IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPIRIT OF CHILDHOOD CONCEPT IN BLOSSOM SCHOOL INTERIOR DESIGN

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ABSTRACT

In early growth and development, children are more open to learning many things and absorbing all forms of information. They are in a period where the brain develops rapidly in adapting to the surrounding environment and socializing with others. Early Childhood Education becomes an important institution and means of overseeing the child's growth and development process in the phase of environmental adaptation and recognition of others outside themselves; also the need to explore and develop his creativity. The interior of early childhood education facilities consequently needs to make optimal use of its interior elements to support these needs. The interior elements of children's schools create a spatial atmosphere that corresponds to the function of their activities, providing the right stimulus to arouse enthusiasm, excitement, and interest in children's learning. The interior design of Blossom School located in Jakarta was carried out as a case study in the final project of interior design of public facilities emphasizing the creation of stimulus and atmosphere of space conducive to the child's learning process. Research activities as a support for this design process take the initial 4 stages of the design method from Rosemary Kilmer, based on literature data and field data from surveys. The purpose of Blossom School Interior Design which is focused on in this paper is related to the choice and application of colors and materials in children's learning spaces. The choice of color and material plays a role in the formation of the image and atmosphere of the space which is the next goal of this design. The results of literature studies and interviews determine the criteria for space that needs to be achieved: fun, providing security and physical, visual, and psychological comfort, and stimulating children's creativity and interest in learning and exploring. The results of the research recommendations for the use of pastel colors with the distinctiveness of visual characters that are not dazzling, fun, not scary, and motivate children to do activities happily and creatively that are accommodated in the spirit of childhood.

Keywords: Interior blossom, the spirit of childhood. early childhood

1. PREFACE

A school is an educational institution that is structured and continuous for the purpose of conducting teaching and learning activities (based on UU No. 2 of 1989). Meanwhile, preschool education serves as the foundation for the development of attitudes, skills, knowledge, creativity, and adaptation to the social environment. Preschool education supports the spiritual and physical growth and development of students outside the family environment before transitioning to primary education, whether conducted within the school system or through non-school educational pathways (Indriawan & Wijiyo, 2020).

The first five years are crucial in a child's developmental process. This period is commonly referred to as the golden period because children are more open to learning and absorbing all forms of information. During the golden period, children have the opportunity to nurture all aspects of their development (Achadi et al., 2010). Preschool education is very important for a child's intellectual and social skill development. It is said that children who receive preschool education tend to adapt more easily to formal education. Alongside this, children who have completed preschool education are more likely to succeed when entering primary school.

Preschool-age children are in a stage where their brain development is rapidly advancing, and they begin to learn how to adapt to their surroundings and socialize with their peers. During this period, children engage in imaginative and creative play and explore their environment. Therefore, the interior design of schools should be conducive to helping children explore and develop their creativity.

Blossom School is a school that was established in Jakarta in 2007, offering an English-based curriculum for preschool, kindergarten, elementary, and junior high school levels. This school has a good reputation for preschool, kindergarten, and elementary education. Since its inception, Blossom School has been committed to fostering a warm, courteous, and friendly learning environment, as well as promoting leadership and culture (Blossom School, 2022).

Therefore, the author is interested in designing Blossom School with the aim of supporting teaching and learning activities to meet and fulfill the needs of children in the field of education, as well as promoting children's brain development. The author also intends to create a calming and safe environment for children to encourage their interest in learning. One way to achieve this is by carefully planning and preparing the interior design to create a safe and comfortable atmosphere, taking into consideration the psychological, ergonomic, and behavioral aspects of children. With a well-designed interior, children will feel motivated to learn and attend school, making the teaching and learning process more enjoyable. Based on the explanation below, we can conclude that: (a) how to choose the right theme and design image for the interior design of Blossom School?; (b) how to choose materials and finishes that are safe for children's health?; (c) how to create a space that enables children to interact actively and stimulates the development of their creativity?; and (d) how to create an interior that meets early childhood ergonomic standards?

2. RESEARCH METHOD

According to Rosemary Kilmer, the design process consists of several stages based on the design thinking framework (Kilmer, 2014) and what the designer does at each stage. The steps can be seen in the scheme below.

Figure 1
Design Thinking Framework
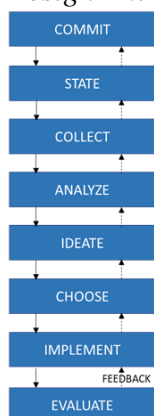
(a) Commit: Submit a request for a survey permit to Blossom School as the subject of the Final Project design; (b) State: Create the background, problem statement, and design objectives for the interior design of Blossom School; (c) Collect: Conduct field surveys. Then gather literature data through electronic and print media; (d) Analyze: Formulate a concept map that will be used to define the problems and design solutions needed; (e) Ideate: Create sketches and design concept ideas; (f) Choose: Select alternatives or options from the generated ideas; (g) Implement: Create

3D visualizations, PowerPoint presentations, and animations; and (h) Evaluate: During this phase, the designer will revise the reviewed designs and then create the final design working drawings.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The role of color in interior design is crucial in creating a calming, safe, and pleasant environment. Choosing the right color composition can establish a comfortable and enjoyable atmosphere, thereby enhancing children's concentration and the quality of their learning process (Sari, 2004). To ensure that a child's learning activities in the room proceed smoothly and that the child can grow and develop well, colors are needed to support this, which will be explained in more detail in the following table:

Table 1
Colors that Support Children's Need in a Space

Children's Needs in a Space	*The Atmosphere of a Room*	*Colors*
Sense of Freedom	Flexible	-
Feeling of Safety	Not intimidating	● Not Dazzling to prevent quick eye fatigue, headaches, or strain. ● Pastel colors are needed (so that the color intensity ranges from low to moderate).
Comfortable Feeling	Warm atmosphere	● Composition of warm colors with low intensity
Stimulate children to be active, happy, and creative.	Warm atmosphere, Joyful	● Warm colors ● Contrast color composition ● Bright color composition

To support a child's development, colors that create a warm, safe, free, and comfortable environment are needed. Various pastel colors can contribute to the desired room atmosphere. Safe pastel colors, meaning colors that are not dazzling, does'nt easily cause eye fatigue, are pleasant, and not intimidating, are expected to motivate children to be physically active, joyful, and creative (Purnama et al., 2020).

When it comes to materials, it is essential to use materials that are safe for children since they are still in a vulnerable age and cannot use just any material. Furthermore, the improper selection of

materials can affect the health and comfort of children when using the products. The following are materials that are safe to use in the design of children's furniture (Limantara & Mulyono, 2017): (a) Solid Wood: Durable against weather and termites; (b) Plywood: Layers of wood glued together; (c) Synthetic Leather: Imitation leather, the materials used do not involve animal skins, making it allergy-friendly for children; (d) Plastic: Lightweight and cost-effective. Plastic materials should ideally be BPA-free, which is harmful to children's health; and (e) Rubber: Soft, non-sharp, and non-slip; can be used to protect sharp and rough furniture corners to ensure child safety.

Finishing materials used for children's furniture should be safe, free from harmful substances, and eco-friendly. The following are Finishes that are safe to use in the design of children's furniture (Limantara & Mulyono, 2017): (a) Water-based finishing: Paint materials that use water as a solvent, making them eco-friendly; (b) Powder coating: Produces perfect coating quality with various texture options; (c) PU (Polyurethane): Resistant to water and heat; (d) Duco paint: Weather-resistant and does not emit strong odors; and (e) Fabric: Fabric can be used for sensory learning in children due to its diverse textures.

Figure 2
Blossom School

Blossom School is an international school located in the West Jakarta area. It has two branches, one of which is located in Citra 3, while the other branch is located in Green Lake City. The school was founded in 2007 by Shelly Tannis. They are committed to realizing learning, leadership, and fostering a warm, polite, and friendly culture (Blossom School, 2022). The vision of Blossom School is to pursue higher standards in the growth and education of children, with an emphasis on interdependence, creativity, and moral values. Meanwhile, Blossom School's mission is to nurture greatness within each child, one at a time (Blossom School, 2022). Blossom School uses English as the medium of instruction. They establish their own curriculum to align with the school's philosophy, using the "Leader in Me" framework. Instead of focusing solely on academic steps, they take a holistic approach to education that is more in line with international standards, providing students with the life readiness skills necessary to thrive in the 21st century (Blossom School, 2022).

Figure 3
Concept Image Diagram
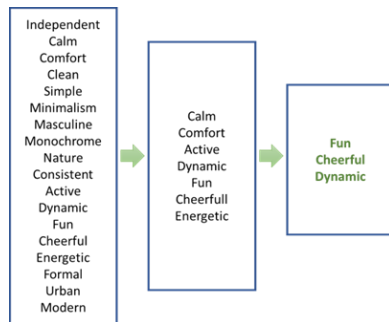
Fun
This can be manifested through the application of unique shapes and a variety of colors in the interior to stimulate imagination and boost a child's enthusiasm for learning and teaching.

Cheerful
This can be implemented in all aspects of design, from colors and shapes to composition. This theme is inspired by children's strong inclination towards things that are enjoyable. Children need fun and happiness, and with these feelings, they can indirectly grow into good individuals with positive thinking.

Dynamic
Refers to things or situations that continuously change, actively move, and undergo significant development.
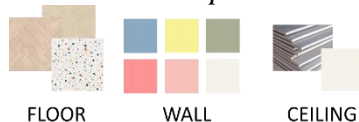
Figure 4
Color Concept

Based on the theory and analysis used, the most suitable color for the interior design of Blossom School is pastel colors. The colors used include pink, blue, white, yellow, and green.

Material Concept
Figure 5
Material Concept

The use of materials at Blossom School prioritizes safety and non-toxicity. The chosen materials are durable, easy to maintain, and safe. Additionally, these materials have smooth or non-sharp textures. For the flooring, SPC stone is used, which has the advantages of being waterproof, moisture-resistant, and softer compared to ceramics. Furthermore, rough Terrazzo is used, which is non-slip and scratch-resistant, and carpets serve as sound-absorbing elements, with the carpet surface also providing a non-slip surface.

The choice of paint should also be carefully considered when selecting paint to be used. Good paint is paint that does not contain certain harmful substances to health (Suptandar, 1999). In the case of wall coverings, water-based finishing is applied, which is a paint material mixed with water. One of the advantages of this material is that it is eco-friendly and gives a natural appearance. As for the ceiling, gypsum is used, serving as a sound absorber in a room. This material provides a clean and neat look to the space.

Figure 6
Lighting Concept

A healthy lighting system can create a bright and fresh atmosphere that is favored by preschool-age children. If natural light is insufficient, artificial lighting should be added (Roth, 1966). Natural lighting is achieved through windows, while artificial lighting is provided by lamps. The types of lamps used for artificial lighting include downlights, LED lights, and indirect lamps.

Figure 7
Ventilation Concept

Ventilation systems related to air circulation patterns within a room are divided into two types, natural and artificial. In a classroom, it is advisable to have artificial ventilation to ensure comfortable air circulation for students, especially when natural ventilation is insufficient (Roth, 1966). Natural ventilation is achieved through windows, while artificial ventilation is provided by a split AC system.

The acoustic system used to dampen sound is glasswool. Glasswool is a material known for its sound-absorbing properties, and it is used to reduce noise and create a quieter environment in the interior spaces. It is applied to the walls and acoustic ceilings in specific rooms, especially those that require a quiet environment. Some rooms also have speakers that serve the purpose of making announcements during emergencies or enhancing the ambiance by playing music (Mega et al., 2019).
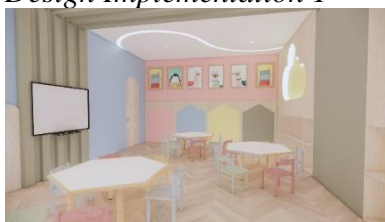
Figure 8
Design Sketch

Figure 9
Design Implementation

Figure 10
Design Implementation 1

The classrooms at Blossom School are designed using the colors pink, blue, yellow, and green. These colors are pastel shades, which are not glaring and help motivate children to engage in activities. For the flooring, SPC stone is used because it is softer than ceramic tiles. Additionally, water-based wall paint is used on the walls, ensuring safety for children. Curved and circular wall panels are incorporated to highlight a sense of fun. The furniture includes both loose furniture and built-in furniture. Built-in shelving units are securely installed to prevent them from toppling over when children climb on them. Loose furniture consists of tables and chairs designed with curved edges and finished with water-based materials to ensure safety for children.

4.   CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In preschool age, a child's brain develops rapidly as they learn and adapt to their environment. During this time, children enjoy creative imagination and exploring their surroundings. Therefore, the school's interior should have a design that supports children in exploring and fosters their creative development.The design of Blossom School places a strong focus on using pastel colors because pastels are not dazzling, enjoyable, non-intimidating, and stimulate children to engage in activities, have fun, and be creative. Additionally, the materials used prioritize safety, ensuring they are non-hazardous and non-toxic for children. The implemented design at Blossom School, with its use of pastel colors and a fun atmosphere, supports the development of children's creativity and fosters a conducive learning environment.

Acknowledgement

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