Abstract

The purpose of this study is to understand which elements and features in an artisan studio are the most effective. Artists need environments that have been effectively researched and designed to aid in the process of creating and collaborating. Studio spaces contribute to the passion, support, and understanding of the artistic community and help to aid in the success and values in the surrounding environment. Studios include an array of features that play an important role in the daily life of an artist within their community. The research method conducted was a quantitative survey observing the preferences of the artisan studio environments. Participants were provided with an online twelve-question survey that includes multiple choice and Likert scale questions. The concluding results exemplified multiple key elements that were preferred within a studio setting. Although the study was limited to the Fargo-Moorhead region the results defined essential features necessary in the built environment.

Methodology

The survey was distributed to members of the local/regional artisan community email list serve, personal communication methods of all team members, and North Dakota State University (NDSU) art students. An age restriction of 18 years old to 65+ years old was applied for relevance.

Participants/Ethnicity

Survey

The online survey was implemented to yield responses to aid in greater understanding in how to better design for collaboration and creative/cultural innovation within the studio environment. Survey participants included an array of demographics including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, age group, number of years within the artistic community, and preferred medium. The research methods used in data collection was quantitative. This survey incorporated Likert scale and multiple-choice questions. Participants concluding responses served as a representation of the artistic community’s universal perception of their desired studio environment.

Results

The findings indicate that drawing (19.81%) was the leading medium used by participants. Following drawing is painting (14.01%), graphic design (14.01%), and photography (13.53%). The remainder of the results (other) included mixed media (13.04%), textiles (6.28%), ceramics (4.35%), printmaking (2.90%), and non-listed mediums (8.21%). Within the category of non-listed mediums, there are several mediums such as music, modeling, writing, stained glass, etc.

The two elements that were selected most important were built-in storage (25%) and ventilation (22%) followed by plumbing access (sink) (21%), historical elements (10%), sound systems (9%), dimmable lighting (7%), and sustainable finishes (6%).

Conclusion

Overall, the discoveries of this study have become highly beneficial in the identification of essential interior elements of the studio environment that promote community, solidarity, inclusivity, adaptability, and contribute to artistic success. As individual artists, each one does not specifically utilize their studio space in a similar manner but rather tailor their space to benefit themselves as efficiently as possible.

• The distinct, built environment of an artisan studio is extremely important to an increase in not only creativity but also to build collaborative and supportive relationships (Wong, 2019).

• This research study has proven the direct design focus of functionality and biophilic elements are of increased importance to the users of studio spaces. “It is tough to single out one element...it has to be a combination of somethings that has interesting elements but not overly complex” (Kappelinger, 2020).

• The integration of functional storage, expansive exterior views, and security are now understood to not be the only essential features in the development of a creative studio environment.

Citations


Chase Nishek, Maxwell Pickett, & Emma Velde

Advisor: Susan Ray-Degges, Ph.D, FASID, MN-CID

Department of Apparel, Merchandising, Interior Design, and Hospitality Management

NDSU | NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY