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**PRINCIPLES OF APPLYING CLASSICAL AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL
STYLES IN CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR DESIGN**

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Abstract: *This article explores the principles and methodological foundations for integrating classical and national historical styles into contemporary interior design. The relevance of the study is обусловлена the growing need to preserve local cultural identity within the context of global design trends. The research aims to identify scientifically grounded principles for adapting elements of historical styles to modern interior environments. To achieve this objective, comparative analysis, graphical-analytical methods, case study approaches, and design modeling techniques were employed.*

The results indicate three primary approaches to integrating historical elements: transformational integration (modification of form), stylization (preservation of decorative characteristics), and conceptual integration (based on underlying ideas and spatial principles). The study reveals that classical interiors are characterized by central symmetry and vertical dominance, whereas contemporary interiors tend to favor asymmetrical compositions and open-plan layouts. From an ergonomic perspective, the direct application of historical elements is not always optimal.

Design-based findings demonstrate that successful integration can be achieved through the simplification of decorative elements, the preservation of material contrast, and the proper organization of spatial hierarchy. The scientific novelty of the study lies in the development of a three-stage structural model for integrating historical style elements. The practical significance is reflected in providing designers with methodological guidance for the harmonious application of classical and national motifs in modern interior environments.

Keywords: *interior design, historical styles, national architecture, classical style, spatial composition, integration, ergonomics*

INTRODUCTION

In the field of contemporary interior design, the reinterpretation of elements from classical and national styles is gaining increasing relevance. Due to globalization, standardized and neutral design models are becoming more widespread, which contributes to the weakening of local cultural identity. Therefore, the issue of adapting historical heritage to modern environments while preserving its authenticity has become a significant research problem. For example, as noted in an ArchDaily article, a distinctive urban identity in Tashkent has emerged through the integration of Soviet modernism and local craft traditions. Similarly, a study by Eshnazarova and Nurmukhamedova (2025) highlights that

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urbanization and global trends are contributing to the loss of national interior elements, emphasizing the necessity of their preservation.

This study aims to identify the principles for integrating elements of classical and national historical styles into contemporary interior design. To achieve this aim, several research objectives were established. First, to analyze the compositional and decorative characteristics of classical and national styles; second, to identify methods for harmonizing historical elements within modern interior design; and third, to examine ergonomic and functional adaptation mechanisms. The object of the research is the system of contemporary interior design, while the subject is the principles of incorporating historical style elements into this system.

The scientific novelty of the study lies in the development of a three-level model that reflects the transformational, stylizational, and conceptual stages of adapting historical style elements to modern environments. This model provides a systematic representation of the design process. The practical significance of the research is demonstrated by the applicability of the findings in design projects, enabling the creation of interiors that preserve classical and national decorative elements while meeting functional and ergonomic requirements. For instance, recent adaptive reuse practices in contemporary projects, particularly the renovation of historic hotel buildings, have proven effective in re-integrating architectural heritage into modern cultural contexts.

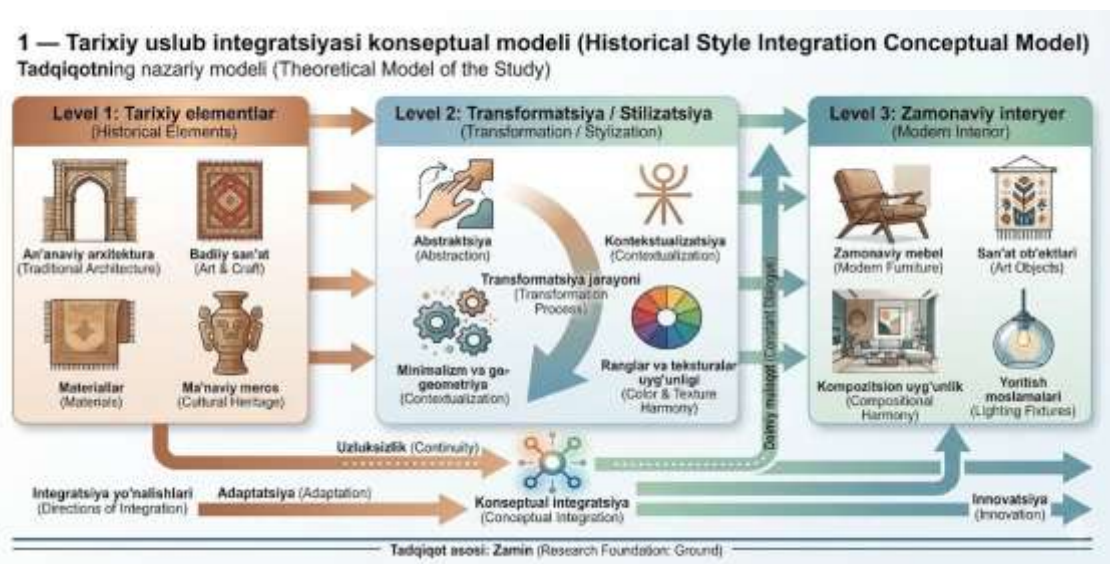


Figure 5 Conceptual model of historical style integration

METHODS

A comprehensive methodology was employed in this study. Initially, a comparative analysis was conducted to examine the spatial, decorative, and material differences between classical European and Central Asian historical interior design traditions. Particular attention was given to spatial composition, proportion, and systems of symmetry. Subsequently, a graphical-analytical method was applied to analyze spatial elements such as

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columns, structural supports, and window placements, as well as their rhythmic and compositional articulation within the interior space.

As part of the research, a case study approach was utilized to investigate several contemporary design projects in which historical elements had been incorporated. For each case, the spatial layout, material selection, and the process of decorative integration were examined in detail. In addition, design modeling techniques were employed to develop conceptual schemes for transferring historical motifs into contemporary interior environments.

For instance, the study by Elmurodov and Mаметova (2026) highlights the application of comparative analysis, graphical-analytical methods, case studies, and voxel-based modeling in similar research contexts. In the present study, these methodological approaches are likewise used to identify the elements of balance between historical and contemporary spatial configurations.

Parameter	Classical Interior Design	Modern Interior Design
Materials	Natural and heavy materials: wood, marble, plaster, stone	Lightweight and innovative materials: metal, glass, composites, plastics
Form and Composition	Strict symmetry, central axis, closed composition	Open-plan layout, free organization, asymmetrical composition
Symmetry and Hierarchy	Central dominance, hierarchical spatial organization	Functional zoning, organization based on visual flow
Lighting	Decorative lighting (chandeliers, candelabras), low diffused illumination	Maximized natural lighting, integrated LED, and functional lighting systems
Function	Aesthetic dominance, ceremonial and representative character	Functional priority, oriented toward ergonomics and user comfort
Color Palette	Deep and rich tones (gold, brown, burgundy, cream)	Neutral and light tones (white, gray, beige) with accent colors

RESULTS

The results of the study indicate that there are three primary approaches to adapting classical and national styles to contemporary interior design. The first approach is transformational integration, which involves modifying the form of historical decorative

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elements in accordance with modern stylistic requirements. The second approach is stylizational integration, in which classical patterns and ornaments are simplified while preserving their most visually distinctive characteristics. The third approach is conceptual integration, which is based on transferring the underlying ideas and spatial principles of historical architecture into contemporary environments.

Ergonomic analysis has shown that it is difficult to meet modern functional requirements while fully preserving the original dimensions and proportions of historical elements. For instance, classical furniture and accessories do not always correspond to contemporary standards of living and usability. This necessitates a revised design approach, in which either the architectural proportions are adapted or the selected materials and elements are adjusted in accordance with current ergonomic and functional requirements.

Furthermore, in terms of spatial composition, several key differences were identified. In classical interiors, vertical articulations such as columns and structural divisions, along with central symmetry, tend to dominate. In contrast, contemporary interior spaces are characterized by asymmetry and open-plan configurations. This contrast requires careful balancing during the integration process, including the recalibration of spatial distances, the redistribution of focal points, and the modernization of lighting systems. As a result, the key design parameters are summarized in Table 1.

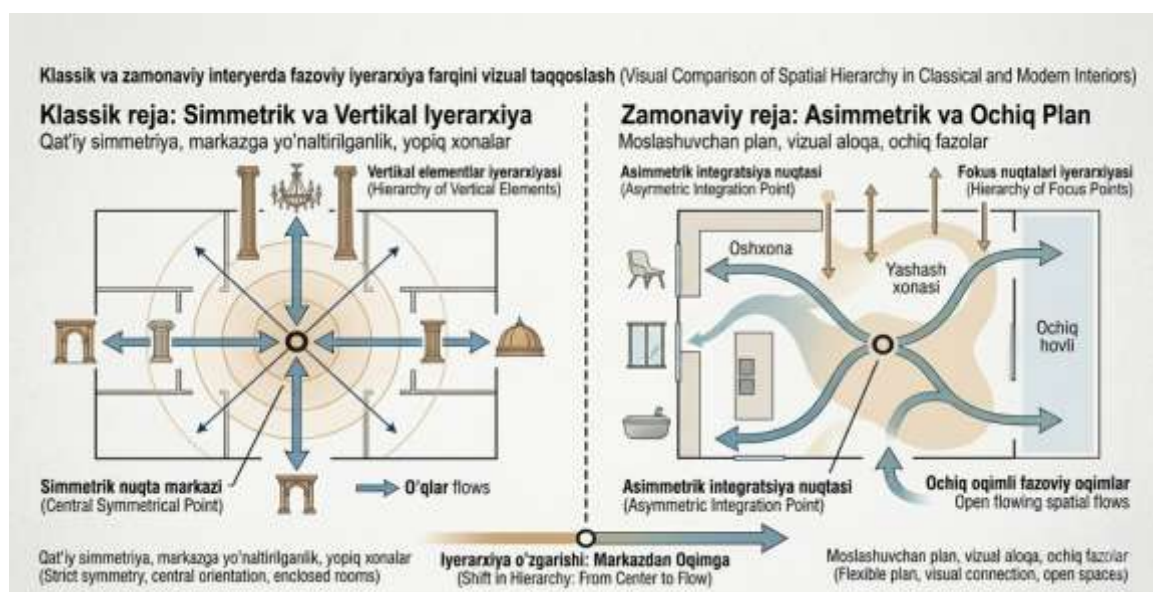


Diagram 1 — Spatial hierarchy comparison

The practical recommendations derived from the study indicate that, when adapting elements of historical styles to minimalist environments, the coordination of material and color contrasts plays a crucial role. For example, the reinterpretation of a classical arch in a simplified form, combined with a reduced and stylized ornamental pattern, enhances the overall aesthetic value of the interior space.



Figure 2 Adapted classical interior element

In another case study, it was found that when national patterns (such as carpets or wall panels) are used as simplified compositional elements in contemporary interiors, they contribute a distinctive emotional and atmospheric quality to the interior space.



Figure 3 Contemporary interior with traditional motif

DISCUSSION

When the obtained results are compared with contemporary international studies, it becomes evident that the processes of integrating historical styles are closely associated with the approaches to adaptive reuse and contextual design. UNESCO recommendations

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also emphasize the revitalization of historical urban centers through adaptive reuse strategies. In particular, the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach considers regeneration and adaptive transformation processes in urban cores as instruments of inclusive and sustainable development. In accordance with this concept, cultural heritage retains its significance through architectural objects adapted for public use, thereby ensuring the continuity of cultural identity.

The results of this study are also consistent with findings from other regional and international research. For instance, Elmurodov et al. (2026) note that spatial efficiency can be enhanced through functional zoning and the use of adaptable furniture systems in contemporary environments. In the context of the present study, the integration of historical elements into spatial hierarchy contributes to improved ergonomic performance and spatial efficiency.

However, the study has certain limitations. In particular, since each historical style is deeply rooted in specific regional and historical contexts, it is not always possible to apply a universal model to all styles. Moreover, the conflict between strict ergonomic standards and aesthetic requirements must be addressed individually in each design project. In practical applications, for example, the direct use of Ancient architectural elements is often found to be impractical, as they may conflict with contemporary functional requirements rather than supporting them.

CONCLUSION

At the conclusion of the study, it is recommended that the integration of classical and national historical styles into contemporary interior design be carried out through a scientifically grounded three-stage model. This model includes the following approaches: a transformational approach (adapting architectural elements to modern functional requirements), a stylizational approach (simplifying and harmonizing decorative elements), and a conceptual approach (reinterpreting underlying ideas and spatial principles within a contemporary context).

Among the practical recommendations presented in the conclusion, the following are of particular importance: adapting historical decorative elements to functional zoning, clearly defining material and color contrasts, properly selecting focal points, and maintaining open-plan design principles. For instance, it is recommended that historical decorative elements such as columns or arches be positioned along the central axis of the interior composition, while lighter and functionally oriented contemporary elements are integrated into the surrounding areas.

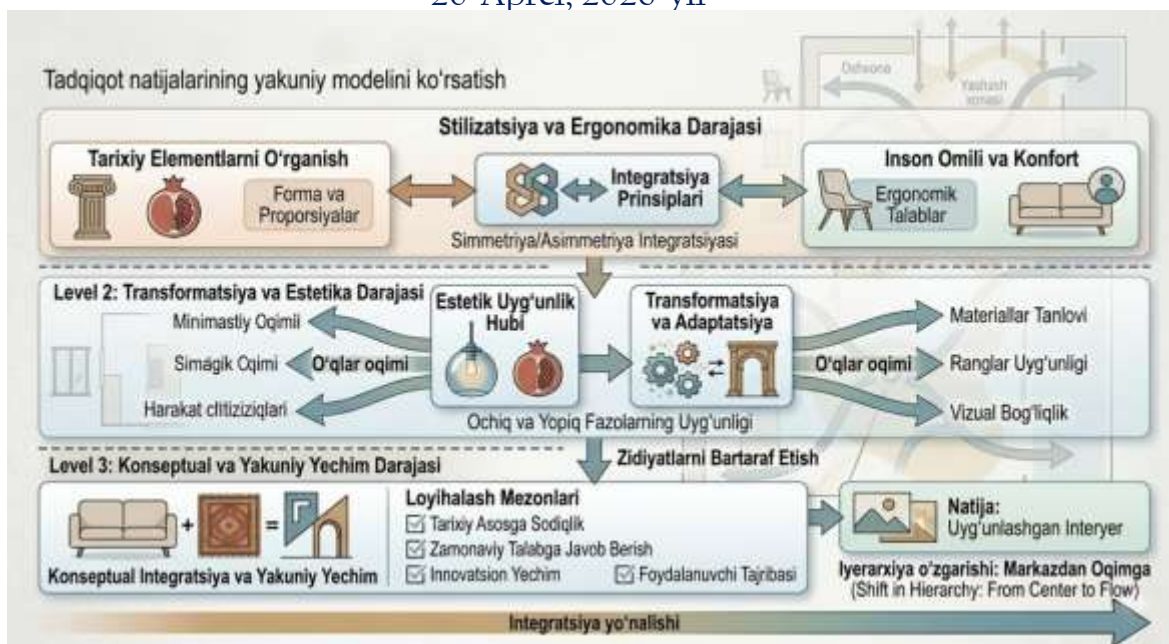


Figure 4 Final integrative design model

In future research, it is planned to further investigate design methodologies for historical style elements based on digital modeling, BIM technologies, and comprehensive spatial analysis. These approaches will enable designers to develop projects that achieve a more refined integration between cultural heritage and contemporary ergonomic requirements.

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