ABSTRACT

This research aims to explore the perceptions of interior designers in Yogyakarta about the potential interior designs that would meet the cultural needs of "new normality" following the Covid-19 pandemic. The method used in this research was descriptive qualitative. The study found that interior designers in Yogyakarta believed that 1) the changes in design would involve the spatial, human, and technical aspects. Since pace is a fixed variable and humans are independent variables, interior designers would create new spaces and utilize present-day technology to maximize the technical aspects of their design. They would also give more consideration to the element of health. The interior designers also believed that 2) all projects in the future would apply the principles of the next normal and take health into serious consideration. The principles of the next normal interior design, namely human-centered design, historicity culture tradition, and interdisciplinary sustainability technology would be relevant to the cultural context following the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the pattern of human behavior during the Covid-19 pandemic may be temporary, so further research is needed to examine whether this habit becomes everyone's culture and whether it needs more detailed study to prepare for the establishment of new design standards.

Keywords: designer perception; interior design; culture; Covid-19

ABSTRAK


Kata kunci: persepsi desainer; desain interior; budaya; Covid-19
Introduction

When the Covid-19 pandemic spreads around the world, the world feels uncertain and dramatically changes people’s lives. It has changed the way people spend their days (how to live, how to socialize, and how to work) both at home and in the public area.

No one can know what are the new changes going to transform the spatial habit of human beings. Humans need to reduce contact with everything used in the building: stair railing, lift, lift buttons, door handles, surfaces, and interactions with the people around them.

According to the President of the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID) we can choose to look at current conditions in a pessimistic way, or we can focus at the opportunities, because this crisis forces all of us to rethink interior design (Sprouls, 2020).

Ukrainian architect, Sergey Makhno (2020) predicts how homes will change once the corona virus pandemic is over and life after the Covid-19 outbreak will never be the same as before. Values will change, human life and habits will change, and homes will also change under that influence. The main function of the house at this time is not only to provide security for its occupant, but also as a place to escape from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Culture is formed because of cultural elements that change into mixed cultural elements and because culture tends to be dynamic and its elements have a very broad network of functions and it becomes a cultural ethos in human life as members of society.

One of which became a problem for most people today is how the condition of residential interiors are currently able to meet the needs of man and the family of her during and after a pandemic Covid-19.

The formulation of the research problem is:
1. What changes in interior design that have occurred to meet the needs of the culture transformed by the current Covid-19 pandemic according to interior designers in Yogyakarta?
2. What kind of interior design potential will be able to meet the needs of the human normal life during and afterwards according to interior designers in Yogyakarta?

The benefit of this research can be used as a basis for interior designers to make design decisions in the interior design process that are in accordance with a new culture that considers the principles of new normal life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this study is to explore the perceptions of interior designers in Yogyakarta about the potential of interior design as to what will be able to meet the cultural needs of new normal life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Interior design is a “personality”, the purpose of interior design, therefore, is the functional improvement, aesthetic enrichment, and psychological enhancement of interior space (Sholahuddin, 2020).

Change is an event in a context, whether intentional or not, being different from the
beginning due to external or internal influences (Papagergious, 1971). The ability to change physical reality is a power. It is said to be a power because every person or group has the ability to decide the placement, removal or reduction of an element. Besides the power has the exclusive ability or control to change a site within a certain period of time and under control (Habraken, 1982).

Often everyone sees culture from a material point of view or with things related to human art such as dance, drama, temples, reliefs, songs and so on. There is a relationship between humans and culture. Culture leads to a pattern of people’s behavior, which then becomes a habit in a certain scope.

Life after the Covid-19 outbreak will never be the same as before. The values of human life and habits will change. The interior design will also change with the effects of this pandemic. There are seven predictions of the possible changes will occur according to the Ukrainian architect Sergey Makhno (2020): 1) Houses not apartments, 2) Bunkers better than open-plan, 3) Self-sufficient power and water, 4) Filtration and neutralization, 5) Home as the new office, 6) Urban farming goes global, 7) Rejection of mass industry.

Methodology

The method of this research is descriptive qualitative. Qualitative method is able to understand social reality in depth. Reading problems in society or social reality can not only be seen with the five senses, but must be listened to and researched through an understanding and interpretative process (Cresswell, 2008).

This research is exploratory to bring up various information regarding the perception of the potential of interior design as to what will be able to meet the needs of the culture of humans transformed by the Covid-19 pandemic according to an interior designer in Yogyakarta.

Data collection was carried out through distributing questionnaires and online interviews. The questionnaire was addressed to interior designers in Yogyakarta. The questions on the questionnaire used an open-ended question type to obtain various data. Questions are divided into 3 groups, namely:

1. Respondent’s personal data.
2. What changes in interior design have occurred to meet the needs of the culture transformed by the current Covid-19 pandemic
3. What kind of interior design potential will be able to meet the cultural needs of the normal transformed by the Covid-19 pandemic during and afterwards.

The expected result is an overview of what kind of interior design will be able to meet the cultural needs of the new normal life caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The process of selecting respondents was carried out using the snowball sampling technique, which is rolling from one respondent to another (Neuman, 2003). Interviews were conducted with 50 interior designers (@ 25 members of HDII Yogyakarta and Interior Designers in Yogyakarta).

The unit of analysis is any change in interior design to meet the human “new normal life” culture transformed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. The change is seen from the current and previous times.
2. The change is seen from the current time and the potential for the future (prediction).

The unit of observation is the perception of interior designers in Yogyakarta regarding what kind of interior design can meet the cultural needs of new normal life due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion

The results of interviews about perceptions have a variety of answers, but a similarity or uniformity of answers can be sought, the results are as follows:

1. The perceptions of interior designers in Yogyakarta regarding changes in interior design to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the current and previous Covid-19 pandemic.
   a. Space Aspect
      1) Change in space occur in new normal life. The health aspects become a priority, since design does not only prioritize aesthetics and rather focuses on hygiene.
Space is a physical container of activity. Human activities are currently changing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. That also means space will change due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This result is in line with Subroto's (2020) thought about “Space in Change and Chance”. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, space changes according to the changes of new normal life and space will have the potential to develop afterwards (next new normal). Rooms will adapt to a new normal condition or a next normal condition.

In the case of airports, the implementation of the new normal design has been carried out, such as limiting physical distance with a transparent partition in the health check area and sign mark on seats in the departure waiting room, as well as social distance by arranging seats and sign mark on the floor as a circulation guide for queues.

Restaurants in Thailand provide transparent insulation of pvc and plastic between dining tables so that visitors could avoid the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Sign markers on the floor were created to direct the boundaries of circulation and dining areas that separate visitor and restaurant staff.

2) The concept of space changed after the Covid19 pandemic from public to private

Figure 3. The perceptions of interior designers in Yogyakarta regarding changes in interior design to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the current and previous Covid-19 pandemic. (Sholahuddin, 2020)

Figure 4. The application of new normal in interior design at YIA Yogyakarta International Airport and Lampung Raden Intan II Airport. (Sholahuddin, 2020)

Figure 5. Restoran di Thailand. (Bramasta, 2020)
because public spaces were isolated and people had to stay home.

The space zone changes from public to private. The public zone is currently isolated so that the private zone is given more attention.

3) In the past, communal space had the concept of open space. Currently, the creation of temporary spaces is designed to be more semiprivate. Distance, dimensions, scale are adjusted to health standards.

In the current new normal era, what must be applied in activities in space is physical distancing between one person and another and social distancing safe in one place according to the required distance. The interior designer must set up the spaces and the layout of the furniture according to WHO standards.

The conditioned space has a limited capacity. The layout of the furniture must be considered for its density and distance. Reduction of carrying capacity at low density. Furniture dimensions and scale for furniture design standards that pay attention to health aspects. Space density is reduced but the

Figure 6. Serres Séparées' dining booths line at ETEN, a restaurant by the Mediamatic Arts Center in Amsterdam. (Rahadiansyah, 2020)

Figure 7. The concept of space from public to private, all activities are carried out at home so that the open space is very flexible for multi-activities. (“Tren Desain Interior Rumah dan Kantor di Era New Normal,” 2020)

Figure 8. Changes in the dining room at the Qua-li Yogyakarta restaurant in the new normal era. (Sholahuddin, 2020)

Figure 9. The layout of the dining room in the restaurant during the new normal era with reduced seats and spacing. (Haryanti, 2020)

Figure 10. Hand washing area in the front area of the house as a form of application for the Covid-19 preventive health protocol. (Ba’abud, 2020)

Figure 11. Furnishing elements in the form of furniture and equipment on the work table or study to be comfortable doing WFH or studying online. (Anatasia, 2021)
capacity can still be solved with an alternate system of using space.

4) Changes in the design of the furniture for hand washing.
   Changing gentong or padasan to a more modern design even though it has the same functions as a place to clean hands to avoid viruses.

5) Change in the concept of residential space.
   Currently, the interior concept of apartment units will be adapted gradually to the landing house type. The addition of space before going to the living room can be added with a kind of small foyer.
   Residential space schemes are modified and evaluated according to new activities such as study and work activities at home and transition areas before entering the house. Examples of current residential concepts such as natural concepts or known as biophilic design concepts, with natural air and sufficient lighting in the building make this house healthy and so are the residents in it. The concept of urban farming, which means farming in an urban home environment, is considered to be in line with the desire of city people to live a healthy lifestyle.

b. Human Aspect
1) Changes in behavior occur in new normal life
   Changes in human behavior occur in new normal life. Human behavior has made adaptations and adjustments in the old space to accommodate new activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
   Adaptation is suited to the environment by wearing masks, washing hands or using hand sanitizers, maintaining a minimum distance of 1 (one) meter, distancing social interactions with many people.
Adjustment changes the environment to be more suitable for individuals by making the transition area to a private area, providing an area for hand cleaning and hand washing furniture, giving signs to keep distance, or providing a barrier to prevent direct social interaction if it cannot be done online.

2) The element of health is a priority, humans are currently prioritizing hygiene.

The health element is a priority, in the past, design often prioritized aesthetics rather than hygiene. Interior designers create spaces and forms based on human activities. Humans as design center during a pandemic must pay attention to health in their daily activities to avoid Covid-19.

Changes in work activities carried out at home (WFH) with attention to new work facilities at home. This is related to the ergonomics of work furniture and colors that support comfort in the workspace.

The effect of color on productivity and increased passion for work has been researched by various scientist and is indeed proven. Certain colors have the ability to improve work performance, such as white, blue, yellow, and orange. These colors can be applied to parts of the workspace through the colors of the walls, sofas and pillows, cabinets, or shelves.

The principle of human centered design, emphasized that interior design cannot be separated from human life as the primary user. It is not just a matter of setting layout, but having to understand different human needs to the fullest.

Changing human needs are also supported by the principles of the historicity culture tradition. In this principle, interior design must look at history and previous events, from here the designer must be able to make things back to normal so that the design is not careless and can change with the times.

c. Technical Aspect

Previously, the interior design process created space by paying attention to aspects
of form, material including color, lighting, air conditioning. Currently, the health element is considered in all aspects including technical aspects. Therefore, all elements of form, material including color, lighting, and ventilation must consider the health of WHO.

In the principle of interdisciplinary sustainable technology, the science that is used is not only from design but also from other supporting sciences, for example technology. It is believed that interior design combined with technology can be one way of dealing with the “new normal” situation. One of the virus problems can be solved with technology. How to regulate the flow of air or light that enters the room optimally so that we can anticipate the Covid-19 virus.

1) Lighting and ventilation.

The new space needed to be healthy and avoiding Covid-19 transmission, thus there must be improvements in the room quality, especially air circulation and maximum ventilation with new technology. Indoor air circulation must be healthy and good. Space oriented to nature by maximizing natural lighting and ventilation by adding greenery/garden. Plants can be considered to filter the air from the Covid-19 virus. If using AC facilities, you should use a filter to prevent viruses from entering.

The use of plants in the room is needed not only as a decoration, but can freshen the air and absorb harmful toxins. This plant can be placed in the living room, family room, hallway, and some spaces that are often used for activities and gatherings. Several types of plants that are good for the room include sanseviera, aloe vera, golden pothos or devil,

Figure 19. Copper pipes and detailing adorn the interior of a themed pub called ‘refinery 091’. (Marchese, 2020)

Figure 20. Use of water faucets and lift buttons with sensor technology. (Standard, 2020 and Anatasia, 2021)

Figure 21. The perception of interior designers in Yogyakarta about the potential of interior design to meet cultural needs of new normal due by Covid-19 pandemic during and after. (Sholahuddin, 2020)
suplir flowers, peace lily flowers, bamboo, and others.

2) Material

Easy-to-clean materials can be an alternative for interior design choices such as glass and metal (silver, copper, brass and stainless steel) because the Covid-19 virus is difficult to stick to these materials. The use of technology is maximized with sensors or touchless applied to buttons and handles such as lights, doors, lift, and other facilities.

2. Perceptions of interior designers in Yogyakarta about the potential of interior design to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the Covid-19 pandemic during and after.

a. The future challenge of interior design is to include the health element in all aspects, both spatial aspects and supporting technical aspects.

The Covid-19 pandemic is unpredictable, therefore interior designers need to emphasize more on temporary space for multi-activities with attention to the element of health.

Health elements in the form of physical distancing and social distancing will be applied in the existence of space. The separate room ignores the distance using transparent material to anticipate the transmission of Covid-19.

b. The interior design project after the Covid-19 pandemic will have a major impact on the development of commercial space projects.

The shopping mall project may no longer exist because before the Covid-19 pandemic many shopping centers were closed and replaced by online shopping activities. As for office projects, it may be limited to large offices or head offices with a model that will change, responding to the situation during the Covid-19 pandemic and post-pandemic. A change in office design might be a model that resembles a SOHO (Small Office Home Office).

This type of project will be reduced, especially commercial space projects, a lot of dead space that needs to be re-functioned or maximized with revitalization that adds value to pace, for example a shop house that functions as a residential and commercial/office space.

c. Residential projects for kitchen set designs will always exist, and there will be new design standards after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Figure 22. The prediction of new normal interior design color trends leads to colors that instill a sense of certainty and comfort. (Grossmann, Perkins, & Will, 2020)

Figure 23. The split level concept is applied to SOHO products so that it feels dynamic and creates a different spatial experience. (Purbasari, 2020)

Figure 24. Space renovation has the potential in the new normal because you stay home especially the kitchen. ("Arsitek Bakal Banjir Order Renovasi di Era New Normal, Apa Saja Jenis Pekerjaannya?,” 2020)
This may not be a priority as long as the Covid-19 pandemic has not ended because what is prioritized are basic and essential needs.

Changes in the design of furniture for work and study may be more important after the Covid-19 pandemic. Furniture with a curved shape so that it is easy to clean with anti-virus materials has potential in addition to kitchen furniture and other supporting activities. Multifunctional furniture also has potential with a simple form but functional.

d. The concept from public to private. Everything will return to the nearest micro sphere.

Communal spaces are no longer relevant but open space may be considered and space use can change organically. The arrangement of office space with individual chairs and tables and transparent partitions has potential in the future. An open concept with health considerations because it has healthier ventilation and lighting, but the public space maintains physical and social boundaries.

e. All cases, both houses and museums, have the potential to fulfill the new normal life culture. All future planning cases must be adapted to the context of the pandemic and post-pandemic Covid-19.

Pandemics accelerate technology. Shelter will always exist but the direction is more to multi-activity. Buttons and handles can use sensors so you don’t have to touch them, this is important for apartment or multi-storey building projects.

The challenges ahead for interior designers are to implement health protocols in public buildings such as sports stadiums, markets, malls, hotels, restaurants, offices, airports, schools and campuses, tourist and recreation spots such as museums, cinemas, and others. Residential and non-residential buildings have promising potential. Everything starts from a residence and then gradually develops into public buildings with many users. Health buildings, offices, schools or learning places are gradually designed with new principles taking into account the health element. Expanding to other commercial buildings and all must prioritize new principles next normal.

The perception of interior designers in Yogyakarta regarding changes in interior design to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the current and afterward Covid-19 pandemic is that all types of projects have potential for the future by applying the principles of next normal and major health considerations.

Life after the Covid-19 pandemic will never be the same as before. The values of human life and habits will change. The interior design will also change due to the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic. The current interior design must be able to meet the needs of a new culture that was transformed by the Covid-19 pandemic, namely “next normal interior design”. The interior designer in the design must be adapted to the context of pandemic Covid-19 which considers as follows:

Figure 25. Renovation work for study spaces/areas with multifunctional and functional furniture designs. (Meyliana, 2020)

Figure 26. Office illustration designed with an open concept. (Ngantung, 2020)
1. Human principles as a design center that must be considered changes in study and work from home (WFH) activities by paying attention to new facilities at home and comfort in daily activities. This is related to the ergonomics of study and work furniture, colors that support comfort, and the design standards for communal spaces (public) which switch to private ones.

2. Cultural principles, taking into account physical distancing and social distancing. Physical boundaries can be in the form of signs, physical barriers, hand washing areas as a new habit and culture, etc. Social distancing with furniture layout arrangement.

3. The principle of sustainable technology, because the Covid-19 pandemic is accelerating the transformation of society in technology. Room quality needs to be improved through good lighting and ventilation to avoid the corona virus. The design of lift buttons and door handles is made of certain materials that are non-porous, easy to clean, and reducing the possibility of infection. Or adding a touchless sensor might be considered.

Conclusion

Interior design changes to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the current Covid-19 pandemic and previously were perceived by interior designers in Yogyakarta from the spatial, human and technical aspects. Space as a fixed variable and humans as an independent variable that creates new space as well as technical aspects that are maximized with new technology with more consideration for the element of health.

The perception of interior designers in Yogyakarta regarding changes in interior design to meet the needs of a new normal culture due to the pandemic Covid-19 at this time and thereafter is that all types of commercial and residential projects has potential forward by applying the principles of next normal and consideration of primary health.

The “new normal” condition changes people’s habits and affects interior design due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The principles of next normal interior design, namely human centered design, historicity culture tradition, and interdisciplinary sustainable technology are very relevant to the cultural context after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Interior designers must be able to express their creative ideas in interior design by applying the principles of the Covid-19 protocol according to the type and function of the project. Social isolation makes people think deeply about the function and importance of the domestic space, namely the home as a new workplace. A flexible residential design can anticipate the influence of Covid-19 to get more attention.

A good interior design work after the Covid-19 pandemic must include new design principles, namely the principles of “new normal interior design” that will be sustainable into the “next normal interior design”. In the design process, interior designers must include elements of health are non Covid-19 in addition to aesthetic, functional, structural and technological considerations.

The pattern of behavior of people during the Covid-19 pandemic may be temporary, further research is needed to examine whether these habits become a culture for everyone that must be considered in more detail in preparing new design standards (next normal interior design) and it takes a long time to process.

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