



Project No.
6002

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المكتب الهندسي لخدمات التكنولوجيا والبرمجيات

Engineering office for Technology and Software Services



Course Title: Material Selection and Finishes



Course Code: 6002-DE



Introduction

Material selection and surface finishing are at the heart of architectural and interior design success. Every space tells a story — and materials are the words that shape that narrative. This course offers a holistic understanding of how to choose, evaluate, and apply materials based on function, aesthetics, sustainability, and budget. Whether you're designing a luxury

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residence, a commercial workspace, or a sustainable facility, mastering the principles of material selection will elevate your design from concept to reality.



Course Description

This specialized course provides an in-depth examination of materials and surface finishes used in architectural and interior projects. Participants will learn how to make informed decisions that balance durability, cost-effectiveness, aesthetics, and environmental impact. The course blends theoretical foundations with real-life case studies and a final applied design project to reinforce material knowledge and creative application.



Course Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand how material choice affects the look, feel, and performance of interior spaces.
- Evaluate physical and mechanical properties of key materials (e.g., strength, thermal resistance, texture).
- Analyze surface finishes and their impact on ambiance and space perception.
- Integrate sustainable and environmentally certified materials in design.
- Develop a comprehensive material palette for residential or commercial spaces.



Course Format

Element	Description
Mode of Delivery	Online Live / In-Person
Language	English
Duration	6 Weeks
Sessions	1 per week (2 hours each)

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Element	Description
Activities	Lectures, Case Studies, Material Samples, Final Project
Certification	Certificate of Completion



Weekly Course Outline



Week 1: Introduction to Materials and Finishes

- **Purpose and function** of materials in design.
- **Impact on aesthetics vs. functionality.**
- Overview of essential material types:
 - **Wood:** solid wood, plywood, engineered wood.
 - **Metal:** stainless steel, aluminum, copper.
 - **Glass:** clear, frosted, tempered.
 - **Plastic:** acrylic, polycarbonate, PVC.
 - **Stone:** marble, granite, travertine.



Week 2: Specifications and Material Properties

- **Durability, moisture resistance, fire resistance,** and more.
- Matching materials to functional needs: high-traffic vs. decorative.
- **Texture & Color:**
 - Warm vs. cool tones.
 - Smooth vs. rough finishes.
 - Visual tricks (expand, soften, contrast).

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Week 3: Surface Finishes and Their Effects

- Categories of surface finishes:
 - **Glossy**: luxurious, reflective.
 - **Matte**: understated, modern.
 - **Satin**: subtle shine.
 - **Textured**: rustic, industrial.
- How finishes alter **light reflection**, **maintenance**, and **perceived size** of a space.



Week 4: Practical Applications

- **Residential Interiors**:
 - Flooring: tile, wood, LVT.
 - Walls: paint, panels, wallpaper.
 - Ceilings: acoustic panels, coffered systems.
- **Commercial Spaces**:
 - Wear-and-tear resistance.
 - Maintenance and cleaning protocols.
 - Material zoning and branding via materials.



Week 5: Sustainability and Eco-Friendly Materials

- Introduction to **green design principles**.
- Eco-conscious materials:

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- Recycled glass, bamboo, reclaimed wood.
- Environmental Certifications:
 - LEED, WELL, FSC, GreenGuard.
- Lifecycle cost vs. upfront investment.
- Ethical sourcing and circular economy.



Week 6: Final Design Project and Evaluation

- Create a **material and finish palette** for a residential or commercial interior.
- Presentation includes:
 - Concept board
 - Material justification
 - Sustainability rationale
- Group feedback + Instructor critique.
- Evaluation rubric provided in advance.



Target Audience

This course is ideal for:

- Interior Designers and Architects
- Architecture and Design Students
- Project Managers and Real Estate Developers
- Sustainability and Green Building Consultants
- Anyone interested in materials, finishes, and their application in design

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What You Will Learn

- ✓ How to select materials based on technical and aesthetic requirements
- ✓ The influence of finishes on user experience and spatial psychology
- ✓ The pros and cons of popular and emerging materials
- ✓ Integration of sustainability into everyday design practice
- ✓ Development and presentation of material boards and concepts



Materials Included

- Downloadable Lecture Slides (PDF)
- Sample Material Boards (Digital Reference)
- Case Study Files
- Access to Recorded Sessions (for online participants)
- Final Project Templates
- Certificate of Completion



Requirements / Instructions

- Basic understanding of architecture, construction, or interior design recommended
- A laptop or tablet for note-taking and project work
- Optional: software such as SketchUp, AutoCAD, Photoshop for project visuals
- Commitment to attending sessions and submitting the final project

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Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, you will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of core material categories and finish types
- Make informed, functional, and aesthetic decisions in material selection
- Incorporate sustainability into material specifications
- Present a cohesive and professional design concept using selected materials
- Gain confidence in client presentations and professional discussions



Time Frame

Phase	Time Allocation
Instructional Weeks	6 Weeks
Weekly Sessions	2 Hours / Week
Final Presentation	Week 6

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