

THE ROLE OF ART EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS AND INTERIOR DESIGN DEPARTMENTS OF SAUDI UNIVERSITIES IN THE INTERIOR DESIGN SECTOR IN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

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ABSTRACT _The study aims at inspecting the role played by art education and interior design departments of Saudi universities in the local interior design sector. The study adopts the exploratory research and analytical Descriptive methods. The study adopts the content analysis technique for analysis. The research uses a questionnaire to collect data from a random sample survey consisting of (100) interior designers in Saudi Arabia. The results of the study show that the interior design sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the largest in the Middle East. However, the roles played by the specialized departments of Saudi universities do not keep pace with this large sector because the art education departments do not prepare graduates who can work in this sector. Moreover, interior design departments are new and still in the experimental phase trying to prepare specialists who are capable of working in this sector. This study recommends that the role of art education departments should be restricted to preparing art education teachers. It also recommends establishing departments for male students in all the colleges that offer interior design programs for female students as well as establishing interior design programs for male and female students.

KEY WORDS: Art education, Interior design, Saudi universities.