

Developing a Conceptual Model Exploring Design Qualities of Residential Apartment Rooms Relevant to the Lifestyle of Young Iranian Women

Seyedeh Fereshteh Ehsani Oskouei¹ | Jamaledin Mahdinejad Darzi²

1. Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Design, Shahid Rajaei Teacher Training University, Tehran, Iran. Email: f.ehsani@sru.ac.ir

2. Corresponding Author, Department of Architecture (Corresponding Author), Faculty of Architecture and Urban Design, Shahid Rajaei Teacher Training University, Tehran, Iran. Email: mahdinejad@sru.ac.ir

Article Info

Research Type:
Research Article

Received:
18 August 2023

Received in revised form:
13 Nov 2023

Accepted:
11 May 2024

Published online:
10 June 2024

Keywords:

*Apartment,
Lifestyle,
Residential Unit
Architecture, Private Zone,
Women.*

Abstract

Introduction

Lifestyle as a coherent behavioral spectrum encompasses a domain of life and is observable among a subset of individuals within a society, although not necessarily discernible to the entire population. In many cases, modern residential architecture disregards gender differences, contemporary lifestyles, and the variety of feminine values (Azad Armaki, 2013). The present study examines the distinct requirements and inclinations of women with respect to the layout of their apartment rooms. The rationale for concentrating on women in this study is due to their increased susceptibility to adverse housing conditions. Moreover, within a postmodern framework that incorporates traditional and contemporary feminine values, Iranian women have a distinct identity (Moeini et al., 2022). Consequently, their different interaction with their homes requires further investigation. The research questions:

1. Considering satisfaction factors of women aged between 20 and 40, what are the prioritized preferences in the design of rooms within apartment residential units?
2. How does the conceptual model elucidating the design qualities of rooms within apartment residential units relate to the lifestyle of young Iranian women?

Methodology

The present study adopts an exploratory approach with qualitative methods. The data gathered was derived from literature reviews, semi-structured interviews, and observations. Twenty women aged 20 to 40 were intentionally chosen by the researchers from various districts of Tehran. The interviews were classified into "environmental perception" and "physical characteristics" using MAXQDA software for coding. In addition, various diagrams depicting field observations of residential units were created.

Results

The diagram presented herein, derived from field observations and researchers' notes regarding the residences of the interviewed individuals, illustrates the spatial configuration, room count, orientation, window orientations, and window dimensions. Figure 1 also illustrates acceptable vistas or noise pollution.

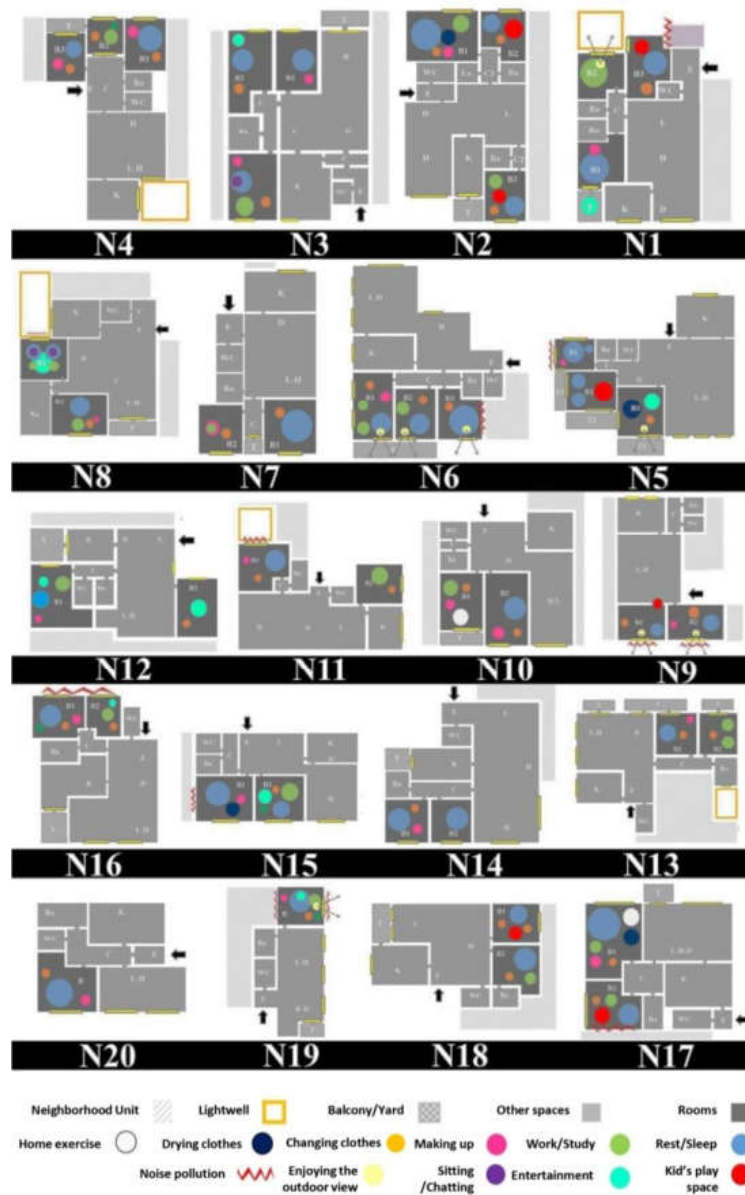


Figure 1. Spatial and behavioral diagram

Bedrooms were consistently situated in the final or second-to-last stratum, as illustrated in Figure 2. The master rooms' terraces or balconies, yards, or baths comprised the deeper strata.

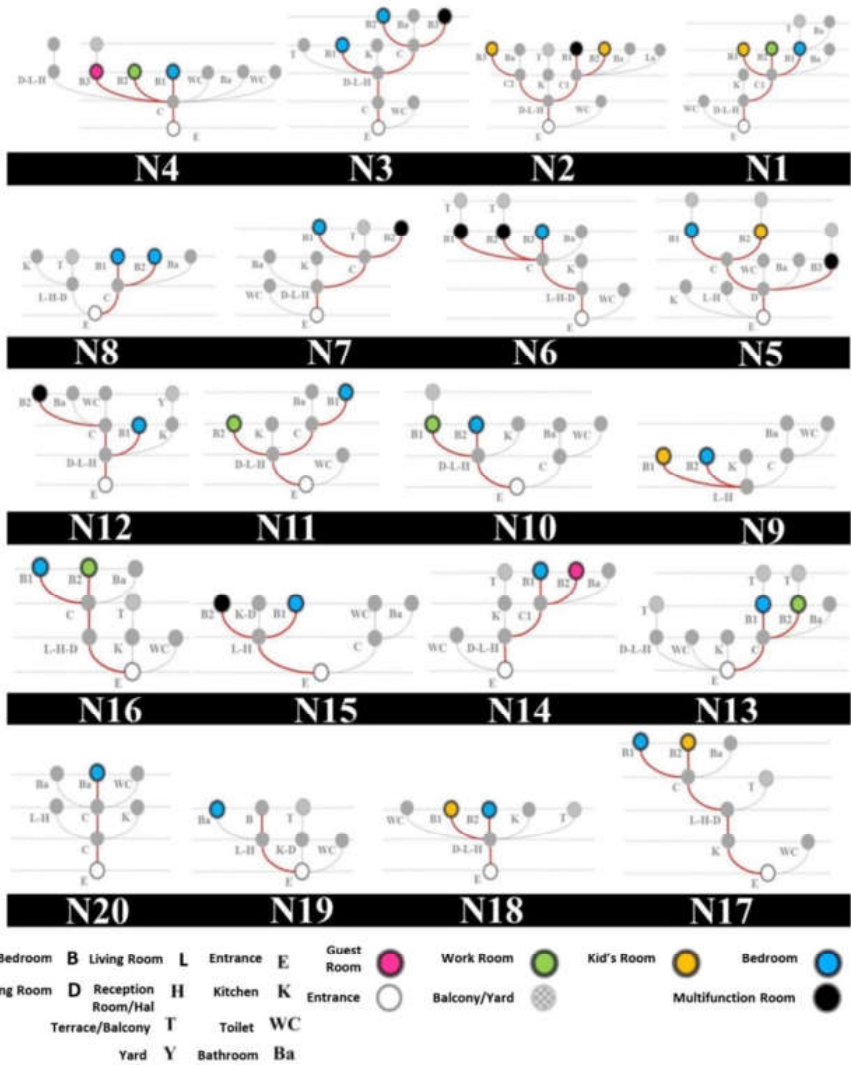


Figure 2: Space syntax diagram

Environmental perception elements that are crucial to the design of a room include “functionality, beauty and order, privacy, adaptability, cleanliness and hygiene.” The physical attributes consist of “the number of closets, light, room size, spatial configuration, noise pollution, interior furniture, texture, and color of materials, window views, ventilation, heating and cooling, nature connection, the number of bedrooms, and form and geometry“(Figure 3).

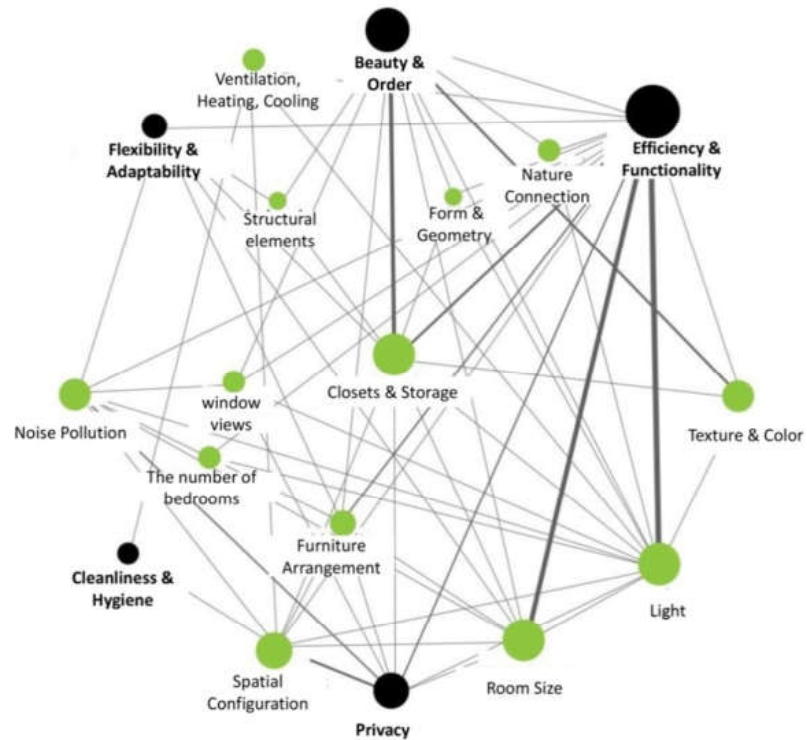


Figure 3: Explanatory Model

Conclusion

Social, economic, and cultural circumstances appear to have influenced the housing preferences of young women through the development of a particular way of life (Figure 4). The majority of pertinent research focuses on designing chambers to be conducive to sleep and rest. However, it is imperative to take into account additional activities as well. Although contemporary housing architecture has faced criticism for its perceived disregard for privacy and spatial hierarchies, empirical evidence suggests that these aspects have been duly acknowledged. Iranian women prioritize functionality and efficiency over aesthetics and attractiveness. Disagreements existed regarding master suites.

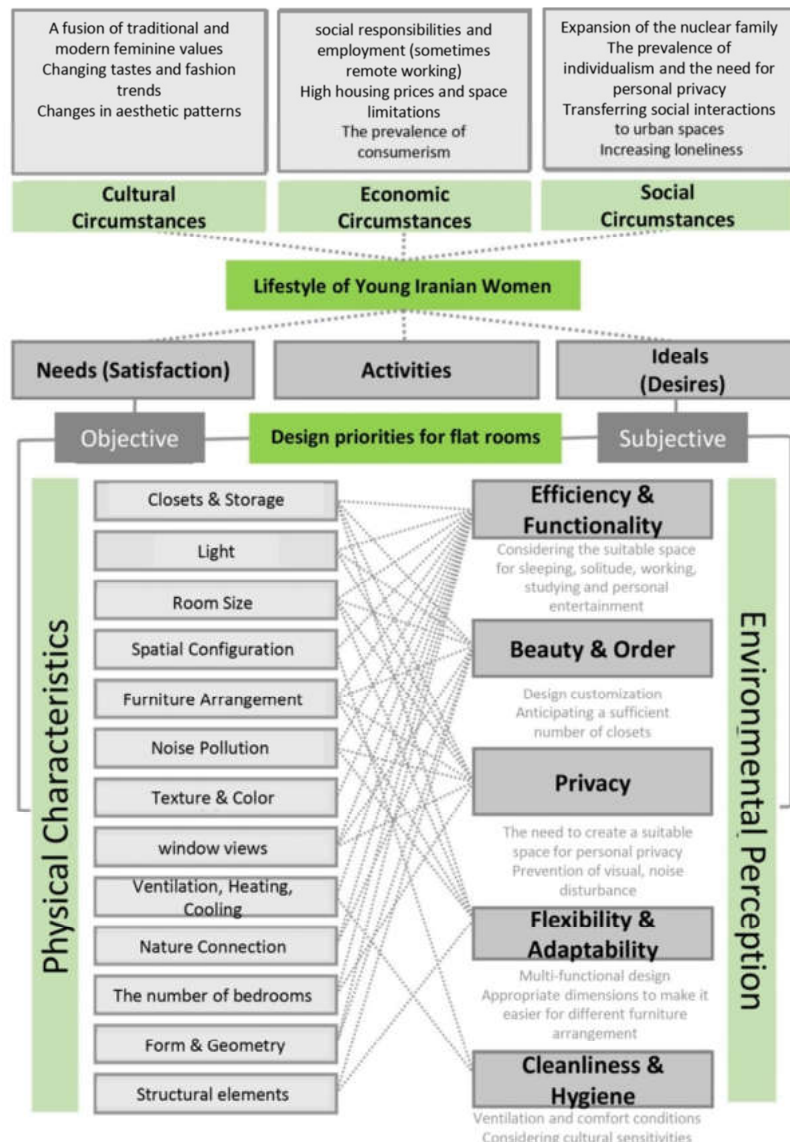


Figure 4: Conceptual Model

Conflict of Interest: There is no conflict of interest in this study.

How To Cite: Ehsani Oskoue, S. F., & Mahdinejad Darzi, J. (2024). Developing a Conceptual Model Exploring Design Qualities of Residential Apartment Rooms Relevant to the Lifestyle of Young Iranian Women. *Women in Culture & Art*, 16(1), 85-110. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22059/JWICA.2024.360335.1953>



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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22059/JWICA.2024.360335.1953>

Publisher: The University of Tehran Press.