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Color at stake in Mauritius : why should we continue to design in a conscious manner with color ?

Gianish Lilloo

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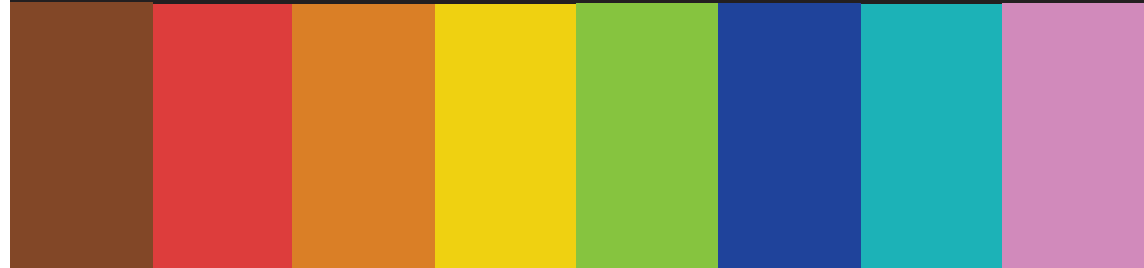
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COLOR AT STAKE IN MAURITIUS!

WHY SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO DESIGN IN A CONSCIOUS MANNER WITH COLORS?



This thesis comes within the framework of obtaining a Master's degree in Architecture and Urbanism at École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes. This work lasted a year and a half, under multiple conditions with the arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic which caused several confinements, especially in March 2020 in Mauritius for a period of three months and my trip to Nantes, as part of my studies, which forced me to finish this thesis at a distance. However, to my great surprise, my arrival in France nurtured the theme in an interesting way by giving it a new light. What was supposed to be an innovative work for the future in terms of digital approach turned out to be a heritage work inspired from and highlighting the past experiences of Mauritius for a better tomorrow.

I chose to work on colors as an endangered heritage in Mauritius. The study tackles the importance of the use of colors in Mauritius and why we need to design in a conscious manner with colors. As a future responsible architect of the island, I feel it is important for me to understand the power of this design tool and highlight for everyone the fact that the use of colors should not only be instinctive or aesthetic but with a real intention and thought about its outcome and effects on the human conditions.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This master thesis was possible thanks to the contribution and support of several people, to whom I would like to express my gratitude.

First, I would like to thank my thesis director, Dr. Laurent Lescop for supervising me in the reflection and writing of this thesis in the " Digital Narratives " seminar within École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Nantes.

My surroundings are very much aware of the interest I have had in this subject since a very young age. The result of this work done and the learning acquired form an integral part of my personality now. Not just as affinities but in terms of knowledge on the subject.

I address my sincere thanks to all my teachers, acquaintances, and friends that I have met throughout my journey and whose contributions have greatly nourished my insights.

Not to forget, a very special thanks to all the 345 people who participated in my survey and by their words, writings, advice, and criticisms have guided and motivated my writing.

I thank my parents and my brother, who have always been there for me and encouraged me to give my best. Finally, this master thesis is a tribute to my country, my family, and my friends. (Valentine, Shekina, Navneesh, Adrien, Ahelia, Kushal, Jesna, Megna among many others)



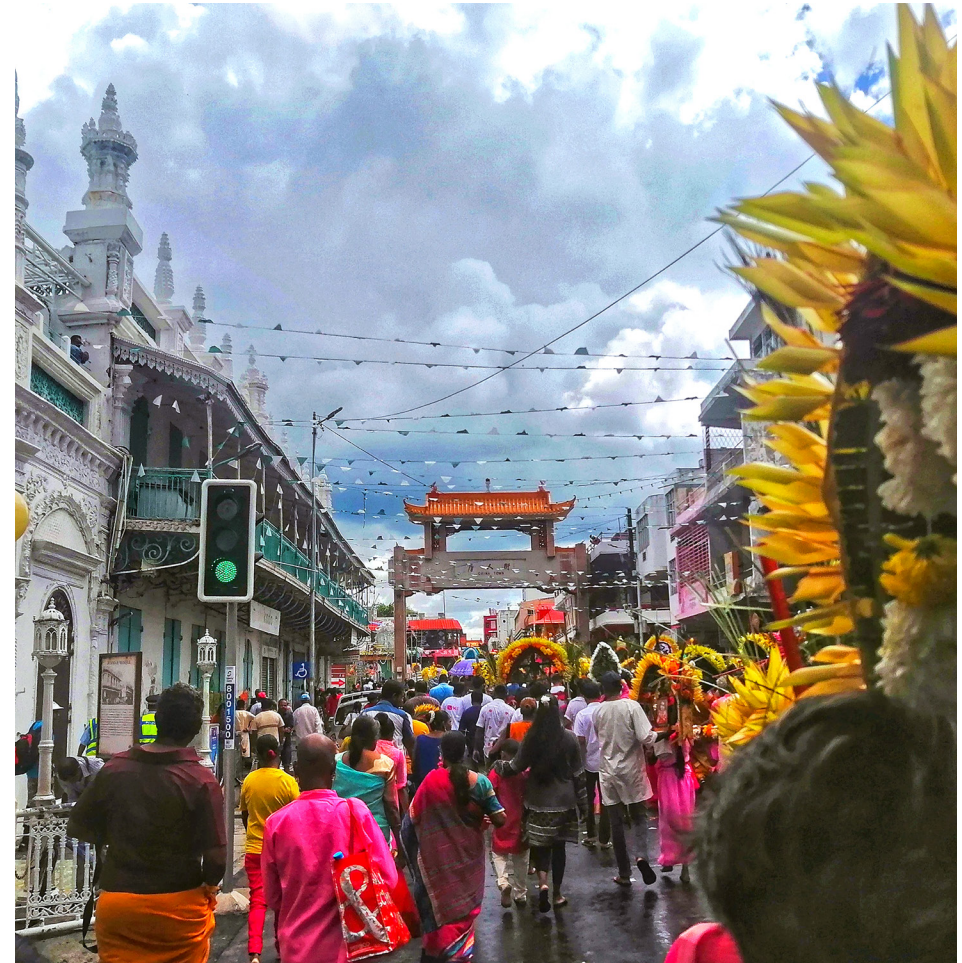
Holi Celebrations, Gianish Lilloo 2019

ABSTRACT

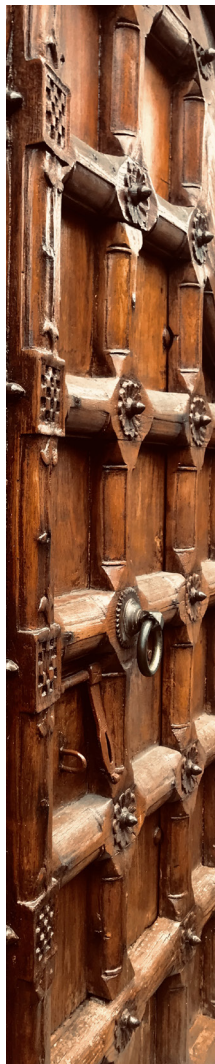


This research explores the perception, representation and diverse use of colors on the island of Mauritius. It helps understand the actions and reactions of the human body and mind when exposed to or experiencing colors in Mauritius. The work deals with the psychological, physiological, and phenomenological effects of colors on human conditions in order to better understand how this design tool engages our experience of a space. It helps comprehend how and why the use and representation of colors in Mauritius differ from other regions. The focus of this research is to explore the actual situation and evolving trends of colors to gain an understanding of effects of colors on the human condition, and how its use can provide an engaging phenomenological experience which helps the wellbeing of individuals. The findings will help understand how and why color is losing its importance on the island.

The stages of research include a literature review, followed by surveys. Data gathered is then analyzed, categorized, and used to hint and summarize the current evolving trends among the masses. In order to give a faithful and analytical account of this work, it seems logical to present as a preliminary the actual and the evolution of use and role of the colors in Mauritius with a presentation of the island itself first. Secondly, the thesis zooms out and displays the world of colors. This part highlights the various literature reviews and scientific studies on the perception of colors and their effect around the globe. Finally, the powerful importance of colors in Mauritius and the reasons why we should maintain and conserve its extensive use are brought to light.



Cavadee procession to Kaylasson in the backdrop of Jumah Mosque and Chinatown gate. Akilesh Chulan 2021



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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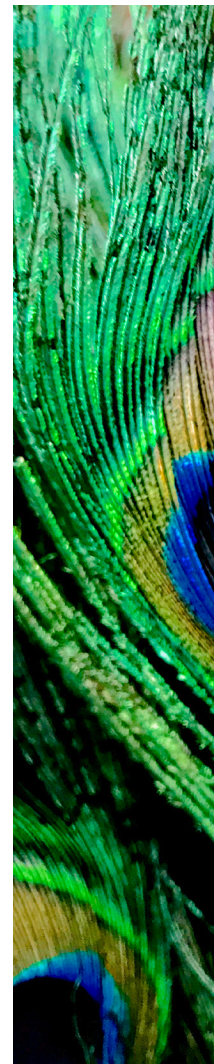
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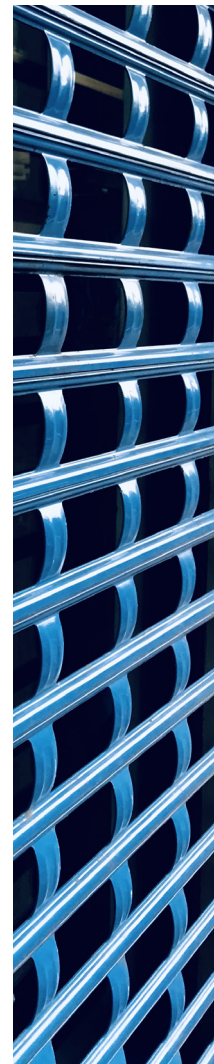
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INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

The digital world and innovations are what are influencing and revolutionizing the current and upcoming generations. This theme is of great concern and need for our population. It is a blessing in disguise providing broad, promising and new opportunities to present, represent, feel, experience, design and think architecture. I want to research, learn and experiment how the digital world treats human senses; the hearing, the sight, the touch, the smell and the taste. But, this theme being very vast, I choose to, first concentrate on the visual aspect and the atmosphere created with colors to learn about its functioning and effects. Today, the world asks for beautiful images in every field. We are living in a digital world whereby sight is the most prioritized one. We believe what we see. A lot has already been said and documented globally on the scientific reasoning behind the desired subject. The aim of my research is to focus on the use of colors in tropical countries. However, that being too broad,

I am going to start with where I come from; the island of Mauritius. The starting point of this research is going to be my home country. Today, the world asks for beautiful images in every field. We are living in a digital world whereby sight is the most prioritized one. We believe what we see. Since a lot has already been said globally and documented on the scientific reasoning on the desired subject. My aim of my research is to focus on the use of colors in tropical countries but that being too broad, I am going to start with where I come from; the island of Mauritius. The starting point of this research is going to be my home country.

“Mauritius was made first, and then heaven, and heaven was copied after Mauritius.” – Mark Twain. Mauritius, having been acclaimed as the pearl, star and key of the Indian Ocean, is where I come from. In fact, being a mesmerizing beauty above many nations, it is not only aesthetically pleasing just to the eye but also for the revival of



The Central Market of Port Louis, Gianish Lilloo 2019



Tamarin Public Beach, Gianish Lilloo 2018

all human senses and inner rebirth. Mauritius is known for its varied flora and fauna, with many species endemic to the island. It is a multicultural island rich in different ethnicities and traditions. Hence, it can be deduced that Mauritius is indeed a great part of me. Since my childhood, I have always been fascinated by colors. Growing up, this fondness turned into my greatest asset, as I cherished this love and studied Visual Arts at the secondary level. This added fuel to the fire in me, from just colors, I started loving materials, lights, textures, atmosphere and people. In short, everything that one needs to create a mesmerizing picture. Reflecting on it now, this influence does not only come from the country I was born, but also from the country of my ancestors; India. From a very young age, I have had an inclination towards Indian culture, food and history. I grew up watching colorful Bollywood films and the sights of tropical landscapes. Post secondary schooling, I decided

to pursue architecture, because I wanted to combine the strongest aspects of my personality; a fascination for arts and working with people. It is the experience of the ambiance of a space that is the most appealing to me.

Spaces affect people's senses. We perceive and experience with our senses. The sight, the hearing, the smell and the touch, the choice and combination of materials, the touch on the skin, the character of light, the tactile warm environment, the emphasis on contrast and the use of colors are some main elements in the creation of an ambiance. How do we create an environment where people feel better compared to how they were before entering a space? As designers, we should care about the wellbeing of users. That means when people walk into a space, they don't know why they feel the way they feel. But everything is actually orchestrated to be this way. My work is completely dependent on the spectator turning my ideas into art. You don't have to be the

same to share a space. I design by putting people and their senses first. To work with and for humans.

Similar to the nine points presented by Peter Zumthor in his book *Atmosphere*, I tend to embrace architecture in a more or less similar manner. It is the ambiance of the architecture described as:

1. The body of architecture
2. The harmony of materials
3. The sound of space
4. The temperature of space
5. The objects that surround me
6. Between serenity and seduction
7. The tension between interior and exterior
8. The levels of intimacy
9. Light on things

These are the qualities and experiences I look forward to in architecture. Working on the way we see and perceive things and developing a sixth sense. (the imagination or the inner voice) It is not always about something beautiful and pleasing. It is about

the expression, the thought and the message you want to convey or just the response you get from it, knowingly or unknowingly.

The lesson that I take from Kazuo Ohno (the Japanese dancer and inspirational figure in the dance form known as Butoh) is that dance or architecture does not need to be understood. It is about the reactions that you get from people by the actions that you make are the ones that truly matter. Learning techniques and disciplines can be done easily by everyone with time and dedication. But, it is rawness and crude physical gestures that make the difference; the individuality, the story of the person, his past, his memories, his surroundings, his lifestyle, his habit and so on. Mary Wingman and Valeska Gert suggest the idea of change, expression and movement. There is a different type of expression and sense of presenting or interpreting things. It is about acknowledging time, the past, the present and the



The Caudan Water Front, Gianish Lilloo 2018



View from Signal Mountain Port Louis, Gianish Lilloo 2018

future. The space in which we enter and work has a past that gives us information and directs us. A present that is visible and a future that needs to be thought of. It is our responsibility to create a new history in that space and how we want to enlighten someone by haunting it. The starting point of my projects is the environment and the different physical or emotional elements, rather than the idea. In my opinion, when I work on a project, I am guided by the images and the atmosphere that comes to my mind and I can associate myself with the architecture I am looking for. Indeed, my memories affect my means of detecting a place. The quality of an architecture is expressed by the way a person is moved by it or relates to it by their senses. Reality is never memorized; there is only the impression that the place has left on the visitor that persists. Color is what we often remember first.

Color is one of the most important elements of the visual aspect

of ambiance, there are various studies that have been performed and are concentrated in the European or Occidental region on the subject. However, I do believe that these studies are not totally applicable and differ for the tropical regions. The use of colors and its representation differ from place to place, depending on various external factors such as the environment and atmosphere and internal factors such as personal experiences and emotions. The study initially aimed to prove a difference with a comparison to understand how to design in a conscious manner with colors in Mauritius. But with all the readings, research and analysis, the theme evolved into why we should use colors that are currently disappearing from our surroundings and how we should conserve this richness. The use of colors should not only be a subjective aesthetic visual of beauty. As the title already suggests, the writing addresses colors as an endangered heritage.



The study tackles the importance of the use of colors in the world, but especially in the case of Mauritius. As a future responsible architect of the island, I feel it is important for me to understand the power of this design tool and highlight for everyone the fact that the use of colors should not only be instinctive or aesthetic but with a real intention and thought about its outcome and effects on the human conditions.



The Melting Pot, Painting by Gianish Lilloo 2015

CHAPTER 1: THE COLORS OF MAURITIUS



THE COLORS OF MAURITIUS

1. THE IMAGE OF MAURITIUS



Mauritius, officially the Republic of Mauritius since 1992, is an island in the Indian Ocean situated about 2,000 kilometers off the southeast coast of the African continent, east of Madagascar. The country spans 2,040 square kilometers and has an estimated population of around 1.3 millions of inhabitants. The islands of Mauritius and Rodrigues, along with nearby Réunion Island, are part of the Mascarene Islands. Going back to history, Mauritius

was first discovered by the Arabs and the Malays, followed by the Portuguese, the Dutch (1638–1710), the French (1715–1810) and finally, the British (1810–1968) who gave independence in the year 1968.

Since independence, Mauritius has developed from a low-income, agriculture-based economy to a high-income diversified economy, based on tourism, textiles, sugar, and financial services. The economic history of Mauritius since independence has been called “The Mauritian Miracle” and the “Success of Africa” (Romer, 1992; Frankel, 2010; Stiglitz, 2011). However, these initial economic sectors are fading today. In recent years to diversify, information and communication technology, seafood, hospitality and property development, healthcare, renewable energy, and education and training have emerged as important sectors, attracting substantial investment from both local and foreign investors. Despite all these fields, the real essence and

true blessing of the country was and still remains its rich diversity. The harmonious coexistence of the Mauritian diversity is what resumes the island in an image for everyone. Mauritians take pride in it as it is part of their identity, their heritage and their existence. As far as foreign visitors coming

to Mauritius are concerned, they will rather resonate to the postcard image displaying the diversity of the island.



Notre-Dame Auxiliaatrice de Cap Malheureux, Gianish Lilloo 2018



Gris-Gris, Gianish Lilloo 2020

When I talk about the Mauritian diversity, I am mainly referring to the climate, the environment, the biodiversity and especially the vast cultural aspects. Situated near the Tropic of Capricorn, Mauritius has a tropical climate. The weather is mostly warm with golden bright sunny days in summer accompanied by crystal clear blue sky reflecting on the turquoise ocean. The general environment is typically tropical warm in the coastal regions with sandy beaches and fresher with green natural forests in the mountainous areas. Thanks to its strategic position and favorable climate, the country is home to some of the world's rarest plants and animals.

To add to that, the island has been inhabited by people from different parts of the world that were brought for work; mainly slaves from Africa and indentured laborers or merchants from Asia under the colonization of the Europeans. This explains the religiously diverse nation today, with Hinduism being one of the most widely professed faiths. The people of Indian descent (Indo-Mauritian) follow mostly Hinduism and Islam. The Franco-Mauritians, Creoles and Sino-Mauritians follow Christianity. A minority of Sino-Mauritians also follow Buddhism and other Chinese-related religions. According to the 2011 census made by Statistics Mauritius, Hinduism is the major religion at 48.54%, followed by Christianity at 32.71% (with Catholicism as the largest Christian denomination at 26.26%), followed by Islam 17.30% and Buddhism 0.18% in terms of number of adherents.

This admirable coexistence of religious diversity is extended and

can be seen in what I would call the Mauritian culture. It is omnipresent and celebrated by everyone in various forms through festivals, architecture, clothing, food, music and entertainment amongst others. Religious festivals are recognized as public holidays for the whole nation. The Hindu festivals of Maha Shivaratree, Ougadi, Thaipooam Cavadee, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Diwali; the Christian festivals of Assumption and Christmas; the Chinese New Year; and the Muslim

festival of Eid al-Fitr are honoured and respected on the Island. Other festivals such as Holi, Durga Puja, Père Laval Pilgrimage also enrich the cultural landscape of Mauritius. These events mark the daily life scenes of Mauritius with their specific ambiance throughout the year contributing to its beauty.

Similarly, this range can be seen in the clothing styles, music and the entertainment field. The major musical genres of Mauritius are



Cavadee procession in Chinatown, Port Louis. In the background, the Jummah Mosque. This is Mauritius! Nilen Vencadasmay - 2020



Christmas
Gianish Lilloo 2019



Diwali 2020



Porlwi by Light 2015



Cavadee
Gianish Lilloo 2021



Bassin Bleu
Gianish Lilloo 2020



Diwali Rangoli
Gianish Lilloo 2019



The Chinese New Year
New Chinatown Foundation 2019



The Seggae Dance, Four Seasons Private Jet Experience 2021

Seggae and its fusion genre, Seggae, Bhojpuri folk songs, Marathi Jakri, Occidental songs, Indian movie music especially Bollywood, and Classical music mainly Western classical music and Indian classical music. This flame promulgates more with many dishes unique to the island through the Mauritian cuisine which is a melting pot of

Indian, Creole, French and Chinese cooking. Spices are also a major component of Mauritian cuisine. It extends more to local variants of drinks such as the Persian Falooda which is locally known as Alouda, the Dilo Panakono from South Asia, locally made French pastry or bread sold at every junction in most localities. There are also popular

incontournable street foods which include Dal Puri, Briyani, Mine Bwii, Gato Pima amongst many others. Apart from that, the distinctive architecture of Mauritius reflects the island's diverse history as a colonial trade base connecting Europe with the East. Styles and forms introduced by Dutch, French, and British settlers from the seventeenth century onward, mixed with influences from India and East Africa, resulted in a unique hybrid architecture of international historic, social, and artistic significance. Mauritian structures present a variety of designs, materials, and decorative elements that are unique to the country and inform the historical context of the Indian Ocean and European colonialism. In a nutshell, one word that comes to our mind when we talk about the visual aspect of Mauritian culture, is "COLOR". "Couleurs qui nous ressemblent et qui nous rassemblent." - (Shakti Callikan, 2020)

Photos by Gianish Lilloo 2021



THE COLORS OF MAURITIUS

2. THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF COLORS IN MAURITIUS



BOUTIQUE MAURICIENNE
Anne-Catherine Levieux 2012

Color is at the heart of Mauritius. The colors do not mix but are juxtaposed in perfect harmony. It can be experienced and related to in almost every field and by every age group. Even people with color blindness also have their own exposure and perception of colors. Color is a lot more than just the visual aspect of it. We do not only see color. But, we can feel its waves also by our other senses, which speak to everyone. Mauritius has a very diverse and unique palette of colors, with references and memories known by people who have lived or visited the island only. However, to my

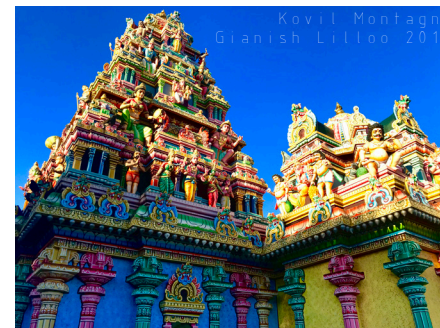
great disappointment, there is no official record or a list of the names of all colors that we can relate to in Mauritius. MOTKOULERS by Shakti Callikan is a great attempt in this direction and reflects the important place of color on the Island. We tend to precise the nuance of a specific color by giving an example of the same. This example often comes from an ingrained record of experiences from our past encounters. The vocabulary of color references often have a sense of belonging, heritage and nostalgia to them. The simple action of talking about



PETITE CASE CRÉOLE ET VÉGÉTATION
Anne-Catherine Levieux 2018

a specific color can take us to our childhood memories. Various examples of the same in different fields can be seen in MOTKOULERS.

Colors in Architecture



Kovil Montagne
Gianish Lilloo 2018

In the field of architecture, the influences come from around the globe due to the rich history. A variety of styles and use of colors that gives evidence of an evolution in time, the arrivals of new construction materials and new construction techniques. We can find the very much documented "Maison Creole" or "Maison Colonial", less talked about Mauritian Houses with endless additions according to the family's

needs and financial state, houses with rich colorful facades and mix of materials but unfinished or plastered backs only, and now sharp magazines style modern houses with minimal use of colors. In the same line, hospitality buildings also are following the same tendencies with more vivid colors and materials though. If we move to public buildings, we are still lucky to see the juxtaposition of the old "La boutik rouz" or "Tabagie" next to tall office buildings, which are incomparable.



Chinatown Port
Walter Bibikow

In the same way, one can witness exquisite colorful religious places that mark the landscape of Mauritius with their remarkable visuals like the Mosques, Temples, Kovils, Churches and Pagodas.



Notre-Dame Auxiliatrice
Gianish Lilloo 2019



Jummah Mosque, Port Louis
Gianish Lilloo 2019



Kovil Tookay
Gianish Lilloo 2019



Kwan Tee Pagoda, Port Louis
Navneesh Ramessur 2019

Colors in Culture

Temporarily decorations and celebrations in Mauritius are very common during religious festivals. These gatherings change the daily scenes with additional colorful components and ornaments to the environment. The streets look different, people dress up differently in traditional wear, the whole ambiance becomes very dynamic and uplifting. This sight is identifiable by all, as the colors are often the same for each specific festival every year.

Another place where distinct colored clothing plays an important role in Mauritius are schools. Uniforms are still worn by Mauritian students and there is a great sense of belonging, pride and recognition because of that. Some colleges are also known by names given due to the color of their uniform. One such example is the Queen Elizabeth College also known as "KATO VER" because of their green dress. In the same line, political parties

are associated with very specific colors that are engraved in the mind of Mauritians. Be it the purple of the MMM(Mauritian Militant Movement), the Red of the Labour Party, or the Orange of the MSM (Militant Socialist Movement), these colors cannot go unnoticed during the electoral period.



Labour
Party



MMM



MSM

Furthermore, there is one distinct domain whereby color does not only affect the sight but awakes all other senses. It is the alimentation sphere of Mauritius. From the fresh wide range of colorful local products to well executed delicious Mauritian dishes, chromatic is inescapable. It vindicates itself and always ends up tempting you. One has the tendency to associate a particular dish with a particular color only. And this specific dish can often be seen used as a reference to define the nuance of color.



Glaçon Rapé
Gianish Lilloo 2018

(Jaune vindaille, rouge rougaille, jaune 7 carri, vert feuille banane, vert cari poulet, noir roti dizef, , rose napolitaine, rose gato coco, vert syrup glaçon rapé, Jaune safran, rose jamalac.)



Yellow Allamanda & Red Flamboyant
Gianish Lilloo 2020

In the same manner, the flora and fauna of Mauritius also have special pigments that form our vocabulary today. We often take reference from our biodiversity. The colors of flowers such as the Red Flamboyant, Yellow Allamanda, Pink Bougainvillea, Orange Marigold among many others are part of the daily sights and very well recorded in our bibliography of Mauritian colors. It is not different for the fauna and their surrounding environment also. The island is home to some chromatically interesting waterfalls, beaches, mountainous landscapes and animals like the green gecko.

Besides, the etymology does not only stop at references. There are



Pink Bougainvillea & Marigold
Gianish Lilloo 2020

places in Mauritius named after or recognized by their color like Terre Rouge, Bassin Blanc, La Vallée Des Couleurs, Blue Bay, Riviere Noir and Montagne Blanche. We can hear a lot of Mauritian expressions too with color in it such as "Vrai Kouler" which means true colors, "Lakaz Gato Coco" - a house with a very bold use of color like in cakes, "Leker Noir" Black hearted, "Atan ek 1 Labouzi



Gecko
Gianish Lilloo 2019

Rouz" to have an endless wait with a red candle, and many others. These collections of souvenirs are so common and part of daily life that Mauritians tend to ignore and banalize their existence. We use, think, feel and say things in an unconscious manner due to our habits. And yet, if we take some time and reflect on it, we can actually see the reality and relate to the presence of this repertoire of color references.



Terre De Sept Couleurs
Trip advisor

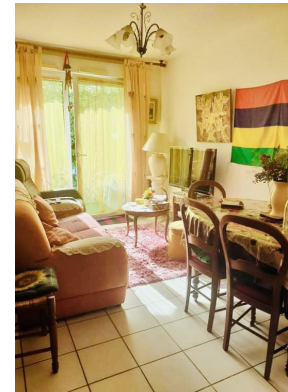
THE COLORS OF MAURITIUS

3. THE PLACE OF COLORS IN MAURITIUS TODAY

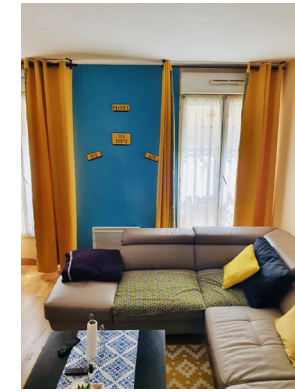
The way we perceive colors in Mauritius is very different from abroad. Very simply said, the lighting itself is very different. Very improbable and funny, I made this observation while going through my Instagram feed and comparing my photos taken in three different countries. The difference in light was so obvious although the weather and temperature at the time the photos were taken were almost the same. If I compare the light in Mauritius to France or to Madagascar, for example, the outcome is very distinct and unique for each country. We have the impression of looking at life using three different filters. My eyes picture the world with a bright yellowish filter in Mauritius, a cool bluish gray in France and a warm reddish orange filter in Madagascar. Simply said, color does not exist without the presence of light. And if light affects how we see and perceive colors, we can deduce that the climate, weather and environment present have a great impact on the subject. This

is what explains the difference in the representation and use of colors from region to region. Bright saturated colors are widely present in tropical regions whereas in comparison in Occidental and European countries, the use of more pastel and monochrome colors can be seen to match the environment.

We are unable to differentiate the small nuances of colors when we are in the same environment. It is only when we experience another environment or change that we tend to make this finding. I do believe that a lot of it has to do with our background and culture also. Our experiences create this repertoire of affinities and habits. We see and feel differently when exposed to other colors and light. I am habituated with that bright yellowish filter, very vibrant and saturated colors. When I first came to France in February 2021, I found it very difficult to find these colors. The colors in Nantes appeared to be very dull and grayish to me. It felt like a ghost



Maryllyn Cybele 2020



Georgina Pierre 2020



Navneesh Ramessur 2020

city, without life, dynamism and energy. I was surrounded by gray sky, gray streets, gray buildings, dark green trees, masked people in gray, black and dark blue coats. Everything looked so neat and well-organized coming out of photoshop or a monochromatic magazine. I was lacking this sense of uniqueness and demarcation of each element. I was trapped in the nuances of gray, and the perception of it was very boring and daunting. A plastic world, more sad and unfriendly due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Everything

seemed so monochrome compared to what I am used to in Mauritius. I started to add these colors in my life by painting, clothing, food and editing photographs. To my great surprise, this is not an individual experience. I have had the chance to meet other Mauritians with the same sentiment. Many have modified their interiors to their liking with colors that remind them of the bright Mauritian colors.

However, on the flip side of the coin, the situation is becoming very different back home in Mauritius. After a few exchanges with some random inhabitants and my own experience of the island, the condition seems alarming and worth looking into. I decided to carry out a survey to have an indication of how Mauritians really feel and are affected by colors nowadays compared to what I have always known in the past. Surprisingly to many or maybe not really, the inclination is towards monochrome colors and very light neutral or pastel colors. Mauritians are trying to follow the outdated trends set by foreigners that suit their country and environment. They are looking for that neat minimalist and formal look with little use of color in almost all their choices. The country has always looked up to western trends and adopted them without much reflection. And many times the end result has not been very disastrous or has tamed into a Mauritian version with time. Nonetheless,

it is not always the case. It is funny how people have favorite colors and are mostly affirmative about the blessing of color on human beings yet are refraining to use it in their everyday life. The use is decreasing day by day. Pretty alarming! If they have the choice, they still choose the monochrome colors. Play safe and go for black, white, gray or neutrals.

In the same manner, I contacted a few paint companies in Mauritius to have a hint on the actual tendencies and evolution in the sales of color. This helps to understand the chromatic taste in the construction field. A spokesperson from Mauvilac Industries Limited (paint company in Mauritius) indicated that the current tendency is snow-white and nuances of whites for both interiors and exteriors when it comes to residential projects. People have access to the internet, Pinterest and Instagram. They are hugely influenced by the style abroad and try to replicate that. Between the year 2000 to 2005,

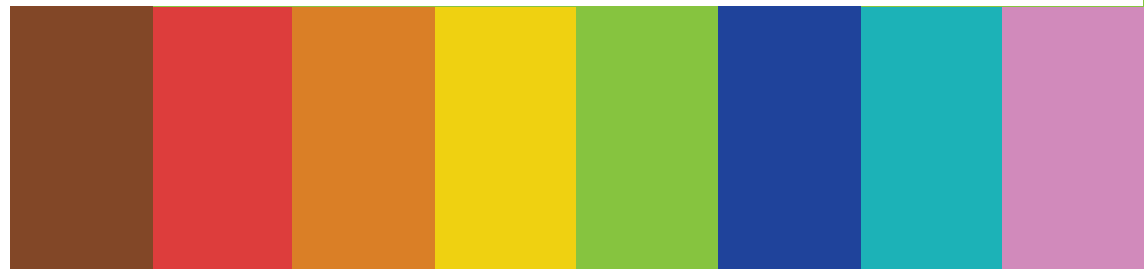


Street Art, Jesna Appa 2019

the sales statistics were a little more colorful with pastel colors of beige, orange, pink, green, crème, kiwi, magnolia, fiesta, silver twist (greenish gray) and salmon. Sofap Limited (paint company in Mauritius) and a few interior designers also confirmed this trend and indicated that the use of colors were more bold before 2000. We can experience a change from how it was before. We are losing our bright and vibrant colors which are somewhere part of our uniqueness if not our Identity only. As mentioned earlier, colors form an integral part of the image of

Mauritius. The Mauritian Color is the Mauritian Culture, and we are losing this heritage. It makes us who we are, and this patrimony should continue to exist ; not only because of its aesthetic or sentimental characteristics, but because there is a lot more to the use of colors. This is at the center of discussion abroad. Researchers and studies are compiling the importance and power associated with it. These findings are influencing designers, who in turn, are thinking about how to bring back colors in everyday life.

CHAPTER 2: THE WORLD OF COLORS



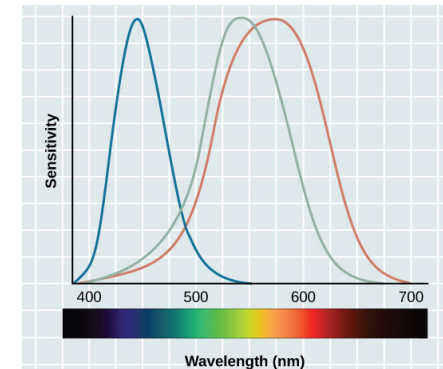
Color is a characteristic of visual perception. It is the property possessed by an object of producing different sensations on the eye as a result of the way it reflects or emits light. It can also be referred to as the pigmentation in living organisms. To have a better understanding of the topic, it is important to acknowledge the science behind colors. A comprehension of the characteristics of colors, what they are really made up of and how we actually see them are necessary to deal with the subject.

Our environment is composed of travelling electromagnetic waves, among which are the radiations belonging to the visible domain. Visible radiation occupies only a small part of the electromagnetic spectrum emitted by the sun. When the wavelength is within the visible spectrum, it is known as “visible light”. The ability of the human eye to distinguish colors is based upon the varying sensitivity of different cells in the retina to

light of different wavelengths. The range of wavelengths that humans can perceive is approximately from 380nm to 780 nm (1 nm = 1 nanometer = 10^{-9} m). X-rays, radio waves, ultraviolet, infrared and the so-called “white” light are some of the radiations emitted by the sun and the stars.

An electromagnetic wave is characterized by its wavelength. (frequency f) Each wavelength corresponding to visible radiation is associated with a color. Humans are trichromatic. The retina contains three types of color receptor cells, or cones. One type, relatively distinct from the other two, is most responsive to light that is perceived as blue or blue-violet, with wavelengths around 450 nm; cones of this type are sometimes called short-wavelength cones or S cones. The other two types are closely related genetically and chemically: middle-wavelength cones or M cones, are most sensitive to light perceived as green, with wavelengths

around 540 nm, while the long-wavelength cones or L cones, are most sensitive to light that is perceived as greenish yellow, with wavelengths around 570 nm.



However, if one or more types of a person’s color-sensing cones are missing or less responsive than normal to incoming light, that person can distinguish fewer colors and is said to be color deficient or color-blind. Though it is important to note that almost all color deficient individuals can distinguish at least some colors. Some kinds of color deficiency are caused by anomalies in the

number or nature of cones in the retina. While for some, the reasons might be neural anomalies in parts of the brain where visual processing takes place.

Color is not a degree of brightness, but a characteristic of light. Each color has its angle of refraction. The perception of color cannot exist without the presence of a light source; thus, the paint of a surface owes its appearance to the light which illuminates it. However, when we change the spectrum of the visible domain by selecting certain frequencies, we change the color of the object illuminated by that light. In fact, the view we have of a building under daylight is very different from what we get under artificial night lighting. The fact remains that daylight is in many ways an ideal illuminant, it allows a great variety of colors, shapes and surfaces to be obtained, it facilitates the perception of small differences in color and texture, while the colors of the surrounding objects seem ‘natural’ to us.

Furthermore, light is made up of particles animated by a wave motion: photons. Depending on its composition, light can be made up of photons having the same wavelength (monochromatic light) or photons of different wavelengths. If it is sunlight, all wavelengths are shown.) In the case of artificial light, some wavelengths are shown and others are not, depending on how they have been selected. "Today scientists agree that the primary colors are not four, no offense to Goethe, nor seven Mr. Newton, they would be three. You can reproduce all the colors by mixing these three colors. We mix Blue, Red, and Yellow to create a colored material (Subtractive Synthesis). And we mix blue, red, and green to create a colored light. (additive synthesis)" (Causse et al., 2016)

For its part, surfaces are made up of atoms. When the photons hit it, several cases arise:

- if they are completely absorbed by atoms, the body appears black;
- if they are totally diffused by bouncing off atoms, it looks white;
- if only part of it is absorbed and another part is diffused, it looks gray;
- if they cross the atoms, the body is transparent (case of air, water and glass);
- Finally, if photons of certain wavelengths are absorbed and others bounce and scatter, the surfaces appear colored.

In summary, there are three stages of color production:

- **LIGHT SOURCE** - a source which emits light radiation. There are natural sources (daylight) and artificial sources (electrical origin - I would not specify the electrical origin, because it can come from a battery as well).
- **SPECTRAL FILTER** - non-luminous objects which reflect the light emitted by the source by reflection by modifying its spectrum and which in so doing influence the color of objects located in their surroundings or even transparent objects which allow light to be transmitted and to reach the observer by modifying the radiation and the direction of the incident beam.
- **RESOLVING DETECTOR** - a receiver which is our eye or any artificial intelligence device that behaves in the same way.

The experience of color can be very complex, and a slight change can tamper the experiment. One such example is Sample Metamerism. Sample Metamerism occurs when colors match when viewed under one light source but not under another source of light. This phenomenon happens very often as the atmosphere is very unpredictable at times. Natural light is however not stable and includes a whole range of spectral variation according to the position of the sun, which varies according to the time, day and latitude of observation, and modifies its radiation. If we observe its variations during the day, we see that it presents a red dominant when the sun is low in the celestial vault (in the morning and in the evening) and a blue dominant at noon, when the sun is high in the sky. Sunlight is also subject to variations throughout the year. We find that global solar radiation is more blue in summer and turns slightly red in winter when the sun is lower. These variations

are explained by the scattering of incident solar radiation in the atmospheric layer. Physicist Rayleigh has shown that short wavelengths, namely blue and purple radiation, are the mostly diffused ones. As a result, much of the blue light reaching us from the sun is first diffused by the atmosphere the light rays pass through and therefore more will be the scattering. Thus, at sunrise and sunset, the thickness of the atmosphere crossed by the light rays is large enough to diffuse blue light but also green light and some yellow light. The sky then takes on a pinkish tint, and the solar disk appears to us red-orange in color. These modifications in the radiation of sunlight obviously have repercussions on the chromatic aspect of objects in the visual scene. On the other hand, Observer Metamerism is said to happen when a variation in color experience occurs due to differences in the angle of refraction or differences of distance between the object and the eye or

in color vision between observers.

It is fascinating that color is a totally subjective perception. We all see colors differently. The perception of colors is more or less altered according to the visual performances which differ from one person to another, according to the luminosity. The slanted eyes of Asians, for example, are less afraid of strong light than those of Westerners. Our cones are also impressed by the size. The larger the sample, the more intense the color appears to us. Matisse said, "One square meter of Blue is bluer than one square centimeter of Blue." The color also changes depending on the brightness. The clearer a yellow (luminous), the more it is perceived as tending towards yellow-green: the wavelength must then be shifted towards red to maintain the same impression of color (Buzold and Brucke, 19th century). The same phenomenon of Abney occurs in the opposite direction for the blues. Another case which we have often heard is



Pablo Picasso Blue Period Best Paintings Collage 2020

that prestigious artists paint were lit by simple candles. They therefore create their color palette under this very "orange" light. However, museum curators do not seek to present their paintings according to the colors that painters "saw" in their art, but according to our contemporary habits of lighting with "white light". This is why many paintings appear very "blue" to us in museums. It is said that Picasso painted by candlelight in his early days. One would therefore be entitled to wonder if his "blue" period was not simply a lighting error in the exhibition of his works. In our environment, color is constantly evolving under the influence of multiple factors, which

gives it an impermanent character. We have seen that the nature of the illuminant (natural light or artificial lighting) and atmospheric disturbance (absorption and diffusion phenomena of solar radiation) have an influence on the chromatic quality of objects, but there are many other factors that affect the rendering of colors, in particular those that modify the color incidence and reflected radiation such as climate. Elements such as cloud cover, air humidity, snow, fog, precipitation, and temperature dramatically alter the hues of our surroundings. They can of course be combined, which sometimes makes it difficult to recognize everyone's role.

Once we have understood how colors are detected. It is also primordial to accept its effect and impacts on the human minds and behavior. Colors have psychological, physiological and phenomenological effects on us. It can influence our emotional reaction and mood by making us comfortable or disturbed. It can also induce physical responses due to affinities, conditioning or simply working on the unconsciousness and senses in general.

Many researchers have been taking great interest in this subject and have been able to achieve remarkable results and tendencies among the crowd. For example, the physiological influences of colors are found to operate even with closed eyes. It should be noted that the skin and the retina have comparable photosensitivity (Campbell et al., 1998). Yes, you heard it right, our skin is sensitive to colors! So, are many of our other senses. Colors also have an impact on hearing, especially

when the sounds seem unpleasant.

It has been shown that certain sounds can be associated with colors and then processed together in an integrated way by the brain (Fuster et al., 2000) and light colors to fight against the nuisance of low frequencies (serious sounds or infrasound) (Devismes, 2000 - Dérivé, 1996). Not indifferent, colors subconsciously act on our taste buds selection, detection and impression also. One experiment on Spanish academics that prefer real orange juice, either plain, with a red dye, or with a green dye, making them believe they taste 3 different orange juices. Almost unanimously, "blood" orange juice was rated as the best and "greenish" orange juice was rated as somewhat sour (Fernandez-Vasquez et al., 2013).

This occurrence was the same with three different color ketchup sauce tasting of the same ketchup in another part of the world. Color has an important role to play in our preferences of food and drinks. As

someone rightly said, "We eat with our eyes first". The look works on the taste also. Studies confirm our taste and color associations: pink is generally associated with sweetness, green with salty, orange with peppery, yellow with acid (Divard and Urien, 2000; 2001 - Koch er Koch, 2003) while blue is the least food color there is. In the same manner, our olfactory sense is also strongly influenced by color, much more than what we think. We smell with our eyes first. A fun experience was made with 54 students from the Faculty of Oenology of Bordeaux on white wine colored red and the results were amusing as most of them detected red wines' scents and were unaware that it was white wine.

Many studies on the psychology of color and light on our understanding of space and time have been done. Everyone is aware of the impact of color on weight (light and heavy), temperature (hot or cold), distance (far and near) and size (large and small).

Even the timescale areas with different colors are different. For example, listeners to lectures in a blue hall find it long and dull, while the same lecture in a red hall is evaluated as exciting and shorter.

The combination of these factors makes up, regardless of other environmental and spatial characteristics, the same space with different color combinations having very different effects on the human perception. Color is considered a secondary quality like smell, taste, hot and cold as opposed to primary qualities such as extent, shape, and movement. Locke even theorized all of this in his essay on understanding: "The secondary qualities are not in the objects themselves, but are only a power to produce sensations in us". Clearly, we are sure that a sphere is a sphere. We can define with certainty its composition, its mass and its volume, but its color perception remains subjective and therefore not quantifiable.

Apart from that, concerning the thermal perception of the ambient temperature, the differences are impressive between hot and cold chromatic atmospheres. (Guéguen et al., 2012). Studies show that warm colors can make you feel up to 3-4 degrees warmer, and vice versa for cool colors, which can feel 3-4 degrees cooler. Not a mere coincidence that mountaineers often wear red to condition their mind.

Objects and memories are recorded in colors in our mind. Daily contact with subjects sharpens our perception of the color. And we are more prone to be able to distinguish them easily among others. When you look at a black and white photo of a banana, does your brain decode the information in gray or yellow? Surprising answer: the brain translates black and white into color. A banana, a broccoli or a strawberry in a black and white photo is interpreted by your brain as being yellow, green or pink respectively (Bannert et

al., 2013). Similarly, the concept of epigenetics is often found in some people. A person's experience and environment can influence the biological inheritance of their descendants over several generations.

Color symbolism in art and anthropology refers to the use of color as a symbol in various cultures. There is great diversity in the use of colors and their associations between cultures and even within the same culture in different time periods. The same color may have very different associations within the same culture at any time. Diversity in color symbolism occurs because color meanings occur on an individual, cultural and universal basis. Color symbolism is also context-dependent and influenced by changes over time. Symbolic representations of religious concepts or articles may include a specific color with which the concept or object is associated. A simple example is the diverse use of white or black at funerals



or weddings, depending on cultures. This is what explains the difference in the representation and use of colors from region to region. Bright saturated colors are widely present in tropical regions, whereas in comparison to the Occidental and European countries more pastel and monochrome colors can be seen. This whole scheme makes color appropriation a very sensible subject that needs good reflection before application.

Despite all this research and teachings, the design world is lacking behind in the applications of colors in practice. The use of colors is pretty much approximate and aesthetic only to many people, or they simply fear its usage and try to play safe by opting for black, white and neutrals. We often get to hear that one cannot go wrong with white. Well, I think it is a big misconception and fault. White will not be relaxing, as a cool color, nor activating as a warm color. This “non-color” is outlawed by Feng Shui masters, as well as by scientists. We have seen that, in achromatic offices, productivity decreases significantly and absenteeism increases. (Ozturk et al., 2010) White favors nothing, then why are people so obsessed with it nowadays? Well, simply if we go back in time. In ancient cities of old buildings and centers, natural colors of building materials were used to give the city a harmonious and standardized face and also have more matches to the mood, climate and culture

of the people, so the color of each city was established, and it was considered as an aspect of identity. Thus, despite the difference in scale and performance, a general unity dominated over the city. White was used in the past to favor harmony, peace and unity among buildings after world war. A bunch of social housing were among the first to be erected in white to be able to accommodate all types of people. But very quickly, these white buildings started showing signs of drawbacks. The effect of temporality on the walls started to make the ambiance dull, depressing, dirty and very ordinary. The housings were not identifiable, unique and did not have an identity.

Hence, after several observations and considerations, a cheap, accessible, flexible and powerful tool was introduced to rectify this situation. The use of chromates to revalue social housing by painting facades and constructions materials. (B-erghen et al.,2007) Street arts were used

in public spaces to enhance visual appearance and elegance. This occurrence can be seen in many countries around the globe. Color is used as a cheap alternative to add value to space and objects, making it more lively and dynamic. It creates a variation of light and enhances the ambiance. One can differentiate and identify using colors. It becomes part of the identity. Such a powerful tool yet not expensive at all, this is why it is not utilized that much nowadays. Unaware of its proper usage and the psychological effect it produces, the use of colors has been banalized simply to an aesthetic tool. Color is considered messy and bold. In our modern cities, the use of color has become an unresponsive problem that has brought builders, architects and designers and ordinary people into mindless and indiscriminate use of color. Our cities are a colorful, faceless and confused canvas that only causes depression, psychosis and nervousness in people of society.

To our greatest disappointment to rectify this situation, people are making it worse by avoiding colors. The actual trend sees white, black and neutral colors as neat, formal, luxurious and safe. The role of light and color in urban beautification dates from ancient times. In the urban environment colors can be seen everywhere in the body and building facades, roofing, flooring, furniture of urban, green spaces, cars and even city’s sky and also color of clothing that all of them have a major role in determining a city’s color.

Today we need a comprehensive approach to the issue of color in the city until, besides other things, color is designed and organized. As a result, urban areas are faced with a confusion of color. Colors neither complement each other nor obey the law of a particular color. Color is a tool for showing off. (Talebi et al., 2016)

CHAPTER 3: THE POWER OF COLORS

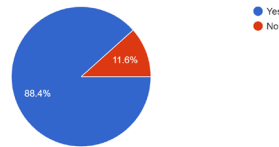


CHAPTER 3: THE POWER OF COLORS

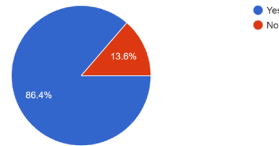
1. THE IMPACTS OF COLOURS IN DESIGN AND EVERYDAY LIFE.

As we have seen earlier, colors have many qualities. There are relaxing and creative colors. According to a demonstration by Alexander Schauss, a report after 5 months of experience suggests that exposure of just 15 minutes to walls painted in pink was enough to reduce the aggressiveness of detainees for at least 30 minutes, thus making the tasks of the prisoners' staff easier. After their release, the effects continued for at least half an hour. Color is often used as a design tool to influence people and prompt reactions in them as it helps to create ambience, mood, feeling, comfort and discomfort in everyday life activities. According to my survey on the public in Mauritius, 88.4% of the 345 partakers believe that color affects their everyday choices? (Clothing / Food / Shopping), 86.4% of them believe that color has the power to change their mood positively or negatively and when asked if color has an impact on their general feeling of a space, 93.3% of the participants' response was affirmative.

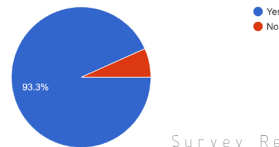
2. Does color affect your everyday choices? (Clothing / Food / Shopping)
345 responses



4. Does color have the power to change your mood positively or negatively?
345 responses



7. Does color have an impact on your general feeling of a space?
345 responses



Survey Results
Gianish Lilloo 2021

Moreover, in commerce, studies show that the color of the packaging or the product is decisive in the act of purchase. Many people confirm that colors play a vital role in their purchasing decision. Some even trust that

color comes first in their buying criteria. Well, if in this case color is a choice of the individual, we also have other situations where color is imposed as uniform in terms of clothing or defined by a protocol like the "cahier des charges" in the construction field that we need to abide by. Nonetheless, in both scenarios, colors have impacts and require proper consideration. Negative afterglow, also called induction phenomenon, which explains why surgeons wear green, is a fairly common and yet very little known optical illusion. A color, under certain conditions, creates the illusion of its complement in its center (Clark, 1985). This is a very important concept that all decorators should take into account. The phenomenon of induction can therefore modify the perception of colors significantly. And yet, few interior designers or architects are aware of it. We are only partially aware of the effects of color (Barbur, Weiskrantz and Harlow, 1999). This, therefore, makes it a formidable weapon of seduction.

But getting the wrong color would have an impact: this is why people prefer to go for neutral colors nowadays. Then, how do we really master the use of this difficult but powerful tool? Unfortunately, there is not one direct answer to this. The use and perception of colors is very complex, as seen before, it depends on many factors.





Gianish Lilloo 2018

However, most studies have shown positive outcomes that leave us with some hints on proper use of colors. Remember that the sum of all the colors gives white light. Light and colors are therefore inseparable. This is why it seems so important for us to deal with the influences of light, that is to say, in fact, of all the colors combined. As human beings, facing natural lighting and all types of natural colors is an inborn quality that we have. Our eyes are familiar with and look for the earth's chromatic environment as much as possible. It is important to design decors with a wide variety of colors, while alternating warm and cool colors,

depending on the space. We can therefore play with the colors of the floors, walls and furniture (Wise, 1988 - Tosca, 1996). You may paint your kitchen blue, as this color will promote feelings of fullness, and you will eat less. You might dress in white, also to encourage weight loss. These are time-tested, proven Feng Shui remedies. Color plays an instrumental role in Feng Shui. Colors evoke different moods based on our personal preferences, cultural traditions and simply the way they can open or close a space. Light or cool colors enlarge, while dark or warm colors make it "cozy" and reduce the size of the room. The more saturated a color, the more noticeable its effects. Do not hesitate to choose very saturated colors if they are offset by furniture or walls in neutral colors (gray, white or natural wood) or by complementary colors. It is also fundamental to always think of the colors according to the lighting. In the evening, when the light is subdued, the colors will tend to fade and turn yellow.



Street Art Port Louis Gianish Lilloo 2018

There is the scientific side but also the cultural side of memory which changes the situation. Personally, I believe more in the influences of the symbolic colors of our personal culture than in those, more questionable, of our collective culture. Creating diversity and happiness in an appropriate space can be easily calculated and thought out. The most notable example is commercial streets and game centers for children that their various colors for creating happy centers has become obvious. Even special occasions are also reminiscent of various colors that are different from other times of year. Celebrations and festivities on everyone's mind are synonymous with varied coloring day and night. The use and acceptance of colors is equivalent to tolerance and harmony with nature. Mauritius is situated rather smack down in the middle of the oriental-occidental axis, and its use of color is rather conflicting. Mauritius is found in this transition space, where we use some elements of

each culture. Notably, in formal settings, we use occidental color codes such as very somber themes and sometimes none at all, like in our parliament. On the other hand, most buildings in the downtown of Port-Louis or in small villages tend to follow very distinct brutalist patterns in an informal setting. They tend to embrace their South Asian traditions and Bollywood influences with very colorful decor and dresses. A category of people finds this style to be very chaotic and an act of discordance to the urban image. But the majority of people believe that this amalgamation and juxtaposition of all these elements are what make up for the uniqueness and richness of the island. Do not forget that it is precisely the imperfections that create charm, identity and life. Identity is one's life experiences that shape the individuality and uniqueness of what one is today. It is an amalgamation of the background, the personal history and life story of someone that creates his personality, style, self,

character and reason of being. This leads to his beliefs, values and choices in life. From the country and environment in which we are born to the atmosphere and surrounding we live in, everything contributes to who we are. Our upbringing, religious beliefs, education, exposure to the outer world creates a library of affinities and antipathies in us unconsciously. Each festival has their own colors of nostalgia and uniqueness to them. The memories or the sight of them tend to evoke something in us. Hence, this heritage should continue to exist, so it can certainly create an effect, even if it is unconscious because we are so used to it. It should not be banalized and disappear due to new tendencies that are not as beneficial as them for various reasons.

Another interesting aspect of colors is the affinity for it. Almost everyone has a favorite color or more than one color that they really like. To be precise, color charts give codes to each color. For example, as

boring as it may sound, my favorite colors are #4EE2EC and #ADFF2F with a combination of #FFFFFF. What I meant was my favorite color is blue diamond (RGB: 78, 226, 236 - HSL: 0.51, 0.81, 0.62) and green yellow (RGB: 173, 255, 47 - HSL: 0.23, 1.00, 0.59) with a combination of white. (RGB: 255, 255, 255 - HSL: 0.00, 0.00, 1.00). However, if we don't go into such detail, for one out of four people, blue is the favorite color followed by the non-colors black and white are the most adored in Mauritius. When asked about the first color that comes to your mind, 46% of the response is the favorite color of the person. However, your favorite color, depending on the context, you may find it awful! Color preferences are therefore very subjective and change dramatically depending on the context. Your favorite colors in different areas usually have nothing to do with your absolute favorite color (Holmes et al., 1984). Colors on materials and colors on light have different effects on us. It is also important

to remember that we do not really use colors for achieving positive and affirmative outcomes only.

We can use it in other ways also, depending on the situation. Colors can be used to create disgust and create avoidance. It has a direct effect on the way we want people to be affected and perceive a space. The emotions we want to awaken in them. Color should be integrated into the context and forge a bond without acting like a camouflage. Colored light is used to structure space or for its functional aspect. While when it comes to ambiance, that changes, the color palette is chosen based on the presumed psychological effect of certain colors to create a desired atmosphere or to optically change the impression of space proportions. (Dethier et al., 2007) Optic illusion and color editing are widely spread in the world of photography and films. Hue, saturation and brightness are modified to get what they call the perfect image color composition.

As mentioned earlier, color is one of the most important elements of the Mauritian identity and culture. It is omnipresent in abundance



Dal Puri Port Louis
Gianish Lilloo 2018

everywhere. The island is known and defined by that. The Mauritian colors are unique and dear to the inhabitants. But to our great misfortune, this patrimony is actually in danger right now. Around the globe, many countries have already lost their taste for colors and turned into a black and white image. We are losing our colors at

an alarming rate. We are in a critical but key phase. In Mauritius, we are still very much attached to the roots but in a trend to Westernize.



Art Installation Port Louis
Gianish Lilloo 2018

This is when, where and why I think it is important to address and highlight this subject right now. Where some countries in the world are trying to revalue colors and start reusing them for their enormous benefits, in Mauritius we just have to save what we already have. If we start now, the goal is very much achievable. We need to

maintain the culture, image and identity of the island by saving this patrimony. However, some will argue that colors are just arbitrary in Mauritius, and it is just a mess that needs to be harmonized and planned properly. And yes, they are right to some extent also. We need to design in a conscious manner while using colors. It should be thought of as an important project element, and we should think about the effects it is going to have. It should be used as a primary conceptual tool to generate emotions, create ambiance and in their representations also. In individual use it can be according to affinity but once for public and for someone else, we seriously need to put some good thinking and consideration on it.

CONCLUSION & FUTURE WORKS



CONCLUSION

Architecture is a way to manifest dreams into the real world. That is the true power that we as humans have. We actually have such a massive impact on our environment. So now that we have this power, we can either use it to create a nightmare or we can use it to realize our dreams. And, of course, the latter is much more interesting. Light in general and colors in particular are powerful phenomena that have a strong impact on design and our behavior. Their influence, although scientifically proven, remains very underestimated. Nevertheless, each of us intuitively knows that colors have an impact on our mood, our perceptions and our behavior. Who would think of painting a child's room entirely white or black? Who has not noticed that looking at the sea or a green landscape as far as the eye can see exerts an intense, calming power? Or who does not know that seeing the sun helps to see life in pink? Well, all these examples prove that color is essential in our life. And

yet it has never been so little in our home as it is today, both on our clothes and in our homes. To what extent is this grayness responsible for the low morale of people? It's hard to say, but I am convinced that kids who color-tag their gray suburbs do so unconsciously because they viscerally need to get out of this darkness. Have you noticed that colorful buildings are tagged a lot less? These facts lead us to the importance of conception and the use of colors while designing spaces, but not only. It is very important for the ambiance and general feeling we want to achieve. We tend to neglect or overpass the choice of colors as something secondarily or just as an aesthetic appeal. But it should not be the case. Colors are equally powerful and responsible for the betterment or ruining of a space. Colors affect our subconscious. We react according to it. On average, you spend twenty-five years of your life in the same room! And when we see the number of people who take sleeping pills, why not



Bassin Bleu, Gianish Lilloo 2020



Flic en Flac Beach Sunset, Gianish Lilloo 2020

pay more attention to the color of our interiors? (Causse, 2016) Few decorators or architects today choose interior and exterior colors, other than with artistic or intuitive considerations. I am sure that will change with time, though, but the issue needs to be addressed and brought into the limelight. My aim is to highlight this urgency and create awareness with this small piece of writing in order to save the endangered heritage "The Mauritian Colors" and make people realize its power and help them choose wisely with attention and no longer just by chance. We should care about wellbeing. The physical and emotional health of people is the principal reason why I want to address, write, spread and share this thematic in hope that it is contagious and propagated even more. Today, the world asks for beautiful images in every field. We are living in a digital world whereby sight is the most prioritized one. We believe what we see. In professional use, in decoration, but also in the way

you dress in everyday life scenes. To make good use of this cheap blessing. Last but not the least, if you are in doubt about choosing your personal colors from among the thousands of hues, values and saturations, know that the most gifted of colorists, you have it in your brain: it's called instinct. Trust your tastes and dare the color. It will do you good. But, remember, white and black are not considered as colors, they are shades. They are to be avoided as much as you can, as the benefits are the least compared to colors. I hope that this has given you a new way to see and choose colors. You will think before selecting the color because it is going to have an effect. Choose your color well and paint your world!

We often see studies concerning colors comparing hues(wavelength) only most of the time. It is important that we do not neglect the other two statuses of color. Colors are not only defined by their hue. Saturation(chroma) and Value(Brightness) should also be taken into consideration to achieve reliable and more accurate results, as these elements have great incidence on the perception and reactions. (Valdez et al., 1994). We should also question our methodology and ensure the exact comprehension of surveys by individuals to be bang on. Ideally, it would have been nice to make Mauritians experience specific colors in real life, in the same environment and conditions to record their reactions and compare the results. This study has been extremely enriching and enlightening. Personally, I learned a lot about the subject and I just cannot help being more passionate about it. Also, I should mention this. The response to my survey on the role and use

of colors in Mauritius has been a huge success and extremely appreciated by everyone. I was delightfully amazed at the level of interest and investment of people for this thematic. The subject spoke to everyone and every individual had a say on it if not a paragraph. Seeing this enthusiasm and engrossment among the masses is what really motivated this reading and made me want to invest in the subject even more to share my findings with all.



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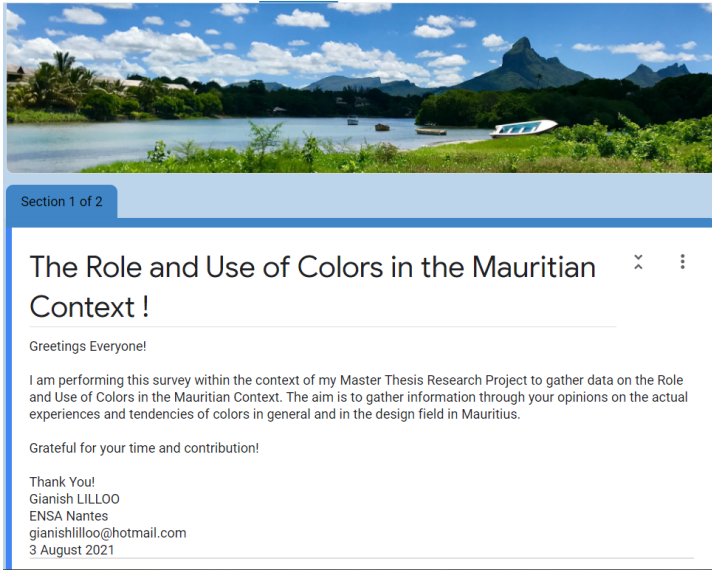
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Pamela Marie

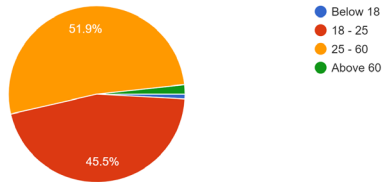
Maha Shivaratri in Mauritius
Sun Resort 2019

Ganesh Chaturthi
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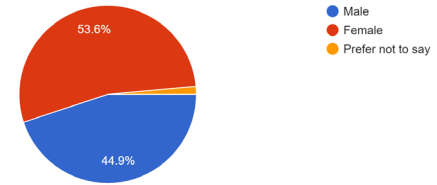
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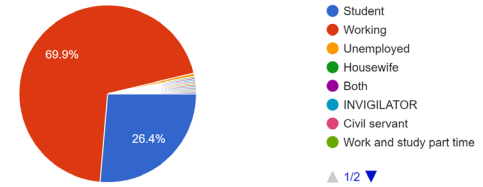
Age
345 responses



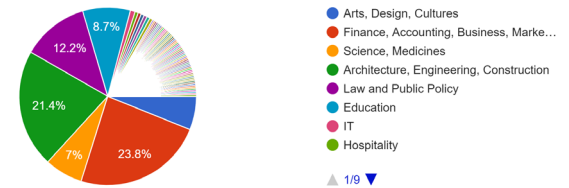
Gender
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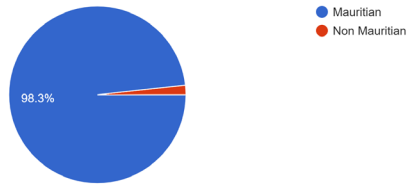
Profession
345 responses



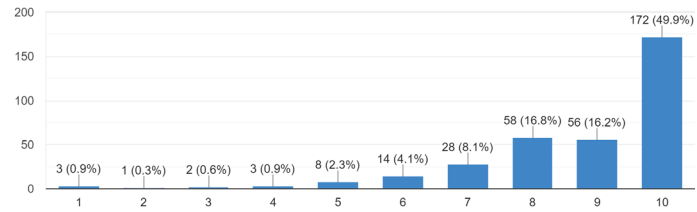
Professional / Academic Field
345 responses



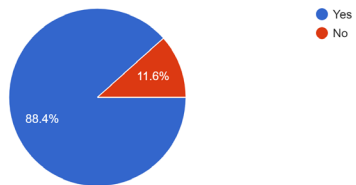
Nationality
345 responses



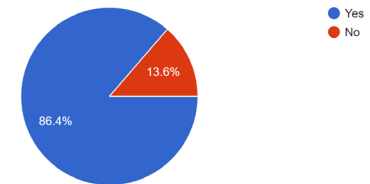
1. On a scale of 1-10, how important is color to you ?
345 responses



2. Does color affect your everyday choices? (Clothing / Food / Shopping)
345 responses



4. Does color have the power to change your mood positively or negatively?
345 responses



6. Which one do you prefer? *

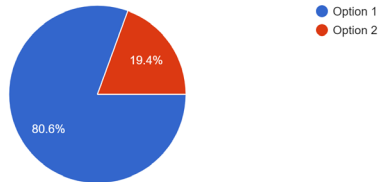
Option 1



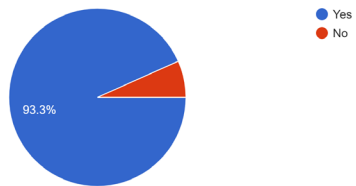
Option 2



6. Which one do you prefer?
345 responses



7. Does color have an impact on your general feeling of a space ?
345 responses



8. Which one do you prefer? *

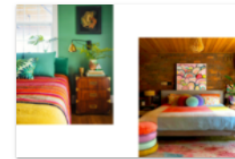
Option 1



Option 2

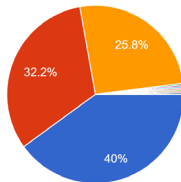


Option 3



8. Which one do you prefer?

345 responses

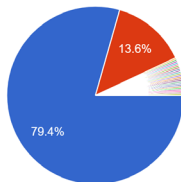


- Option 1
- Option 2
- Option 3
- white or nude
- The color combination is not great in a...
- 283
- It need to be more classy in colors, so...
- Not a reflection of my choices

▲ 1/2 ▼

9. According to you, Color ...

345 responses



- adds value to materials
- tamper materials' visual aspect
- Could be both, it depends on the color...
- Could add value to the ambiance, but...
- Depend on the type of colours used
- Creates an impression for more space
- Gives a different feeling about the envi...
- It depends on the palette and the way...

▲ 1/4 ▼



The study tackles the importance of the use of colors in the world, but especially in the case of Mauritius. As a future responsible architect of the island, I feel it is important for me to understand the power of this design tool and highlight for everyone the fact that the use of colors should not only be instinctive or aesthetic but with a real intention and thought about its outcome and effects on the human conditions.

COLOR AT STAKE IN MAURITIUS!

WHY SHOULD WE CONTINUE TO DESIGN IN A CONSCIOUS MANNER WITH COLORS?

