

Second research summary

The interior design for hospitals patient room using the subjective well-being approach

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Summary:

Since the second half of the twentieth century to today, the architectural design of the hospital building has undergone great changes. These are related to the role that it plays within the city and the community, but also to the recovery of values that are different from those of quantity and function, characterizing modern hospitals in the first half of the twentieth century. These ‘new values’, really recovering from the past and agreeing to a humane and humanistic vision of reality, together with the recent technological discoveries and new ways of treatment and care, influence the design choices in hospitals contemporaries.

The second section of the paper reflects on how a deliberate focus on SWB will affect the process of designing interior environments. The Positive Design Framework will be introduced to the (interior) architectural community. Interior architects can use this framework as a guide to assist them in the design process of interior environments that aim to contribute to people’s happiness

Research problem:

Can interior environments engage people in pleasurable and meaningful experiences and thereby have a positive influence on their happiness? This paper discusses why and how interior architects might want to consider implementing ideas in relation to ‘design for subjective well-being.

Research objective:

Subjective well-being (SWB) is an emerging research topic in the field of design sciences. Design models and strategies are being developed in an effort to increase users’ well-being. However, a detailed understanding of how these insights apply to interior architecture still needs to be refined. For this reason, this paper will firstly outline why interior environments could have the potential to contribute to people’s SWB and thereby to become platforms for the full spectrum of human well-being.

Conclusions:

The research seeks to define the characteristics and the architectonic qualities of the contemporary hospital. Interior architects can apply the framework and characteristics of Positive Design according to their respective needs and wishes in the design process. In the next few years, hospital leaders will be involved in new hospital construction projects to meet the changing marketplace demands associated with the growing demand of an aging population. Many clinicians, interior designer, and hospital administrators believe that the hospital built environment can benefit the satisfaction of health care providers as well as patient satisfaction and outcomes The evidence-base is emerging to support the business case that designing for safety and quality can improve patient outcomes and safety, promote healing, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce costs. It is thought that the cost of building or remodeling projects based on design evidence conducive to patient safety can result in organizational .savings over time, without adversely impacting revenues.