

Waste Minimization Strategy for Sustainable Interior Design

* Mike Kemboi Chesaro, Samuel Maina Mwituria and Collins Makunda

Received on 16th March, 2020; Received in revised form 24th May, 2020; Accepted on 8th June, 2020.

Abstract

Recently, interior design has experienced a dramatic change with the incorporation of strategies which emphasizes the designing of environmentally sustainable and healthy spaces for people to live in, work in and play in. The awareness of environmental accountability has sparked the necessity for environmentally sustainable interior design practice. Society at large is starting to recognize the link between spaces, people and the community. In Kenya there are no clear waste minimization strategies that interior designers can adopt in their practices in order to practice sustainable interior design. The study aimed to establish the most appropriate waste minimization strategy used by interior designers and to propose a waste minimization strategy that can be adopted by interior designers to attain sustainable interior design. The literature was gathered through desktop research, which entailed document analysis from published online academic journals and books. The study established that interior designers have a great role to play in the reduction of waste produced as they are the party assigned to recommend materials and processes to be used. Moreover, there are numerous waste minimization strategies that can be used to achieve sustainable interior design. The study concluded that assessment tools should be adopted by interior designers as they pose a lot of advantages compared to other waste minimization strategies. Assessment tool assess, indorse and increase sustainable growth in the construction industry, and also offer a scheme that gives a wide-range understanding of sustainability through the process of data examination, assessment, and disparity.

Keywords: Design process, Pollution sustainability, Strategies, Sustainable interior design, Waste minimization.

INTRODUCTION

Yang, Fenghu and Xiaodong (2011) described traditional interior design practice as a practice that simply focuses on extravagance design while overlooking the effect of the practice on the users' health and environmental contamination. Cargo (2013) added that this traditional practice is single-dimensional and only focuses on coming up with appealing interior spaces for clients. Numerous designers support the campaign towards sustainability in design, however, according to Templeton (2011), the number of interior designers who practice sustainability in their practice is still very few. Furthermore, Cargo (2013) concurs that although Environmentally Sustainable Interior Design (ESID) is a major issue in interior design practice, the number of times interior designers make sustainable choices in their practice is still very limited. Steig (2006) goes ahead and describes this gap as a 'sustainability gap' in the interior design practice.

Research conclusions done by the University of Loughborough and Waste Resources and Action Program (WRAP) is in agreement that designers have an opportunity and play a great part in waste minimization (Osmani, 2013). Furthermore, WRAP in its research 'Designing out waste' went ahead and identified the contributions that designers can make to minimize waste through design (Langdon, 2015). Research by Kibowen (2008) on the identification of waste determining factors in Kenyan construction industry concluded that the problem of waste, which is inherited in most construction processes, is due to lack of awareness by design professionals and contractors on various sources and types of wastes occurring at different stages of the project.

The UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), released in September 2015, pinpoints on the importance of focusing on the built environment in achieving sustainability (UN, 2015). Goal

*Corresponding author:

Mike Kemboi Chesaro, School of the Arts and Design, University of Nairobi, Kenya.
 Email: mikekemboi7@gmail.com