

Establishing the sublime construct in built environments

Abstract:

This paper presents a new proposal on establishing the notion of the sublime as an important experiential construct in built environments. It highlights its multi-disciplinary research with an objective of expanding the aesthetical discourse in the interior design field. Often aesthetic categories like beauty and taste are examined; where as the sublime with its inherent quality of producing intense experiences of awe, which is linked to human well being and its capacity of fluidly negotiating the threshold between the tangible and intangible realms remains under explored.

The presentation builds sequentially as outlined below:

- Theoretical understanding of the sublime is gained through studying the aesthetical writings of Burke, Kant, and Lyotard, in tandem with contemporary futurists, economic theorists, and Psychologist like Jensen, Gilmore, Rudd, and others. Interpretive-historical and co-relational research informed the above understanding
- The Analytical understanding is gained by investigating installations, artworks, and architectural projects by Sevilla, Zumthor, Safdie, and others. Case studies, and qualitative methods aided in these analytical understandings.
- As a primary outcome, the new proposal presents the experience of the sublime in a built environment as a four stage experiential construct. Additionally, a conceptual chapel design embodying this experience is presented as a summation of the research.