Summary Statement

Purpose

An awareness of history is essential for interior designers because we do not design in built environments without historical contexts. Thus, it is crucial to understand history, contextualizing designs with forethought and sensitivity. Furthermore, when contextualizing interior design in the histories of art, architecture, and material culture, we do not simply examine the past with the neutrality of unbiased observation. We focus our investigations through a series of methodological lenses that determine our perspectives on historical artifacts. This project is designed to begin your training in one of the many methodologies that come from art history: Erwin Panofsky's iconography/iconology or Heinrich Wölfflin's stylistic formalism, both of which are listed below.

Resources

- Panofsky, Erwin. "Iconography and Iconology: An Introduction to the Study of Renaissance Art." In Meaning in the Visual Arts: Papers in and on Art History, 26–39. Garden City, NY: Doubleday Anchor Books, 1955.
- Wölfflin, Heinrich. "Introduction." In Principles of Art History: The Problem of the Development of Style in Later Art, trans. M. D. Hottinger, 1–17. New York: Dover, 1950.

Requirements

1) You are required to read either the Panofsky or the Wölfflin excerpts listed among the resources above. PDFs of both readings are available in the Research Project section of our course website on D2L Brightspace. Based on your reading of one of those excerpts, you are required to write a summary statement (ca. 350 words, excluding title page, endnotes, and bibliography) about Panofsky's or Wölfflin's method. Your summary statement must demonstrate your general comprehension of your selected author's methodology, including knowledge of the context in which the author wrote, the arguments the author coordinated to defend his perspective, and a concluding statement about how the methodology might be of general value to historians studying different contexts. I have provided a sample summary statement pdf.

Structure

1) Summary Statement

- A) title page
- B) ca. 350-word summary of one assigned methodology
- C) endnotes and bibliography

Format: Chicago Style

All written components of the project must be typewritten in a twelve-point font (Times New Roman preferred), double spaced, with a one-inch margin on all sides of the paper. Please do not get creative with the font type, margins, or line spacing.

Writing Style and Citation/Notation Format

Please note that you should only use scholarly books and journal articles as source material for this project. Furthermore, although you can use general websites online, please do not cite from Wikipedia. Please also be consistent and thorough in your citation and notation formatting. You are required to use the Chicago Manual of Style, seventeenth edition. Please also use the style guidelines from that manual.

Evaluation

Submissions are scored based on the information provided in the summary statement. Submissions are also scored based on the writing quality (concision, clarity, and consistency), on the quality of the chosen visual artifacts (clarity of imagery to support the argument, and accuracy and consistency in labelling), and on the quality of the textual source material (appropriateness for the project, effectiveness in supporting the argument, and accuracy and consistency of formatting)