

Sara Izzidien 2403678
Dissertation Synopsis
History and Theory 2 ACAA5003
Word Count: 499

How does the strategic use of glass elevate the 'Open Museum' concept into a more profound visitor experience?

Introduction

Glass and the open museum, both elements co-exist in contemporary museums, but what is their relationship? Does glass provide more than just a dramatic front? Throughout the 20th century, glass has become a highly prevalent material in contemporary museums. (Admin, 2019). This is especially visible in the projects of architects like Norman Foster (Powers, L. 2022), Mies Van der Rohe (Rawn, E. 2014), and Zaha Hadid (Mairs, J. 2016). Seemingly, the use of glass has left a long-lasting impact on contemporary museums, both visually and with the people who interact with the space. The use of glass in contemporary buildings has created a pattern which includes the ability to connect the building envelope with the exterior through its interaction with natural lighting, making the space look more open and overall giving it visuals that are modern and engulfing. I aim to tackle the details of how the use of glass in museums holds so much power and if it truly provides more to the building than what's seen at first glance.

Methodology

I intend to use a wide range of methodologies to provide a variety of resources or evidence to accurately find answers to my question and to support any statements that I will make throughout the dissertation. This could include utilising several methods, such as gaining firsthand knowledge from people who have experience regarding the topic, such as architects and glass artists, which can be gathered through questionnaires and interviews. Conducting site visits would be ideal to gather accurate information and opinions about the chosen museums. Ideally, I will engage with both primary and secondary resources to gather a broad range of information. Through books, journals, and articles, I will be able to use these sources to the highest standard while collecting a range of valuable information.

Aims and Objectives

This research aims to identify the main strengths that glass provides, beyond what's seen on the surface, in addition to delving into the relationship between glass and the open plan in contemporary museums, specifically how they balance each other. Lastly, a vast portion of

this research aims to analyse if the use of glass and the open plan has a grand effect on the museum and the visitor experience as a whole.

Limitations

There are some potential limitations throughout the dissertation, such as gathering a wide enough range of primary sources and public opinion, while ensuring that the evidence covers a broad range of people. Furthermore, it might be difficult to gather enough up-to-date resources on the use of glass in contemporary museums, as it's a specific subject. Though these limitations can be handled by reaching out to people early on and conducting precise research.

In conclusion, my end goal entails diving into the concept of the 'Open Museum' specifically in regards to glass contemporary museums and how this material impacts every element of the design, and its visitors.

Reference list:

1. Admin (2019). *History of Glass: Modern Period*. [online] DMG Gallery. Available at: <https://dmglass.com/history-of-glass-modern-period/>.
2. Mairs, J. (2016). *Zaha Hadid Architects sits a rippling glass lump on top of the Antwerp port building*. [online] Dezeen. Available at: <https://www.dezeen.com/2016/09/22/zaha-hadid-architects-faceted-port-house-antwerp-belgium/>.
3. Powers, L. (2022) Powers, L. (2022). *Norman Foster, iconic British Architect – Powers*. [online] Powers. Available at: <https://powersuk.com/iconic-architect-norman-foster/>.
4. Rawn, E. (2014). *Material Masters: Glass is More with Mies van der Rohe*. [online] ArchDaily. Available at:

<https://www.archdaily.com/574575/material-masters-glass-is-more-with-mies-van-der-rohe>.