interior features that we see in this project. There is also a dual-panel square interior door, or rather, doors within this project, with executive-style complementary hardware. So, even hardware design is an important aspect when we talk about interior architecture. So, they have been taken care of.

The interior doors are dual-panel squares, and they are also very interesting. There is, like, a smooth ceiling, you know, and it's seen everywhere throughout the first floor. All the ceilings that we see there on the first floor, second floor, third floor, and the finished basement areas. They were to be stipple-sprayed with smooth borders, except lavatories and laundry areas, which have smooth ceilings. So, this was a kind of design vocabulary which was, you know, sort of established by the designers.

There are some convenient closet organizers over here. There is an electric fireplace, which is interesting. When we specifically focus on doors and windows with a higher level of detailing, there are oversized casement windows throughout, which give a very interesting character. All windows, you know, they have vinyl Low-E, and, you know, they are argon gas-filled. So, these are also very technical details.

In the field of interior design, we try to use low volatile organic compounds. We try to use more finishes that are better suited to health and so on. We cover this in one of the modules where we discuss green interiors. There is an insulated front entrance door with a magnificent glass insert detail, and it looks quite aesthetic. The entry door from the garage to the house has a self-closer.

This is another detail that was incorporated into this kind of project. There are oversized casement windows that we mentioned in the previous slide. There is a vinyl sliding patio door with a screen or a double door. Those kinds of details are also included here. An executive-style front drawer grip set.

These are all very interesting details. When discussing interior design projects, we must specify the type of window, the material used, and the finish we see here. Is there any paneling? Are they sliding or fixed? Is there any visible hardware detail?

So, all of these details have to be worked out, and therefore, interior architecture drawings are also quite demanding. So, when we see interior design drawings and

representation techniques, we will probably discuss some of these. So, it is, you know, like God is in the details. The drawings have to be really elaborate, with each little detail all inventories, all door and window schedules, every kind of small to big detail has to be given along with the specification, material detail, dimension, everything. And so, like in the case of tiles, we will see whether it's a herringbone pattern or what it is.

So, all those things we have to put together when we are producing put together when we are producing the interior architecture drawings. Then there are also some exquisite floor finishes that we see in this project so there are ceramic or porcelain tiles, and there is oak flooring. We will see some of these when we talk about the tiling. And there are also some non-tiled areas, and they have very interesting custom-made and, you know, exquisite carpets. There are also some very interesting bathroom finishes, which are very luxurious. You know, there is a freestanding tub.

There are ceramic wall tiles. There are separate shower stalls, which are used here. There are also very interesting light fixtures and, you know, frameless glass enclosures that we see in these bathrooms in this kind of project. There is also, you know, a dual shower head that we see in the room, and then it's repeated in several rooms. Also, there are premium single-lever faucets that we see in bathrooms.

There are soaker tubs that we see over here. So, these are all meant for luxury finishes, you know, just being relaxed and having some interesting details. There are some finishes that you see over here, also in the case of the vanity. So, there are oversized vanity mirrors in all bathrooms, and they are very important and interesting finishes. Also, we see in the laundry some kind of interesting details, whether it's the tub, the faucet, or even the heavy-duty wiring and the vent for the dryer that we see even that has a very interesting finish.

It requires a tremendous amount of detailing for a project like this. Then there are gourmet kitchen finishes over here. We see very custom-designed carpentry and cabinets, and we see some interesting stainless-steel kitchen sinks over here. And again, some very interesting hardware and plumbing equipment, all of them have some kind of very premium luxury finish. Like I was talking about plumbing, dishwashers, sinks, cabinets, storage units, and the kind of finishes that have been adopted for them even the countertops.

They have been chosen with great care. Now, in complete contrast to the luxury interiors, we are going to talk about the low-cost interiors. And there are some

examples from India, specifically Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh. Maybe there is an example from Uttarakhand also, if I remember correctly. So, this is one house from Rajasthan, specifically Jodhpur, a very famous typology of residence.

And again, low cost in the sense that there are locally available materials. It's done by the community. It's very, very, you know, climate responsive and quite documented and decoded and understood in terms of passive design features. But also, the overall form and the aesthetic in terms of, you know, surface finishes and wall finish that we see over here. That's also very interesting.

Then some kinds of, you know, paintings that we see in Rajasthan, all sorts of houses. These paintings or wall finishes done by communities. Some of them are called as Marna paintings, which are done by women. And this is from a house, you know, in a village near Jodhpur again in Rajasthan. So basically, they are not just for aesthetic.

They are also, you know, anti-termites. They also provide some kind of an insulating layer. They also look very beautiful and they are very cool to touch at. So, these are very, very interesting details from low cost community-based housing interiors from, you know, India. This is another example and that we see over here.

We see a lot of geometric designs, sometimes non-geometric designs, motifs, and patterns on these houses. This one is from Jaisalmer, and it uses some beautiful color pigments, which get accentuated against the backdrop of white. Here are some more examples, and it's not just wall finishes and surface finishes. Low-cost interiors can also be achieved through other details, specifically focusing on materiality. For example, using something like ringal, a species of bamboo found in Uttarakhand, or recycling materials, or procuring locally available materials to create interesting designs.

So, it could be in terms of materiality, it could be in terms of the scale, it could be in terms of the stakeholders whether it's done by the community themselves or by someone formally trained in interior architecture. All of these factors are important, but typically these are all low-cost interiors that are very functional, have elaborate, interesting forms, and are quite aesthetic. This is another one from Barmer, again in Rajasthan, and again, a beautiful use of color, surface finishes, forms, geometry, and definition at the entrance, with sight lines leading to the interior. So, again, interesting spaces.

This is a restored haveli, and this is near Jaipur. This also has very interesting details in terms of the interior. The materials used, the kinds of furnishings, textiles, floor

patterns, etc. So, this is another interesting example. This is also a haveli restored to its original state, and here we see a very interesting color palette, the kind of finishes on the walls, the vernacular furniture, and the elements synonymous with critical regionalism and a very distinct style of interior architecture.

This is another one where we see this pink finished plaster over here and a very very beautiful hand beaten brass bathroom sink and which adds you know amazing contrast and you know detail to this space and the eye catches the attention because of this kind of a detail. Another project here where we see, you know, details of timber on the ceiling, interesting utensils, the arrangement of the objects in the space, the kind of detail over here on the furniture pieces and, you know, the kind of color scheme that we see over here. And all the furniture has a very very distinct vocabulary. So, this is from Gujarat. This is a traditional pole house and this is also a very interesting piece of interior space.

This is another one which you know where there is a traditional mud floor over here. And there is also a contrasting, you know, magnificently painted ceiling. And again, a very interesting furniture piece over here. And this is also from the pole house in Ahmedabad. And this furniture is very distinct.

And we don't normally have these pieces of furniture readily available in the market these days. So, it's very interesting to document and study these pieces of furniture here. Professor Jai Thakkar from CEPT is already doing this very amazing project where he's documenting the vernacular furniture from across India. And we at IIT Roorkee are also trying to do this, you know, for the state of Uttarakhand. And we are slowly building on that.

So, a piece of furniture. A piece or a set of furniture has a profound role within an interior space, and it's very important to document these kinds of furniture items—to have a catalog or understand the evolution in history, influences from different styles, or different people who came to India and brought these styles with them, and vice versa. This is the kitchen area. Again, we see very interesting traditional brass cooking utensils, and they add a lot of interesting play in this entire space. So, it's not just the structure but also the surface finishes, the decorative items, the utilitarian items, and the overall composition achieved by their placement that creates an interior space. These static items could create dynamism by virtue of where they are placed, at what eye levels, what is placed in the front, and which are placed at the back—so composition matters a lot.

This is another project, which is very interesting, and what is interesting here is that the materials are actually reclaimed and then repurposed here. This is also an example from the state of Gujarat, and I like this project. Another one, again from Gujarat, where we see mud reliefs, mirror work, and a very interesting indigenous style of interior architecture, which is very representative of Ahmedabad and Gujarat. The Bhunga style

interior architecture, the Bhunga houses are quite well-known and extensively discussed. This is that example. Some more images of that. This is another project Dehradun, Uttarakhand, and here we see a colonial-style bed and traditional blinds, which is also very interesting detailing. Then there is this outdoor café. This is Triveni Terrace Café. It's one of my favorite projects. This is in New Delhi.

This is designed by Stein, a very famous architect. And it's actually a part of Triveni Kala Sangam where there are lots of cultural events that happen, exhibitions that are being put up. And it's a very, very interesting space, modern architecture style, use of interesting jali patterns, very interesting play of light and shadow. And this cafeteria specifically is very interesting. So, you know, these exposed concrete finishes against, you know, the landscape green, that's very, very interesting.

And from here, there is a view to the OAT and outside seating. And this is the interior and from here we are looking towards outside. So, there are both kinds of seatings inside and outside. And there is also this interesting use of bamboo and we see these exposed concrete beams and structural details and bamboo and concrete sort of form this very interesting vocabulary for this entire cafeteria. There are some international commercial projects where we can see interesting interior architecture details like this one, which is a museum and it's thousand square feet.

And here the primary desire was to, you know, be ecological and how to have more accessible spaces. So, it was very interesting. And the renovation was done for men's and women's facilities. And there's a lot of attention given to the children. So, baby changing tables, diaper disposal, etc.

Those important aspects were really taken care of. And there are very interesting plumbing details, very interesting fittings. And there is an attempt to, you know, have a very minimal use of water and to be very ecological and to be very, very responsible in the usage of resources. There is also this interesting, you know, grey Terrazzo floor and it's a contemporary take on the 1933 Wings original brown version and that has been used here.

So, functionality and aesthetics, they go hand in hand in this project and it's used by a lot of people including school groups. So, it's designed with a lot of care. Then there is Hotel Okura. This is a Tokyo based project. And it has these interesting exteriors, you know, horizontal forms.

And there is this also, you know, the juxtaposition with the garden. And it's an interesting placement of modern material and the landscape outside. I also find this very interesting detail you know the elevator doors which have the surface finishes with the silk and textiles. There is a bamboo grove outside and there are paper window screens and very beautiful space over here very elegantly designed and composed. And there is also you know the pine cladding there are structural columns which have these kinds of claddings that we see over here.

So, these material details make all the difference. We also see these pendant fixtures, which mimic the shape of beads popular in ancient Japan. They were found in Japanese tombs and are used here in a very metaphoric and interesting manner. There is a patchwork wall here that incorporates silk brocades and some interesting textiles dating back to the 13th century. This is a fusion of traditional and contemporary design, using these elements sensibly without diluting their importance or creating an unpleasant appearance, but giving them great respect. It creates a very interesting design vocabulary.

Again, we were discussing the profound use and importance of hardware in interior architecture projects. Here, we see doors with metal pulls, which are also very interesting and eye-catching elements. There are also leaded glass panels that adorn the entire orchid bar in this project. I love these hammered copper sconces, they have a very interesting texture here, and the difference in color due to the lighting design may also reflect variations in the gauge or sheet of copper chosen to create this design vocabulary.

This is a cedar screen designed to resemble a hemp leaf pattern, which looks quite aesthetic here. There is also the use of shells lining a screen in this orchid room restaurant, which looks very fantastic. These shelves here. We also see a wall in the lobby with a world clock, interestingly placed here. I like the use of colors and lighting in this space, along with more images and details. There is a cloakroom next to a newsstand, with very interesting details.

There is a shop in the basement. And more of these material aspects, you know, ceiling details, and these furnishings over here that we see. Some more images from

the project. A very interesting and nicely designed project. Then, there is a commercial project from India.

And this one is in Gurgaon. And this is a couture showroom. And here again, there is a very interesting use of the material palette. So, there is a rough Gwalior stone. There is antique woodwork that we see over here.

It's the stone over here, pieces of wood, antique furniture, and, you know, there is wrought iron grill and wooden windows. There is this interesting installation of spinning wheels, and there is this yarn that comes out of these wheels, then it extends and expands in space to create this sort of interesting element of design. So, those kinds of installations are also interesting over here. Again, elements like door handles, other hardware elements, also the signage and identity design everything put together. Plus, the way the original pattern and the finish of materials have been explored to the best advantage.

That's also very interesting to see in this project. And there are a lot of attempts over here to highlight, you know, 'Make in India.' And there is this entire vocabulary where Indian designs or indigenous designs are being highlighted. So it's an interesting project that way. Another one is the Brick School of Architecture, Pune.

This is also an interesting interior architecture project, which draws inspiration from the vernacular architecture of the old city of Pune, but it's also put together in a contemporary manner. So again, a very interesting fusion project. And its multi-purpose spaces are seen here, which are designed very elegantly. There is a series of courtyards connecting the studios, overlooking the corridors, and it creates beautiful imagery and a very interesting series of sensory and user experiences while one navigates from one space to another. So these are only very few projects.

There are actually many that can be discussed, and I am sure in other lectures during other modules, we will also see many other examples, images, and case studies. I am just going to leave all of us with this thought by the very famous Charles Eames. The details are not the details; they make the design.

So, God is in the details, and details are very important to create remarkable designs that resonate with us. We will see the summary in the next lecture for the last few lectures that we discussed. And these are some of the references that you may find useful. And if you want to look further into these projects and more details, which I could not cover due to time constraints. Thank you very much.

I'll see you in the next lecture.