



DESIGNING USING HISTORICAL PRECEDENT

IDSN 4500: UNIVERSAL DESIGN



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HISTORY AND DESIGN

What is precedent?

In the study of law, precedent is a legal decision or a specific form of proceeding, which serves as an authoritative rule or pattern in future similar or analogous cases

Historical precedent, likewise, is defined as any act in the past which may be used as an example to help decide the outcome of a similar instance in the future

What is the correlation between historical precedent and interior design?

As designers, we apply precedent by reviewing existing structures and past styles to gain inspiration, in order to determine what has proven itself and how we can adapt these things to fit our own needs, preferences, and ideas

There is no such thing as a “new” design style, but every now and again we are able to create the perfect blend...the result is something *fresh*; an innovative twist on past furnishings, architectural elements, and cultural adaptations.

“Without precedent nothing really has a connection or a specific place where an idea came from and, without that...society loses the ability to reflect upon itself.”

THE ORIENT



THE ORIENT

Style Evolution

The Oriental style is meditative, calming, from ornately decorated palaces and temples, to minimalist residences. Though the Orient spans countries from China to Indonesia, particular elements are specific to the various styles and cultures. Rooted in Eastern tradition, the Orient's mystery and exoticism has inspired and assimilated into European designs throughout the ages.

Recognizable defining features include:

1. Materials are natural (bamboo being a staple)
2. Geometric patterns are prevalent as architectural features as well as aesthetic designs in decor
3. Lacquerwork and batik are distinctive
4. Screens are key aesthetic focal points that also function as privacy partitions and divide spaces
5. Craftsmanship of furniture (generally solid, rectangular forms either follow the simplicity of minimalism or include intricately detailed designs or relief carvings)
6. Colors are subdued or vibrant (red and black being common hues, with gold employed as highlight decoration).

Other iconic elements and motifs:

Blue-and-white porcelain vases; paper lanterns; silk and patterned textiles; images of dragons, tigers, birds, flowers, fish, and pagodas.



REGAL INTERIORS



REGAL INTERIORS

Style Evolution

Interior design styles over the years have evolved. Historic styles of the past still exist in design today through similar features.



Styles such as Baroque designs, from the late 16th and early 17th century, have elements carried through to current design styles, such as:

- Focal points
- Balance and symmetry
- Natural color schemes (ex: whites and off whites)
- Strong fabrics (ex: velvet and cotton)
- Bold patterns and bold architectural features
- Large interior elements (ex: rugs, chandeliers, mirrors)
- Architectural and furniture carvings



BRITISH TIES



BRITISH TIES

Style Evolution

The style of Victorian interior design dates between the 1837-1901, the reign in Britain of Queen Victoria, hence the given name. This style has carried elements through to current design styles, such as:

7. Rich Dark color schemes (ex: burgundy, plum, ruby, emerald, forest greens and navy will work well. You can tone in gold to give your look that edge of indulgence.)
8. Wallpaper (Commonly applied to a section of the wall.)
9. Decorative but uncluttered.
10. Walls and floors kept plain to contrast decorative features
11. Large Rugs or Pattern Carpet
12. Highly decorative lamps
13. Exotic woods used in furniture & Architecture



MID-CENTURY MODERN



MID-CENTURY MODERN

Style Evolution



The Mid-Century Modern style describes mid-20th century developments in modern design from about 1933-1965. The style bridges the organic and man-made world, incorporating both natural and synthetic materials. There is a way to achieve a Mid-Century Modern aesthetic by applying key features, such as:

14. Beauty is the product of function
15. Clean simple lines.
16. Wood pieces that are simply finished to showcase natural beauty.
17. Mixing up and combining materials; plastics, resin, metal composites, laminates and fiberglass.
18. Bold patterns and heavy-textured fabrics
19. Dramatic lighting fixtures
20. Graphic wallpaper
21. Color scheme: Warm, earthy tones created nature-inspired interiors. Think **olive green, burnt umber, pumpkin and mustard yellow**. The opposite side of the spectrum included trendy colors like **pink, gray, turquoise, black and yellow**. Somewhere in the middle were traditional colors held over from the 40s such as **burgundy, blue and emerald green**.
22. Add iconic pieces: Tripod lamps, floor lamps with bendable arms and white balloon pendant lamps; George Nelson's iconic sunburst and atomic clock

