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Research Article

EVALUATION OF INDOOR ORNAMENTAL PLANTS IN SOME CLOSED SPACES IN ÇANAKKALE CITY CENTER AND GÜZELYALI

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ABSTRACT. This study was conducted between September and December 2024 to evaluate the use of indoor ornamental plants in six different indoor areas (3 shopping malls, 2 hotels, and 1 camp and training center) located in Çanakkale City Center and Güzelyalı. The indoor ornamental plants used in the areas were identified on-site, photographed, and the plant species were identified according to the literature. The identified indoor ornamental plants were classified based on their vitality status (living, artificial, hybrid), hybrid form (same species as trunk, different species as trunk), usage place (entrance, restaurant/café, corridor/floor, store, lobby), function (bordering, orientation, accenting, separating spaces), usage type (solitary, plant parterre, composition), form (pendulous, vine-climber, architectural-column), effective plant organ (flower, leaf, trunk, fruit), and pot characteristics. These data were analyzed using the IBM SPSS 26 statistical program. A total of 72 indoor ornamental plant species were identified in the study area. It was determined that 44% of the indoor ornamental plants used in the area were artificial plants, and 80% were in architectural columnar forms. 74.86% of the plants used were found to be effective with their leaves, and 10.86% with their flowers. 44.57% of the indoor ornamental plants were used in restaurant and cafe areas.

Keywords: *Indoor ornamental plants, indoor space, plant usage, plant form, design, Çanakkale*

INTRODUCTION

The rapidly growing population, particularly in urban areas, is significantly increasing the need for housing, leading to concreting. This puts significant pressure on green spaces. The process of urbanization is one of the primary reasons why people are alienated from nature. This process leads to the shrinkage of green spaces, which serve important ecological, aesthetic, economic, and social functions. Deprived of nature and greenery in dense and congested urban structures, individuals have resorted to reestablishing their connection with nature by enriching their living spaces, which often lack green spaces, with indoor ornamental plants [1].

Indoor ornamental plants are plants with flowers, leaves, or both, taken from their natural ecological habitats and capable of surviving in indoor spaces similar to their natural habitats under artificially created conditions in pots or other containers [2]. These plants are increasingly being used in diverse spaces such as homes, offices, shopping malls, and hotels. The combination of aesthetic and functional elements in the interior design of these spaces can significantly influence the atmosphere of the space and the relationship between users and the space. The use of indoor ornamental plants in these spaces not only creates visual richness but also contributes to the psychological and physiological well-being of users. Furthermore, plants used indoors serve various functional purposes, such as reducing ambient noise, providing acoustic control, capturing dust, producing oxygen, and reducing glare and reflection [3]. The presence of plants in densely populated commercial spaces, such as hotel lobbies, shopping

malls, restaurants, and offices, positively impacts users' experiences, both physically and emotionally. The use of indoor ornamental plants in shopping malls is highly effective in making the shopping experience more enjoyable, making visitors feel more comfortable amidst large crowds, and keeping them occupied for longer periods of time. In hotels, indoor ornamental plants can give guests a sense of being at one with nature. In these areas, indoor ornamental plants can be used for orientation, bordering, accentuation, and separation.

This study was conducted to evaluate the use of indoor ornamental plants in some indoor spaces in Çanakkale City Center and Güzelyalı.

MATERIAL AND METHOD

This study was conducted in six different indoor spaces located in Çanakkale City Center and Güzelyalı between September and December 2024. These spaces are accessible areas with high plant density and a high number of users. The study area includes three shopping malls, two hotels, and one camp and training center (Fig. 1). Indoor ornamental plants used in the areas were identified on-site, photographed, and the plant species were identified based on literature. The identified indoor ornamental plants were classified based on their vitality (living, artificial, hybrid), hybrid form (same species as trunk, different species as trunk), usage place (entrance, restaurant/café, corridor/floor, store, lobby), function (bordering, orientation, accenting, separating spaces), usage type (solitary, plant parterre, composition), form (pendulous, vine-climber, architectural-column), effective plant organ (flower, leaf, trunk, fruit), and potting characteristics (wood, ceramic, plastic, glass, concrete, tile, iron). These data were analyzed with the help of IBM SPSS 26 statistical program.



Fig. 1. *Study areas 1) Troypark Shopping Mall, 2) Esas 17 Burda Shopping Mall, 3) Kipa Shopping Mall, 4) Kolin Hotel SPA & Convention Center, 5) İRİS Hotel & SPA, 6) Güzelyalı National Teams Camp and Training Center (Google Earth, 2024 [4] by editing)*

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 72 indoor ornamental plants were identified within the study area. It was determined that the majority of the indoor ornamental plants used in the area were artificial (Fig. 2). Bekar and Çakır [5] similarly identified 5 artificial and 2 live indoor ornamental plants in a study conducted in a shopping mall. This study also found 13.71% hybrid plant use. The use of different species with different trunks was found to be higher in hybrids (Fig.3).

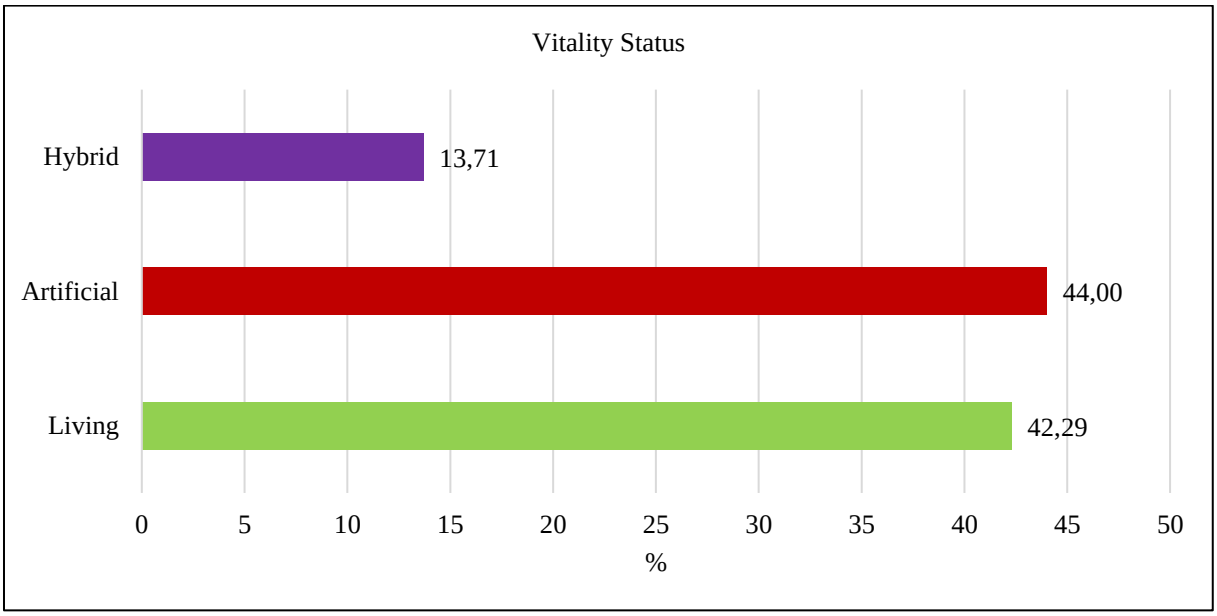


Fig. 2. *The vitality of plants in the study area*

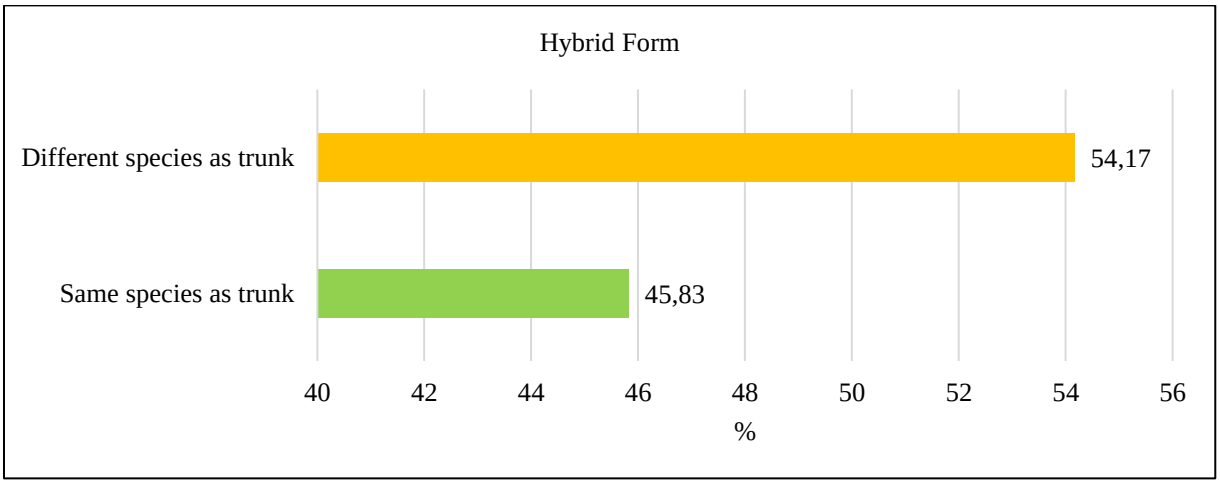


Fig. 3. *The form of hybrid plants in the study area*

Within the study area, the use of indoor ornamental plants was found in restaurant and cafe areas at 44.57% (Fig. 4). The least use of indoor ornamental plants was found in entrance and lobby areas (2.29%). Solitary plant use ranked first in these areas (Fig. 5). Similarly, Selim . [1] stated that while all hotel interiors included indoor ornamental plants in lobbies, restaurants, and corridors, only 20% also included indoor ornamental plants in user rooms. Bekar and Çakır [5] stated that both solitary and group compositions were used in plant designs in shopping malls.

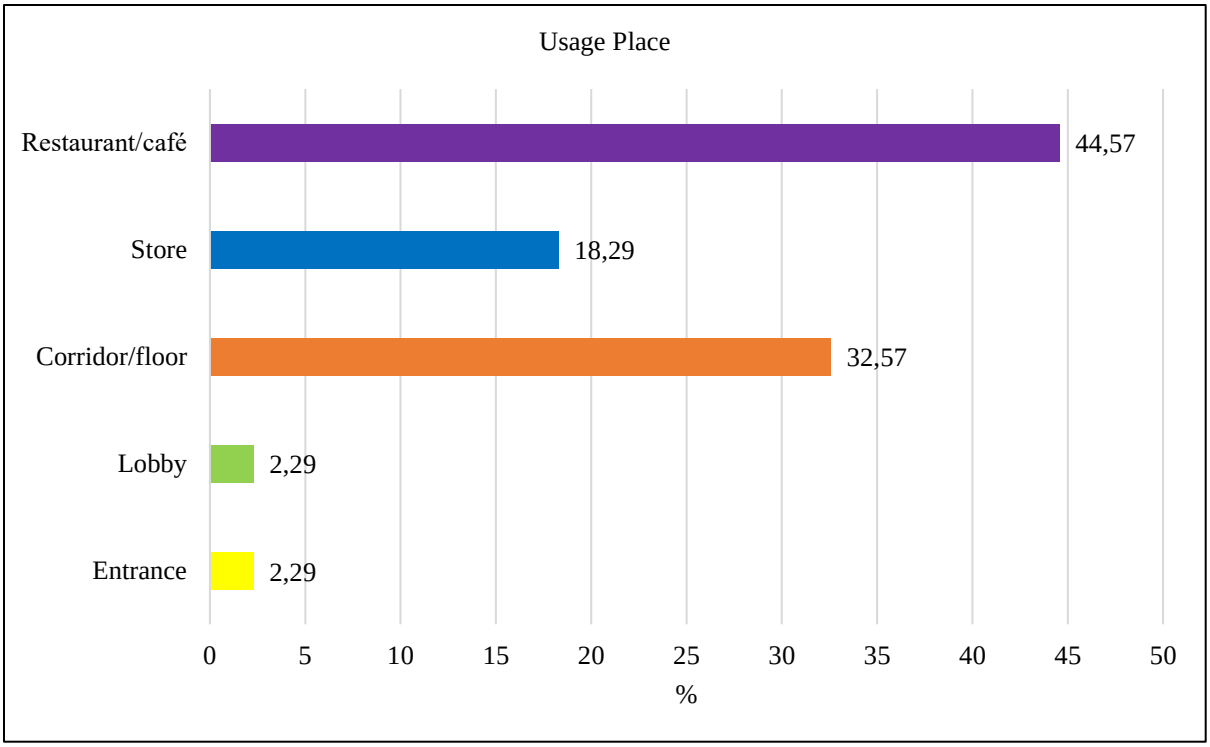


Fig. 4. *The use of plants in the study area*

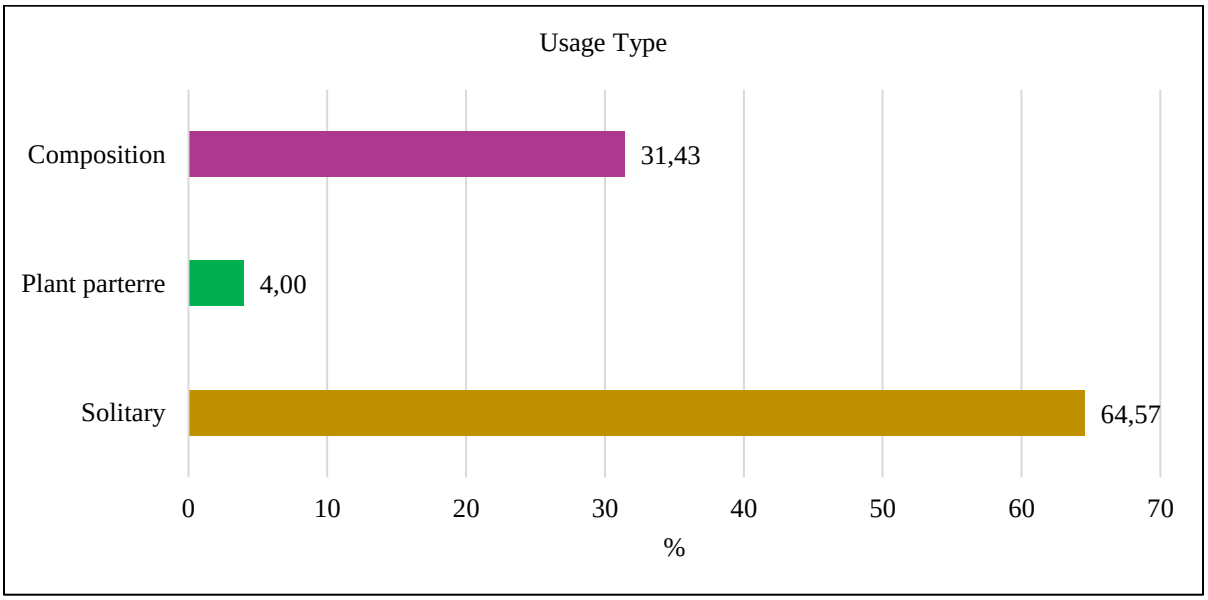


Fig. 5. *The use of plants in the study area*

It was determined that 84.57% of the plants used in the study area were used for accenting purposes. Separating spaces was the second purpose (Fig. 6). 80% of the indoor ornamental plants were identified as having an architectural-columnar form. Vine-climber indoor ornamental plants were used less frequently (Fig. 7). In their study conducted in some shopping malls on the European side of Istanbul, Kahraman and Kuşak [6] found that the use of architectural-column plant was 73.91% and that use for orientation purposes was 13.64%. In their study conducted in some shopping malls in Antalya City Center, Kösa and Güral [7]

reported that accentuation was prominent in all shopping malls. The results obtained are similar to these studies.

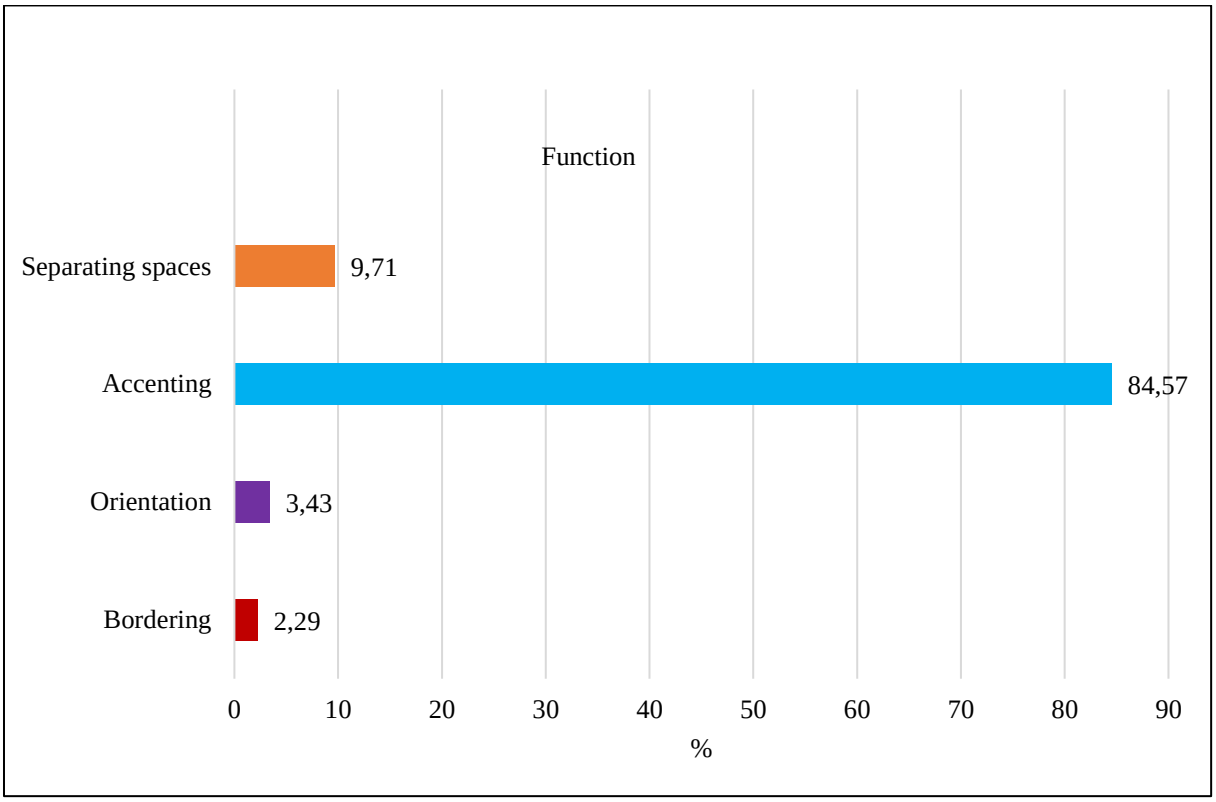


Fig. 6. *The function of plants in the study area*

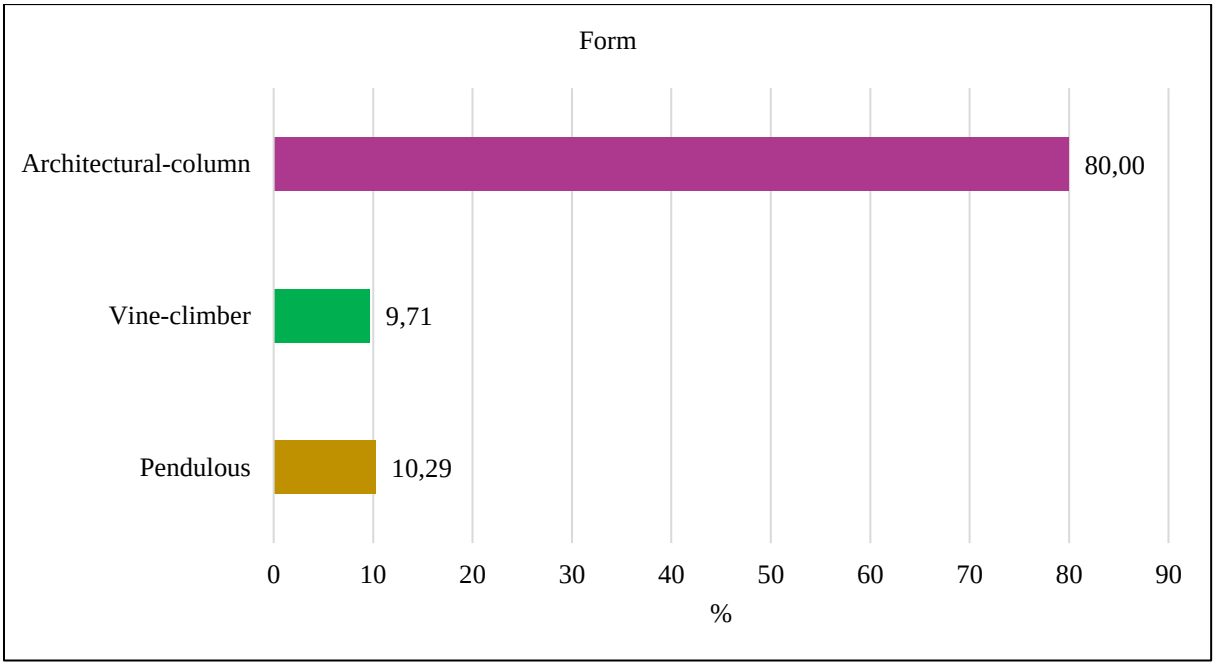


Fig. 7. *The form of plants in the study area*

74.86% of the plants used in the study were found to be effective indoor ornamental plants due to their leaves (Fig. 8). Plastic and wooden pots were the most common in the study area

(Fig. 9). In a similar study conducted by Kahraman and Kuşak [6], they found that 81.82% of the plants in shopping malls were effective due to their leaves and 18.18% due to their flowers. Similar results were obtained in this study.

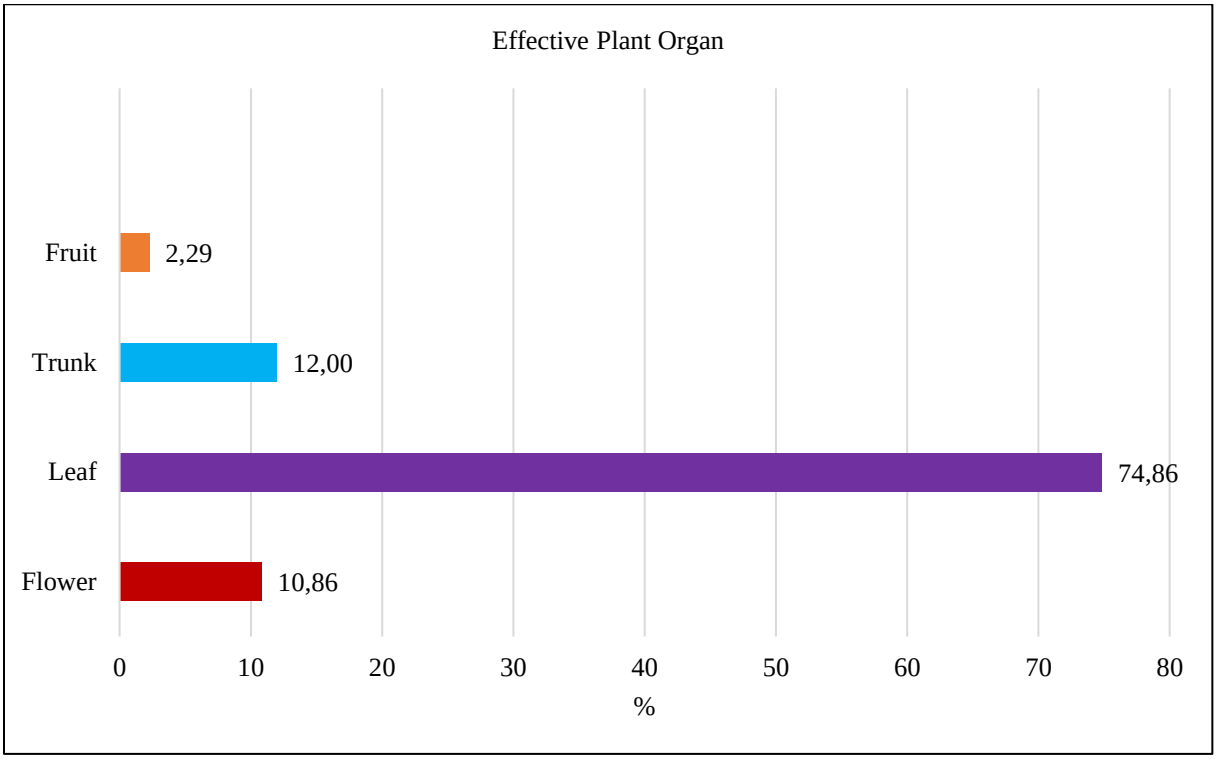


Fig. 8. *Plant organ with visual impact*

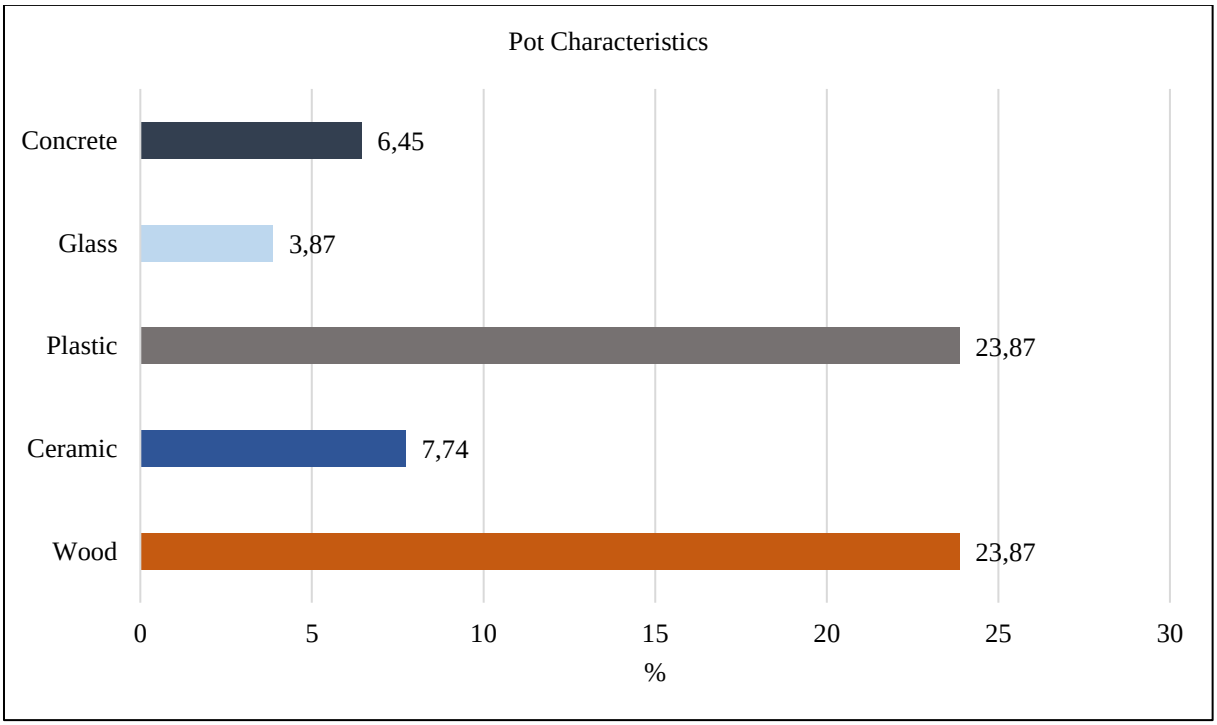


Fig. 9. *Type of pot used in the study area*

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The aesthetic and functional contributions of indoor ornamental plants help offset the negative effects of the complexities of urban life and the densely concretized environment on human health. Along with visual richness, they contribute to psychological well-being.

Indoor ornamental plants were often placed singly or in small groups, harmoniously complementing architectural elements in this study. However, the use of artificial plants was common in certain areas, particularly in restaurants and cafes, where they were preferred for decorative purposes. While these plants are as aesthetically pleasing as live plants, they lack the functional benefits of nature, such as healing effects and oxygen production. Therefore, artificial plants are only suitable for areas with difficult maintenance or unsuitable local conditions.

The predominantly solitary use of plants in the study areas has rendered the areas inadequate in terms of plant design and composition. The architectural, columnar form of the majority of plants, combined with their foliage, has diminished the visual aesthetics of the areas and created monotony. By increasing plant diversity and ensuring the harmonious placement of different species, monotony can be prevented.

Indoor ornamental plants are of great functional and aesthetic importance, especially in public spaces with high user density. More widespread and conscious use of indoor ornamental plants will improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors and contribute to the spread of environmentally friendly designs. In this context, indoor ornamental plants should be considered not only decorative elements but also important elements that meet the functional and psychological needs of a space.

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