



KEY POINT SUMMARY

OBJECTIVES

The objective of this paper is to review and report on research that focuses on the impact of art, design, and environment in healthcare settings, with an emphasis on mental healthcare.

Review: The Impact of Art, Design and Environment in Mental Healthcare: A Systematic Review of the Literature

Daykin, N., Byrne, E., Soteriou, T., & O'Connor, S. 2008 | *The Journal of the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health* Volume 128, Issue 2, Pages 85-94

Key Concepts/Context

There is increasing evidence that attractive environments can enhance the experiences of healthcare users. What creates attractive environments may be relative to the country where that healthcare is provided. This paper was written in the UK and was an attempt to find research that supports the use of art to create healing environments along with the role of art in encouraging civic pride. It was part of a two-year evaluation of a commissioned arts program in a UK mental health trust.

Methods

A systematic literature review that included a review of over 600 papers of which 19 met the authors' search criteria. The 19 articles are discussed in this paper.

Findings

The authors categorized the findings into the following topics: the impact of art intervention in healthcare settings; the impact of design and environmental conditions; and perceptions of art, design, and environment in healthcare settings. Few studies directly examined 'the impact of art interventions in healthcare settings' in mental health settings. The authors reviewed two papers with similar population types. In the category 'the impact of design and environmental conditions,' more studies were found. These studies examined the impact of environmental conditions, taking into account aesthetics as well as functional considerations. In the final category, 'perceptions of art, design, and environment in healthcare settings,' the remaining studies examined subjective responses to healthcare environments.



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Design Implications

While it is understood that artwork has an impact on people, the exact impact on healthcare facility users is less understood. And in mental health facilities fewer studies exist. The takeaway for designers should be to understand carefully who the population is and what their needs are before making artwork suggestions. More research is needed in this area. If it is possible to conduct research on these settings, it would add greatly to this body of knowledge.

Limitations

As with any systematic literature review, relevant articles may have been missed, as they did not directly address the search criteria, or may not have been available through the search engines.