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Interdisciplinary collaboration between interior architecture and industrial product design programs in Turkey

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Abstract

Interdisciplinary collaboration is defined as a knowledge view and curriculum approach that consciously applies methodology and language from more than one discipline to examine a central theme, issue, problem, topic or experience.

In this study, curriculums of Interior Architecture and Industrial Product Design Bachelor's Degree Programs in Turkey are examined and the courses that can be considered from the perspective of interdisciplinary collaboration are determined. Final results of the study are based on numeric data and analyzed the current situation and the situation envisioned as a result of interdisciplinary collaboration between Interior Architecture and Industrial Product Design Bachelor's Degree Programs in Turkey.

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Keywords: interdisciplinary collaboration, education, industrial product design, interior architecture

1. Introduction

In the education field, interdisciplinary collaboration is a natural consequence of varying and developing knowledge areas and aims to provide students with multi-perspective way of thinking. This approach encourages students to improve their abilities, self-confidences and provides effective communication between the different disciplines (Masters, Baker and Jodon, 2012).

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Interdisciplinary collaboration in the education field not only purposes the comprehensive and cooperative study of students from different disciplines for a common purpose (Dillon, Noble and Kaplan, 2009), but also aims to protect the disciplinary integrity of the participating disciplines (Lindeke and Block, 1998).

Although interdisciplinary collaboration in the education field is not a new approach, it is becoming an important approach in recent years. (Yıldırım, 1996). This approach provides procreative environment and wide information infrastructure for interaction, creativity and innovation. (Costa ve Scoble, 2006). “To make a difference”, which is ensued from interdisciplinary collaboration is regarded as one of the most important components of the creative thinking process (Okada, Yokochi, Ishibashi and Ueda, 2009).

“Interior Architecture” is defined as a professional field that deals with interior spaces in terms of practical, aesthetic and symbolic functions and develops projects in accordance with people's physical and mental characteristics and actions (TMMOB Chamber of Interior Architects, 2011). “Industrial Product Design” is defined as a creative industrial discipline and profession that aims both fictionalizing the visual, physical, cognitive and functional interface of product-human relationship and interpreting the limitations of today's technology on product or system basis (İTÜ, 2013). Both of these disciplines live on creativity and work on different scales in order to develop innovative projects. In the view of these factors, it is envisioned that interdisciplinary collaboration between interior architecture and industrial product design disciplines will provide procreative environment and wide information infrastructure for interaction, creativity and innovation.

2. Interior Architecture and Industrial Product Design Bachelor’s Degree Programs in Turkey

It is determined that the number of universities offering Interior Architecture Bachelor’s degree program in Turkey is 46 and the total quota of these programs is 3054. On the other hand, the number of universities offering Industrial Product Design Bachelor’s degree program in Turkey is 23 and the total quota of these programs is 980.

In Turkey, The Council of Higher Education-YÖK, established in 1981, is responsible for the planning, coordination, governance and supervision of higher education. The higher education institutions have no autonomous structure. Table 1 shows the diversities of Interior Architecture and Industrial Product Design Bachelor’s degree programs in Turkey in terms of “Program Names”, “Student Selection Method” and “Type of University”.

Table 1. Number of Interior Architecture and Industrial Product Design Bachelor’s degree programs in Turkey according to the program names, student selection method and type of university

		Number of Interior Architecture Bachelor’s degree programs in Turkey	Number of Industrial Product Design Bachelor’s degree programs in Turkey
Program Names	Interior Architecture	28	-
	Interior Architecture and Environmental Design	18	-
	Industrial Product Design	-	17
	Industrial Design	-	6
Student Selection Method	LYS Exam	21	14
	Aptitude Exams	25	9
Type of University	State University	10	7
	Private Foundation University	36	16

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