

---

## Bibliometric Analysis Of Interior Design From The Perspective Of Chinese Feng Shui

Liang Wang<sup>1</sup>, Ooi Boon Keat<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Architecture and Urban Planning, Henan University of Urban Construction, Pingdingshan 467036, China; Graduate School of Management, Management and Science University, Malaysia

<sup>2\*</sup>School of Education and Social Sciences, Management and Science University, Malaysia  
[bkooi@msu.edu.my](mailto:bkooi@msu.edu.my)

---

**How to cite this article:** Liang Wang, Ooi Boon Keat, (2024) Bibliometric Analysis Of Interior Design From The Perspective Of Chinese Feng Shui. *Library Progress International*, 44(3), 21138-21154.

---

### ABSTRACT

Interior design is born out of architectural design, is the continuation and deepening of architectural design, is the re-creation of indoor space environment. The process of interior design is very complicated, requiring aesthetic logic design method, objective and rational architectural technology, sky-high artistic creation, as well as some complex cultural content and cultural characteristics for guidance. Feng Shui originated in ancient China and is an important part of traditional Chinese culture and an important embodiment of Chinese philosophical thought. Feng Shui is an important law for ancient Chinese people to build houses and buildings, aiming to examine the environment prudently and carefully, conform to nature, utilize and transform nature in a controlled manner, create a good living and survival environment, win the best timing, geographical location and human harmony, and achieve the best state of unity between man and nature. Feng Shui is closely related to the natural environment, and in the ecological environment development needs of modern society, Feng Shui culture can be able to improve the relationship between human beings and nature, guide the creation of a space environment that is in harmony with nature, and improve the quality of life of human beings. Feng Shui culture is compatible and harmonized with the goal of sustainable development of mankind. There have been many researchers of Feng Shui in Chinese history, but few have made a study of the connection between Feng Shui and modern interior design. This thesis tries to analyze the relevant historical documents of Chinese feng shui research, explore the influence of feng shui on interior design, do the research of interior design from the perspective of feng shui culture, find a combination point for interior design and traditional culture, and at the same time, provide certain ideas for cultural self-confidence and sustainable development.

**Keywords:** Interior Design, Feng Shui, Traditional Chinese Culture

---

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Architecture contains history and culture, reflecting the inheritance and characteristics of culture. Although the external conditions of architecture such as decoration and color change with the development of time, the culture expressed and inherited is relatively fixed. Modern architecture is accompanied by the development of modern science and technology. If there is a building, there is an indoor space. Architecture is like the shell of a vessel expressed as a

solid, and the interior is like the content of a vessel expressed as a void, the two are inseparable, architecture is composed of two basic parts of the interior and exterior space design (Zheng, 1995). The interior design industry originated in Europe in the mid-twentieth century (Yao, 2003). With the reconstruction of Europe after World War II, economic and technological development brought about a large number of construction projects, and the scale of the buildings became larger and larger; at the same time, the functional requirements for the use of the interior became more and more complex, making it difficult for architects to complete the architectural design of a project together with the interior design, and difficult to take care of the design of both the interior and exterior space parts. The new social demands brought about a further division of labor, which gradually separated interior design from architectural design in Europe and the United States, forming a separate design discipline from the 1960s, which in turn influenced the entire architectural community worldwide (Zheng, 1995).

The main content of architecture is indoor space, and the result of the influence advocated by Feng Shui culture is also the people in the indoor space environment, then modern interior design needs to look at the indoor space from the perspective of Feng Shui culture. This study discusses interior design from the perspective of feng shui culture, by systematically reviewing and analyzing the literature related to feng shui and interior design in China, and by exploring some related contents of feng shui culture and interior design, it is hoped that some basic feng shui cultures can be applied to interior design to create the harmony between human beings, space and nature.

Feng Shui [风水] is unique and traditional Chinese approach to locating, designing, and constructing dwellings to seek harmony between people and the environment (Han, 2023). Feng Shui mainly refers to the comprehensive evaluation of various factors of the living environment, such as climate, geology, topography, ecology, scenery, etc. as well as the generalization of certain techniques and various taboos in the process of constructing dwellings when people in ancient times chose their living places (Li, 2008). From ancient times to the present day, Feng Shui has guided the creation of Chinese architecture and its internal spaces, perfectly linking architecture to the natural environment. Even though the development of architecture in modern society has become very mature, architects still follow some Feng Shui principles when designing buildings because its culture is closely related to the natural environment, and some of its contents harmonize with modern science such as geography, hydrology, botany, sociology, and so on. However, there are many knowledge and contents in Feng Shui that are difficult to explain and implement in modern society, such as: astronomy and astrology, gossip and yin and yang, divination and prediction, fortune-telling, and so on.

## **2. RESEARCH BACKGROUND**

The design and decoration of interior space is diverse and regional under the influence of the long and vast Chinese culture, which is the best example of the integration of architecture, culture and natural environment (Gu, 2011). Behind the formal diversity of Chinese interior design and decoration is the support of the profound traditional culture, which is the material form expression of the cultural contents such as Confucianism's ritual and music thoughts, Buddhism's philosophical thoughts, Taoism's thoughts of unity of heaven and man, as well as feng shui layout concepts, folk customs and so on. Thees rich content have been contained in the Chinese traditional cultures that greatly influence the modern interior design.

In today's rapid development of science and technology and information intelligence, interior design has been incorporating technology to create and improve the indoor space environment such as indoor space intelligence, ecological and etc. At the same time, there are also many research papers on the combination of traditional culture and interior design, but there are relatively few studies on the application of feng shui culture in interior design. Therefore, this study focuses on the interior design from the perspective of Chinese Feng Shui

to provide a better overview and understanding for interior design references and development.

Feng Shui is also known as geomancy, which means observing heaven and earth from above and geography from below. By observing the changes in the situation between heaven and earth, people look for a suitable place to live, so that the living environment of human beings can achieve the state of heaven, earth, time and people. In ancient China, Feng Shui was involved in urban construction, rural planning, and the building of palaces, residential locations, and interior decorations, which shows that Feng Shui had a wide range of applications in ancient China (Niu, Zou, Dang, & BingtaoFan, 2022). With the continuous development of internationalization and urbanization, modern urban life is like living in a forest made of reinforced concrete, where nature and people are getting farther and farther away, not to mention the spatial environment of balanced yin and yang, and the harmony and unity of man and nature, which is advocated by Feng Shui culture. This change in the environment requires people to apply sustainability to all aspects of life, which also naturally includes interior space, and Feng Shui culture can precisely provide a good reference and reference for interior design, which also provides a certain impetus for the research of this thesis.

Although the attention and application of Feng Shui culture in social reality is gradually increasing, there is still a relative lack of related research and literature. There are only 217 studies related to "interior design and feng shui" searched in the Chinese CNKI database, and there is a decreasing trend in recent years. It is hoped that Feng Shui culture will be emphasized in modern interior design, which is the starting point of this study.

### **3. RESEARCH METHODS**

Currently, traditional culture, regional and ethnic culture, Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism, and other cultural contents, have been emphasized by researchers, so this paper searches and analyzes interior design and other related traditional cultures before conducting a literature assessment and review of interior design and feng shui. Because this study is a literature study of mainland China, the database searched is China CNKI, which is used to judge and analyze the current research emphasis on interior design and feng shui in China. The results of this study may provide some basis for future research between interior design and Feng Shui in China.

Due to the literature involved and considering the comprehensiveness of the analysis, this paper adopts the research method of Bibliometric analysis combined with literature review to state and analyze the number and trend of the literature in the related fields and discuss the relevant contents of some of the literature.

#### **3.1 Database Selection**

CNKI was chosen as the electronic database, firstly because this study is for mainland China, and CNKI is the largest literature database in mainland China, powerful and reputable. CNKI is the largest academic paper database and academic electronic resource in China, which includes an absolute number of officially published Chinese academic resources. Since it is searching Chinese databases in China, the search is conducted in Chinese. The number of searches is the total number of libraries, including Chinese and other languages.

#### **3.2 Defining keywords**

In this study, before starting the formal use of keyword search, some keywords will be searched to try to get more appropriate keywords. For example, a search for interior design and regional and ethnic culture was attempted using Chinese, but the search result was 0, which could not provide data for the study. A search was attempted for interior design and taoist culture, but the search result was 5, which was too few and the topic and content of the literature deviated from the keywords. A search for interior design and geomancy was attempted but the number of searches was 3 and the topic and content of the literature was off keywords. So the study

adjusted the search keywords according to the need.

This research started using the keywords needed for the research to conduct a search query, based on the requirements of research relevance, research relevance and depth. The keywords were searched in the CNKI database in China and the keywords used included "interior design", "interior design and traditional culture", "interior design and regional culture", "interior design and ethnic culture", "interior design and Confucianism", "interior design and Taoism", "interior design and Buddhism ", and "Interior Design and Feng Shui", as shown in Figure 1.

**Table 1 Search keywords and time**

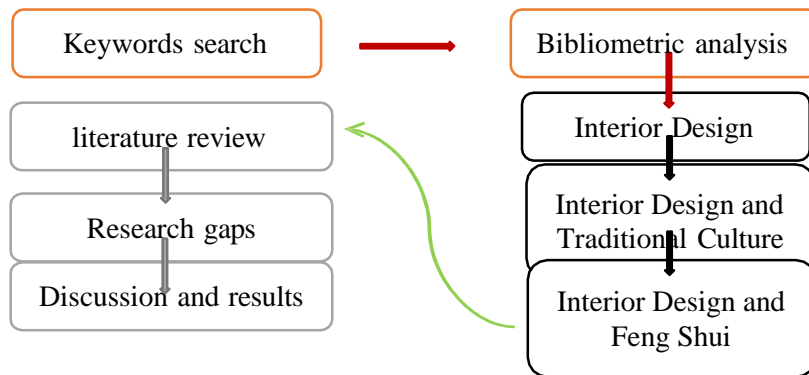
Search keywords	Search time
Interior Design	2024.05.23
Interior Design and Traditional Culture	2024.05.23
Interior Design and Regional Culture	2024.05.14
Interior Design and Ethnic Culture	2024.05.14
Interior Design and Confucianism	2024.05.15
Interior Design and Taoism	2024.05.15
Interior Design and Buddhism	2024.05.15
Interior Design and Feng Shui	2024.05.14

**3.3 Research Design**

In this paper, firstly, bibliometric analysis of the research on interior design in China is carried out based on the keyword search, then further bibliometric analysis of the research on interior design and traditional culture is carried out, and the number of literature studies on interior design, interior design and other cultures is compared, and finally, further bibliometric analysis of the related research on interior design and feng shui is carried out. studies were subjected to bibliometric analysis, and a literature review was conducted on studies related to interior design and feng shui to identify the research gaps, discuss them, and come up with the results, which can be seen in Figure 1.

In the research, it will involve the analysis of the search results, such as: distribution of the main topics in the literature, distribution of literature by year of publication. CNKI database has the data visualization of related literature research display, which provides great convenience for the research.

Figure 1: Research design guidance



#### 4. INTERIOR DESIGN DEVELOPMENT IN CHINA

This paper only discusses the development of interior design in China after 1949. From 1949 to the present, the development of interior design has obvious stages, showing different social and industry development characteristics at each stage.

The first 30 years from the 1950s to the mid-1980s was the nascent stage of the profession that positioned interior design with the concepts of interior decoration and architectural decoration, closely integrating with the social practice of national key construction projects, and exploring and researching for how to embody the image of the socialist state. The completion of the Soviet Union's exhibition halls in 1954 marked the beginning of interior design in New China (Zheng, 2019). From the 1980s to the 1990s, interior design went to the people and began to serve the general public, while the interior design profession entered the popularization period of development. In December 1989, the founding conference of the "Interior Architects Society of the Architectural Society of China" was held in Beijing, announcing the establishment of the "Interior Architects Society of China" (now known as the Interior Design Branch of the Architectural Society of China), which opened a new page for the interior design industry in China (Zhang, 2004). The return of Hong Kong to China in 1997 and Macao in 1999 brought a new phase of development to the interior design industry in inland China (Jiang, 2015). The latter 30 years from the mid-1980s to the beginning of 2014 was a professional exploration stage in which interior design, which was positioned with the concept of environmental art, gradually developed towards the goal of environmental design discipline positioning. Theoretical research and social practice went their separate ways, while theoretical research results representing the development level of advanced productive forces were deeply hidden and difficult to recognize (Zheng, 2019).

Chinese CNKI search, 52,254 results were obtained with the keyword "interior design". According to Figure 2, there are 16 top literature topics distributed based on research frequency. The "interior design" makes up the largest percentage of the topic, with 7,423 results that are specifically on interior design. The theme of "interior decoration" was the second most popular, with 1,581 results. There are 1251 results for the topic "modern interior design." There are 1027 results for the topic "interior space design." 973 results for the topic "interior design programme".

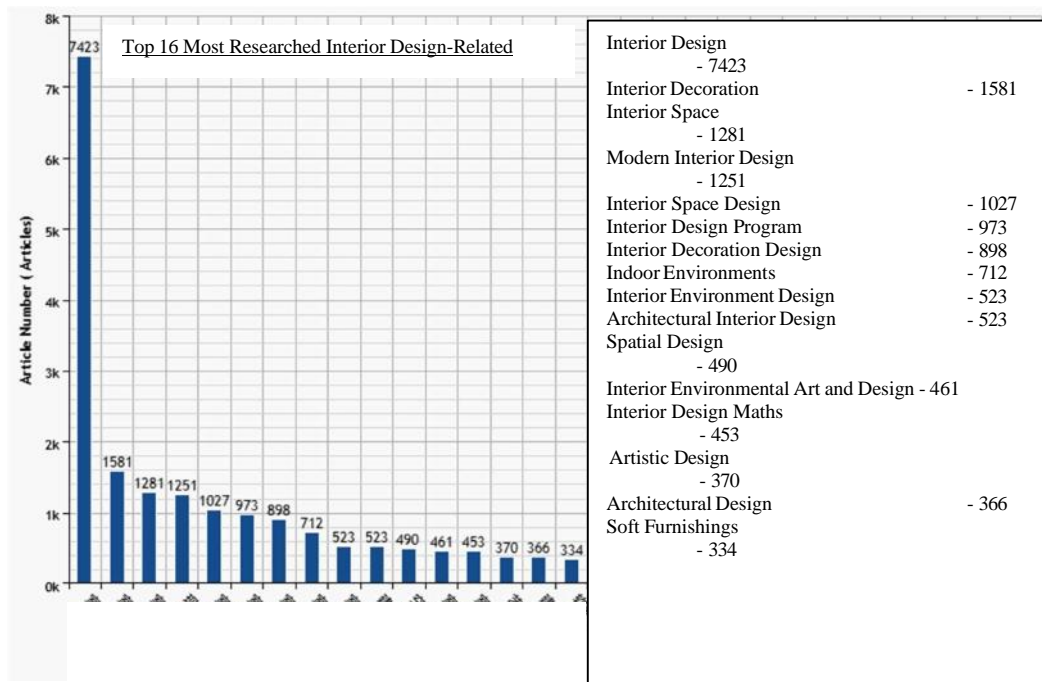


Figure 2: Distribution of the Interior Design Related Literatures

Figure 3 shows literature publications distribution. It is evident that between 1985 and 1993, there were very few literary research on interior design, with only 56 documents published in 1985 and 79 in 1993. There has been a trend of improvement since 1994. From 470 works of literature in 2000 to 663 works in 2004, there was a significant surge in momentum. This increase peaked in 2005 at 810 works and continued until 2018, when the increasing trend in pertinent literature came to a halt. The decrease started in 2019 with 3736 articles, then it slowed down a little bit in 2023 with 1807 articles. There are 454 works of connected literature in the 2024 year as of May 23, 2024. The overall trend from 2000 to 2018 is positive, with a growth rate of 694.89%. A notable declining trend with a drop rate of 53.95% is shown from 2018 to 2023.

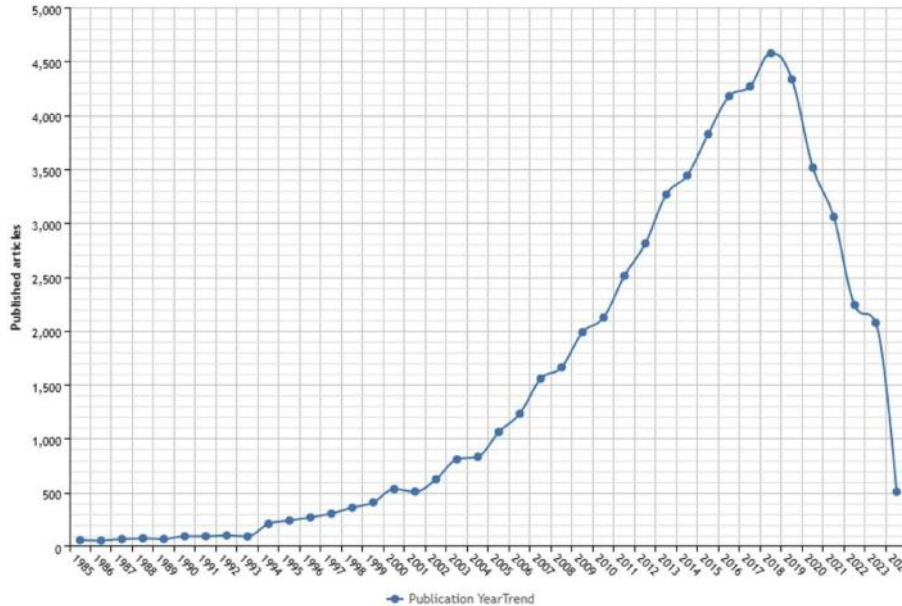


Figure 3: Distribution of literature by year of publication

China's interest for real estate development has decreased due to the global pandemic. An analysis of the literature on interior design reveals a close relationship between interior design and the construction sector in China. The majority of interior design research in China is conducted in the allied fields of architectural science and engineering, and the industry has an impact on this field of study. Since 2000, the "savage growth" of real estate has been accompanied by a thriving interior design sector. The following topics were covered in the beginning of this century regarding interior design thinking in China in the twenty-first century: interior and nature, interior and science and technology, interior and culture, interior and economy, and interior design's concern for people (Jiang, 2015). The "winter" of the construction industry has also coincided with interior design research, and the quantity of relevant studies has drastically decreased.

The discipline of architecture science and engineering, which is closely linked to the beginnings and growth of China's interior design sector, accounted for the biggest percentage, accounting for 66.70% of the results in Figure 4. There were 40580 results in this subject. This has a direct bearing on the beginnings and growth of the interior design sector in China. "Fine arts, calligraphy, sculpture, and photography" is the next most popular discipline, making up 8.07% of the total results with 4834. Vocational education yields 2,307 literature results, or 3.85%.

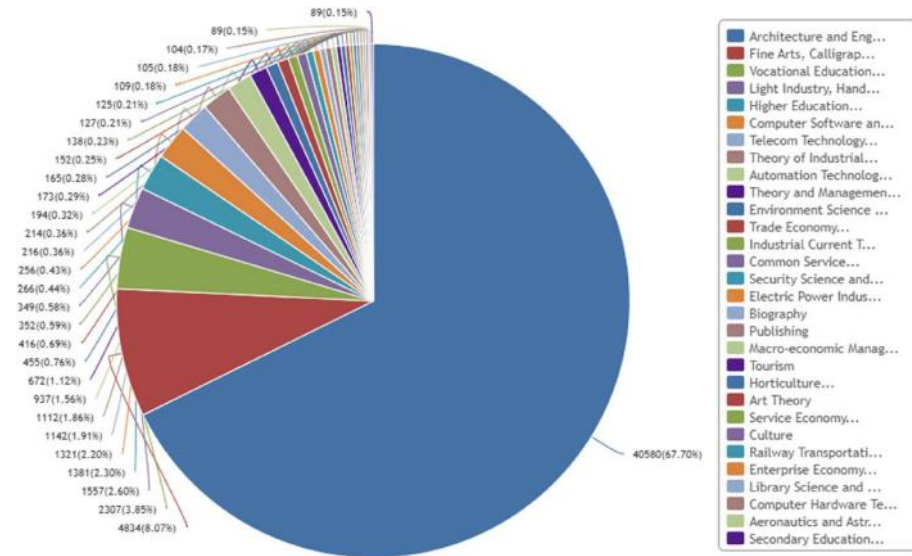


Figure 4 Distribution of disciplines in the literature

According to the literary topic co-occurrence matrix analysis, "modern interior design and interior design" and "interior design profession and interior design" have the most occurrences—503 and 423, respectively—in Figure 5. There were 272 instances of "Interior Design and Interior Design Teaching" in all. There were 170 instances of "interior design and interior decoration" and 146 instances of "architectural interior design and interior design" co-occurring.

The history of interior design in China is related to the theme of "interior design and interior decoration". The Central Academy of Arts and Crafts established China's first "Interior Decoration" department in 1957, marking the official start of the interior design profession (Zhou, 2004). Different historical phrases for interior design include decoration design, architectural decoration, interior decorating, etc. The terms "interior decoration" and "interior design" are still used occasionally to describe interior design.

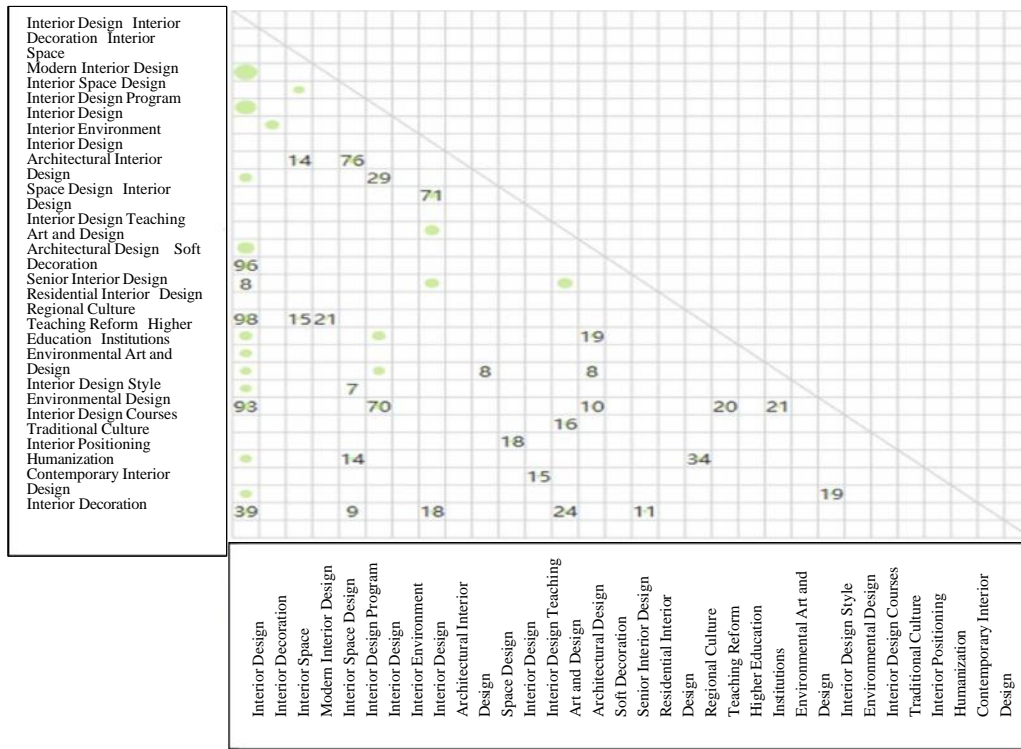


Figure 5 Literature theme co-occurrence matrix analysis

Researchers' current attention is mostly on modern interior design and professional issues and development, as seen by the co-occurrence of the topics "modern interior design," "interior design profession," and interior design. A further indication that the researchers are concentrating on contemporary interior design and professional issues and development is the 119 appearances of "interior design and interior design courses" from the 272 instances of "interior design and interior design teaching," 92 instances of "interior design and teaching reform," and 70 instances of "interior design profession and teaching reform." This further supports the significance that researchers attach to innovation and professional growth.

Notably, the terms "interior design and traditional culture" and "interior design and regional culture" came up 107 and 113 times, respectively, indicating how much importance researchers place on the relationship between interior design and culture. With the globalisation of cultural knowledge, interior design in China is about to enter a new phase of cultural integration. Interior design should be integrated with traditional culture, philosophical ideas, regional and national cultures, since it is a carrier and manifestation of culture.

### 8. INTERIOR DESIGN AND TRADITIONAL CULTURE IN CHINA

The long and rich history of Chinese culture has left its mark on the diversity and regionality of interior space design and decorating, making Chinese culture the best example of fusing architecture, culture, and the environment (Gu, 2011). The study of traditional culture, "Confucianism, Buddhism, and Taoism," regional and ethnic cultures, Feng Shui, and other topics has progressively started to appear in contemporary Chinese interior design research.

With "interior design and traditional culture" as the keyword, 3,888 relevant results were found in the Chinese CNKI search. With 1,235 findings, the theme of "interior design" has the largest share among the literature themes (see Figure 6), and these results are closely related to interior design. With 559 results, the theme "modern interior design" has the second-highest proportion. With 245 results, "traditional culture" is the third theme. 136 results are available for the subject "Traditional Chinese Culture." 132 results are available for the subject

"Traditional Cultural Elements." 125 items are available for the search term "New Chinese Style."

After 5,000 years of formation, growth, and development, traditional Chinese culture is the wisdom of the Chinese people crystallised into a distinct system with rich cultural implications. It encompasses all other material and spiritual cultures as well as values, lifestyles, modes of thought, emotional styles, psychological traits, and multi-level complexes such as ideology, morals, customs, psychology, literature, art, and institutions (Tan, 2014). The blending of modern interior design with traditional Chinese culture has become a significant means of cultural inheritance in the wake of globalisation and modernization (J. Li & Zhu, 2023).

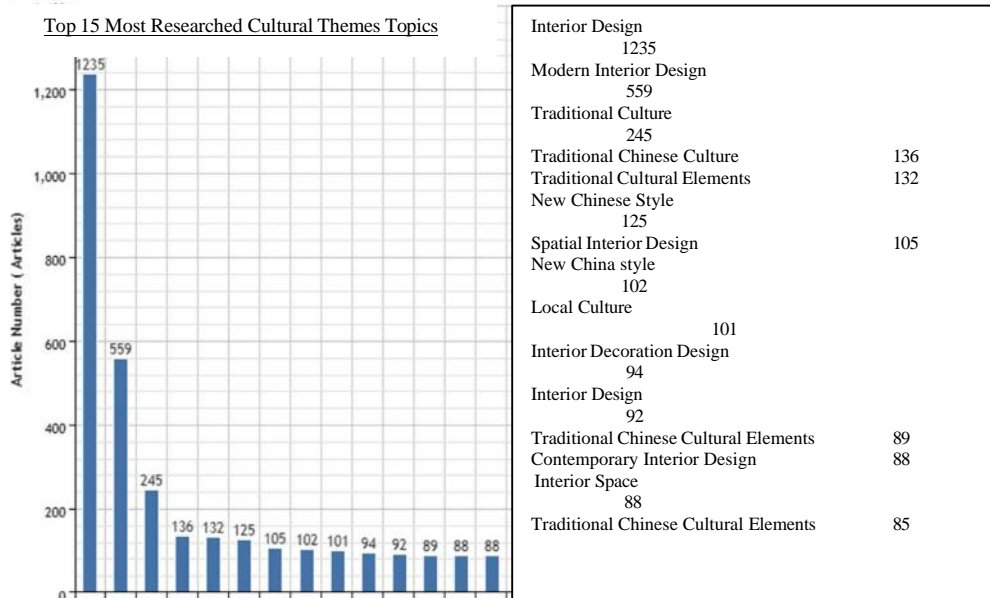


Figure 6: Distribution of Cultural Related themes

Chinese civilization is rooted in its traditional culture, which is also the source of a nation's history and the culmination of wisdom. Incorporating traditional culture into interior design will not only improve the meaning of the term and inspire designers, but it can also eventually boost people's cultural self-confidence and spread awareness of traditional culture's special allure around the globe (Qian, 2024). The current way that traditional Chinese culture is carried over into modern interior design primarily takes the form of incorporating traditional Chinese features into contemporary design in order to convey the aesthetic ideas of Chinese characteristics. These components include furniture design, ornamental arts and colours, the texture design of traditional Chinese building, etc. Additionally, these conventional components give modern interior design a fresh perspective on beauty and creative appeal while taking on new dimensions. Y. Zhou & Li (2023) assert that incorporating traditional cultural components into interior design not only adds adornment but also infuses the area with personality.

Figure 7 shows the distribution of literature publishing years, reveals that, between 1988 and 2000, the number of literature studies pertaining to interior design and traditional culture remained relatively stable, averaging 1-3 pieces annually. After 2000, it started to grow quickly, with 2 articles in 2000, 4 in 2001, and 14 in 2003. The strong growth rate was

maintained until 2012, when it peaked with 201 articles in 2012, 220 in 2013, and 227 in 2014. In 2019, the number of articles reached its peak at 412, marking the end of the growing trend in literature research. There was a sharp decline starting in 2020, with only 286 papers found in the pertinent literature. The decline persisted in 2021 with 223 literary studies, 144 in 2022, and 2023 with 144 literature studies, the same as in 2022. As of May 23, 2024, there were only 37 publications in the literature that year. The literature studies pertaining to "interior design and traditional culture" have an annual distribution on the right that is comparable to the literature studies pertaining to "interior design" on the left. The increasing trend begins in 2000 and ends in 2019. 2019 marks the end of the growing trend.

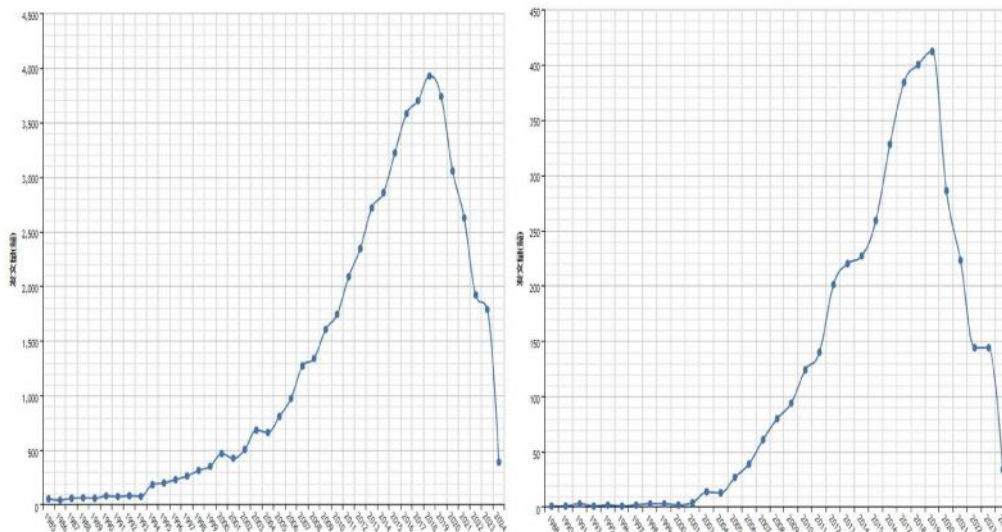


Figure 7 Comparative Distribution of Literature by Year of Publication

The distinct spiritual treasure of a nation or area is its traditional culture, which has significant historical and cultural implications. Its appropriate incorporation and use in contemporary interior design are crucial for enhancing the calibre of the work and advancing cultural heritage. But occasionally, designers' perceptions of traditional cultural components might be skewed, leading to cultural misunderstandings or confusion in the design, which loses the design's original cultural qualities and even starts the issue of cultural sensitivity. Simultaneously, diverse cultural aspects may be put together to create a distinct design effect; this results in a sense of incongruity across cultural styles and a loss of design coherence and wholeness. As a result, in order to develop new concepts and raise the bar for design, a thorough investigation of the use of traditional cultural components in contemporary interior design is required (Y. Li, 2024). The paper was searched by CNKI in China for the phrases "interior design", "interior design and traditional culture", "interior design and regional culture", "interior design and ethnic culture", "interior design and Confucianism", "interior design and Taoism", "interior design and Buddhism", "interior design and traditional culture", as well as "traditional culture", "interior design and ethnic culture", "interior design and Confucianism", "interior design and Taoism", "interior design and Buddhism", "interior design and Buddhism", "interior design and traditional culture", "interior design and traditional culture", "interior design and traditional culture" and "interior design and traditional culture", "interior design and traditional culture"., "interior design and feng shui" as keywords for search, the number of search results can be seen in Table 2 Comparison of Number of Searches.

Based on 3886 articles found in the literature, we can conclude from the search that there is still some literature on interior design and traditional culture. With just 1,801 publications,

the amount of research on interior design and local ethnic cultures has significantly decreased. With only 320 papers, the amount of research on interior design with Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism is likewise extremely modest. With only 217 publications, interior design and Feng Shui have the fewest studies.

**Table 2 Comparison of number of searches**

Search keywords	Number of search results (Total library)	
Interior Design	52254	
Interior Design and Traditional Culture	3888	
Interior Design and Regional Culture	1363	1803
Interior Design and Ethnic Culture	440	
Interior Design and Confucianism	124	
Interior Design and Taoism	77	323
Interior Design and Buddhism	122	
Interior Design and Feng Shui	217	

To achieve a harmonious blend of technology, culture, and art, modern interior design should incorporate new materials and technology with various cultural influences such as Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Feng Shui. This allows the design to incorporate modern conveniences while maintaining traditional cultural connotations. While artistic and creative thinking are essential components of interior design, innovation and invention require the foundation of culture. And now, in China, research is being done on interior design theory with an emphasis on style, genre, colour, and other useful study components (Jiang, 015). The information shown in Table 2 indicates that, at the moment, there is a dearth of Chinese literature and research on interior design from a cultural perspective, particularly when it comes to the relationship between interior design and Feng Shui.

## 9. INTERIOR DESIGN AND CHINESE FENG SHUI

Feng Shui is an age-old Chinese practice that adheres to natural rules and has been handed down for thousands of years as a means of achieving survival and wealth (Shi, 2019). Feng Shui is an ancient Chinese art form that has a rich and lengthy history. It originated during the Han and Jin dynasties, developed during the Tang, Song, and Yuan periods, and continued to improve over time during the Ming and Qing dynasties (W. Zhang, 2020). Understanding nature, adapting to it, changing it very slightly and sensibly, and pursuing the harmony and unity of nature and man are the goals of Feng Shui. The goal is to satisfy people's social and behavioural demands by designing living places and situations that are appropriate for their physical and mental wellbeing. This aligns with the current interior design concept and development aims.

Using the term "interior design and feng shui," 217 results were found in the Chinese CNKI search. The topic "interior design" has the largest percentage of literature themes (fifty results that are directly linked to interior design), according to Figure 8's distribution of literature topics. With 40 results, the "Feng Shui" theme has the second-highest proportion. "Modern interior design" comes in third with 19 results.

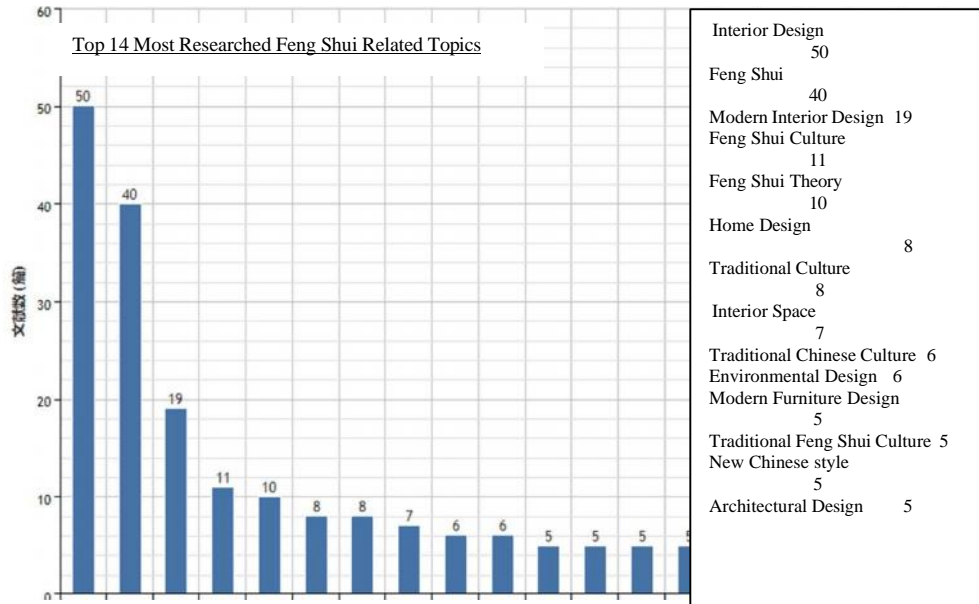


Figure 7 Distribution of Feng Shui Related Literatures

Figure 9 displays the distribution of the literature publication years. It is evident that the publication of literature related to interior design and feng shui only started in 1994. However, after a decline in 2000, the trend continued upward until 2011, when 11 publications were published in this area. It decreased in 2012, when 8 relevant papers were published, and then increased again in 2015, when 19 connected papers were published. The decline started in 2016, and it continued steadily downhill until 2023, when two papers on the subject were released. There hasn't been any pertinent literature released in 2024 as of May 11th.

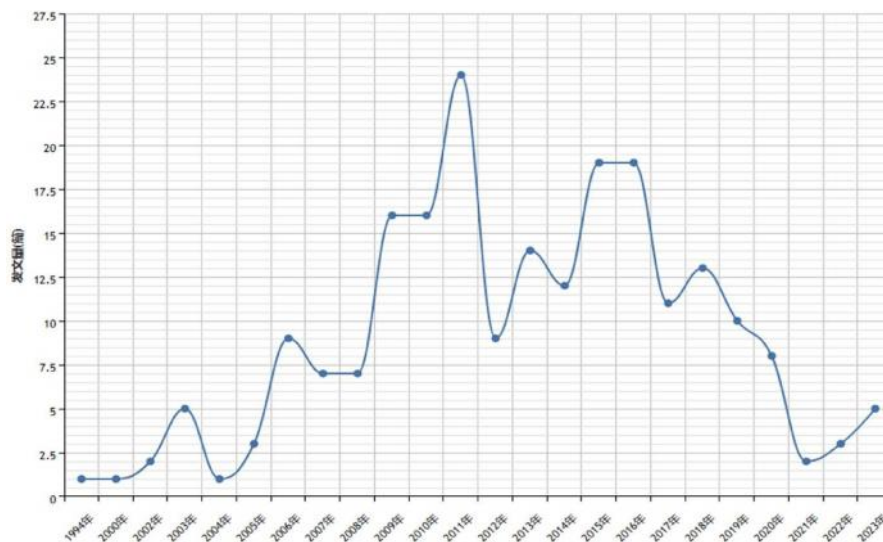


Figure 9 Distribution of literature by year of publication

As demonstrated in Figure 10, the topic co-occurrence matrix analysis, "Feng Shui Theory and Modern Houses" co-occurred nine times, which is the highest frequency. There were eight instances of "Feng Shui Theory and Citation Exploration" and six instances of "Feng Shui Theory and Feng Shui" co-occurring. The fact that "Interior Designer and Feng Shui Theory" featured twice is noteworthy.

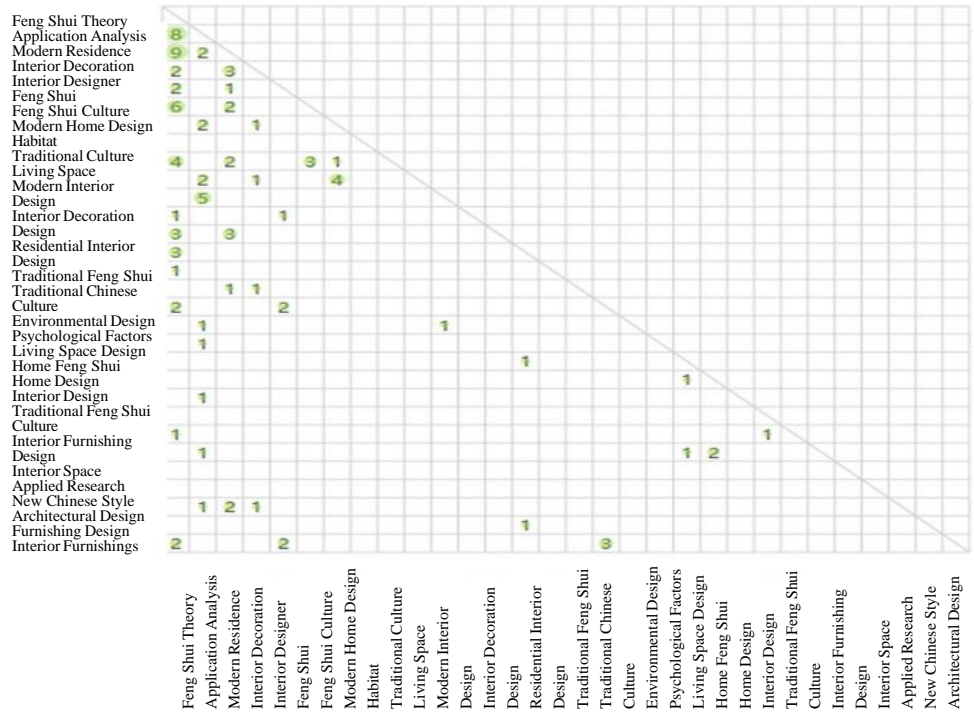


Figure 10 Feng Shui related literatures co-occurrence matrix analysis

## 7. DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Feng Shui in Interior Design

Feng Shui is a source of cultural reference in the study of modern home interior design, as evidenced by the frequency of co-occurrences of "Feng Shui theory and modern housing" in Figure 10. Feng shui, which is a manifestation of traditional Chinese culture and a blend of ancient theory and practice, has influenced building choices, construction, and spatial environment design for thousands of years throughout Chinese history. The basic principles of Feng Shui, which have been passed down from person to person, include living near water, facing the water behind mountains, and choosing to live in a residential area that faces the north. These choices have had an implicit impact on the Feng Shui even up to this day.

The idea of Feng Shui places great stress on the balance between yin and yang through the synchronisation of light and darkness, opening and closing, movement, and static opposites. Interior design pursuits such as colour contrast, lighting design, and spatial modelling all convey the idea of "human-ntered," and colour contrast and spatial modelling consistently demonstrate the harmony of yin and yang (Peng, 2019).

Chinese environmental concepts, both ancient and modern, emphasise the need for harmony and unity between humans and nature. This is why applying ancient Chinese feng shui to the indoor environmental layout of modern homes is feasible (Niu et al., 2022). Other concepts include hiding wind and gathering qi, balancing yin and yang, and ecological and healthy housing and harmony.

Interior design and decoration are done in accordance with the space's needs according to Feng Shui. This ensures the space is fully integrated with the principles to create a sensible

spatial plan that allowing the natural environment and the living area are coexisted in harmony and ultimately balance in term of the ideal state of unity between heaven (*spiritual*) and earth (*physical*) (Shu, 2018). Feng Shui being a long-standing traditional culture and art form, it is also a condensed compilation of people's extensive life experience (Feng, 2019) that combines the doctrine of geophysics, site selection, and landscape creation. Therefore, its central idea of the "unity of heaven and earth," is highly inspirational when it comes to creating livable human environments (Xu et al., 2022). The concept of "unity of heaven and man" is central to Feng Shui. Feng Shui places a strong focus on "avoidance of harm" and using "good luck" to get out of dangerous situations. For example, the "main impulse" in feng shui states that a building's entrance door should not face any sharp corners or buildings with sharp edges. According to science, this is because psychologically, people are put in fear by sharp corners (Q. Zhang, 2019).

The influence of Feng Shui is mainly reflected in three aspects that the first is the selection of the base site whereby the geographic environmental conditions that influence human physical and psychology; the second is the arrangement of the residence that includes the natural environment and the house orientation such as the location, height, size, access, water supply and drainage etc.; and the third is the decorations of the above basis to ascertain symbolic match of psychological needs of avoiding misfortunes and attracting good vibes (C. Li, 2017).

A significant component of traditional Chinese culture, Feng Shui demonstrates a more comprehensive ancient worldview, incorporating a great deal of empirical testing concerning architecture and the built environment. It also represents a great deal of traditional Chinese wisdom. The potential research on Feng Shui is to incorporate Feng Shui theory into contemporary interior design. Figure 10 has shown related literatures between Feng Shui and contemporary interior design. According to this analysis, the majority of research is done to examine how Feng Shui is used in contemporary interior design. According to Chen (2019), Feng Shui theory shares certain similarities with the design process in terms of aesthetic perception. Notable aesthetic factors include building materials' qualities and arrangement shapes. Therefore, Feng Shui is practically useful in the planning, designing, and erecting of structures in China. Modern feng shui incorporates contemporary ecology in order to integrate interior space layout design with feng shui (Q. Zhang, 2019). To apply the feng shui theory in interior design, which will better serve the modern environment, the principles of feng shui needs to be blended with the demands of contemporary society.

As stated by C. Li (2017), the goals of Feng Shui cultural integration are to establish a favourable environment for human survival and development, to carefully study and comprehend the natural world, to live in harmony with it, and to use it wisely and harmoniously within reason. Interior designers should become knowledgeable in feng shui theory because this is the aim of contemporary interior design as well. In addition to fitting in with people's lifestyles, contemporary residential interior design should have strong cultural ties. Modern interior designers are not well-versed in interior feng shui and focus too much on wall decoration and space division (Chen, 2019). A skilled interior designer should be knowledgeable with the fusion of contemporary design concepts and feng shui knowledge and use them in practice in order to interpret the importance of feng shui applied in residential houses from a scientific point of view (Yongtai Li, 2018). Integrating the meaning and functionality of their designs is a skill that interior designers cannot master without the aid of cultural knowledge and understanding of Feng Shui.

## 7.2 Research Gaps

According to Zhang and Zhang (2009), The Emperor's Classic of Mansions is the first and most

methodical work to address, from the standpoint of traditional Chinese classic feng shui, the harmony between man and his house, man and heaven and earth, man and nature, and man and the universe. It reveals that the people of ancient China were directly and genuinely humanistic when it came to building architecture and living spaces, but this type of indoor creation based on the theories of Taiji, Yin and Yang, Sancai, Sishiang, Wuxing, Hexagram, Septagram, and Bagua is not grounded in the logic of contemporary experimental science (Zhao & Bai, 2018).

Modern interior design finds it challenging to incorporate the religiously oriented notion of Feng Shui. Numerous ideas included in Feng Shui beliefs, such "*bad qi*" or bad vibes and "form-breaking," for instance, are outside the scope of scientific analysis and explanation. We cannot use scientific methods to define feng shui as a science or superstitious practice; rather, it can only be positioned as traditional cultural content or as a summary of historical experience and practice. Chinese scholars have not conducted adequate research to explain the validity and reliability of Feng Shui.

In China, several academics are now explaining the relationship between feng shui and human habitat, planning and design, architecture, and landscape architecture. For instance, Hong Limeng and He Xinwen in 2019 used the traditional residential houses in Shaxi Ancient Town, Yunnan Province, as their research object. From the three aspects of architectural space—the patio and the wall of illumination, as well as the yin and yang in relation to each other—they dialectically analysed and elaborated the application and research value of feng shui in traditional residential houses (Hong & He, 2019). Xu Manchen (2022) used small prairie towns as her research subject and used the habitat science perspective to dialectically analyse the natural and humanistic aspects of feng shui that are directly related to the habitat environment. She then investigated the concepts and techniques for determining how livable the habitat environment is. Based on a dialectical approach, this study assesses the habitat environment of grassland cities using the six elements of classic feng shui theories: mountains, water features, forests and grasslands, light, qi, sight lines, and opposing viewpoints (Xu et al., 2022). Ding & Miao (2020) conducted research on the orientation, direction, and layout of the Buddha's Dome Temple's landscape, as well as the application of feng shui in modern architectural design. They did this by taking into account the culture of the Buddha's Dome Temple and the characteristics of the landscape design. Nonetheless, considering the extensive and lengthy history of Feng Shui beliefs, these have offered certain point of reference to the study of Feng Shui and interior design. Hence, this systematic bibliographical analysis that shows literatures ranging from interior design, chinese cultures, comparatively would give a clearer picture on the subject of interior design and feng shui.

## **8. RESEARCH LIMITATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Chinese CNKI database was the only source of information used in this study, thus it does not fully represent the body of work on interior design and feng shui-related research in mainland China. Nevertheless, this leaves room for future research that combines pertinent information from other libraries.

In addition, more comparable research on Feng Shui should be conducted by scholars outside of mainland China. For instance, researchers Ke-Tsung Han and Jin-Kai Lin from Taiwan (2023) commented that the empirical and quantitative data on the particular results of Feng Shui, as well as its validity and dependability, are first must be synthesised. On the other hand, Han and Lin (2023) cautioned that the data mentioned in feng shui studies should be evaluated with caution due to its limitations, which include the small number of studies assessed, the less than optimal research quality of the reviewed publications, and their low generalizability and causality. In the future, interior design and feng shui in mainland China should be considering multi-model designs covering both qualitative or quantitative research approaches to precisely and discover feng shui in modern interior design.

## 9. CONCLUSION

This study examined the literature on "interior design", "interior design and traditional culture" and "interior design and feng shui" through China's CNKI database using bibliometric analysis. The distribution of the literature's major subjects, the literatures by year of publication, and the co-occurrence matrix analysis of literature related themes were all identified and analysed. Limited literatures were yielded between 1994 and 2023 which is 217 documents. There were only two publications in 2023, down from 19 at the peak in 2015. There has been no literature released in 2024 as of May 14. The amount of research on interior design and feng shui is quite low, and interest in these topics is steadily declining among academics. The theme co-occurrence with the greatest number was found and examined in "Feng Shui Theory and Modern Dwellings." Findings from the theme co-occurrence analysis were used to identify research gaps between contemporary theories of interior design and feng shui, as well as to discuss some related themes of interior design and feng shui in conjunction with the research using the literature review method. Modern interior design still requires the practice, verification, and scientific definition of Feng Shui theories in the future research.

## Reference

- Chen, M. (2019). Analysis of the modern scientific feng shui view of residential interior design. *Artistic research*(04), 22-23. doi:10.13944/j.cnki.ysyj.2019.0258
- Ding, S., & Miao, L. (2020). The Influence of Feng Shui on the Landscape Design of Traditional Chinese Temples--The Case of Fodeng Temple on Niushoushan, Nanjing. *Sea of Arts*(05), 156-157.
- Feng, X. (2019). Ruminations on the Environmental Psychological Factors Implicated by Feng Shui in Residential Environmental Design *Furniture and interior decoration*(06), 106-107. doi:10.16771/j.cn43-1247/ts.2019.06.024
- Gu, W. (2011). *Analyzes the development of Interior design in China from the perspective of culture*. (master), Tianjin University, Available from Cnki
- Han, K.-T. (2023). An empirical study of consistency in the judgments of Feng Shui scholars and practitioners regarding taboos for residential space. *Heliyon*, 9(4).
- Han, K.-T., & Lin, J.-K. (2023). Empirical and quantitative studies of Feng Shui: A systematic review (PRISMA 2009 item 1),. *Heliyon*, 9(9).
- Hong, L., & He, X. (2019). Study on the Application of Feng Shui to Traditional Residences in Shaxi Ancient Town, Yunnan Province *Art Education Research*(10), 292-294.
- Jiang, Y. (2015). *Interpretation of the influence of foreign culture on the development of Chinese interior design in recent 20 years*. (master), Nanjing Forestry University, Available from Cnki
- Li, C. (2017). *Feng Shui and the Planning and Creation of Ancient Architecture in China--After Talking about Architectural Feng Shui with Master Luo Zhewen*.
- Li, J., & Zhu, J. (2023). Chinese traditional culture in modern interior design *Residence*(35), 11-14.
- Li, S. (2008). *The Illustrated Yellow Emperor's Book of Mansions*. Xian: Shanxi Normal University Press.
- Li, Y. (2018). A Study on the Integration of Modern Home Design and Traditional Residential Feng Shui *Studies Mass literature*(19), 102-103.
- Li, Y. (2024). Analysis of the application of traditional cultural elements in modern interior design *Residence*(06), 16-19.
- Niu, Y., Zou, Y., Dang, W., & BingtaoFan. (2022). Exploration of the application of feng shui in modern interior layout. *Anhui Construction*, 29(04), 12-14. doi:10.16330/j.cnki.1007-7359.2022.04.005
- Peng, T. (2019). Exploration of the interaction between Feng Shui and modern interior design. *Sichuan Cement*(12), 85.
- Qian, J. (2024). Research on the use of traditional culture in interior decoration design *Residence*(10), 22-

- 24.
- Shi, P. (2019). Analysis of Traditional Chinese Feng Shui Culture in Interior Design. *Art and Science*, 32(01), 211-212.
- Shu, W. (2018). Introduction to interior feng shui design styles *Building Materials and Decoration*(17), 115.
- Tan, Q. (2014). *An Analysis of the Heritage of Chinese Traditional Culture in Modern Interior Design*. (Master), Nanjing Normal University, Available from Cnki
- Xu, M., Xu, H., Zhang, L., Wang, J., Cao, S., & Tian, S. (2022). Evaluation of Habitat Livability of Grassland Small Towns under the Concept of Feng Shui Science *city and countryside construction*(13), 63-66.
- Yao, Y. (2003). Focuses on Chinese interior design. *Home*(08), 108-109.
- Zhang, Q. (2004). *The development of Chinese interior design in the 20th century*. (Dr), Nanjing Forestry University, Available from Cnki
- Zhang, Q. (2019). Based on the application of feng shui in indoor living environments *Residence*(10), 23.
- Zhang, S., & Zhang, Y. (2009). *One of the earliest classics about Fengshui*.
- Zhang, W. (2020). Exploration of the relationship between feng shui and ergonomics in interior design. *Green building materials*(12), 71-72. doi:10.16767/j.cnki.10-1213/tu.2020.12.036
- Zhao, J., & Bai, H. (2018). Reflection on the situation and outlet of Interior design education in China *Arts education*(09), 136-137.
- Zheng, S. (1995). China Interior Design thinking. *Decoration*(03), 4-6.
- Zheng, S. (2019). 60 Years of Environmental Design Research in China. *Ornamental*(10), 12-19. doi:10.16272/j.cnki.cn11-1392/j.2019.10.006
- Zhou, B. (2004). *preliminary study on contemporary interior design education*. (master), Nanjing Forestry University, Available from Cnki
- Zhou, Y., & Li, S. (2023). Chinese traditional culture in modern interior design. *China Construction*(11), 83-85.