

## **Responsive Interior: Tactics for Adaptation and Resilience**

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Design disciplines continuously face challenges to demonstrate resilience in responding to rapid changes and complex issues in our contemporary world. The challenge to redefine post-pandemic design approaches has led to the realisation that many of our architectures tend to be fixed, permanent, and slow to respond to changes, thereby becoming obsolete easily (Kennicott, 2020). The pandemic has triggered the design discipline to strengthen its capacity to adapt to change—and more importantly predict possible changes in the future and prepare appropriate responses.

The notion of adaptability is inherent in the interior discipline. Interior design and interior architecture have developed into a discipline that works with what already exists by utilising, reusing, retrofitting, and altering the existing built environment (Brooker & Stone, 2018; Plevoets & van Cleempoel, 2019; Scott, 2008). Adaptation and reuse of existing entities become particularly critical in terms of sustainability by “utilising what is to be found” (Brooker & Stone, 2018, p. 2), rather than making entirely new spaces and buildings. The challenge for interior practice to move towards resilience and sustainability invites more creative ways of interior design thinking (White et al., 2014). Interior thinking also is moving beyond the traditional notion of interior as ‘filling in’ the space of architecture, as demonstrated by a series of interior approaches that strategically respond to various contexts and situations beyond built architecture (Campos & Schneiderman, 2018).

The idea of responsive interior highlights the ability to respond appropriately to a particular context through various tactics to ensure its relevance and resilience for the present and future. Interior practices deal with intervention, adaptation, and alteration of existing conditions, as well as finding new uses and programmes that can be added to existing spaces. Behind such attempts, a series of responsive tactics has become necessary to gather knowledge and understanding of the existing qualities, which should be an important basis for appropriate interior programming as a tactical response. Tactics emphasise awareness of time, circumstances, and possibilities manifested through using, manipulating, and diverting spaces (de Certeau, 1984). Tactics also demonstrate the possibility of going beyond conformity and standardisation, in which defined spaces and objects may become “tactical devices” in responding to current needs of lived interior spaces (Bruyns, 2018, p. 353). Tactics often are manifested through the body’s active role in occupying, inhabiting, and appropriating its surrounding environment (Giunta, 2009; Leveratto, 2019). Therefore, understanding the nature and characteristics of the existing contexts, objects, and situations become key in establishing interior tactics in a particular context. The practice of interior adaptation can benefit from various tactics to read the possibilities and opportunities in existing contexts, as well as tactics to project the near and far futures.

This issue of *Interiority* presents a collection of ideas and explorations that demonstrate various acts of adaptation performed in different interior contexts, as well as various tactical interior approaches to reuse and repurpose the existing. The first two articles describe how interior practice could be viewed as a fluid practice capable of responding creatively to societal change. They demonstrate attempts to establish new interior programming based on understanding the trend and the existing qualities. Urtzi Grau Magana and Guillermo Fernández-Abascal explore new possible programming for the domestic interior from the Generation Z and millennial perspectives. Several themes have been developed to represent how interior design thinking needs to change to correspond with shifts in lifestyle and priorities. Marco Sosa, Lina Ahmad, and Karim Musfy present an approach to adaptive interior design by repurposing aviation parts into new interior programs that occupy a specific site. Developing an understanding of existing elements and parts’ properties and specifications has become a key tactic in the adaptive design process, allowing for further development of creative and unique design ideas. These two articles demonstrate attempts to develop interior design speculation based on a thorough reading and analysis of existing potentials and situations.

The next two articles present interesting inquiries into the acts of adaptation performed by indigenous communities in Thailand and Indonesia. In particular, they highlight these communities' sensitivity to changes that occur in the surrounding natural environment and how they respond and adapt to these changes. Patiphol Yodsurang, Yasufumi Uekita, and Ikuro Shimizu track changes in communities living with water in the villages located in the floodplain of Ayutthaya Province, Thailand, over time. They examine how nature's dynamics redefine society's everyday life, their houses and their interiors. Their study also raises the issue of losing community resilience when responding to nature's changes. Rini Suryantini, Diandra Pandu Saginatari, and Yandi Andri Yatmo propose the idea of deep interior to describe an intimate relationship between Orang Suku Laut—a sea tribe in Riau Archipelago, Indonesia—and the sea. They reveal multiple layers involved in the practice of finding food, in which the sea tribe uses its sensory awareness to read natural signals carefully as a way to survive in the sea environment. The two articles demonstrate the importance of learning from indigenous communities' adaptation practices as a way to revisit our relationship with nature. Such practices reposition humans to be *with* nature—following and adapting as nature evolves dynamically.

The other two articles address the themes of flexibility and change as key ideas in interior adaptability, emphasising the need for interior space to be ready for alteration and shifting functions. Ayman Kassem presents a theoretical review of the hybrid and performative concepts from the exhibition design perspective. In particular, he highlights the idea of open-form as a potential tactic to achieve flexibility in interior and urban intervention. Faredah Mohsen Al-Murahhem describes an inquiry on domestic interior experiences during the pandemic lockdown in Makkah the Holy City. Lessons learned from this study suggest the importance of reflecting our surrounding interiors' readiness to respond to unpredictable, yet unavoidable demand. These two articles highlight the need to expand the interior design vocabulary to achieve various forms of spatial flexibility and adaptability.

The articles in this issue of *Interiority* demonstrate the need to venture into different forms of interior programming, interior thinking, and interior practice to create responsive interiors that are not only relevant, but also resilient. While the world is changing quickly, the interior design discipline must strengthen its capability to respond and adapt. Finding more tactics for new interior programming, reading thoroughly into the existing, exploring various forms of adaptability, and establishing more creative design thinking become crucial steps towards interior resilience in a constantly changing world.

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