



The Impact of Architectural Elements on the Emotional & Psychological Well-being of visitors in Crematorium

¹Name of 1st Author- Saukhyada G. Muratkar , ²Name of 2nd Author – Ar. Shruti Likhitkar,

¹Designation of 1st Author – Student, ²Designation of 2nd Author – Asst. Professor,

¹Name of Department of 1st Author – Sipna School of Planning & Architecture, Amravati, Maharashtra, India.

Abstract : A brief summary of the research objectives, methods, key findings, and implications.

I. INTRODUCTION

Introduction to the role of crematoriums in the society and the importance of designing spaces that support emotional and psychological well-being.

To investigate how lighting, space layout and materials in crematoriums affect the well-being of visitors.

Key questions guiding the research, such as “How natural lighting impact the grieving process?” or “What spatial arrangements provides the most comfort?”

II. AIM

Overall, studying how architectural elements affect emotional & psychological well-being aims to create environments that are not only functional & aesthetically pleasing but also supportive of human health, happiness and resilience.

III. OBJECTIVE

- Enhance user Experience – By understanding the impact of architectural elements on emotions and psychology, designers can create spaces that are more comfortable, enjoyable and conducive to positive experience for visitors.
- Improve mental health – Architectural elements can influence stress levels, mood and overall mental well-being. Research in this area seeks to identify design strategies that can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, promoting a sense of calm and well-being.
- Economic benefits – By creating environments that improve well-being, there can be economic benefits such as increased property values, reduced healthcare costs, and higher employee retention and satisfaction.
- Sustainability and well-being - Sustainable design practices not only benefit the environment but also contribute to the well-being of occupants.

Overall, the objectives of studying the effects of architectural elements on well-being are to create spaces that not only meet functional needs but also enhance the quality of life, health, happiness of the people who uses them.

IV. SCOPE

A. Lighting –

- Natural vs. Artificial lighting – Impact of windows, skylights and artificial lighting on mood and perception.
- Light quality and Color temperature – Effects of warm vs. cool lighting and the role of dimmable lighting in creating appropriate atmospheres.

B. Space layout -

- Spatial configuration – Open vs. enclosed spaces, flow between areas (e.g. entry ceremony hall, viewing rooms, gardens).
- Scale and Proportion – Influence of room size, ceiling height, and spatial proportions on feelings of comfort or anxiety.
- Privacy and Intimacy – Design strategies for providing private spaces for mourning and reflection.

C. Materials -

- Natural vs. Synthetic – Psychological impacts of wood, stone, glass, and other materials on visitors.
- Texture and Finish – Effects of material textures (smooth, rough) on tactile comfort and visual appeal.
- Color Schemes – Influence of color palates on emotions, using neutral, warm and cool colors to create calming environment.

V. LIMITATIONS

The spaces which will include in this particular research regarding the impact of architectural elements on the emotional & psychological well-being of visitors of crematorium, are specific to spaces.

VI. METHODOLOGY

Research design - Description of the research design, including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods.

Data collection - Methods for gathering data, such as surveys, interviews, observational studies, or case studies of existing crematoriums.

Samples – Description of the participant selection process, including criteria for selecting crematoriums and participants (e.g. visitors, staff, architects)

1. The above mentioned scopes are discussed below :

a) How lighting affects the emotional well-being in crematoriums -

I. Natural vs. artificial lighting –

- Natural lighting –

i. Connection to Nature – Natural light provides a connection to the outdoors, which can be comforting and grounding for visitors. Exposure to daylight can regulate circadian rhythms, which positively affects mood and overall emotional health.

ii. Mood enhancement – Natural light has been shown to improve mood and reduce symptoms of depression. Sunlit spaces can create a space of hope and tranquillity, which is especially important in spaces associated with mourning and grief.

iii. Spatial perception – Natural light enhances the perception of spaces, making room feel larger and less confined, which can reduce feelings of claustrophobia and anxiety.

- Artificial lighting –

i. Flexibility and control – Artificial lighting can be adjusted to meet the specific needs of different spaces and times of day. For instance, softer lighting can be used during memorial service to create a solemn atmosphere, while brighter lighting can be used in administrative areas for functional purpose.

ii. Consistency – Artificial lighting provides consistent illumination regardless of weather conditions or time of day, ensuring that spaces remain usable and welcoming at all times.

II. Light Quality and Color temperature –

- Warm vs. Cool lighting –

i. Warm light – Warm lighting, often described as having a yellow or amber hue, is generally perceived as more relaxing and soothing. It can create a comforting and inviting atmosphere, which is beneficial for spaces where people gather to mourn and remember loved ones.

ii. Cool light – Cool lighting, with a bluer hue, is more energizing and alerting. It is typically used in environments requiring focus and precisions, such as offices or clinical settings. In crematoriums, it should be used sparingly and in spaces where such a level of alertness is necessary.

- Light intensity and Dimming options –

i. Adjustable intensity – The ability to control light intensity allows for the creation of different moods. Dimmable lights can transition from bright to soft, adapting to the emotional needs of visitors during various stages of their visits.

ii. Soft lighting – Soft, diffuse lighting can reduce stress and promote a sense of calm.

- b) How space layout affects the emotional well-being in crematoriums –

I. Spatial configuration –

- Open vs. enclosed spaces –

i. Open spaces – Large, open area can provide a sense of freedom and openness, reducing feeling of confinement and claustrophobia. These spaces allow for easy movement and can accommodate larger gatherings, providing a communal space for collective mourning.

ii. Enclosed spaces – Smaller, more intimate spaces can offer privacy and a sense of security, which is important for individual seeking a quiet place for personal reflection or grieving. These spaces can be designed to provide comfort and solitude, allowing visitors to process their emotions in a private setting.

II. Privacy and Intimacy –

- Private spaces -

i. Secluded spaces – Designated private areas where visitors can mourn without being observed by others can provide a necessary retreat for personal grieving. These areas should be easily accessible yet discreetly placed to maintain privacy.

ii. Soundproofing – Using soundproof techniques in private rooms can ensure that conversations and emotional expressions remain confidential, contributing to a sense of security and respect.

i. Intimate settings – Comfortable Furnishing – Comfortable seating and personal touches in smaller rooms can create a homelike atmosphere, helping visitors feel at ease during stay.

ii. Personalization – Allowing spaces to be personalized for specific ceremonies or memorials can provide a sense of ownership and personal connection, enhancing emotional comfort.

III. Integration with Nature –

- Indoor-Outdoor connections -

i. Views of Nature – Providing views of nature through windows or integrating indoor gardens can create a sense of connection with natural world. This can have a calming effect and provide a soothing backdrop for contemplation.

ii. Outdoor spaces – Incorporating outdoor spaces such as courtyards, gardens, or walking paths can offer visitors a place to reflect and find solace in nature. These spaces can serve as peaceful retreats from the more formal indoor areas.

- c) How materials affects the emotional well-being in crematoriums –

I. Natural vs. Synthetic materials –

- Natural materials –

i. Wood – Wood is often associated with warmth and comfort. It can evoke a sense of nature and tranquillity, making spaces feel more inviting. The grain and texture of wood add a tactile element that can be soothing.

ii. Stone – Stone conveys strength and permanence, which can provide a sense of stability and enduring memory. Natural stone can also connect visitors to the earth, grounding their experience.

- Synthetic materials –

i. Plastic and Laminates – While these materials are durable and cost-effective, they can sometime feels sterile and impersonal. Using them in combination with natural materials can balance their practicality with a more comforting aesthetics.

II. Sustainability and Symbolism -

- Eco-friendly material –

i. Recycled materials – Using recycled or sustainably sourced materials can convey a message of respect for the environment and the cycle of life, which can be comforting to visitors.

ii. Biodegradable elements – Incorporating materials that will return to the earth over time can symbolize the natural cycle of life and death, providing a sense of peace and continuity.

- Symbolic material –

i. Cultural Significance – Choosing materials with cultural and spiritual significance can enhance the emotional resonance of the space. For example, certain woods or stones might have particular meanings in different cultures and can help connect visitors to their heritage and traditions.

VII. CONCLUSION

- Lighting is a critical architectural element in crematorium design, significantly affecting the emotional & psychological well-being of visitors. By thoughtfully incorporating both natural and artificial lighting, architects can create spaces that support comfort, reflection and healing during time of loss. Ensuring the lighting is adaptable, well-integrated, and sensitive to the emotional needs of the visitors can transform crematoriums into sanctuaries of peace and remembrance.
- The layout of a crematorium significantly impacts the emotional and psychological well-being of its visitors. By carefully considering spatial configuration, scale and proportion, privacy and intimacy, functional zoning, and integration with nature, architects can create environments that support grieving processes and provide comfort during times of loss. Thoughtful space design helps reduce stress, foster a sense of peace, and offer solace, making the crematorium a place of respectful remembrance and emotional support.
- The choice of materials in crematorium design plays a crucial role in influencing the emotional well-being of visitors. By carefully selecting and combining materials with appropriate textures, finishes, colors, and acoustic properties, architects can create spaces that are comforting, serene, and conducive to mourning and reflection. Sustainable and symbolically meaningful materials can further enhance the emotional and spiritual experience, making the crematorium a place of respectful remembrance and peace.

REFERENCES

- [1] Live Case study – Vaikuntha Mahaprasthanam , Hyderabad
- [2] <https://matthewsenvironmentalsolutions.com/en-us/human-cremation/human-case-studies?view=article&id=35:woodland-case-study&catid=18:human-cremation>
- [3] Literature Case study – <https://www.archdaily.com/search/projects/categories/crematorium/country/india>

