

## Interior Design Appreciation

Anna J. Micklatcher-Peterson

January 20, 2021

### Design Article 2

The National Museum of Qatar's gift shops were designed by Koichi Takada Architects in 2019. The gift shops were constructed in the likeness of the gypsum crystal cave Dahl Al Misfir, also located in Qatar. Qatar can be found in the Middle East by the Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabia. I was drawn to this mixed retail interior for its cave-like features and beautiful, creative wooden aspects.



The gift shop main floors with shelves, tables and islands: Photo by Tom Ferguson

The shops occupy approximately 1,195 square feet of space and includes adult and children's gifts. The walls of the shop are made up of around 40,000 cuts of European Oak. These unique CNC cuts of oak were creating by using 3-D modeling software. Koichi Takada quoted that the

wood fit together on site “like a giant jigsaw puzzle (Margolies).” The pieces of wood were mounted by brackets to a structure made of steel that were not attached to the building. There is quite a bit of versatility within the shelves and tables as they are adjustable and movable thanks to the casters. The staff members are able to change out displays very quickly and easily due to these features which in return has increased their sales immensely.



Gift shop walls and lighting with detailed texture and ribbed wooden slabs: Photo by Tom Ferguson

The gifts are displayed on these intricate shelves which mimic the cave walls in curvature and shading from both the lighting aspects as well as the coloration of the oak. The shelves wrap around the walls creating the illusion that you are still making your way through the caves.

There are also islands placed in in the middle of the shop floor to offset the shopping experience a bit and differ from the actual cave. The islands also help with the flow of traffic as they offer a 360degree shopping display for browsing. My favorite island connects to the walls and reaches upward from the main floor with the wooden textures clearly shown.

Another feature that drew me to this article was the creativity in how the lighting was placed.

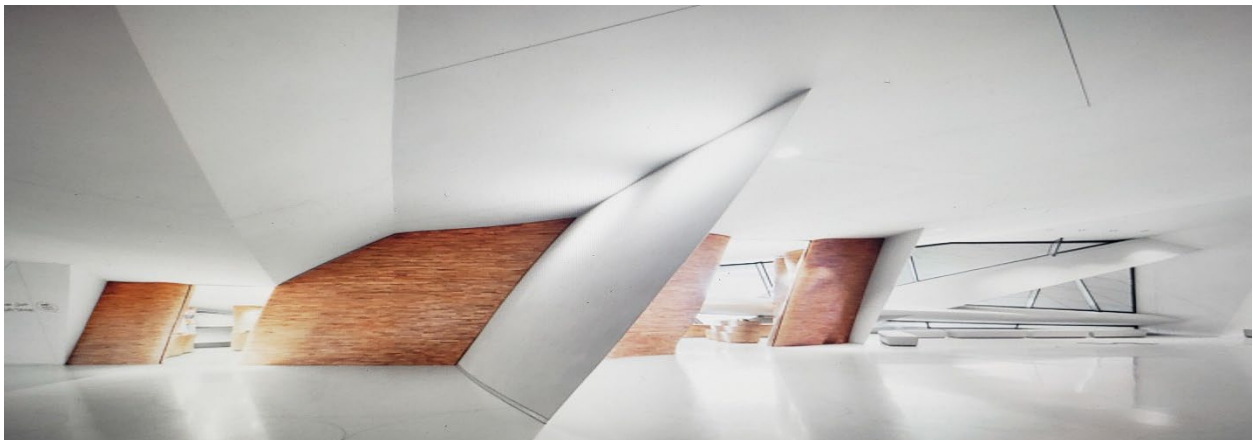
The gift shops are multi-dimensional with many natural cave-like curves and feelings and the walls are very wavy. The light fixtures and a few windows are strategically placed within these

curves which create the illusion of natural cave lighting which illuminates the wooden walls and gives shoppers a very unique experience as they are wandering through the gift shops.



Gift shop window and lighting within the higher ceiling walls: Photo by Tom Ferguson

The wooden walls also have a good bit of texture added as they are stacked in a way that creates a layered or ribbed look. This effect trickles down the walls and gets more intense as it reaches the shop floors. The slabs directly under the lighting are recessed to allow for the movable shelving which displays the merchandise. This interesting texturized feature of the wooden puts me in mind of sliced bread.



The outer walls of the gift shops: Photo by Tom Ferguson

I found this project to be very original and highly creative with its design and architectural features. The inclusion of cave gift shops was a very insightful addition to the National Museum of Qatar.

Works Cited

Margolies, Jane. "National Museum of Qatar Gift Shop by Kiochi Takada Architects: 2019 Best of Year Winner for Mixed Retail." *Interior Design.net*, 10 January 2020.

<https://www.interiordesign.net/projects/17476-national-museum-of-qatar-gift-shop-by-koichi-takada-architects-2019-best-of-year-winner-for-mixed-retail/>. Accessed 19 January 2021.