2018 DESIGN TRENDS
COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

IMAGE COURTESY OF ARCHSTUDIO; PHOTOGRAPHY © JIN WEIQI

GRACE LENNON AIA LEED AP BD+C
INSPIRATION

Reference local **VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE** to create inspired interiors.

Promote **FUNCTIONALITY** with a playful spirit.

Combine **NECESSITY** and **CREATIVITY** in design.

Include **ADAPTABLE** components as the featured element.

APPLICATION

Use modularity references in local architecture to inspire interior elements.

Incorporate modular, movable pieces to create multi-purpose space.
VERNACULAR

Recently, retail designers have referenced local architecture in their modular product displays, allowing a visible connection between a city’s history and the interior space.

The **Modular Lilong**, designed by Lukstudio, creates a retail experience specifically related to the surrounding context of Shanghai. The term ‘lilong’ refers to an urban typology in response to space shortage, with buildings organized around meandering lanes. Lukstudio re-interpreted this signature streetscape with 3 ‘lanehouses’ arranged into different display areas. The structure of ‘lanehouses’ is conceived as a modular kit of parts, so that it can easily be disassembled and re-installed in another shop location if needed. The materials are also based on architectural features and textures found in a ‘lilong’.
ADAPTABILITY

Modular units within commercial designs can allow for interior function flexibility and multi-purpose spaces.

With **BOY Siam Square salon**, Stu/D/O has developed a way to tie two levels together with a loop of continuous steel rod, serving as a structure for the new mobile cutting units. This raw steel rod runs from the front reception to the cutting area, up through the open void, into the waiting and multi-purpose area, and back down in a continuous loop, weaving different functions into a united space. Mirror units and shelving units are designed to hang on this rod system rather than attaching to walls, so furnishings can be positioned to fit any purpose or situation. The space is minimized down to its main functions, yet allows dynamic adaptability to serve the users.

IMAGES COURTESY OF STU/D/O ARCHITECTS; PHOTOGRAPHY @KETSIREE WONGWAN
INSPIRATION

Utilize **TECHNOLOGICAL** advancements to create interior and exterior elements.

Allow **FASHION** to inform architectural design.

Increase **VISUAL EXCITEMENT** by introducing rhythm and repetition.

Apply **TEXTURE** to material finishes.

APPLICATION

Apply elaborate laser cut designs to screens.

Incorporate minimalist exterior facade systems.

SCREEN

IMAGE COURTESY OF ARCHSTUDIO; PHOTOGRAPHY © JIN WEIQI
INTERIOR

Architects are incorporating patterns in the creation of interior designs, helping to express a unique identity and strong innovative spirit.

Lily Nails Salon, designed by ARCHSTUDIO and located in Beijing, China, aimed to extend two dimensional floral patterns into three dimensional spaces. The salon is in an irregular shape, with walls that interlace straight and curved lines. The curved walls divide various functional areas, meeting different spatial needs from open to private. The pattern of the walls adopts lace, a popular clothing material, abstractly transformed and realized through laser cutting of 6 mm steel plate. The pattern turns all the walls translucent, overlapping and interweaving.
EXTERIOR

Using readily available, modular materials to create a uniform skin, such as glass brick, allows for a dynamic facade with minimal means.

The Cube, a re-purposed industrial boiler room turned into an airy gallery, was designed by CLOU architects and is located in Taiyuan, China. Previously dark and cavernous, CLOU architects opened up the structure of the boiler room using a combination of transparent and translucent glass brick, bringing in an abundant amount of natural light. The glass brick changes the look of the facade gradually throughout the day according to the position of the sun, while strong LED up-lights along the walls create a red ‘lantern effect’ at night.
INSPIRATION
Motivated by the need to seek order and minimalism in design.

Incorporate clean lines and fluidity.

Design to concept ‘less is more’.

Strive to achieve simplicity and speed in construction.

APPLICATION
Utilize a minimalist palette of materials in commercial interiors and facades.

Use glazing as a defining element in the design.
RETAIL

Fashion retailers often opt to showcase their garments in very minimal spaces, with the exterior architectural matching with monochromatic and simplistic materials and form.

Egrey Store is a minimal fashion boutique in São Paulo which local firm MNMA Studio has expanded with a glass-fronted corridor to join its two sides. This translucent connecting space allows abundant natural light, and displays a single white dress in the already stark room. The taller building to the left was re-clad in white plastic to match its neighbor, bringing cohesion to the exterior. White walls and polished concrete flooring are found throughout the interior. Cove lighting hidden in the ceiling washes the surfaces with light, adding to the generous amount of daylight entering through large windows.
MATERIALITY

Architects are incorporating minimal material palettes into commercial interiors, achieving simple, yet striking spaces.

Strubobuob, an Austrian gardening shop designed by Innauer-Matt Architekten, is located in a former industrial workshop. The two-story gables on both long sides of the house, a reference to surrounding buildings in the village, create a functional and exciting cross-shaped layout on the inside and a distinctive character on the outside. The interior space of the building is characterized by raw surfaces, an exposed solid wood construction and simple details showcasing the craftsmanship of its builders. The few selected fixtures and the central staircase are made in black steel, while polished concrete floors with integrated heating and floorboards in ash wood is seen throughout.

Images courtesy of Innauer-Matt Architekten
THANK YOU
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Designers featured:

• ARCHSTUDIO
• LUKSTUDIO
• Stu/D/O Architects
• CLOU Architects
• MNMA Studio
• INNAUER-MATT Architekten