

Neuroscience Informing Design: Impact of Fluorescent CCT on Neurodiverse Populations

CHERIF AMOR, PH.D., EDRA, EDEC, IIDA
Chair, Department of Interior Design
Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar

MICHAEL W. O'BOYLE, PH.D.¹, DEBAJYOTI PATI, PH.D., FIIA, IDEC, LEED AP²
¹Associate Dean for Research, College of Human Sciences, Texas Tech University
²Rockwell Professor, Department of Design, Texas Tech University

I. EXTENDED ABSTRACT

I.1. METHODOLOGY / PROCEDURE

A purposive sampling was used to generate twenty subjects; taking into account gender, age, ethnicity, brain lateralization, as well as the exclusion of color blindness. The participants underwent 1) an anatomical scan and 2) a functional scan, using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging fMRI technology, while a random sequence of three types of illustrations from the aforementioned categories were projected by a computer controlled visual presentation system. Each image category included 6 images for a total of 18 images that every participant evaluates. Concomitantly, the participants were asked to respond to each image by fiber optic button device, rating each image on a seven-point Likert satisfaction scale of 1=very dissatisfied and 7=very satisfied. Behavioral data was analyzed using t-test factor analysis and one-way analysis of variance, while the neural data maps were analyzed using FSL Neuroimaging Software.

I.2. OUTCOME / DISCUSSION

Findings suggest that contrary to precedents (seeing color activates the ventral occipital and fusiform); the Warm White color temperature (2800K) did not show activation of the occipital cortex. This may indicate disinterest or dissatisfaction with the warm spectrum. Important to note that, under the Cool White spectrum (4100K) the activation of the Superior Temporal Gyrus implicated in critical structure of social interaction; the Middle Frontal Gyrus implicated in semantic and analytical tasks; and the activation of the Angular Gyrus implicated in memory retrieval, areas associated with brain cognitive functions, have been activated. Furthermore, under the daylight color spectrum, the cerebellum—emerging neuroscience indicates that is involved in cognitive brain processes—has been activated. These neural findings, in support of behavioral findings, suggest a higher satisfaction with cool white and daylight full spectrum than with the warm spectrum.

2. REFERENCES

- Doidge, N. (2007). *The brain that changes itself*. London, England: Penguin Books Ltd.
- Eberhard, J. (2007). *Architecture and the brain: A new knowledge base from neuroscience*. Norcross, GA: Greenway Communications LLC.
- Mallgrave, H. (2011). *The Architect's brain: Neuroscience, creativity, and architecture*. Chichester, UK: Wiley and Blackwell.
- Marcus, C., & Barnes, M. (1999). *Healing gardens: Therapeutic benefits and design recommendations*. New York, NY: Wiley.
- Rashid, M. & Zimiring, C., 2008. A Review of Empirical Literature on the Relationships Between Indoor Environment and Stress in Health Care and Office Settings: Problems and Prospects of Sharing Evidence. *Journal of Environment and Behavior*, 40(15).
- Swanson, L. (2011). *Brain architecture: Understanding the basic plan*. Oxford University Press, Inc.
- Zeisel, J. (2006). *Inquiry by design: Environment/behavior/neuroscience in architecture, interiors, landscape, and planning*. New York, NY: W. Norton and Company.