



Wabi-Sabism in Architecture and Interior Designing and Its Accordance

Monireh Raeisi Zargari¹, Hassan Bolkhari Ghahi²

Received: 2024-03-30, Accepted: 2024-12-11

DOI: 10.22034/RAU.2024.2025706.1085

Abstract

Wabi-sabi is rooted in the Japanese lifestyle, related to a dominant attitude that focuses on the perception of nature or a more general expression: 'mother nature.' This attitude is based on the beauty of the events, objects, and subjects, disregarding their defects or the amount of imperfection that may be seen in them. As perfectionism dominates modern life, many face economic and psychological pressure to acquire luxury goods; adopting a special lifestyle can help alleviate this stress. The Revival of traditional aesthetics and nature-based approaches leads to more peace and relaxation in life.

This paper aims to explore the Wabi-sabi style in architecture and interior design, along with related decorating styles. Naturalism, as the basic approach for Iranian designers and architects for building places such as Dovecotes or windcatchers, is also mentioned in this paper as a primary step regarding nature as the basis for human needs. This research explores contemporary and postmodern art approaches, including minimalism, that connect with public life. This trend arises from the rapid advancements of the modern era, highlighting the use of natural materials in art creation. Revision of such nature-based approaches leads to the connection of people to their traditions and the way of life belonging to their ancestors in the line of closeness to nature and natural materials.

This style appeared first in architecture and interior decoration and is recognized as a kind of style with inner or hidden concepts. The most common meaning related to this style refers to the concept of acceptance of everything disregarding their faults or defects. In this style, we can see beauty in everything, and we learn to find innate beauty in everything surrounding us instead of seeking perfectionism or excellence; it means that we see them as they are not as they should be, in other words, the beauty of objects is seen in their

1. PhD student, Department of Art Research, College of Art, University of Tehran Kish International Campus, Iran (Corresponding Author).

Email: monireh_raeisi@yahoo.com

 0009-0004-5439-3046

2. Professor, Department of Advanced Art Studies, College of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran.

Email: hasan.bolkhari@ut.ac.ir



natural and original form and this is exactly the concept referring to naturalism in this article.

Comfort and a sense of home are key outcomes of this style in our lives, guiding us toward simplicity. This arises not from mere simplicity but from a focus on nature's principles, which brings unique characteristics like roughness or asymmetry while retaining an element of finesse and a quasi-romantic quality. The main feature of this style is the use of organic architecture, utilizing tools and materials like unaltered wood, to create a natural aesthetic.

One of the first forms of this approach in architecture is the style called Brutalism, which is focused on using raw concrete in the visible part of the buildings. According to this attitude, the world will be a better place to live and we can use objects fluently and without discomfort.

This approach highlights the renewed focus on naturalism in both the interior and exterior of our homes. This approach results in more comfortable norms and lifestyles and fosters undesirable interactions with nature. Wabi-sabi, a minimalistic and nature-oriented lifestyle, reflects the deep connection to nature that our ancestors embraced in ancient times.

Keywords: Wabi-sabism, Naturalism, Organic architecture, Brutalism