

INTERIOR DESIGN EDUCATION

Dear Editor,

I am writing this with reference to an advertisement that appeared on 7th October 2002 in Dawn, placed by one of the top art and architecture schools in the country in Lahore. The ad offers Masters level program for two years in Interior Design where as a pre-requisite foundation course or a Bachelor level course in Interior Design does not exist in the country. A straight jump to the top course does not make sense and seems rather unfair to the profession. The second course offered is a professional diploma in Interior Design is only for one year and the eligibility to enroll is Intermediate with the subjects of Fine Arts and Home Economics.

People often compare education with a sound building which has a foundation and the remaining tiers that come in succession. It has to be built carefully from the bottom to the top, from the primary to the secondary. How can we then construct the top floor in the air when none of the lower tiers exist? This lopsided and a totally unreasonable approach to the subject of Interior Design was common when little was known about it. Ironically, one can say that this situation has also arisen because of the tremendous demand the subject has created recently and that many smaller informal institutes are offering all sorts of short vocational courses to mint money rather than impart proper education. I guess these educational programs do not augur well with an educational institute with such a great reputation.

Interior Design, through out the world, is now taken as a serious, full fledged subject like Architecture and all disciplines of Engineering because it has a direct bearing on the health and well being of the end-users i.e. all of us. It deals with the safety and security issues, comfort and aesthetic issues besides the planning and construction. Yes, when we talk of Interior design today, we

talk about quality of life. It is to do with sales and efficiency of all business. It is to do with how the business is laid out and presented today. Gone are the days when it used to be confused with Interior decoration. A proper professional course in Interior Design should not be less than three years after Intermediate in technical subjects.

It is suggested to the concerned authorities through this communication to initiate a proper Interior Design educational program in the country and Pakistan Institute of Interior Designers, a professional body based in Karachi will be more than happy to assist in the matter. The General Secretary can be reached on the following number 5804848.

Danish A. Zuby
Secretary General
PIID, Karachi