



EFFICIENT INTERIOR SPACE MANAGEMENT

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3.1 INTRODUCTION TO SPACE MANAGEMENT

A house is a place where we all aspire to cherish quality time with our family. It is believed that a house functions as a home, where one spends most of the life-creating memorable moments with friends and family. With the rapid increase in world population, there has been a surge in the demand for housing space. As more and more individuals are in search of affordable and multipurpose space, it becomes even more important to design a house with a relaxing, pleasant, and aesthetically appealing interior (Husein, 2021). Today's society is affected by urbanization, which is resulting in an increased demand for housing in the cities, leading to higher marketing prices and smaller apartments. There is a rise in the number of people struggling in present societies due to the increased population and urbanization. More people are drawn towards living in cities, which causes a rise in the number of small spaces (Urist, 2013).

According to Doshi, (2019), people living in small houses face various difficulties such as the lack of clearance space, unorganized furniture arrangements, lack of storage space, improper selection of size-wise furniture which could make the room look smaller, the colour of the walls can also make the house look unpleasant, and low ceiling gives an

illusion of shorter and bulkier room. Thus, to utilize the space available in the most beautiful way and with the least possible error, proper guidance is of utmost importance.

Space scarcity is affecting the real estate market, making housing expensive with time. On the other hand, most people do not have enough purchasing power to afford those houses. Therefore, Space management and space-saving have increased their importance in designing which can only be achieved through the overall planning, organizing, and utmost utilization of the available space in an area to increase its functionality, efficiency, and aesthetics.

3.2 IMPORTANCE OF SPACE MANAGEMENT IN INTERIORS

Space management is an important part of interior design that makes maximum utilization of existing space and available resources to create practical, aesthetic, pleasing, and efficient space. Space is considered the most valuable and crucial asset in designing an area, maximum utilization of any space can only be achieved through careful planning, organizing, and productive use of the space. Space management is mostly important in urban areas where there is space constraint. Thoughtfully designed space can generate productivity and well-being of the user as well as it also help in developing smooth workflows and reduce friction in daily tasks by boosting overall productivity.

The importance of space management arises from its capacity to maximize the use of resources, increase productivity and well-being, maintain safety and compliance, and enhance user experiences. Effective space management is a strategic key to obtaining organizational goals whether in workplaces, educational institutions, commercial settings, residential areas, or public and private facilities.

According to the Guardian (2014), effective space planning can be achieved by selecting the proper size of the furniture, adequate placement of existing furniture with well-planned privacy, as well as avoiding too much cluttering of the space. Ideally, one is compelled to rent the expertise and skilled professional to achieve the desired interior of the space. Sometimes it can also be achieved by smart use of various techniques and principles resulting in optimum usage and delightful outcomes.

In planning a new residence or redesigning an existing home, the following elements should be taken into consideration for effective space management:

3.2.1 Purpose of the Room

The reason we talk about effective space management is to fulfill the user's needs, demands, and functions. The designated room should serve its intended purpose and should also look neat along with the emphasis given to optimization of space.

3.2.2 Enough Circulation space

It is very important to plan the space in such a way that it provides easy movement and smooth circulation inside the area. Along with Proper space management, it is very necessary to ensure that various areas have no obstruction in the path to make it easy for the users to move around without any hindrance.

3.2.3 Don't ignore Aesthetic Appeal for Space management

It is very important to keep in mind both functional and aesthetic appeal. Well-organized, clutter-free, and managed rooms are aesthetically appealing and it creates a balanced and harmonious atmosphere for the users of the space as well as the visitors. Never compromise on the aesthetic appeal.

3.2.4 Maximizing Space Utilization

Nowadays due to space crunch interior spaces are often restricted which results in less functional interiors. Effective space management emphasizes the efficient use of every inch of space available to fulfill all the needs of the user and provide maximum satisfaction.

3.2.5 Flexible Arrangement

People nowadays plan taking into consideration the future needs of the family. Proper space management emphasizes the possibility of future adjustments and adaptation of the designed piece of furniture or area. It also assures that the structure may be modified, reorganized, and made functional for future use.

3.2.6 Improved Comfort and Well-Being

A well-organized and managed interior with smart space management creates the comfort and well-being of the residents. Cluttered or disorganized interior spaces create tension and discomfort, whereas well-designed spaces encourage relaxation and productivity.

3.2.7 Safety and accessibility

It is important to keep in mind the safety of the users before planning the interior space. Free circulation spaces, Clear escape routes, and accessibility for special-abled users, the elderly, and small children should be adopted according to the needs and requirements of the user to provide them with barrier-free interiors.

3.2.8 Optimum Utilization of Resources

It is important to look into the financial aspect before finalizing the designs. Effective space management should focus on less usage of resources such as energy, materials, and furniture items to avoid unnecessary furniture pieces to reduce waste and promote sustainable living which is a topmost priority nowadays.

3.2.9 Plan according to Tasks

First analyze the intended use of the interior spaces as the purpose of a room can have a variety of functions and activities for the users. Space management ensures that each area is optimized to serve the specific duties or activities assigned to that space for increased productivity.

3.2.10 Design According to the Client's Personality and Demand

Proper space management as a criterion is the client's or user's needs and demands. A well-designed interior reflects the client's individuality and personality, which is of prime importance for the users. Each one of us is unique and has different expectations from the interior spaces, which cannot be neglected.

3.3 NEED FOR SPACE MANAGEMENT IN SMALL HOUSES

Everyone wants their home to be big, pleasant, comfortable, and beautiful (Gandotra & Patel, 2006). But lack of space in cities, rising prices of buildings, and low salaries act as a hindrance in fulfilling the dream of possessing such a house. People are migrating from rural areas to urban areas for the betterment of their future. They come to urban cities some for their studies, some for jobs, some for the settlements for the future, some due to their transfers, etc. So, owning a large space or bungalow becomes quite impossible due to overpopulation. Furthermore, owning a large house is very difficult due to inflation and low salaries. Due to the problem of space people are forced to live in small-spaced apartments.

When it comes to small spaces, there is a common misconception that it is not worth the time or money that it takes to create a beautiful home. On the contrary, small spaces are always worth working on, more than larger ones in any setting. The main reason for this is that each inch of space is to be valued and used most efficiently. Thus, it is evident that space is one of the most valuable assets for anybody, with prices per square foot increasing all the time.

Space management is an absolute necessity in small homes due to the limitations of space. Small homes have a less amount of square foot area and making the most of every inch becomes necessary to fulfill the needs and demands of the users. Without effective space management, small living spaces can easily become cluttered and chaotic, making it challenging for residents to live comfortably and functionally. Proper space management allows for the optimization of available space, ensuring that each area fulfills its purpose efficiently. It involves smart storage solutions, innovative furniture arrangements, and the incorporation of multipurpose furniture and interior design elements to increase functionality without compromising on aesthetics. By strategically organizing belongings and furniture, small homes can feel more spacious and inviting. Moreover, space management promotes safety and accessibility, preventing accidents and hazards. A well-managed small home not only enhances the physical living conditions but also positively impacts the mental well-being of its occupants, creating a sense of order. Ultimately, space management is the key to transforming small living spaces into comfortable, organized, and enjoyable homes that fulfill the needs and demands of their residents.

3.4 FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR EFFICIENT SPACE MANAGEMENT IN INTERIORS

3.4.1 Floor plans should be open to facilitate proper arrangements

Nowadays all interior designers as well as architects prefer open floor plans so that the arrangement of various areas becomes easier and good space is available for fulfilling the requirements of the clients even in small spaces. A lot of flexibility is available in open floor plans for designing various activity areas.

3.4.2 Unique and different Roofing techniques

Nowadays due to lack of space residents want to plan the terrace space in such a way as to plan a rooftop garden, pantry, recreational area, dining area, pool, or any other activity areas on the roof. There are multiple options nowadays to increase the square feet area on the roof to accommodate our requirements often not fulfilled in the available space of the residential unit.

3.4.3 Lighting plays an important role

Lighting plays an important role in enhancing the interior of a residential or commercial area. Today lighting is given more importance by interior designers in enhancing the aesthetic appeal of an area. Natural as well as artificial lighting if used wisely fulfills most of our functional as well as aesthetic needs. Tact fully used lighting design solutions can act as magic to the buildings.

3.4.4 Appropriate Storage

Storage problems are faced by almost all Indian homemakers therefore solutions become important for efficient space management. Tactful and intelligent storage options, such as built-in cabinets, and multifunctional furniture, using the vertical spaces in various areas becomes important for keeping various activity areas organized and clutter-free. Good storage ideas allow to keep the floor areas empty for circulation and add to the aesthetic look of the house.

3.4.5 Use of Natural Light

Natural light if used wisely through windows, doors, and ceilings can increase the feeling of space, provide an airy atmosphere, and reduce the need for artificial lighting throughout the day.

3.4.6 Flexibility and Multipurpose Usage

Multipurpose rooms planned help to meet changing demands or allow future changes to improve durability and functionality. In Indian middle-class families, most of the decisions are taken about the future needs of the families such as stages of the life cycle and changing needs of the families. Most of the guest rooms, study rooms, children's rooms, etc have multipurpose usage nowadays due to the lack of space available due to increased prices per square feet area in cities.

3.4.7 Proportions and Scale

It is important to select the furniture and furnishings that suit the room's size and enhance the visual balance and harmony. Unbalanced furniture can lead to discomfort for the users, hamper the functional requirements as well and spoil the look of the interiors of that area.

3.4.8 Give importance to Aesthetic appeal

The interiors need to have functional as well as aesthetic appeal. Most people are usually concerned about the look of the living room or drawing room where the guests are welcomed in Indian homes. A careful selection of Colors,

textures, and patterns that are in harmony helps to create a coherent and attractive ambiance and makes the room look coordinated and beautiful.

3.5 PRINCIPLES OF SPACE MANAGEMENT

When designing a space there are several principles which are to be considered. Firstly, rooms must serve multiple purposes. In small homes, adaptability is not something to forgo. Grouping parts of the home, such as the social parts conserves space. The kitchen, dining, and relaxing areas group well together, as do the private activities of sleeping and bathing. Moveable partitions are an easy way to keep options open with maximum flexibility (Wilhide, 2008). Next, one must consider creating shelter around personal activity. Small pockets of space give someone a sense of comfort. This could mean a sheltered alcove that looks out into a larger space or a cozy hideaway for children. Another design principle addresses spatial volume; a variety of ceiling heights is the best way to create proportion and comfortable spaces. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the overall ceiling height that makes a space feel larger or more comfortable. A variation makes spaces feel individually defined (Susanka, 2000).

A place to call your own is also especially important. Following current trends, houses are getting bigger because one has no place to get away. Creating a reflection space to is personal and enriched with meaningful items will help a person feel at home (Susanka, 2000). Making the most of natural lighting will increase the appeal of space. Light brings focus to form, accentuates colour, and expresses texture. Form, colour, and texture are great details when a space is small. Light also makes a space seem larger (Gauer, 2004) (Wilhide, 2008). It is important to try and allow spaces to have multiple exposures; meaning light enters from multiple directions. This is easier to achieve in smaller houses because often the main space can be given three exposures (Gauer, 2004). While these techniques work for larger homes, they are essential to small ones; they make or break the home.

Planning a residential building needs a variety of considerations. Deshpande, 1984, Gandotra & Patel, 2006 and Rangwala, 2015 have outlined certain principles that can be used as guides for residential planning. These principles are not hard and fast rules they are just guides that one must consider while designing a residential space. The design varies according to the site, the location, the type of house, and the budget limits. Despite a variety of considerations that govern the design of a house, some common principles govern the planning of a residential building. These principles are:

3.5.1 Aspects

Aspects are concerned with the orientation of the building. It includes the placement of doors and windows in the outer walls of the building. It is important because the building should be planned keeping in mind the various aspects of the site. Aspects of a building provide comfort, hygiene, and a pleasant view. Thus the size and the placement of doors and windows should be such that the sun's rays enter the room purify the air and kill the germs. The suitable aspect for a kitchen is east or northeast. In the kitchen in this direction morning sunshine which helps to purify air removes the fumes of cooking and helps it to remain cool for a greater part of the day.

The bedroom should be placed in a wind direction, that is Southwest or Southeast. The bedroom could have a verandah in the West so that it protects the walls from getting direct heat from the sun. The drawing room and living room can have a northeast or southeast aspect.

3.5.2 Prospect

It is related to the facade of the building. It is the impression that a house creates when viewed from the outside. A house should be designed taking full advantage of the beauty of nature and landscape. It should reveal pleasant features and hide undesirable features of the house. The house must not only be attractive but must also possess such qualities as comfort, cheerfulness, security, labor saving, and an up-to-date or modern outlook. It is an important consideration while designing the elevation of a residential building, however, it should not be focused on the cost of comfort convinces and other such considerations. A small projection or a bay window helps to break the monotony of the exterior wall at a small extra cost. Bay windows not only serve the purpose of a good outlook but also help in providing breeze, light, and sunny aspects to the room all year round.

3.5.3 Privacy

It is one of the most important considerations while designing a residential building. A house is a private place and the privacy of family members is of prime concern. Privacy is of two types - External and Internal.

External privacy means that the houses should be screened from Highways and streets. It is therefore important that it is placed at the back side of the plot with enough distance from the street. The house should not be placed just on the edge of the street or road. The main entrance of the house should also be screened and should not provide a full view of the house. The external privacy can be secured by planning the main entrance carefully and screening it with trees or creepers trained on a trellis. The internal privacy on the other hand is concerned with screening of interior of any room from the other room of the house and from the main entrance. The doors should not be planned in such a way that they give a view, of the full house.

To maintain internal privacy following ways could be adopted:

1. **Proper Grouping of the Rooms** that separates Common Rooms from Private Rooms. Privacy is of supreme importance, particularly in bedrooms, bathrooms; toilets, etc. The kitchen should also be properly screened. This is possible if all rooms have independent access.
2. **Proper Disposition of Doors:** The location and the way the door is hinged affect privacy. A door should therefore be located on one side of the long wall of the room because if it is located in the center of the room it breaks the space and also provides a full view of the room. Single panel doors also help in giving privacy instead of double panel doors. A single panel door hinged in such a way as to screen the major part of the room in which it is opened gives maximum privacy.

3.5.4 Grouping

It means the disposition of rooms keeping in mind their relative position towards each other while planning a house. One must separate different activity areas. The public areas, the private areas, and the service area. The public

or common rooms such as the drawing room or living room, family room, and dining room should be grouped. The bedrooms, study room, dressing room, and bathroom should be separated from public areas by a central hall or passage.

3.5.5 Roominess

The roominess could be produced in a house by using small proportions, deriving maximum benefit from the minimum dimensions of a room. One needs to accomplish the economy of space at the same time avoid overcrowding of the plan. A square room for example looks smaller than a rectangle room of the same square meter area because of the change in proportions. Maximum advantages must be taken of every nook and corner of the house without increasing the plinth area of the house. The built-in wall cupboards and storage spaces help in avoiding overcrowding of floor area. Space under the flight of stairs could also be utilized for storage purposes. The space under the windowsill can be used for storage purposes and the top could be used for seating purposes. The provision of base cabinets and wall cabinets in the kitchen can provide enough storage space for kitchen supplies and equipment. The provision of a loft over the bathroom area and the other rooms also helps to place rarely used articles out of the way. Showcases and shelves with built-in walls provide necessary storage space. Multipurpose furniture and drop-leaf tables also create a feeling of spaciousness when they are folded or shut out of the way.

3.5.6 Furniture Requirements

Generally, planners neglect this very important aspect of planning. The bedroom for example must be designed keeping in mind the placement of the bed which is the main furniture in it. Due attention needs to be given to the prospective position of beds, sofas, dining table, etc. in the room while placement of doors, and windows so that they do not interfere in the activities. If care is not taken then this furniture has to be crowded or fitted in places where they either come in the pathway or opening of window, cupboard or in the area where there is strong draught of wind. It is therefore advisable to show in the plan the placement of major furniture items.

3.5.7 Sanitation

The health of the family depends largely on the sanitary conditions of the house. It includes the provision of adequate light, ventilation, and general cleanliness. The importance of sunlight is highlighted if one sees people who have to work in mines and other such dark places. They look pale and anemic. It is said that sunlight, direct or diffused, acts directly upon the corpuscles of blood and makes it flow more vigorously with a natural bright hue. Hence the stress must laid on seeing that sunlight enters all rooms in the house. All nooks and corners of the house should get sufficient light. Care should be taken of places such as passages and staircases where the chances of accidents are higher. The sunlight also kills germs and bacteria and does not allow pests and insects to breed in the house. Thus it is important from a health point of view that all the rooms in the house are well-lighted with natural light. Cleanliness in the house is also important because dirty places breed germs and pests. There should not be open drains. The chambers in the drainage system should be kept clear. The surroundings in the kitchen where water is stored should be kept clean and dry. A proper slope for drainage water from the kitchen will keep it dry. The bathroom floor should also slope gently towards drains so that it remains dry. Proper ventilation is essential for good health. It is very crucial for people

living in chains or rows of houses and apartments. Ventilations are not just a supply of fresh air but it also involves evacuation of the polluted air and maintenance of air movement in the house. The smoke and fumes of the kitchen should go outside the houses. For good ventilation one large window in the outer wall is not sufficient there should be windows on the opposite wall or adjacent wall to create necessary air movements. Instead of having one large window, it is better to have two or three openings distributed on walls. So that all parts of the room get air.

3.5.8 Flexibility

This means that the room should be multipurpose. It should serve not only one purpose for which it was designed but several purposes. In these times of shortage of space, flexibility of room becomes more important. A kitchen, for example, should serve both purpose of cooking as well as dining purposes. The bedroom is used as a study room; the living room could also be combined with the dining room. A living room also is generally used to accommodate guests in the family. However, it is impossible to provide perfect flexibility because some activities may conflict with each other. In some cases, a folding partition could be used as a means of separating activity areas. A storage unit, for example, between the kitchen and dining space or between the living room and dining space could serve the purpose. For occasional or seasonal activities, the movable partitions add to the flexibility of the room. The living room and dining room separated by a movable partition could be extended when needed for parties or social or religious functions. The living room opening with floor-to-ceiling doors onto an open terrace also serves the same purpose. Thus there are several ways in which family can increase the flexibility of space.

3.5.9 Practical Considerations

The practical considerations while constructing and designing a house have also to be kept in mind. It is important to keep in mind the strength and stability of the structure as well as the comfort and convenience of the design. The decorative aspect should not be stressed at the cost of stability. Simplicity and the effect of strength give lasting beauty to buildings rather than decorative moldings. The house is a lifetime investment and is an immovable property lasting over generations. It should however leave scope for expansion for example adding a room or two or building one or building one or two storeys when required. Necessary construction features should be planned for expansion so that the existing building is not broken to fit in the expansion beams and trusses. The ease of cleaning and maintenance should be kept in mind while finishes are decided for floors and walls. Smooth unbroken surfaces without any decorative moldings help to keep the place clean, and fine finishes in joints also do not leave a place for dirt or dust to collect.

3.5.10 Circulation

The term circulation or access is used to mean the link between various rooms and floors of the building. The proper provision of circulation makes the building comfortable and convenient. The circulation in a building is of two types:

- **Horizontal Circulation:** If the circulation is on the same floor, it is known as horizontal circulation and it includes passages, corridors, halls, and lobbies. All such means of horizontal circulations should be sufficiently lighted, well-ventilated, straight, definite, independent, and short to grant comfort and convenience to the users. They

should not intrude upon the privacy of individual rooms and cause any obstruction. However, these spaces can be fruitfully utilized for providing shelves, closets, etc., if the situation permits.

- **Vertical Circulation:** For achieving access to the upper floors, stairs staircases or lifts are provided. Even in the case of multi-storied buildings accommodating electrically operated lifts, stairs or staircases are provided for use in an emergency such as power, failure, or fire occurrence. Thus stairs or staircases remain as the only unfailing means of vertical circulation. All stairs and staircases should be well-designed and they should satisfy the minimum requirement regarding layout, treads, risers, width, pitch, headroom, light, landing, handrail, and ventilation.

3.6 ROLE OF INTERIOR DESIGNER IN SPACE MANAGEMENT

People living in small and compact homes face various functional and aesthetical problems such as lack of clearance space, unorganized furniture arrangements, lack of storage space, furniture arrangements, colors of the walls that make the space look unpleasing, ceiling size, etc. Therefore, to make the maximum utilization of the space with the least possible error, proper guidance and supervision are needed.

Interior designing is an integral part that focuses on creating interior spaces that make the area both functional and aesthetically appealing. Space management can be efficiently achieved with a logical, well-designed, and functional house plan. Designers must be motivated with new and innovative ideas with proper knowledge about furniture size and space management. An exceptional skill of imagination and sense of composition helps to enhance the quality of the provided space.

The role of an interior designer in space management is critical in producing well-organized and efficient interior spaces and furniture items. Interior designers are trained to analyze, plan, and optimize the use of space in the interior and exterior areas of the house. They begin by gaining an insight into the client's lifestyle, needs, and preferences and by allowing them to create places that meet their demands. Interior designers analyze the proportions, arrangement, and architectural components of the space to ensure that each area is used efficiently and functionally. They create practical floor layouts by carefully allocating space for diverse activities and tasks. To make the most of the available space, furniture and fixtures are carefully chosen taking size, scale, and utility into account. To keep the area organized and clutter-free, storage solutions are deliberately implemented by considering multipurpose and multifunctional furniture and elements such as hidden niches custom-built cabinetry, etc.

Interior designers also control traffic flow inside the space, making sure there is clear circulation and simple flow between rooms and areas of the house. Lighting and colour schemes are carefully considered to enhance the sense of space and create the desired ambiance. Interior designers excel at bringing multipurpose components into small houses and constrained areas, making interiors versatile and adaptable. Interior designers use their space management talents to turn interior spaces into harmonious, aesthetically attractive, and useful places that meet the demands and objectives of their customers.

3.7 DESIGN IDEAS FOR EFFICIENT SPACE MANAGEMENT

Efficient space management is the strategic planning and optimization of physical spaces to make the most use of available resources while serving the unique demands and objectives of an organization or environment. It entails analyzing, organizing, and utilizing areas in a way that maximizes productivity, usefulness, and user happiness while minimizing waste and needless costs. Efficient space management is important in a variety of situations, including workplaces, educational institutions, residential spaces commercial businesses, public facilities, and even domestic settings.

3.7.1 Open concept layout

It is important to consider an open concept plan, which can combine various rooms such as the living room, dining area, and kitchen into one that has the advantage of expanding the space and giving a sense of spaciousness.

3.7.2 Multipurpose Furniture

Make use of multipurpose furniture, such as couch beds, wall beds, or extended dining tables, which may serve many functions and can be folded when not in use.

3.7.3 Built-in Storage

Use built-in cabinets and shelves to maximize storage capacity without taking up valuable floor space. To keep possessions organized and concealed, wall-mounted shelves and cabinets may be utilized in living areas, kitchens, and bedrooms, bathroom

3.7.4 Sliding Doors

To reduce space and create a more aesthetic look, replace traditional swinging doors with sliding doors. Closets, bathrooms, and room separators may all benefit from sliding doors.

3.7.5 Vertical storage

Install tall bookshelves, cabinets, or wall-mounted organizers to take advantage of vertical space. Vertical shelving helps to tidy the floor and store the important things that are kept in handy spaces.

3.7.6 Under-Stair Storage

Make use of the space beneath the stairs by installing pull-out drawers or custom-built cupboards. It's a great alternative for small households with little storage space.

3.7.7 Foldable Furniture

Foldable or collapsible furniture, such as folding tables or chairs, may be quickly packed away when not in use, freeing up room in compact spaces.

3.7.8 Use of light colors and mirrors

Use light colors for walls, furniture, and décor to give the impression of a bigger, more open room. Mirrors should be carefully placed to reflect light and seemingly increase the room.

3.7.9 Floating Shelves and Desks

Choose floating shelves and desks that mount to the wall and provide storage and workstations without taking up valuable floor space.

3.7.10 Use of Technology

To have a neat look and avoid clutter include hidden technology solutions such as wall-mounted TVs or concealed speakers.

3.7.11 Multipurpose Rooms

Allow spaces for dual functions, such as a home office that may also double as a guest bedroom. This increases the usefulness of each place.

3.7.12 Effective lighting

Use strategically placed lights to illuminate dark spaces and create a sense of openness. Because natural light is crucial, avoid using thick drapes or blinds that obstruct the sun.

3.7.13 Remove Unnecessary Items

Remove everything that is not required for the space's usefulness or attractiveness.

3.8 EXAMPLES OF EFFICIENT SPACE MANAGEMENT FOR VARIOUS ROOMS OF INTERIOR SPACE



Plate 1: Three-seater sofa with shoe rack and utility storage

3.8.1 Living Room

To provide the illusion of a larger space in the living room one should paint walls in light and neutral colors which makes the room feel brighter by illuminating more amount of light, placing bulky furniture items on the wall opposite to windows and doors, keeping the clutter away by placing storage compartments in every furniture such as storage in sofa, TV cabinets, center table and side tables, having furniture items in proportion to the size of the room, placing photo frames of brighter colors in comparison to the wall color, placing a large plant in one corner of the room makes the room appear dramatic and spacious, adding mirrors on walls opposite to doors helps in illuminating more light and makes the room appear spacious and larger, having multipurpose furniture which minimizes floor space and maximizes the function of the room is an effective way of space management in homes where there is space constraint.

3.8.2 Dining Room

To make a dining room appear larger and more spacious one should place the dining table in proportion to the size of the room, apply light and neutral colours on the wall, arrange dining accessories and crockeries in an enclosed cabinet, choose furniture items with a slim profile and in a single colour, avoid dark coloured curtains and drapes that restricts the amount of sunlight entering the room, place light-coloured floor mat or rug under the dining table, minimize the number of accessories placed on the table, avoid placing wall frames larger than other furniture items, place delicate lighting fixtures to avoid bulky ceiling effect. Choosing furniture items in a similar color palette and keeping the area in a neutral color scheme helps in making the room appear larger.



Plate 2: Three-seater sofa cum bed with a foldable four-seater dining table

3.8.3 Bathroom

Keeping the wet and dry areas separate by placing dividing shower curtains or shower cabins keeps the area clean and dry, utilizing space above the wash basin and water closet by placing shelves or cabinets to store towels, toiletries, and other necessary items to make the area clutter-free, choosing wall mounted water closet and wash basins adds additional floor space, choosing multipurpose furniture items and accessories such as adjustable towel rack, cabinet + dresser, sliding doors with vertical storage shelves, larger mirror with storage cabinet, moveable storage unit etc. Keeping the bathroom color palette neutral and similar makes the room feel spacious.



Plate 3: Study unit with dressing and storage bin with openable seat

3.8.4 Bedroom



Plate 5: Storage with shoe rack and pull-out seating unit

To make a bedroom appear more spacious and larger one should choose a bed in proportion to the size of the room, placing wardrobes with sliding doors instead of shutters adds more free walking space, placing full height mirrors on opposite or adjacent walls windows to reflect more amount of daylight, choosing multipurpose furniture items such as collapsible side tables, mirrors with attached dressing unit and storage cabinet, hydraulic underbed storage, movable and collapsible study table with side table and dressing unit etc. keeping the wall colors neutral makes the room feel more organized and spacious, placing wall artifacts and frames in a minimal quantity for easy maintenance and more free wall space, placing bed floor mats and rugs in neutral or in color similar to flooring illustrates more floor space and makes the room spacious. Opting for full-height wardrobes rather than lintel-level wardrobes adds more storage space and makes the room less cluttered and clean. If adding patterns on walls, opt for light-coloured and less compacted patterns, keep cushions and blankets in the required amount, and arrange them in ascending height from large to small.

3.8.5 Foyer

To make foyers more spacious, choose multipurpose and sleek furniture items such as sleek seating with shoe racks, shoe racks with coat hangers, etc., place tall shoe racks rather than horizontal shoe racks for more floor space, and place large mirrors or mirror cutouts in foyer lobby to provide an illusion of long and wide foyer room. If the foyer area is narrow in shape use mirrors and horizontal patterns on walls to illustrate a wide area, if the foyer area is of lower height place tall planters, long floor artifacts, and long mirrors, and use vertical patterns on the wall to make the area appear heightened. Use sleek and tall floor artifacts and plants in the foyer area to make it more welcoming, painting walls in the same neutral color and ceiling in white color makes the area feel more spacious and larger, use only one accent color in furniture items such as cabinet knobs, handles, internal shelving, etc. Divide the cabinet into small openings rather than one large opening that occupies less floor space and provides more clearance space.



Plate 4 : Wardrobe with slide-out iron board/study/seating area with concealed chairs

3.8.6 Kitchen

To make the kitchen feel more spacious use light-coloured laminates on cabinets, minimize the use of contrasting laminates on furniture and cabinets, and prefer using glossy finished laminates which are easy to clean and also reflect more amount of light. Extend overhead cabinets to the ceiling to make maximum use of available wall space, and add vertical storage and wall-mounted racks to store kitchen utilities and utensils. install multipurpose furniture items in the kitchen such as foldable dining table and chairs, collapsible dining table cum preparation center, moveable spice and vegetable rack, moveable island counter with storage cabinets, pullout storage cabinets, etc. Use a light and neutral color palette on walls and furniture and add highlighting features through cabinet knobs, handles, kitchen accessories, and plants.

End of Chapter Exercise

1. What is the importance of space management in interiors?
2. Enlist the factors to be considered for efficient space management in interiors.
3. What is the role of interior designers in space management?

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