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**INTERIOR DESIGN FOR A PRIVATE HOUSE**

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Title

Interior Design for a Private House

Abstract

The purpose of this presented thesis is to showcase an interior design project for a detached house. The thesis covers a description of the design process starting from the first meeting with the customers, a family of four, until the final presentation of the results. The document gives a thorough characterization of the design of every room of the house with a detailed explanation of the process. Furthermore, it defines numerous difficulties that can appear during the work on such a project and shows solutions to each obstacle.

This thesis takes a practice-based approach and is supported with a theoretical background. It involves a general analysis of theories in the creative fields, such as inclusive design, and explains the role of interior design in the lives of people. Moreover, the thesis interprets the meaning of home and showcases a comparison of Russian and Finnish cultural differences in order to justify the particular choices of materials, furniture and fixtures for a specified house.

A vast amount of supporting documentation, such as floor plans, tables and charts, greatly assists in the informative representation of the whole scope of the project. 3D models support in depicting the results of the process of interior design in detail using the finalized concepts. The images together with the description of the choice of the particular items give the reader a full understanding about the outcome of the project.

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Interior design, interior, cultural differences, design process, inclusive design

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This thesis familiarizes the reader with the process of implementation of interior design project. The main goal of the project was to create a concurrently beautiful and functional interior for the entire house taking into consideration the needs of all family members. The work on the project was based on the personal interest in the mentioned topic and an aspiration for gaining the experience from the process. The document describes the design of a two story detached house, which will be constructed in Vyartsilya, Karelia. The floor plan and other documentation related to the house construction were provided by Russian architecture company “Alba”.

In order to achieve a satisfying outcome, it was important to make a profound research on the professional literature and take a look at the examples of a good interior design. Dozens of professional interior design books and magazines were used in order to create a knowledge base for the project. Moreover, the assistance of the competent interior designer and specialized programs made an understanding deeper.

Acknowledging the complexity of the interior design process, the designer used a prolonged time to complete the project to make sure every choice was justified and made for a reason. The clients’ preferences played a very significant role along the processes, as their opinion to an extent determined the general concept propositions and specific material choices.

With the help of the project, it has become possible to learn and analyze the outcomes of the interior design process. The procedure of implementation of the project was compound as it consisted of a range of phases, following one by one. This algorithm included the stages from the very beginning of the case depicting first meeting with the customer, followed by an evaluation of the project, work on the concept and consequent presentation of the results. The designer considered several various concepts in order to find the best solution for the specified space and the project was implemented when the proposed design met customers’ expectations.

## 2 THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The interior design project for a private house commenced at the beginning of April 2012. A family of four requested an interior design for their new house (Picture 1). The architecture of the house was provided by the Russian agency “Alba”. The given package consisted of the description of the house space with illustrations, projections of the house and floor plans. Together with the floor plan representations, the drawing showcased the situation of all rooms in relation to each other with a depiction of their sizes.



Picture 1. The architecture of the detached house (“Alba” Architectural Agency)

After receiving the task, the main agenda of the designer was to create an interior for the house taking into consideration its peculiarities and the wishes of the customers

regarding the spaces. Aspects, such as the situation of the future house and its position regarding the cardinal directions, i.e. north, west, south and east, were important to keep in mind. Being influenced by the clients' request and thinking rationally about the house positioning, it was as well important to make sure that all the spaces of the house could provide the best features for the function that they carry. For example, a common space such as a living room is more beneficial when it faces the south and west, as the room then receives plenty of warm light, important for an area where family members will spend most of the time. On the other side, the location of a room such as the kitchen is not so crucial, and a northern direction is a very common alternative, as that room is mainly used for dining.

During the process of designing the interior it was vital to observe the needs of all family members and to create a diagram that would depict the function of every place. Several rooms were intended to implement multiple roles; that is why careful zoning was a very significant aspect that was taken into consideration. The results of the process had to be organized in order, starting with the 3D representation of the designed place, continuing with the floor plans for the house (Appendices 3 & 4) and the detailed lists of material (Appendices 5 & 6), furniture (Appendix 7) and lighting fixtures (Appendix 8). Final drawings were completed with the help of a scheme of distribution of the furniture and fixtures complete with the dimensions, and a thorough description of every item presented with the help of floor plans and projections (Appendices 9, 10, 11 & 12). The final design had to be prepared in such a way that it would be readable for subcontractors and applied when the structure of the house is built.

### **3 THE ATTRIBUTES OF INTERIOR DESIGN**

#### **3.1 The interior design process**

For a better understanding of how to carry out the project, the author of the thesis project had studied literature from multiple sources. The primary idea was to compile the best approaches that various designers exploit to find the one that would be the most

relevant for the obtained case. One of the incentives of the research was acquiring the diagram for accomplishing the interior design project that would assist in a logical representation of the process (Figure 1). This method helps not only clients, but all individuals involved in the case to follow the progress of the design process.

According to the sources, ‘design process’ is the term that involves a sequence of activities. An outcome of that process is an elaborated design solution that meets the requirements of the customer (Dodsworth 2009, 13). The definition of the design process can be applied to the majority of design fields, in particular, interior design, product design or landscape design.

The author of the book *The Fundamentals of Interior Design* Simon Dodsworth states also that the design process is commonly viewed as an activity with a beginning – start point and an end (2009, 13). As a rule, the starting point is associated with the first contact with the client and end point allied with the completion of the project that can be determined by a customer’s satisfaction. To sum up the foregoing, interior design is a complex process, as it contains a number of individual projects which are interrelated, so minor changes in one will require the alteration of the whole space. The interior design process cannot be standardized due to the diversity of factors and peculiarities affecting it.

Dodsworth (2009, 14-22) affirms that the design process is divided into stages, such as an analysis of the project requirements, a development of the design, an implementation of the proposed solutions and an evaluation. Following his theory the first step or the analysis can be broken down into phases. Figure 1 illustrates the diagram of the interior design program proposed by Dodsworth.

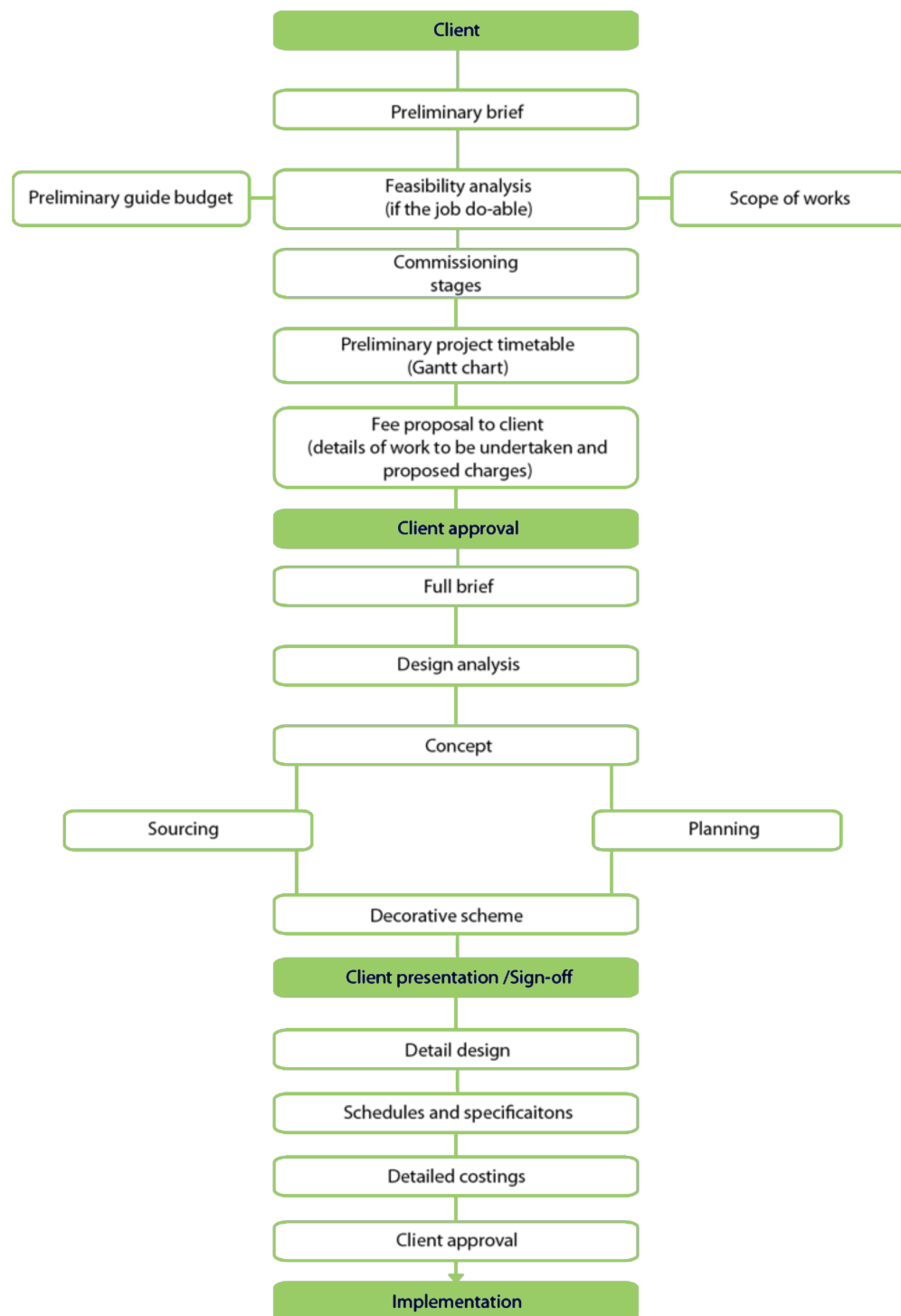


Figure 1. The diagram of the Interior design process (Source: Dodsworth 2009)

At the beginning of the project a designer estimates the volume of work that has to be done, furthermore making a preliminary calculation of time and resources that are necessary for accomplishing the project. Additionally, a designer produces a general



plan for the design of the specific house, flat, etc., where he/she takes into account all possible structural difficulties, evaluating the surrounding area, architectural picture of the field etc. In order to achieve the best outcome it is crucial to maintain a balance between the architecture of the house and its interior taking into account the location of the particular building.

In fact, the evaluation of the design process is usually made for the initial proposal of the customer. Meanwhile, a designer takes care of documentation, and plans his/her workload for a project creating schedules, using charts. Charts help to organize the design process and assist in time management. Because the field of interior design consists of various tasks, it is essential to keep the track of time spent on each step. One of the most popular time diagrams broadly used for the project management is a Gantt chart (Figure 2). It is represented as a horizontal bar that shows the milestones of the project. A Gantt chart allows the user to depict all the stages of the design process and analyze how long each of them lasts. This diagram has drastically helped to inform the client about the progress of the project in this particular case.

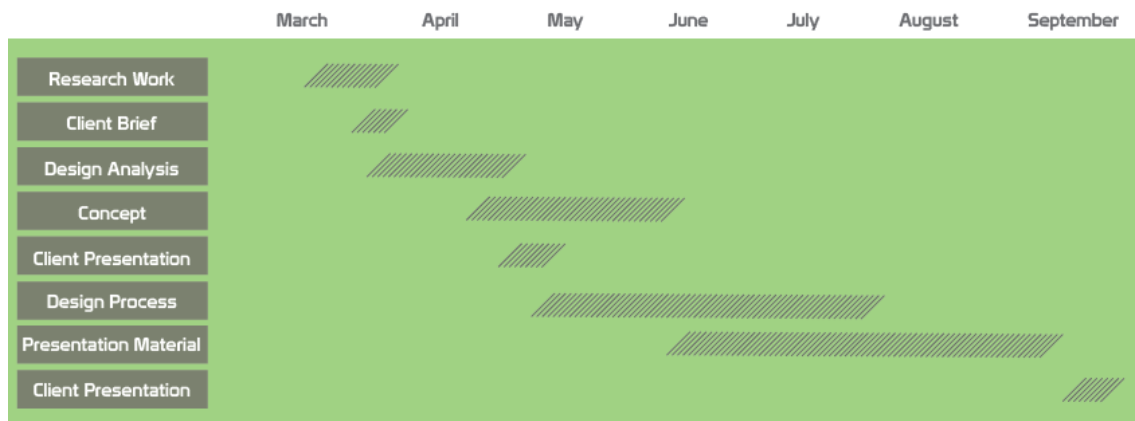


Figure 2. Gantt chart for the particular project

During the working process with a customer a designer creates a vast number of illustrations and drawings to show his/her own visions of a project and to receive feedback. All ideas introduced in the preliminary proposal are summed up as a concept (Dodsworth 2009, 14). One of the roles of the designer is to ensure that the submitted design supports the codes and requirements of the area concerning safety and welfare. A Gantt chart helps everyone involved in the process to implement the task within the

defined time period. The customer and, for instance, an interior designer use the tool to control the progress and to determine the phase of the project.

Afterwards, at the development stage the designer can demonstrate his/her talents and creative skills. During that phase the concept takes its form, everything that was in the documents becomes real. This stage of the process is particularly the most exciting for the designer, as realization of all of the plans gives a powerful emotional boost. During that phase the designer seeks out materials, finishes and fixtures that he/she choose from the perspective of their suitability to the concept.

Comparatively, the implementation of the project begins as the client approves the work of a designer. At that time, the main role of the designer is to control the process of construction, to meet subcontractors and to trace the quality of work at a place. Detailed drawings illustrating the location of partition walls, light fixtures, equipment and furniture are an inseparable part of a construction process. Moreover, another type of documentation that helps the subcontractors to follow along is a material board. Together with the descriptions of the chosen wallpaper, tiling, and flooring, they indicate the distribution of the particular materials around the inhabited area.

The final stage of the project is an evaluation, where the designer estimates the results received after completing the milestone of implementation diagram. It is an important stage as it helps the designer to realize how the process went, what difficulties arose, what functioned and what failed. A designer can also assess working experiences with subcontractors, assistants or other specialists to make right choices in the following projects. Moreover, he/she as well assesses their competences and the choice of materials, furniture etc. to be aware of what works and what does not in certain circumstances (Piotrowski 2002, 5-7; Dodsworth, 2009 13-22).

During the project concerning the house interior design process, the designer followed the consequence of actions presented in a diagram (Figure 1). That scheme allowed in comprehending what stages the design process consist of and assisted in the implementation of the project.

### 3.2 Inclusive design

Inclusive design is one approach to design where the original goal is to satisfy the needs of all possible users. Inclusive design plays an outstanding role in interior design taking into account diverse capabilities of inhabitants and their visitors. This field of design is concerned with thorough planning of the spatial zones taking into consideration existing needs and envisioning other possible changes in the future. For that reason, it is a significant aspect to consider when working on an interior design project.

There are no two families exactly alike in the World; accordingly, a home should offer qualities corresponding to lifestyle and satisfy the demands. Numerous factors, such as the size of a family, the number of generations, the ages of the inhabitants and their psychological makeup determine which interior would be more justifiable in certain situations. The dynamics of the generation within a family, such as the aging of parents, the growth and maturity of children, and new members appearing in a family impact the needs and hence influence the interior design of the house.

It goes without saying that various changes may appear during everyone's life; therefore, the design of the house should be reviewed, so that alterations can be made easily and at any moment. A home becomes a great place to live if every member of the family is respected. For example, the respect can be seen if everyone feels that his/her needs are understood and the individual features of a character are accepted. A well-premeditated interior unites generations and makes all members of the family happier.

The design of residences might change gradually depending on the needs of the owners. Reasons, such as the appearance of new family members, for instance, small children or the deteriorating health of another due to aging or illness engages necessary changes in the interior. Hence, the design where the needs of all potential users of the space are at the center of attention, and human diversity is a factor of design considered inclusive.

Inclusive design provides flexibility in living for everyone faced with difficulties in standard surroundings. In fact taking into account that 20% of people on the planet have disabilities and that the amount of senior citizens grows from year to year, inclusive design is a very significant creative field. Moreover, it is not just people with physical

disabilities or impairments that meet with numerous obstacles in buildings, but also parents with small children experience discomfort, including the lack of ramps, dealing with heavy doors etc. Taking inclusive design into consideration from the very start of a project is easier and cheaper than constructing special facilities retrospectively. (Dodworth 2009, 102.)

To demonstrate the importance of inclusive design, there are some examples of adjustments developed for people with special needs. For instance, walking surfaces should be smooth with minimum level changes, as all obstacles might become a cause of falling and traumas due to e.g. weak bones. Likewise, the level of light fixtures and the amount of glare has to match the recommended amount, as for instance senior people need three times as much light as a 20-30 year-old. On the contrary, too much glare might evoke temporary blindness and the loss of balance, whereupon injuries might occur as well. A clear positioning of furniture, signs and contrasting colors also noticeably help in spatial orientation.

Accessibility is the principle stating that people with various abilities should be able to use a proposed design without certain alterations or adjustments (Butler, Holden, Lidwell 2003, 14). Consequently, accessibility should be a priority factor when designing living environments. Frequently children, elderly and the disabled face difficulties even in own living surroundings. Because of peculiarities of age or health conditions, simple actions, such as the opening of doors, long staircases and narrow hallways could become a serious obstacle. Good interior design is inclusive, adaptable and satisfying for all visitors.

In the case study, the family did not have any special requirements regarding the interior. However, general concern for the well-being of all family members, including a sufficient amount of light and non-slippery floor surfaces, was considered in the process. Moreover, each member of the family would receive an adequate amount of private space for comfortable living and the execution of his/her own duties. In addition, all the rooms of the space would be planned and designed in such a way that it would benefit the inhabitants in any possible activity: from work to relaxation, doing hobbies and entertaining friends.

### 3.3 Meaning of style and trend

One of the most important characteristics of well-designed apartment or house is the correctly chosen interior style. It was another primary feature that was significant in the design process. A good interior designer helps to create spaces in such a manner that it would reflect the character of people living in it. Together with habits, interests, hobbies, way of life, occupation and ways of thinking, interiors should provide facilities to enhance life, to help in achieving desires that inhabitants have when returning from work, school etc. The interior ought to be built according to the style preferences of the client considering the age as it drastically affects the priorities.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “style is a distinctive manner of expression, a particular way or technique by which something is done, created or performed.” Interior design styles are the means of creating a delightful and balanced atmosphere. The style helps to express the individual features of the inhabitants. Following the particular style can be challenging at times, as extreme prudence can lead to boredom in the interior, whereas the superfluity of the elements of the style may seem tasteful.

Every place has an identity of its owner that does not just meet the functional requirements but also represents esthetical values. The style preferences of home often come from characteristics such as gender, age and profession of the inhabitant. For example, all members of the family that requested the design for their new house have difference tastes regarding color scheme and style. The choice of materials depends on factors such as the way of life of a client and the budget for a project. For example, the majority of youngsters prefer transparent, glossy materials, while older people find comfort in classical interiors. In particular, the favor of ‘mass market’ furniture is reasonable as hand-carved items are not affordable for younger groups of people. On the contrary people with notable incomes, who are typically middle-aged, choose classics by personal views of beauty regarding the interior willing to rest with amenities in their own homes.

There are plenty of interior design styles that can help a client to create an environment according to personal tastes. Numerous specialized TV shows, internet programs and

articles, books and magazines keep people knowledgeable about the newest tendencies in interior decoration and design, showing the most amusing spaces including homes, work and study facilities, etc. Plenty of shops provide everything needed from the constructional materials to furniture. The processes of enhancement and decoration become easier and more accessible for the majority of people. Despite all of this, specialized interior architecture and design companies can assist in creating comfortable and amusing interiors with less pressure, and at times, expenses and for a shorter period of time. As the professionals in that field are very experienced, it is easier for them to figure out the most suitable layout; secondly, established connections with building and furniture stores often help to make the necessary purchases at a lower price.

The choice of decorative scheme is very important in the beginning of work with the concept. The designer creates the sensory experience by choosing elements such as colors, textures and lighting fixtures. The decorative scheme helps to bind all the elements of an interior together and create ‘the soul of interior’ (Dodworth 2009, 106-108). The range of materials used in interior design is vast. Different species of wood and the variety of stone, glass and plastic types help to create a unique interior that would reflect a customer’s image of aesthetics. Thence, choice of materials is based on finding the balance between aesthetical and practical side. The discreet selection of materials represents their individual features and their harmonious combination brings sophistication. (Dodworth 2009, 114.)

“A trend is a line of general direction or movement, a prevailing tendency or inclination” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary 2013). Compared to style, a trend is a temporary movement, the popularity of which changes from time to time. Interior designers follow trends regularly using sources of mass information, such as special magazines or interior design fairs. For example, at the present time using tapestry and tapestry motifs in wallpapers and textiles is very popular. The Far East and its core features, such as the usage of bright colors and Asian patterns is another returning tendency that can be used in extraordinary ways. Trends help to make interiors more exclusive and engaging.

Selecting the appropriate home style is not easy. A designer should know the client’s preferences well and, accordingly, find the best solution for the interior. It is very

beneficial to recall to client's wishes, trying to take into consideration the way of life, the amount of time spent at home and their favorite colors. Interviewing the client is one of the essential steps, which ought to be done in order to make a successful design proposal. It is not as easy to change the style of an apartment as changing clothes; accordingly, all elements of an interior should be carefully considered. However, a neutral color scheme is easier to adjust, as just a splash of radiant tones, such as a bright sofa cover, a peculiar texture of curtains or a pretty carpet can provide a completely different feeling.

Houses designed in accordance with a certain interior style differ from ordinary interiors. Those interiors provide a feeling of completeness and create a harmony of facilities and inhabiting people. Correctly chosen style aids in representing the personalities of owners. Examples, such as rooms in contrasting Mediterranean or African styles bring about the awe of guests. That is why it is a foremost aspect that should be taken into consideration when designing the interior.

The most popular style of all generations is classical. It has been used during decades and does not lose its position. Other styles, such as the contemporary and minimalistic have become very popular among young urban people. Open space, light colors and a scanty amount of decoration characterize that style. Loft and minimalistic interiors approve of a minimum of components and actively support getting rid of all the clutter that may appear. Simple lines and clean textures describe the main characteristics of surfaces. Sometimes the elements of different styles are mixed in a style called eclectic. It suits best to free-minded people. Initially, eclecticism was the definition of people pursuing different methodologies. As an interior design style it is described as, "the borrowing of a variety of styles from different sources and combining them" (Hume 1998, 7).

Another design technique called 'interior zoning' describes the ability of the interior to satisfy the various needs of a family or other person/ group of people inhabiting the area by providing the spaces designed for specific purposes. This technique is widely used by interior designers to create sub spaces with the help of lighting, special textures, materials, surfaces, etc. Zoning does not require applying structural changes, such as building up walls, but just bringing about minor visual alterations.

Different members of a family spend different amounts of time at home; however, one of the main characteristics that the majority of people expect to receive while being at home is relaxing surroundings. That feeling can be achieved in different ways; however, it always corresponds to spatial dimensions. Functionality implies the maximum usage of interior items according to needs rather than as an element of decoration. A carefully chosen color scheme, a wise selection of interior elements and a set of accents assist in balancing the interior and, as a consequence, help to unwind and relax.

### **3.4 Comparison of Russian and Finnish interiors**

When designing the interior of the house that would be situated in Vyartsilya, Russia, it was important to distinguish the differences in tastes of the citizens living on both sides of Finnish-Russian border. The information given in that section gives a better understanding about the values and preferences of the clients. Furthermore, the provided knowledge would assist in comprehending the incentives of the designer during the process and analyze the choice of the particular style, materials and finishes.

When comparing homes in Russia and Finland, one can find differences in the qualities that they are meant to represent. For people both from Finland and Russia, the home is the place for reunion with the family: a spouse and children. Moreover, it is the place for delight and a deep rest from daily stresses of work. However, the two nations have often had differentiating preferences concerning architecture and the design of living spaces. The meaning of a beautiful interior varies dramatically between the neighboring countries, and this is mostly represented in the color and material choice.





Picture 2. Scandinavian style of interior

Very light, often white interiors, incorporating maximum of functionality and a minimum of decoration is a signature of Scandinavian design preferred in Finland (Picture 2). The interior of Finnish homes is designed in such a manner that is easiest to entertain guests. A large living room with plenty of light, an open patio and courtyard are great places that provide plenty of options for spending time with visitors. Another very important zone in every Finnish home is a sauna. Going to sauna is an old tradition equally popular among all generations, and most Finnish people cannot imagine their routines without it.

A large system of cabinetry is complemented with garages and outside storage places. Clever systems of storage help to keep clutter away. Finally, fireplaces of different configurations have been serving for centuries in every second Finnish home. They have been helping to maintain warmth in cold seasons and have also been typically used as a decorative element.

The design of Finnish houses often can be united under Scandinavian design by the specific features. Scandinavian design is specified by the usage of a neutral color

palette, especially white or cream and accents on wood. In fact, the particular design style accepts just a little amount of color wash for balance. The amateurs of interior design describe the atmosphere of that style as “an elegant aesthetic without statesmanship” (Lynch 2012). “Scandinavian interiors create “the sensation of floating in a milky, dreamlike atmosphere” (Lynch 2012). Although the interior is usually lacking bright tones, it does not seem cold; rather it is very calming and relaxing.

One can notice plenty of differences when visiting a typical Russian home. Russian people often prefer brighter and darker tones, plenty of floral prints and décor in the interior. However, the home is a place that represents status for both nationalities. Comparing Russian traditional interiors with the European, one can find several distinguishing characteristics.

Russia is a country with a rich national and cultural heritage represented by a number of famous painters, architectures, etc. Furthermore, it is a country with a difficult historical background, as during the periods of Tsarist Russia, the period of Soviet Union and move towards Democratic country. Many centuries have passed, and many changes have occurred in the country including the variations in the way of life for its citizens. At the present time there is not as much boundaries between Russia and other countries, and European trends commonly appear in the country.



Picture 3. Traditional Russian interior

The majority of young Russian families acquire modern furniture; nevertheless, some of the iconic Russian items stay the same (Picture 3). Comparing European and Russian interiors, one might notice that the overlook of the homes is more conservative. Darker tones of wood are a more frequent choice especially concerning furniture; however, at times, this makes the interior ‘heavier’. Carpet and thick long curtains is an inseparable part of the interior. Moreover, pictures with portraits of family members or outstanding pieces of art are common. Russian interiors are usually adorned with plenty of accessories and ornamental textures. Often the interiors are complemented with a fireplace both as a functional and decorative element.

### **3.5 The emotional meaning of home**

A home is a very important place for everyone. It has a deep emotional context and is a synonym for safety, love and comfort. Since ancient epochs a home has carried a

special sacral meaning. For example, in heathen era people believed that the fireplace is the credence and the threshold is the border of this and another world, the boundary of the sky and the place beyond the grave. At all times home has had a special value and people have taken care of their residences as well they could. Taking that knowledge into consideration and bringing the unique atmosphere of 'home' to the new interior by adding meaningful items is a paramount step that an interior designer should make.

The significance of interior design is clear: a well-functioning and esthetically good-looking home is a concern for the majority of people. Busy lifestyles and, as a consequence, a lack of free time is a very common situation that people are faced with. Interior and product designers invest considerable amounts of their time in creating facilities that make it easier to solve this problem. For instance, sliding mechanisms, integrated household appliances and a wise usage of space makes interiors look modern and flawless. However, a fancy look is not yet a definition of a well-designed house; contrarily, professional designers customize it according to a client's preferences. Neither splendor, nor luxury can replace the comfort of own home that reflects the individuality of hosts.

A home is a place which can provide both physical and psychological shelter. Physical comfort is determined by a careful consideration of human proportions that vary from person to person, including biometric parameters such as, for instance, height, existing disabilities, etc. Psychical comfort is characterized by how successfully personal features are considered. The occupation of the person, hobbies and activities drastically affect the expectation that he/she might have from the place. Every member of the family and his/her values should be understood and encouraged also when it comes to making interior choices.

"Our home is our castle" is a famous proverb that describes the significance of the home for most people. The meaning of sanctuary comes from a Latin *sanctum*, meaning a private place. Home triggers our memories from different stages of life, such as childhood and teenage years. It reflects the process of maturity when a person moves out from the familiar surroundings and experiences life from different perspectives. One of the most important roles that home plays in our lives is being a shelter, a place to escape from the outer world, to relax and find oneself.

Frequently people call home the place where they grew up, the parents' haven. The memories of growing up, experiencing the ups and downs of life and especially the atmosphere of love and care given by relatives make it special, distinguishable from everything else. However, while maturing, people seek their own space to enjoy life and share it with their own spouses and children. Home is a place where we spend a considerable part of our lives; hence, security, comfort and personalized interiors are an inseparable part of a harmonious space. Home is a living area that is optimized for abundance and personal growth. Home reflects individual features and characteristics of the inhabitants. (Stabina 2010, 50.) For some home represents the closest people, friends and interests, hobbies; for others it is a place for inspiring work and self-development; it can also be a residence which makes them feel independent and shows their status. (Stabina 2010, 54.)

A relaxing and comfortable atmosphere can be attained with the combination of favorite materials, colors and valuable items. The home sanctuary is the place where one can do their hobbies and refresh the mind in a soothing peaceful atmosphere. Home is a place, where everyone can be comfortable with his or her own thoughts, move away from stress and get inspired. No deadlines or other stress from work should reach the person. It was important to emphasize the significance of the home for each and every person to take it into consideration when designing the interior for the clients of this study. Memorizing the personal aspirations of the future inhabitants and their longing for certain interior features can drastically effect their perceptions of a place as a new home.

As a designer the main aim during the creation of the interior for the family was taking into account the personalities of each family member together with their lifestyle and preferences concerning the desired outlook of the interior. The design of the house was created according to the function that each room was supposed to implement. Moreover, I attempted to create a serene atmosphere, where all of the family members can find a comfortable spot for various activities. Foremost, I have endeavored to establish a surrounding which would allow the family to spend wonderful time with each other and with their guests. The role of the designer is the creation of the most enjoyable facilities for living, playing and working. However, only because of the efforts of the family members, the place can become 'home'. Home is a unique place that is associated with

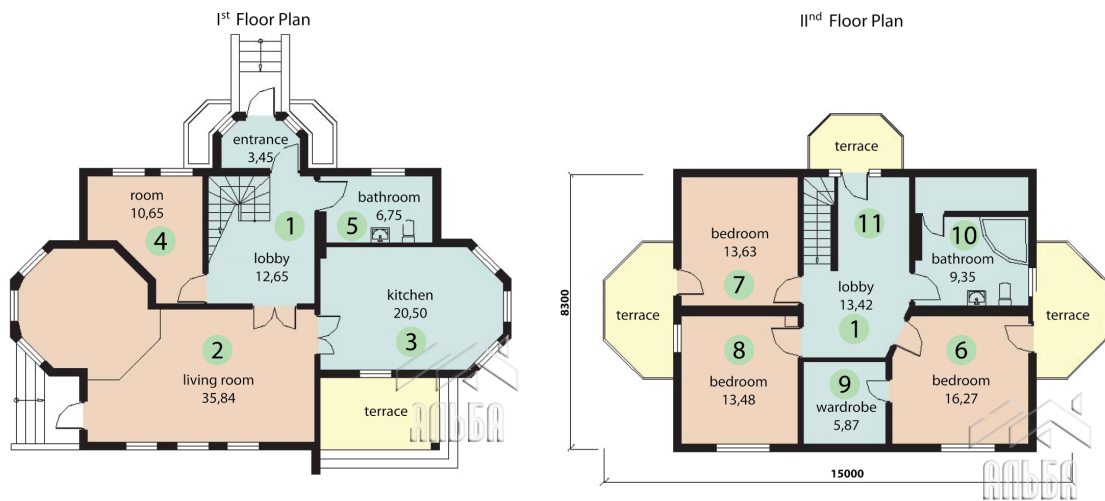
the closest people, the scents of favorite pie, and sounds of favorite music. It is the place where everyone wants to come back as it greatly represents his or her personalities.

#### 4 THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROJECT

The house selected by the customer will be designed in a traditional Russian style (Picture 4). It consists of two floors and includes nine rooms differentiating in purpose and size (Picture 5). Two of the biggest spaces are the living room and the kitchen with the incorporated dining area. The spaces have a room projection in a gallery type that allows for more abundant daylight and makes the shape of the room more captivating. Another room situated on the first floor is multifunctional and will be used as a guest facilities and a hobby room.



Picture 4. The overall look of the house



Picture 5. Floor plans of the house.

Three bedrooms, a master bedroom and two smaller ones, are situated on the second floor. The pitched roof leaves less space for usage. The smallest distance between the floor and ceiling is 600 cm, which means that up to a third of the size of the room can be only used as a storage space. The design of the space will be implemented in the classical style, as it will look most compatible in the provided architecture of the house and will be the most well thought-out combination of the customers' propositions.

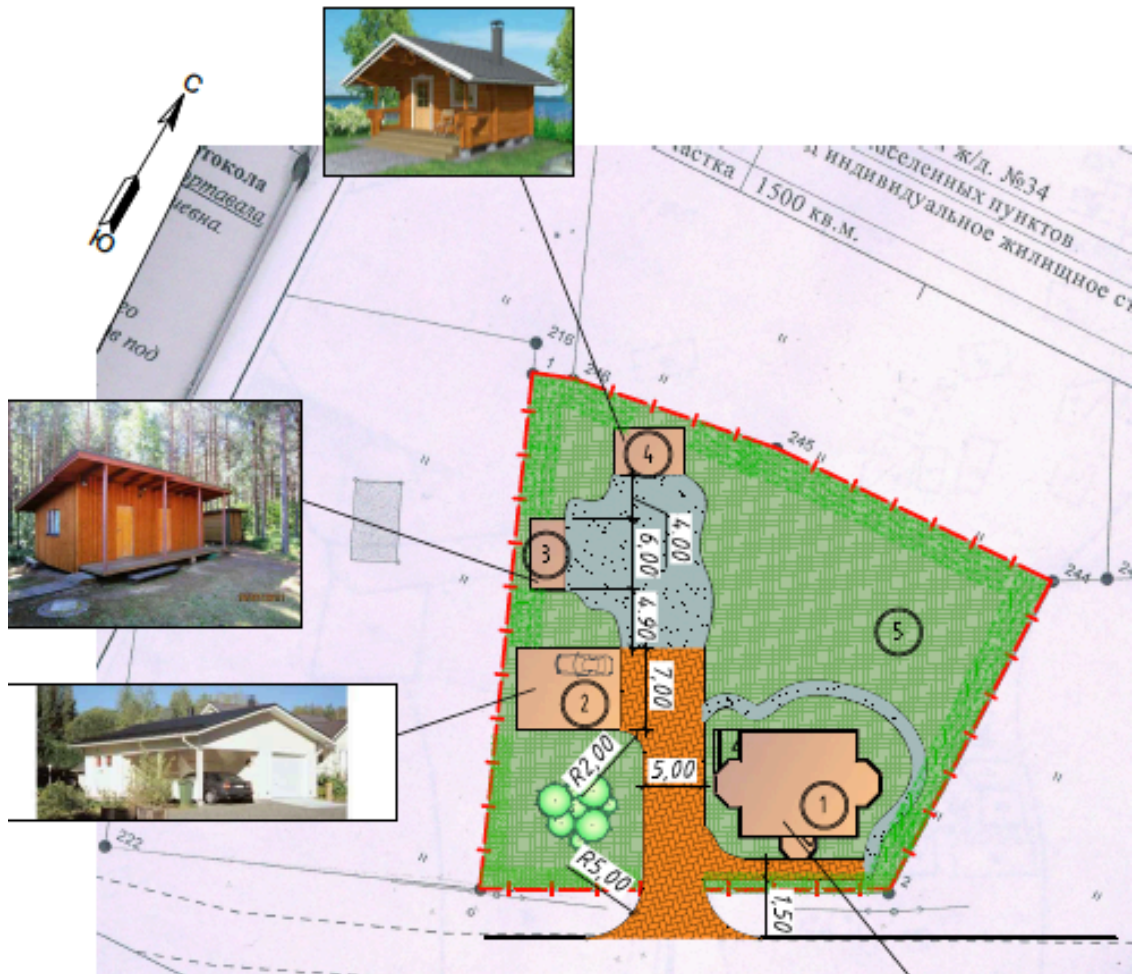
A multitude of simple lines and neutral colors will make the place look lighter, wider and more adjustable. Special accents, such as a beautiful fireplace or a piece of art, will bring character to the room and help to divide the place into zones. As the home is the place where inhabitants spend a considerable part of their lives, the environment should stimulate or sooth. The family that is going to live in the house consists of four persons, whose individualities, lifestyles and preferences have to be studied in order to create the place corresponding to their needs and preferences.

#### **4.1 Site overview**

The construction of the house has been implemented in Vyartsilya, Russia. The placement was selected in relation to such characteristics as closeness to the occupation of the clients and a good neighborhood. The location is described with words such as openness, natural surroundings, lack of traffic, and, consequently, peacefulness. Several detached houses with yards are located around at the adjacent territory.

The place where the house will be constructed is located near the downtown. Some of the most essential services, such as a kindergarten, a grocery store and a hospital are easily accessible. The area is not completely inhabited, and most of the neighboring constructions are modern detached houses with yards. The terrain is divided almost equally between the adjoining plots of land. The platform is situated in an open space and it is not shadowed with trees or other tall constructions. During night time the field is well-lit with artificial lights. It is a comparably safe place for children to play and it provides enough space for the needs of the owners, such as a necessity of a garage placement and an isolated sauna.





Picture 6. The situation of the field with the description of the placement of the house and other constructions

According to the clients' preferences, the house should be constructed in a manner that there would be a clear passage to an entrance from the road, so all the manipulations during the construction process will be easy to implement. The situation of the house should be made in order to provide most popular places at home such as a living room with maximum light, and a kitchen that should preferably face north. Picture 6 provides information about the general outlook of the field with several marks for construction. The placement of the house is marked with number 1; moreover several other facilities such as the garage (number 2), storage place (number 3) and a sauna (number 4) are located nearby. The construction of those facilities is under consideration; that is why they do not affect the interior of the house at the present moment.

Together with the received architectural drawings, it is possible to implement the desired plan of the customers with minor changes. Possible alterations in an architectural layout and the position of the house will be made, and the most relevant proposition will be set as a final idea. The position of the house can influence the design of the interior noticeably. For instance, with windows facing north require lighter surface colors than the ones looking south. The amount and color of light, likewise, can affect the hue receptivity. In particular, the color of the sun during morning or daytime is yellow, while at sunset it is often as red. Moreover, the intensity of the light changes throughout the day and the year. This knowledge is very important to keep in mind, as it will affect the perceptions of the future interior.

#### **4.2 The design process: meeting with customers**

In the beginning of spring 2012 the first project inquiry concerning the creation of the interior design for the proposed house was given. It has happened during the brief meeting with the customer, who described the situation and stated his wishes regarding to the construction of a new house. During that meeting the information concerning preferences of the client was shared with the designer, and the general outlines of the house architecture including the outlook and the dimensions of the stead, depiction of the house project and floor plans were provided. In addition, a common view on the desired interior color scheme and style were described.

In order to get an understanding of the clients' wishes, several examples of interior styles were showcased to the client. That process helped not just to find out what style each of the customers preferred, but also to comprehend their wishes regarding the material and color scheme selection. Often the clients' choice was a combination of several interior styles. For example, the host of the family favored the synthesis of classic and minimalistic style, with a special accent on the Asian minimalistic style. Glossy surfaces, clean lines, chrome details and a combination of black, white and red colors were the priorities of the client. On the other side, his wife preferred such consolidation of styles as classic and eclectic. A buoyant interior with an affluence of

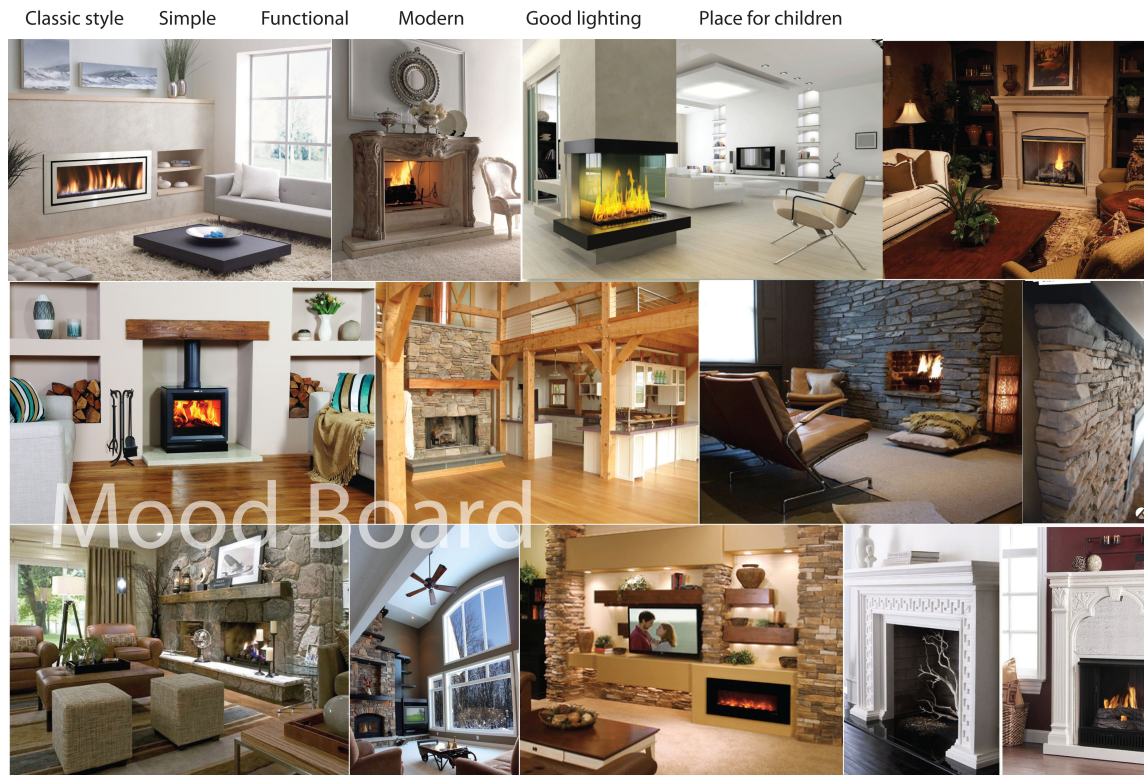
light warm colors and peculiar details about the finishes and furniture assisted in receiving hints concerning the interior of her choice.

For a better understanding of the customers' point of view on the comfort and beauty of the interior, a collage design approach was used (Picture 7). Each room of the house was depicted with a color scheme example, possible furniture and a general outlook. These collages help to create a general understanding of how the clients wanted to see their future interior. Moreover, visual representation can make sure that the designer has understood the clients' wishes and allows for future corrections without making major changes.

Since that time the work on the project started. It encountered several stages, each of which was consequently completed. The designer met the customers several times to discuss the concepts and to find the best way for proceeding with the project. The discussions, interviews and a collage creation helped to find the best solution for the house interior.

After basic information was received, the designer evaluated the volume of work and correlated it to the wishes of the clients. Their concerns were related to the required amount of time for the project, necessary financial resources and a general plan of implementation of a particular project including the house construction and surface works. It was also important to find out the customers' wishes regarding the design of the facilities.

Some of the basic preferences of the customers regarding color scheme and the style of the house interior were combined together due to several reasons. First of all, the representation of the set of chosen elements helped the designer to set focal points of the interior, and to make sure that the chosen scheme represents customers' expectations of the project.



Picture 7 . Collage: mood board for a living room.

When the preliminary mood board was constructed, shown and approved of by the clients, the designer had to make a survey in order to identify the needs of all members of the family for creating a comprehensive design concept. The survey consisted of an interview with all members of the family and was made up of a series of questions concerning the necessary facilities in the interior, possible future changes and color schemes (Appendix 2).

After the interview was made the designer applied the method of mind mapping to create a net of rooms and functions that all of them have to implement. So-called zoning – the distribution of activities that can be held in one place was planned for the whole place. Furthermore, the development of concepts started to take place.

During several weeks the concept for the project was under development. It was important to evaluate the available space and to think of the best solutions for each room of the house. Following the rules of harmony in interiors and taking into consideration the latest trends of interior decoration, the structure of each room was

defined. It was very important to keep in mind the clients' preferences, and create all the conditions for their well-being in their new home.

One of the aims of the design was keeping the interior functional, interesting and putting attempts for the spaces to represent the character and preferences of the clients. So, the overall frame consisting of furniture, appliances and other facilities were chosen and set as basic elements. The range of materials and finishes as well were selected on the basis of the style, and a choice of color schemes for separate rooms of the house were made. After the necessary alterations were completed, the concept of the house was ready. That concept was shown to the clients in order to figure out how well the preferences of the clients were understood and implemented in the project.

Afterwards the designer showcased the ready concept to the clients with the description of the materials and approximate cost for the project that included prices for the materials, finishes and furniture. This meeting was very significant, as it defined the future of the project. Along with the opinion of the clients, the project might have had to be changed or other major changes might have happened. However, during that project, the general outlines of the client and the designer coincided, so, just some minor fixes were necessary to make in order to finish the concept.

After the concept was completed, all the detailed data regarding the list of materials and furniture had to be compiled. Moreover, the lighting suggestions for all the spaces of the house together with the lighting schemes were prepared (Appendix 8). The final project package consisted of the 3D model and the renders of rooms, floor plans for each floor (Appendices 3, 4), the projections for several rooms, such as the kitchen and bathrooms on the first and the second floors and the wardrobe (Appendices 9, 10, 11, 12). Furthermore, lighting maps for each floor were added. The clients also received the list of the materials (Appendices 5, 6) for the interior of the house and furniture (Appendix 7), together with a detailed description of its characteristics and the companies that offer the products. That documentation is provided in order to help the customers to proceed with the process of creating the house interior. I as the author of would like to mention that upon publication of the thesis, the designs for the house along with its construction have not been yet implemented.

### **4.3 Analysis of individual space requirements**

#### **4.3.1 Foyer Design**

A foyer is a transitional space that links other rooms. Nonetheless, it also has its own atmosphere, and as with all other spaces, it can create a mood that is meant for social or individual purposes (House & Coles 2007, 14). The size of a foyer in modern apartments and houses is comparably small; however, it is an important part of each living space as it carries several functions. The foyer is often the first place that inhabitants and guests see when entering a place of residence; hence it gives the first impression of the owners, their style preferences, tidiness, etc. This part of a house protects the living facilities from the noise, dust and cold temperatures, and plays the role of a barrier between a home and a street. The foyer is an important place for storage of seasonal clothes, shoes, umbrellas and other accessories. Finally, a foyer has an important compositional function as it connects to other rooms.

An esthetically well-designed foyer is a harmonious and logical mediator between other house facilities. Wisely chosen furniture, combining necessary functions and taking into consideration the needs of all people living in the area is an important investment in the household's arrangements. Firstly, the wardrobe items, such as hooks for clothing, should be taken into account according to the anatomic characteristics of family members, and it should be positioned at a well-determined height. Secondly, the foyer is the first place people arrive when coming in from outside; hence, materials that are sturdy and easy to maintain offer the best choice. Usually foyer is incorporated with a cabinet, a shoe stand and a mirror. According to the capacity of the foyer and its proportions different systems for the storage of clothing can be used.



Picture 8. Floor plan of the first floor.

According to the drawing provided by the architect, the house has an entry that is separated with the foyer with a doorway (Picture 8). Lobby connects the entry with other premises of the house. The size of the entrance in the given project is approximately  $5\text{m}^2$  and foyer –  $15\text{m}^2$ . As the entrance is the place that links the living premises and the yard, resistant surfaces such as tiling will be used. Wood, parquet or laminate is not a good choice for the entrance as it can wear down in a short time due to heavy foot traffic and the related dirt. Beautiful ornamental tiles with a bronze shine would become a great combination together with beige wall paint.

The entrance in the particular house is comparably small; just a few furniture pieces such as a chair with a comfortable seat hanger rack and shoe stand will be placed there. The entrance is well will be lit with the help of recessed spotlights along its perimeter. A small doormat will be placed near the entrance of lobby for additional protection of

the house from dirt and moisture. Beige paint with a golden glint will embellish the walls of the lobby. Similar color tones of the walls will help to create a harmonious atmosphere combining the entrance and the foyer. The flooring of the foyer, as well as that of the majority of the space except the entrance and bathrooms, will be made from oak parquet. That light brown tone will help to create a balance in all premises, so rooms look spectacular notwithstanding the amount of light.

A decorative side cabinet with a large mirror will also furnish the lobby, together with a couple of soft classic chairs, a small coffee table and cabinets integrated under the staircase. The furniture will be presented in mostly brown and beige colors. A classic design of the staircase from the collection *Hovi Portaat* with integrated LED stripes at every step will be an additional adornment of the foyer and will secure the members of the family from falling. According to the wishes of the clients, the walls of the foyer along with the staircase will be decorated with memorable family pictures. Stairs' steps made of oak and rails covered in white paint will complement the whole atmosphere of the foyer. The built-in cabinets situated underneath the staircase will become a great place for the storage of outdoor clothes and make the room usage more convenient.

The foyer plays several roles in the interior. First of all, it is the place that the guests and other incoming people see first. Furthermore, the foyer in this particular project also implements certain functions such as storage for outdoor clothes and shoes. In addition, because of the abundance of space, part of the foyer on the second floor is used as a home office. A huge advantage of a foyer such as the one in this particular project is its lightness and spaciousness. On the other hand, the small size of the entrance, excludes the usage of ponderous furniture.

#### **4.3.2 Design of a living room**

“The living room is the place of accommodation common activities of the occupants of the residency” (Merriam-Webster dictionary 2013). It is the main place where the family and incoming guests gather to relax and socialize. One of the main difficulties of that place is creating a comfortable zone for people of all ages. The Number of



functions that it carries depends on the overall size of the living space and needs of the family. Some of the core elements defining the living room are pieces of furniture intended for relaxation, such as sofas and armchair sets. Often this room includes entertainment elements, such as a television, a home theater etc. If the room is multifunctional, various multifunctional elements are used for zoning the space. For instance, due to the diversity of activities held in such spaces, moving furniture, screens and lighting can be used to define the zones.

According to the information received from the customers, the living room should apply the qualities of a comfortable spot for relaxation and a wonderful place for meeting relatives and friends. The living room in this particular case has a non-standard shape, as it contains a small gallery that separates the room into two zones (Picture 9). The shape of the room proposed with the architectural plan is appropriate for realizing all the wishes that the clients shared. The preferences of the clients included the creation of a zone with a fireplace and the area for relaxation. The octagon configuration with the gallery of windows was chosen as a relaxation area and is supplemented with the fireplace. A couple of recliners with leg support and a coffee table were added to emphasize the function of the zone. Along with the rest of the room it was agreed to paint the walls in neutral warm grey color apart from one wall, which will be emphasized with vibrant wallpaper from the collection of *Boras Tapeter* by Hanna Werning, containing a lively combination of bright floral design on white background that could be called ‘tropical paradise’.

The furnishing of the ‘rectangular space’ is relatively simple and functional, as it is built on the needs of the family (Picture 10). The range of furnishing consists of a sofa, three armchairs and an ottoman selected in an adjacent color scheme, mainly varying between warm grey, lead white and light beige. They form an improvised circle, and a small decorative coffee table is placed in the center. The loft low-pile carpet of a light beige tone creates an imaginary boundary with the entertainment zone. The living room also plays the role of an entertainment center; hence, a TV together with a stand is placed adjacent to the ‘decorative wall’. The TV is surrounded with a LED stripe to soften the contrasts and add a touch to the wall.

The perimeter of the room is lit with recessed LED lights. The wall adjoining the door contains several artworks that are defined with accent lights, which also assist in the aim of creating a pathway to the ‘fireplace sector’. The octagonal place is decorated with a superfluous pendant chandelier in the center and its shape is emphasized with a stripe of LED lights placed on the perimeter of that space thanks to the recessed ceiling. During the daytime the room receives plenty of natural light because of the number of windows. During evenings it will be lit with a considerable number of light sources.

The main goal for the decoration of the living room was keeping the design functional and including elements pointed out by the clients. The design was determined by distributing the zone of relaxation and a ‘family/entertainment’ zone throughout the space. The room is very light; that is why it was also important to keep in mind the possibilities to screen bright daylight. The curtains in the two colors firebrick and dark orange adjacent to the wallpaper will be capable of implementing this.



Picture 9. Living room: ‘zone for relaxation’.



Picture 10. Living Room: ‘entertainment zone’.

### 4.3.3 Kitchen

The role of a kitchen varies from residence to residence. Sometimes it is just a workroom intended for meal preparation and does not contain a proper dining zone. This situation applies typically to young or busy people who do not spend much time on food preparation. However, it is one of the most significant places for the majority of families who find delight in gathering around the dining table to enjoy food and discuss the happenings of the day. That is one of the main reasons why the kitchen is called ‘the heart of the home’. The kitchen space is often divided into zones according to the activities which are held there. Divisions help to organize several functions, such as storage of food and utensils, cooking and cleaning.

Various kitchen layouts are widely offered in at furniture shops. Numerous kitchen tops in different sizes and shapes can suit any taste. The most popular of them are L-shaped,

U-shaped, Peninsula-shaped, Linear and Gallery kitchen layouts. Each kitchen layout has its own advantages, but the choice should be made essentially according to the shape of the kitchen and available space. The distribution of furniture and necessary storage space also depends on the number of family members and guests that gather in that area.

The kitchen furniture set *Modernia Kodikuutta* from the series Harmony by Puustelli Oy was chosen due to its shape, as the room structure of the kitchen has some specifics (Picture 11). Because the design of the house is implemented in modern classics, the cabinet doors exhibit an elegant design combining the traditional “frame” pattern. Traditional for Scandinavian kitchens, white cabinets will make the kitchen lighter, as the North-facing premises get the least amount of natural light. The handles of the cabinets are completed in chrome color, have a simple design and a long straight form. The particular kitchen set does not have a Kitchen Island; hence, it was decided to put an additional kitchen cabinet along the opposite wall for better storage opportunities.



Picture 11. Kitchen cabinets.

The classic oval dining table together with a set of white chairs will be the best option for the specific “gallery” type of protrusion. Moreover, this particular shape helps to host a greater number of guests compared to a standard rectangular table of the same dimensions (Picture 12). The pendant light from the company Cello and its beige tone will be placed above the dining table to emphasize the dining zone. A few wall scones will accent the structure of wall surface creating a beautiful glare above and beyond the lamp, and the recessed LED lamps provide even light for the kitchen space.

The shape this room is very suitable for a kitchen as its gallery type allows for plenty of daylight, and the dining zone complements that well. The main issue that arose during the design process is the difficulty of placing enough space for cooking and storage utensils. For this reason customized kitchen cabinetry created by combining two sets from *Modernia Kodikuutta* and *Kotoisasti Mäntyä* by *Puustelli* was determined to be the best approach.



Picture 12. Dining zone.

#### 4.3.4 Bedroom

The main function of a bedroom is to provide good facilities for sleep and rest. Human beings spent one-third of their lives sleeping; that is why it is so important to make the facilities stimulating and comfortable for rest. A bed together with a nightstand usually becomes the focal point of the room. Each bedroom is unique and is representative of a personality/personalities and social class. Well-placed bedroom furniture, including cabinets, beds and bed stands provide good possibilities for storage.



Picture 13. Space zoning, second floor.

One of the client's main requirements for the master bedroom design was having just the essential furniture in the room in order to avoid any possible clutter. Picture 13 shows the situation of the bedroom in relation to other premises on the second floor of the house. The master bedroom is the biggest room, with an area of approximately 17 m<sup>2</sup>. The room has one window and a sloped ceiling that sufficiently decreases the

available space of the room. The room has two exits, one of which leads to the foyer and a second, which joins the bedroom with the wardrobe.

The client wished to keep the design of the room clear and simple and, furthermore keep a minimalistic Asian style. It was first decided to start the design of the bedroom by choosing its color scheme. Black, white and brown are traditionally considered colors of Asian interiors (Picture 14). One kind of wallpaper by the Swedish company *Boras Tapeter* called 'soul' became the source of inspiration of the designer. Its oriental pattern reminds one of the branches of an exotic tree, and the color combination delights and excites. Unusual for a bedroom color combination containing white, black, grey plus a hint of red and silver will become the main accent of the space. However, to minimize the possible negative effect of a vibrant color palette, just one wall will be decorated with the validated wallpaper, while the rest will be painted in a warm grey color with *Tikkurila Tunto*.



Picture 14. Master bedroom.

While considering the color scheme, a few items for the interior such as a queen size bed by the American company Tempur was chosen as a key element of the bedroom. The simple design of its soft headboard represented in a dark grey color and containing three horizontal partitions represents the class of the client. Two brown side tables *Solitaire* by the Italian company Selva will be put on each side of the bed. The side tables have simple design, so they are mainly functional elements of bedroom. To allow the clients use maximum amount of side table space, pending lights instead of table lamps will be used. Pendant lights *Opium* from Moire collection reminds one of small lanterns, a very common accent in Asian interiors. The rest of the room will be lit with the recessed spotlights and the intensity of light will be controlled with the dimer.

To save space in the bedroom and leave the passage between the bed and a wall free, it was decided to avoid using additional set of drawers and to attach the TV to the wall. The customers mentioned their preference for a flat screen TV. Finally, a chair *Aqua* from Estonian manufacturer Bellus will take its place in one of the corners of the room. It is a very functional item as it can be used as a private place to spend time with a book; besides it can assist while getting dressed. Low-pile carpet taking place under the bed is a conclusive point of the design of a bedroom. Carpet of ivory color will be as well an important element completing the design of the room.

The most resonating issue concerning the facilities of the master bedroom is a generally the small space formed by sloped ceiling. It was possible to avoid clutter thanks to the special facilities for storage situated in the neighboring room.

#### **4.3.5 Children's rooms**

A child's room is an essential part of a house or an apartment where kids live. Usually the main criteria for children's rooms are lightness, safety and easily maintained materials. If possible, the interior of a children's room is changed throughout the kids' growth and maturing. There are five main stages of development emphasized by psychologists: infancy, pre-preschool, pre-school, primary school age, and adolescence. Children at every stage are characterized by different degrees of attachment to parents,



kinds of activities and various interests. For example, infants are most in need to see and interact with parents; pre-preschool infants or toddlers are interested in discovering items surrounding them, and preschool children mature by playing games.

In the specific case, a design for the 18 year-old teenage girl and 6 year-old boy had to be created. Wishes such as a bed with a canopy, a vanity table, a cabinet and a desk would be taken into account when designing the room for the girl. The boy would require a desk, a closet, and a place for inviting guests and a standard bed. The design of the room was implemented in a certain theme, for instance a marine theme taking into consideration that the preferable colors of the boy are white and navy blue.

The sizes of the rooms both for the boy and the girl both have a limited space for various purposes that they may need. It was possible to organize the place for the rest; however, options regarding to storage possibilities are limited.

### **Room design for a girl**

According to the preferences of the girl, the walls will be implemented in light pink and grey (Picture 15). Pink Chablis color and floral design suit the atmosphere of the room very well, as that is the room of young girl. The rest of the walls will be painted with a light warm grey color. A queen-sized was chosen for the room for the girl. Because the bed takes a considerable amount of the room's space, it was decided not to fill the place with an abundance of other furniture. All the rooms of second floor have sloped ceilings, which eliminate up to a quarter of room space.



Picture 15. Girl's bedroom: sleeping zone.

One of the main functions for the girl's bedroom was to consider the space for storage (Picture 16). A long rail will be attached from one wall to another behind the bed; this will ease the access to personal goods and will not block the space of the room. A partition wall will be placed at the head of the bed that will divide two zones and create an accent on the central piece of bedroom- the bed. Moreover, the heading of the bed will be complemented with the light transparent white canopy that together with the ornamental headboard of the bed will create an accent for the room. Small round bed tables of a simple design will be placed on each side of the bed for the comfort of the inhabitant. A beautiful vanity table together with a stool placed near the wall next to the doorway. The set will be completed with a large rectangular mirror that not only is a beautiful and functional item, but also a unique piece that can create the feeling that the size of the room exceeds the actual dimensions.



Picture 16. Girl's bedroom: a zone for storage.

The bedroom for the girl will be lit with various light sources, including recessed LED lights, stripe LED lights and pendant lights. The partition wall placed at the headboard of the bed will be equipped with the recessed LED lamps along the wall, which will be a good substitute for bed table lamps. Two beautiful crystal pendant lamps of a small diameter will be located in the hallway between the bed and vanity table as a beautiful decoration of the room. Furthermore, for creating even light along the room recessed LED lamps will be used in the remaining room.

### **Room design for a boy**

The design for the boy's room will be executed in a sailor style. The colors corresponding to a marine color scheme, such as white and navy blue, so the wall design and the chosen furniture will become the main colors for this room (Picture 17). The furniture consists of a twin bed *Galeone* by the Italian company *Caroti* with the

decorative heading in the shape of the ship, a desk and a cabinet for the storage of the books and other stationary by the Italian company Vecchia Maria. The slope ceiling is decorated with fiber lights that will create the effect of a starry night. The rest of the room will be lit with recessed LED lights and a study zone will be completed with a desk lamp.



Picture 17. Son's bedroom.

#### **4.3.6 Bathroom**

The bathroom is a room intended for maintaining personal hygiene. The main components of the bathroom are a sink, a bathtub or a shower and a toilet bowl. Bathrooms can implement different functions from taking bathes and cleaning procedures to laundry and storage. One of the client's propositions was to create simple

yet stylish bathrooms. Bathrooms on the first and second floors differ in contrast and atmosphere. Both bathrooms should comprise necessary facilities and furniture, such as a sink, a toilet bowl, a shower and places for storage of hygiene utensils and bathing equipment. The bathroom situated on the first floor is available for guests, so, it is more decorative (Picture 19). On the contrary, the bathroom located on the second floor is 'calmer', as its main function is to ease daily procedures of inhabitants and provide a proper place for relaxation.

The contrast of a white and black wall and flooring material together with chrome elements was another wish of the customer (Picture 18). According to their opinion, those colors represent elegance and create a special atmosphere. A combination of dark tiles and white ceramic bathroom units along with white furniture is for this particular bathroom design very stylish. Moreover, using a little amount of decorative tiles with a floral pattern containing red accents puts a final touch to the creation of the atmosphere of the particular space. Well-proportioned furniture and equipment fill up the negative space.



Picture 18. Second floor bathroom.

The bathroom on the first floor is relatively spacious and contains all the necessary elements, such as a sink, a toilet bowl, a shower and storage cabinetry. However, the bathroom on the second floor is denser due to the sloped ceilings. Part of the bathroom with the height below 1600 cm will be used as a storage space and it is enclosed with sliding doors for the comfort of family members. That place can be a ‘depot’ for laundry and equipment such as washing and drying machines, clothes baskets etc. The sink, toilet bowl, shower and the bathtub will occupy the rest of the bathroom.

The bathroom on the second floor is more intimate and purposed mainly for the family members (Picture 18). The design of the bathroom is more light and ‘soft’. Some of the walls will be accented with the light pink tulip flower tiles. Bathroom units include a

toilet bowl, a sink, a shower cabin and a bathtub. Plenty of storage places for personal items and other bathroom equipment will be situated in the bathroom. A sliding door will cover the slope part of the room and provide space for washing machine, cloth baskets etc. The floor tiling represented in grey color will support the atmosphere of the room. The lighting of the room consists of a range of LED recessed ceiling and glass cabinet lamps and a few recessed trim lights situated along one of the walls for creating a wall wash decorative effect.



Picture 19. Guest bathroom.

#### **4.3.7 Wardrobe**

The house has a separate room for storing clothes, shoes, etc. The room is approximately 8m<sup>2</sup> (Picture 13). For the best usage of the room space the wardrobe system produced by the Italian company Martini Mobili (carpenter) was chosen for the

room. The actual range of cabinets and rails for clothing occupy two walls of the room and the third contains a decorative wall with a large mirror. The wardrobe is represented by a classic style and made from dark brown wood. A soft stool was placed in that room to ease the process of changing clothes or storing them in higher cabinets. A soft low-pile rug of beige color softens the bold colors of the furniture. The walls of the room are painted with the *Tikkurila Taika* paint series as in the foyer of beige color with Venetian plaster painting technique. The recessed spotlights will be used to lit this room.

The area of the wardrobe is comparably small considering it acts as storage for clothes of all family members; however, it helps to keep the clutter away from the master bedroom and to partially unload children's rooms.

#### **4.3.8 Home Office**

The home office is a place for study, work or hobby of any of the family members. The necessity of taking work home convinced people to create a special environment where certain kinds of activities such as working on the computer, filling the balance sheet and preparing for presentations will be made easier. The home office usually requires a working desk with a comfortable chair for long hours of sitting and a storage space for documents and stationery. At the present time, home offices are very popular as the number of freelancers, whose major work placement is situated at their residential premises, rises from year to year.

Depending on the requirements, a home office can take a part of one room or take up to the several ones. In the particular case, the client wanted a space for independent work, which can be used for accounting, organizing business documents, etc. He wanted to have room with a simple design and without extra details. The place for the home office will be situated on the second floor in the hallway (Picture 13). The particular house architecture has plenty of free space on the second floor above lobby that can be used rationally if placing the working place there. Several balconies are located on the second floor. Two of them can be accessed from girl's and master bedroom and the third one is located in the end of that hallway of the foyer. Due to the multiplicity of



balconies on the second floor, partial usage of the area in the foyer will not seem like a dead-end but rather a convenient usage of a space.

The cabinet will be furnished with brown furniture set including a desk, a bookshelf, and a file cabinet. The color of furniture will remain harmoniously as it is produced using the same color scheme. The number of cabinets and drawers would store all the necessary documents and stationary and will help to keep the place free of clutter. The lighting of this space will be implemented with the help of default lobby lighting, consisting of LED recessed lights on the perimeter plus a desk lamp necessary for intensive work in darker hours.

The home office occupies part of the lobby on the second floor of the house. It is a well-lit space that joins with a balcony. One of the minuses of the space taken by the home office is the absence of a door. On the other side, the room will be used only from time to time; the lack of privacy will not become a problem.

#### **4.3.9 Hobby Room**

One of the rooms on the first floor situated next to the spacious living room will have a function of a hobby facility (Picture 8). The wife of the owner of the house is keen on belly dancing and creating costumes and accessories for this. This kind of hobby requires a relatively large amount of space for the storage of textiles and finalized costumes. Besides that, a working desk for the manufacturing of costumers is another very important item that has to be located in the room. Furthermore, being a belly dancer herself, she also wished to have a space for showing her dances to her guests; that is why it was decided that a separate room could become a great place to collect all of these activities.

Together with the client it was agreed to decorate the room in an Arabic style. The walls of the room will be brightened up with the technique 'venetian plaster' of the light brown shade and golden glow. The windows will be complimented with the chocolate brown curtains. The room will have a range of ceiling LED lights and four Arabic

pending lights of various diameters. Picture 20 showcases a general concept created for the hobby room, where the designer tried to create an exotic atmosphere within a limited space.



Picture 20. Hobby room.

The room will be furnished with work desks, several shelves and a cabinet for storage. One of the walls will be covered with mirrors for the dancing rehearsal and costume fittings. It was also decided to put a sofa bed in this particular room, as it can serve as a place for guests to sit and enjoy Arabic dances. Moreover, the ‘Arabic room’ can also be a place where the guests of the family can stay for a night in comfort.

The hobby room is comparably small; that is why the smart choice of furniture is necessary there. The function of the room is, at first, to provide a comfortable place for work and, secondly to create a dramatic scene for demonstrating belly dancing. Using the particular room as a hobby room will help to minimize the clutter that might appear during handwork to one room.

## 4 EVALUATION

The process of designing a private house went successfully, as it has brought positive feedback from the customers. The final design included the details that the customers aspired to, such as preferred items, colour schemes etc. The design of every room was based, firstly, on the functional criteria, and then included the details that made the interior more original. Emphasis was also placed on ‘personalizing’ the interior, e.g. taking into account individual wishes of each family member and their life styles. For example, each member of the family has a personal working space and a private zone where they can relax and devote themselves to hobbies and other preferred activities. On the other side, the proposed plan allows family members to spend time together and with their friends comfortably. All spaces are divided by zones that help to implement multiple functions within a limited place. Furthermore, the colour scheme is chosen together with the preferences of the clients and forms a harmonious atmosphere throughout the whole house. A few materials, such as flooring, and supporting tones bring unity and assist in matching design elements.

The process of planning and designing was long-term and challenging, but simultaneously rewarding after seeing the positive reactions of the customers. Some difficulties connected to the specifics of the field arose during the process. For example, some of them were the attempts to understand the wishes of the customers and bring their dreams into reality keeping in mind the budget was a challenging mission. The design of an interior affects everyone as we spent generous amount of time in homes and various institutions. Good interior design harmonizes the lives of inhabitants, and provides the best conditions for the implementation of their duties; therefore, this area of design can affect comfort and productivity.

The process of designing of the detached house for the family of four persons was an extremely engaging practice, which, however, was impossible without the assistance of the qualified interior designer, architect and professional literature. Nevertheless, receiving the approval of the customer sets aside all the difficulties that the designer can face with during that process. Overall, that period has brought a colossal benefit, as it was a magnificent learning practice.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Interior design project is a complicated and long-term practice. It consists of several stages from the starting point of meeting with the client and ends up when the elaborated solution for the space is reached. This thesis document has become an example of the process of interior design, showcasing its highlights, such as customers' satisfaction in moments when the dreams of the client concerning the interior were implemented. On the other side, the main difficulties that arose during the work were connected both to the architecture of the house and customer relationship.

This document can assist the beginner in interior design in getting a first understanding of the field, help in creating a diagram of his/her own project, and can furthermore aid in using the methods that were mentioned in the body of the thesis. Moreover, by following along step-by-step, one can compare the described processes to guidelines. The thesis states the importance of interior design in the lives of people and informs the reader about the peculiarities of the field. Some of the main attributes of that design area, such as a style and trend are introduced to the reader showcasing its diversity and a topical value. The thesis also presents a sequence of other characteristics, such as safety, comfort and the importance of inclusive design. Those valuable attributes have to be considered when carrying out the project.

The meaning of place is often formed throughout time, and its architecture tells a lot about the morals and habits of people. "Sophisticated design helps to create a link between past, present and future" (House & Coles 2007, 16-17). The volume of construction, its location and outlook all show the concerns of the inhabitants. Hence they provide an understanding of their preferences and affect the design process. While architects start their work from a blank sheet, interior designers 'breathe new life' into spaces. Consequently, design within respect and consideration of the offered construction helps to create great places connecting the external and internal look of buildings. "Good design can enable us to live and work more effectively, comfortably, profitably, securely and pleasurably in a more aesthetically fulfilling and functional environment." (Design Institute of Australia 2013)

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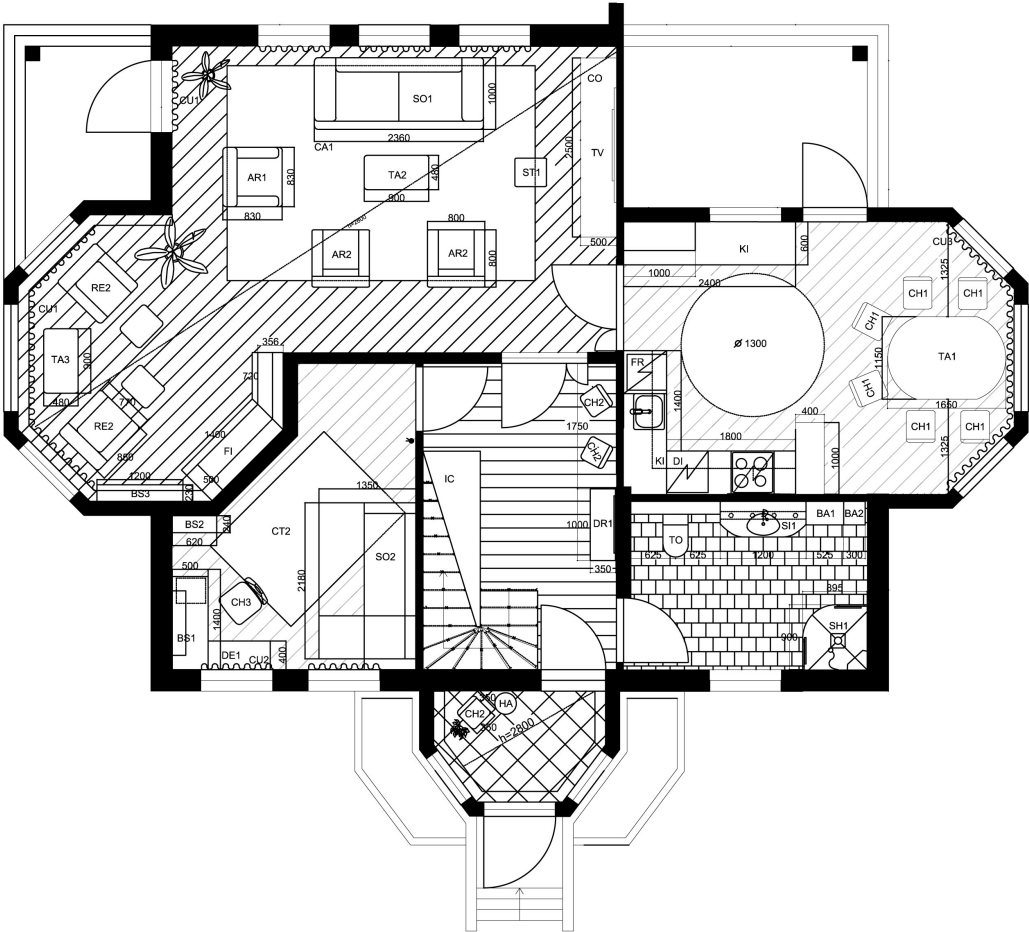
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Estimated area of the main facilities of the house

<b>MAJOR SPACES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED AREA (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Living room	35,84
Kitchen	20,50
Master bedroom	16,27
Bedroom 1	13,63
Bedroom 2	13,48
Lobby (2nd floor)	13,42
Lobby (1st floor)	12,65
Guest room	10,65
<b>MINOR SPACES</b>	<b>ESTIMATED AREA (m<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Bathroom (1st floor)	6,75
Bathroom (2nd floor)	9,35
Wardrobe	5,87

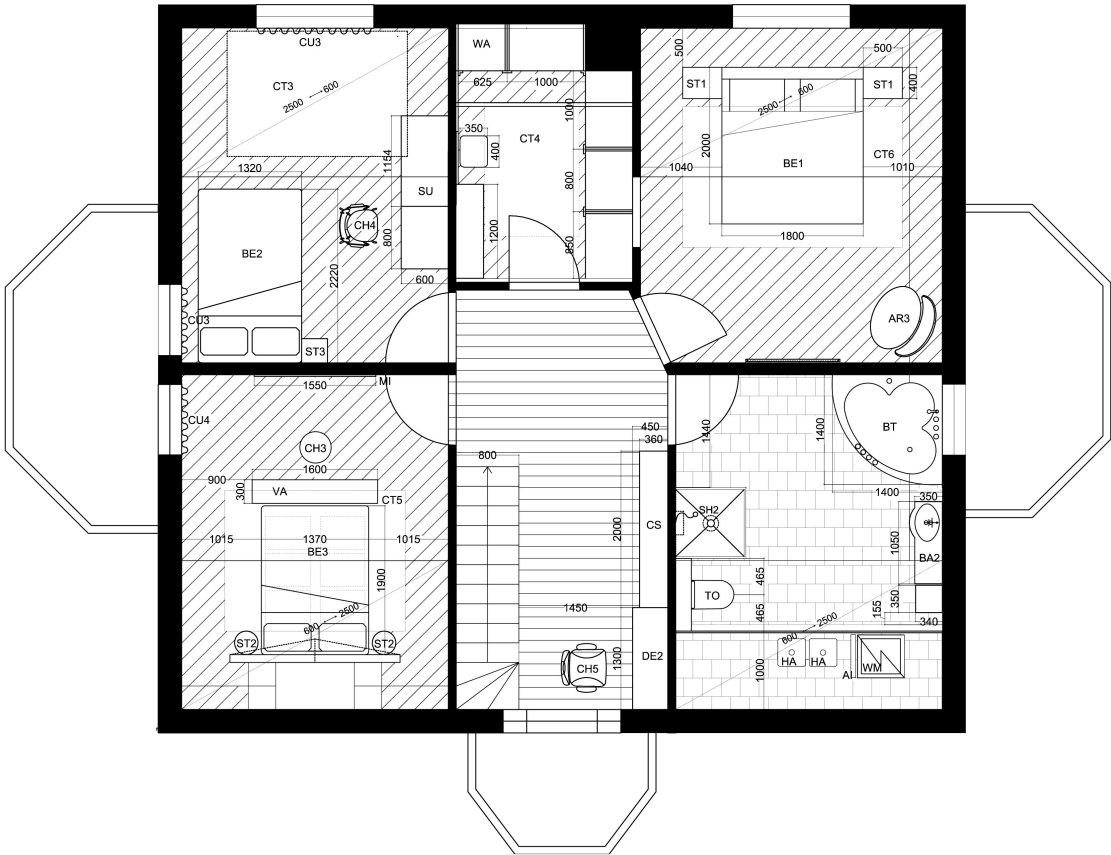
## Comparison of customers' preferences for the design of the house

	Alexander	Inna
1. How many members of the family going to live in the house?	4	4
2. What is your daily routine? How much time do you spend at home?	Around 2 for relaxation. The rest of the time for sleep and eating.	
3. Do you work/study at home. Is there need for a room for hobbies, activities?	Yes, home office is necessary	Room for hobby (Arabic dancing, sawing garment)
4. Is there a need for additional devices, custom items? Does plumbing, electricity, heating have to be included in a new design?	Sauna, but outside of the house	Fireplace
5. What is location of the space? Is there need for noise reduction or sound enhancement elements?	-	-
6. What kind of feeling do you want the space to have? What is your preferable design style?	Warm, cozy, neat, easy to handle. Minimalistic, asian, classical	Comfortable, bright, easy to handle. Classical, eclectic
7. What are your favorite colors, textures?	Black and white, metal shine	Turquoise, purple, azure, pink, red; shining, glittery
8. What is your total budget for the project?	Undetermined	Undetermined
9. What is your timeframe?	Undetermined	Undetermined
10. Who will make the decisions on the project?	Both	Both
11. Do you have pets?	A cat	A cat
12. Do you have overnight guests?	Sometimes	Sometimes (separate room is not necessary)
13. Possible other changes in the future ( old people, handicapped etc.)	Not relevant	Not relevant
14. What rooms will be used at what time of the day?	Morning: kitchen; evening work office, living room, kitchen	Morning: kitchen; evening work office, living room, kitchen
15. What is orientation of the house, where is south, east etc. ?	Living room - south/east kitchen-north	Living room - south/east kitchen-north



Floor Plan First Floor





Floor Plan Second Floor

## Material list first floor

Detached House Design  
4.2012

Material list 1st Floor  
xxx-403

Julia Kalinkina  
0901750  
Karelia AMK  
Thesis

Code	Type	Specification	Color	Size	Company
Tiles 1	Bathroom Wall	EH SINFONIA DÉCOR ALEGRIA ROJO NEGR	Black, red, grey ,white	25x50	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles2	Bathroom Wall	EH SINFONIA BLANCO	Black	25x51	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 3	Bathroom Wall	EH SINFONIA NEGRO	White	25x52	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 4	Bathroom Floor	IPE BLUE BEIGE	Dark grey with, white blotches	10x10	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 5	Kitchen Wall	TTC TENDER LIANA GOLD	White, golden pattern	20x40	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 6	Entrance	DVB RICH HISTORY RH86 DÉCOR	DARK BROWN	30x30	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 7	Entrance	DVB RICH HISTORY ANTHRACITE RH86 DÉCOR	DARK BROWN	15x60	LAATTA PISTE
Parquet	Lobby, Kitchen, Bedrooms	Exquisite	White oak		PARLA
Wallpaper	Living Room	Hanna Werning 1301	White, orange, green		Boras Tapeter
Wallpaint 1	Lobby	Inside Wall Paint	321X		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 2	Lobby	Taika	Golden Pearl Glaze		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 3	Living room	Inside Wall Paint	368X		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 4	Hobby Room	Inside Wall Paint	320x		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 5	Hobby Room	Taika	Golden Pearl Glaze		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 6	Kitchen	Inside Wall Paint	321X		Tikkurila

## Material list second floor

Detached House Design  
4.2012

Material list 2nd Floor  
xxx-403

Julia Kalinkina  
0901750  
Karelia AMK  
Thesis

Code	Type	Specification	Color	Size	Company
Tiles 1	Bathroom Wall	II TENDER 36W4	White, pink, yellow	30x60 (panel)	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles2	Bathroom Wall	II NEVE 36	White	30x60	LAATTA PISTE
Tiles 3	Bathroom Floor	IMI PLAIN CENERE	Grey	45X45	LAATTA PISTE
Parquet	Lobby, Kitchen, Bedrooms	Exquisite	White oak		PARLA
Wallpaper 1	Master Bedroom	SOUL	White, red, grey, silver		Boras Tapeter
Wallpaper 2	Girl's room	VIEW	Pink, white		Boras Tapeter
Wallpaint 1	Lobby	Inside Wall Paint	321X		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 2	Lobby	Taika	Golden Pearl Glaze		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 3	Wardrobe	Taika	Golden Pearl Glaze		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 4	Master Bedroom	Inside Wall Paint	359X		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 5	Girl's Bedroom	Inside Wall Paint	359X		Tikkurila
Wallpaint 6	Boy's Bedroom	Tunto	H497 (Kaolin)		Tikkurila

## Furniture list

Detached House Design  
4.2012Material list  
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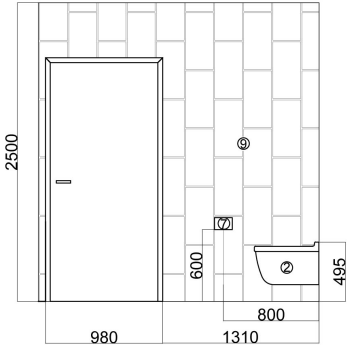
Code	Material type	Specification	Color	Company	Amount
KI1	Kitchen model	MODERNA KODIKUUTTA	White furniture, stone worktop	Puustelli	1
TA1	Dining table	LAKESIDE MATBOARD MED ILÄGGSSKIVA	White	Rowco	1
CH1	Chair	OCTAV STOL	White	Rowco	4
BA1	Mirror bathroom cabinet	SPKL100V	White	TEMAL	1
BA1	Sink and bath cabinet	MONDO MKL12050	White	TEMAL	1
BA1	Storage cabinet	KKSN5060V/O	White	TEMAL	1
CA1	Bathroom cabinet	DESIGN RD5535	White	TEMAL	1
CA2	Bathroom cabinet	TKKA3035	White	TEMAL	1
SO1	Sofa	SELESTE (3-istuttava sohva)	Light grey	Sotka	1
AR1	Armchair	SELESTE (3-istuttava sohva)	Light grey	Sotka	2
AR2	Armchair	Silvia	White	Masku	1
RE2	Recliner	STRESSLESS (Spirit chair and stool)	Beige M	Masku	2
TA2	Coffee table	DOM	Transparent	Artleano	1
TA3	Coffee table	Capo D'Opera	White/black wood	Capo D'Opera	1
CO	Console		Light wood, black	Eicholtz	1
DR2	Chest of drawers	L'Officina	Dark brown wood, metal handle	L'Officina	1
SO2	Corner sofa	Bravo 06R	Brown, beige bycast/textile	Sotka	1
CH2	Chair	Aqua	Beige	Bellus (Masku)	1
TO	Toilet bowl	Moon WC	White	Hafa	2
FI	Fireplace	Manttelitakka	Kivi polar	Uunisepät	1
SH1	Shower cabin	POLARIS STEAMER 90 ROUND	Transparent glass, silver	Hafa	1
HA	Leg hanger	Ciacci	Bronze	Ciacci	1
DE1	Desk	Living	Dark nut, white	Hiiipakka(Masku)	1
FC	File cabinet	Giza	White	Rintaluoma(Masku)	1
VA	Vanity table	Atlantic (32938)	White, silver	Florence Collections	1
CH3	Stool	Chelini (2079)	White, silver	Moskva Rim	1
CH4	Computer chair	MOVE GREY	Blue/grey	Toimistotuoli24	1
CH5	Computer chair	Prime	Brown	Stemma	1
BE1	Bed	Classic Prestige	Grey	Tempur	1
BE2	Bed	Galeoni (4138)	White	Caroti (Vecchia Maria)	1
BE3	Bed	Ciacci (35072)	Silver bedframe	Moskva Rim	1
ST1	Side table	Solitaire (27690)	Brown	Selva	2
ST2	Side table	Ciacci (35449)	White tabletop, silver frame	Moskva Rim	2
ST3	Side table	Vecchia Maria (4086)	White	Caroti (Vecchia Maria)	2
BT	Bath tub	BIONE 140 ROUND	White	Hafa	1
SH2	Shower cabin	KIOTO STEAMER 120 TWIN	White	Hafa	1
BS	Book shelf	Fimes (41650)	Oak, mat white glass	Moskva Rim	1
CA1	Carpet	Petra	Beige (160x230)	Hobby Hall	1
CA2	Carpet	Chiara	Silver	Koodi (Hobby Hall)	2
CA3	Carpet	Sinfonia	Natural white (160x230)	Hobby Hall	1
CA4	Carpet	Jyllanti	Brown	Koodi (Hobby Hall)	1
SL	Stool	Boston, natura/PVC	Light grey	Sotka	1
WA	Wardrobe	Martini Mobili (32628)	Brown	Moskva Rim	1
SH2	Book shelf	Book shelf (4220)	White	Caroti (Vecchia Maria)	1
SU	Suit	Proposta 801 (4132)	White	Caroti (Vecchia Maria)	1

## Lighting list

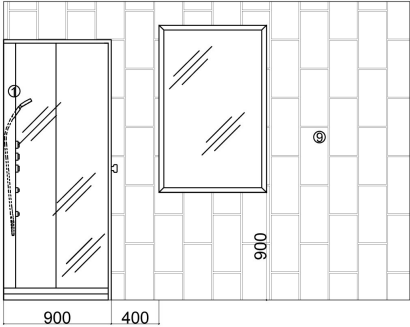
Detached House Design  
4.2012Lighting list  
xxx-402Julia Kalinkina  
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Karelia AMK  
Thesis

Pos1	bt, lobby, lr, br	Adjustable Gimbal Trim	T2000 (Halogen)	Matte White	Contrast Lighting	37
Pos2	bathroom 1	Ceiling Recessed Fixture	Quiet Ceiling Light, square sealed lens	White	RSA	5
Pos3	Krist, Matv, MastrB	Ceiling Trim	Ultra-Trim Baffle Downlight	White	Juno Lighting	30
Pos4	kitchen, living room	Wall Wash Trim	R3151W 3.5 Inch Square Adjustable	Matte white	Contrast Lighting	8
Pos5	kitchen	Pendant light	Tennessee Ø 70 cm	White, beige	Cello	1
Pos6	kitchen	Worktop lighting	Soft Strip 2.4W 12V 24"	Warm white light	Lightology	1
Pos7	Lobby, Living room	Suspended ceiling	LED strip flexible, high power	Cool white light	LED Vista	3
Pos8	Kris, Master	Strip Lightng (LED)	Single Row Indirect	Cool white light	Edge Lighting	1
Pos9	living room	Pendant light	Graffiti 6 Light Chandelier	Smoked Crystal	Corbett Lighting	1
Pos10	Guest Room	Pendant light	Moroccan Hanging Lamp Small	Silver	Vivattera	1
Pos11	Guest Room	Pendant light	Moroccan Hanging Lamp Medium	Silver	Vivattera	1
Pos12	Guest Room	Pendant light	Moroccan Hanging Lamp Large	Silver	Vivattera	1
Pos13	living room	Track Lighting	QF-187I	Die-cast aluminium, mat glass	HK Phoenix Lighting	3
Pos14	Bathroom 2	Wall Wash Trim	Miniport Eyelid Trim	Stainless steel	Edge Lighting	4
Pos15	Bathroom 2	Ceiling bathroom trim	Shower Lensed Downlight (3")	White	Beach Lighting	4
Pos16	Kristina's room	Pendant light	Crystal Galazy Chandelier 23.6"	Crystal	Lightology Collection	2
Pos17	Kris	Ceiling Trim	Adjustable Spot Trim ( 3")	Brushed Nickel	Beach Lightng	3
Pos18	Matv	Optical Fiber	Unsheathed end-emitting Polymer (1mm)	Cool white light	Starscape	3
Pos19	Wardrobe	Ceiling Trim	Adjustable multiple luminaire (2 lamp)	White	Mosaico	8
Pos20	Master bedroom	Pendant light	Opium pendant	Black	Moire Collection	2
Pos21	bathroom 2	Wall Sconce	Cosmo	Chrome	Tech Lighting	2
Pos22	lobby	Wall Sconce	Visione	Chrome	Et2	2

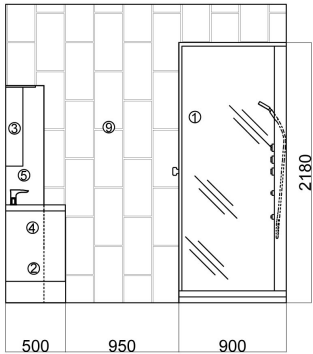
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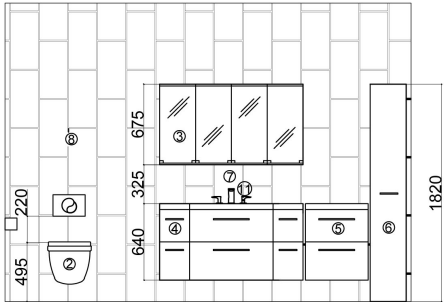
B-B



D-D

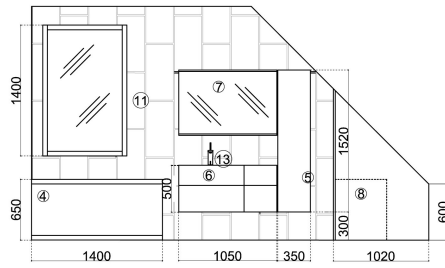


C-C

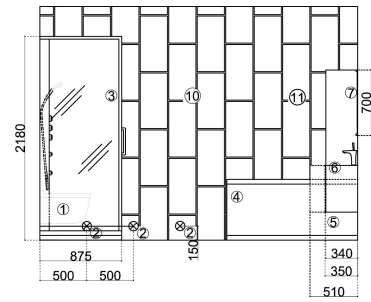


Bathroom Projections First Floor

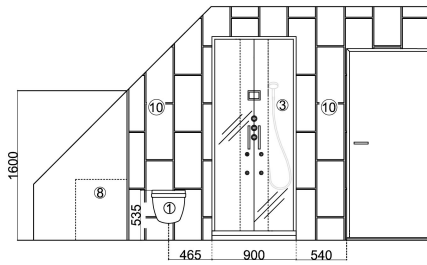
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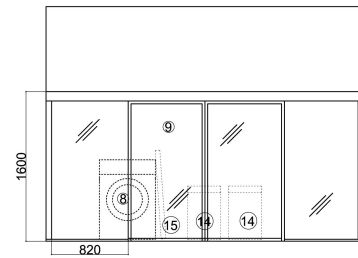
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C-C

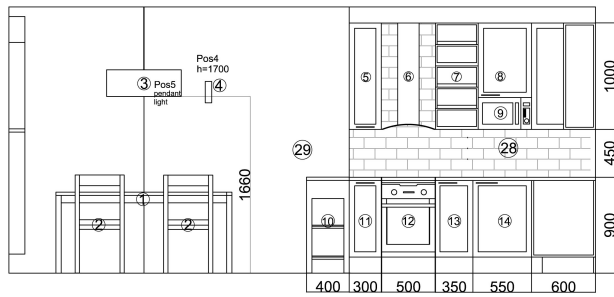


D-D

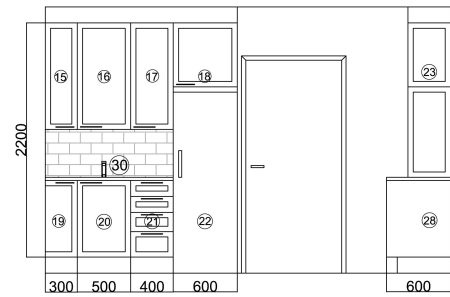


Bathroom Projections Second Floor

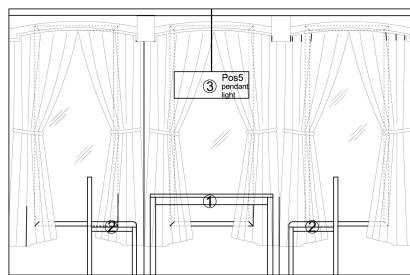
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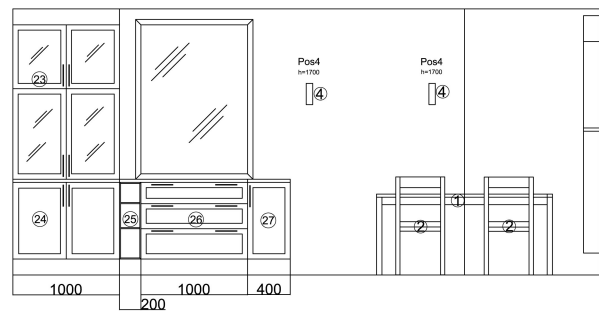
B-B



C-C



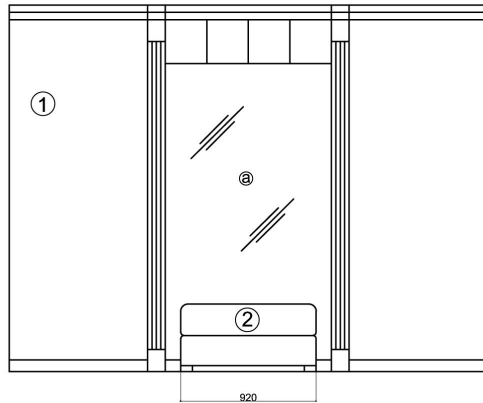
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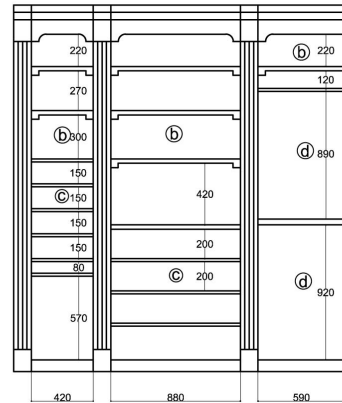
Kitchen Projections



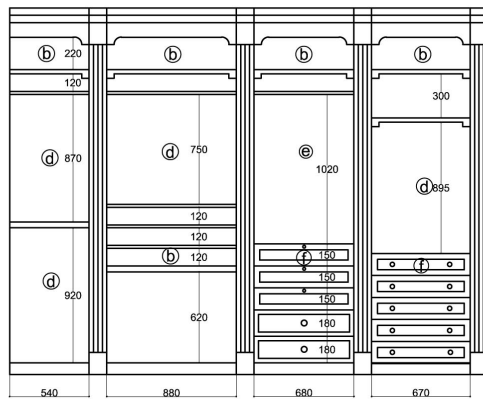
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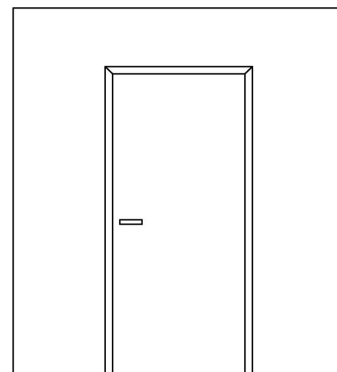
B-B



C-C



D-D



Wardrobe Projection