

# RETAIL ANALYTICS

WORD COUNT: 2980

TANMISHA MURALI

**DURHAM UNIVERSITY** 

1.INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, technology has revolutionized various industries, including interior design. The firm, based in the vibrant design hub of London, United Kingdom, aims to revolutionize the interior design industry by integrating cutting-edge Virtual Reality (VR) technology into the design process, offering an immersive and personalized experience to our clients.

Business Name: VR Spaces Avenue

Location: London, United Kingdom

Vision: Our vision is to redefine the way people perceive and interact with interior spaces by leveraging advanced VR solutions, making design accessible, interactive, and inspiring.

Mission: Our mission is to empower homeowners, architects, designers, and real estate professionals with tools that enable them to visualize, customize, and experience interior designs in a virtual environment, leading to enhanced creativity, efficiency, and customer satisfaction.

#### 2.RETAIL STORE DESCRIPTION AND MERCHANDISE

Setting up a retail store and organizing merchandise for VR Space Avenue in Chelsea, London, involves strategic planning to ensure the store environment and product offerings align with the brand's premium and innovative image.

# **Store Layout and Design**

- Sophisticated Ambience: Use sleek, high-quality materials and maintain a spacious layout to enhance customer experience.
- ➤ <u>Interactive Zones:</u> Create dedicated areas where customers can use VR headsets to experience different interior design options.
- ➤ <u>Informational Displays:</u> Setting up digital screens and physical displays that provide information about VR technology, design processes, and available services.
- Consultation Areas: Including private consultation spaces where clients can discuss their projects with design experts in a comfortable, confidential setting.

# **Merchandising Strategy**

## For VR Space Avenue:

- Featured Products: Showcase best-selling designs and customizable VR design portfolios, including virtual tours of completed projects.
- ➤ <u>Tech Showcases</u>: Prominently display and demo VR headsets, emphasizing user-friendliness.
- Cross-Merchandising: Group complementary products and services for convenience.
  Seasonal Displays: Update store visuals with seasonal themes and latest trends.
- ➤ <u>Upselling Opportunities</u>: Position high-margin items and additional services in high-traffic areas to capture customer interest.

# **Operational Considerations**

- > Staff Training: Equip staff with strong customer service and technical knowledge of VR tech.
- Security Measures: Implement robust security for protecting valuable tech and designs.
- ➤ Inventory Management: Utilize inventory software for efficient stock tracking.

Focused store planning and strategic operations will position VR Space Avenue as an innovative leader in VR interior design.

#### 3.CHANNEL STRATEGY

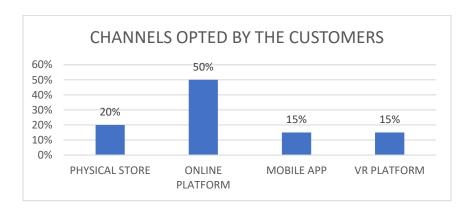


Figure 1: 1000 customers survey suggests the most popular channels strategy.

# **Physical Store:**

- Offers tangible experiences through showroom demos.
- Facilitates direct interaction, building trust.
- Acts as a hub for live consultations and community events.
- Enhances local brand presence and visibility.

#### **Online Platform:**

- Provides 24/7 access and convenience for customers.
- Supports the growth into national or international markets.
- Essential for staying competitive in an increasingly digital shopping environment.

## Mobile App:

- Delivers seamless browsing and purchasing experience for mobile users.
- Engages customers with personalized alerts and offers.
- Drives customer loyalty and repeat business through convenience features.

#### **VR Platform:**

- Showcases the core business offering of immersive interior design.\
- Appeals to a niche market of early adopters and tech enthusiasts.
- Differentiates the brand as a leader in innovative design technology.
- Provides unique customization options that traditional platforms cannot match.

By leveraging these channels, VR Space Avenue can provide a comprehensive customer experience that ranges from hands-on interaction to cutting-edge virtual simulations.

#### 4.MARKET SEGMENTATION AND TARGET MARKET

The target market for VR Space Avenue comprises individuals and businesses seeking innovative interior design solutions.

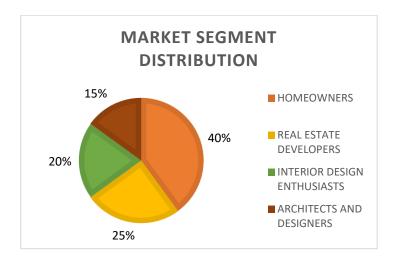


Figure 2: Market segmentation distribution for VR Space Avenue

# **TARGET MARKET:**

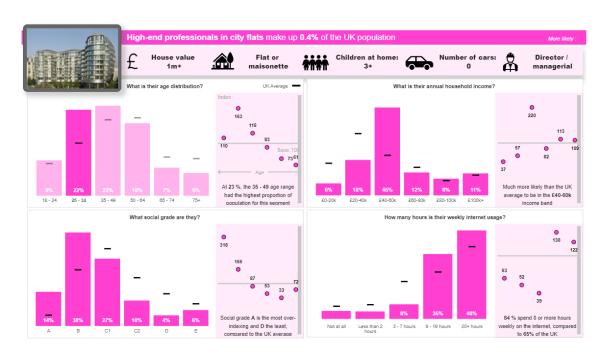


Figure 3: Demographics for VR Space Avenue to target

The infographic outlines key demographics for VR Space Avenue to target: high-end professionals residing in city flats worth over £1 million, primarily aged 25-49, with families, and without a car. They hold directorial or managerial positions, belong to the highest social

grades, and have an annual household income significantly above the UK average. Notably, this group spends a considerable amount of time online.

For VR Space Avenue, this means focusing on tech-savvy, wealthy professionals seeking sophisticated home design. The firm should offer immersive VR experiences that provide convenience and showcase luxury designs suited to family living. With their comfort in using technology and busy lifestyles, these individuals would likely appreciate innovative VR tools that enable quick, detailed visualizations of potential interior designs.

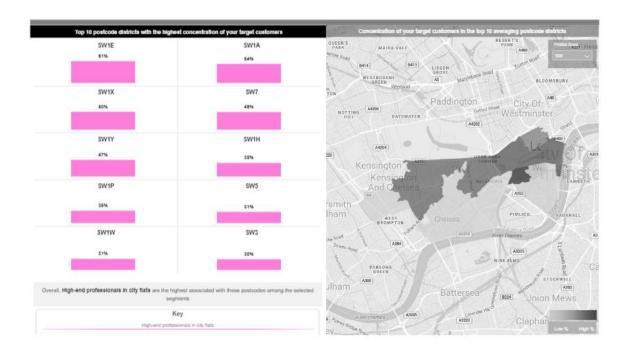


Figure 4: Top 10 postcode districts with the highest concentration of the target market.

The infographic suggests VR Space Avenue should target its marketing and operations in postcode districts with higher densities of high-end professionals, as indicated by the darker shades on the map. This strategic focus could maximize customer engagement in these key areas.

#### 5.COMPETITIVE ANALYSIS

Our main competitors include traditional interior design firms, online furniture retailers, and home decor stores. However, the VR Interior Design Studio offers several competitive advantages:

- Immersive Visualization: Unlike traditional design firms, we provide customers with an immersive VR experience, allowing them to visualize and interact with their design concepts in real-time.
- Extensive Customization: Our virtual catalog offers extensive customization options, enabling customers to tailor their designs to their preferences with ease.
- Cost-Effective Solutions: Virtual design eliminates the need for physical prototypes and costly renovations, offering cost-effective solutions for both homeowners and professionals.
- Global Accessibility: By leveraging VR technology and online platforms, we can reach a global audience, transcending the limitations of physical location.
- Innovative Brand Image: Our emphasis on cutting-edge technology and forward-thinking design positions us as a pioneer in the interior design industry, attracting tech-savvy and design-conscious consumers.

The VR Space Avenue presents a unique opportunity to disrupt the interior design industry and cater to the evolving needs of customers and professionals. By leveraging VR technology, personalized consultations, and innovative design solutions, we aim to redefine the interior design experience and establish ourselves as a leader in the industry.

#### **6.RETAIL LOCATION SELECTION**

## 1.Income Level

High income earners have the financial capability to invest in high-end, personalized design services. From a business perspective, the firm has keen interest in the red and dark red areas, which signify the highest income brackets. This demographic tends to reside in urban areas such as Kensington, Chelsea, and Canary Wharf, where there is a higher density of high-income residents who can afford personalized and high-end interior design services,

<u>.</u>

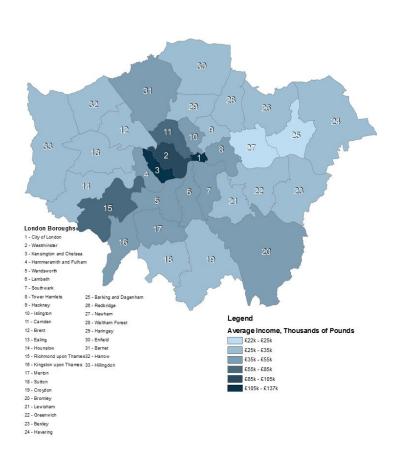


Figure 5: Household Income levels distributed across London.

According to the map showing average income levels by London borough, the ideal place to open a VR interior design firm store would be in the boroughs with the highest income brackets. The boroughs labeled as '1', '2', and '3', which correspond to the City of London, Westminster, and Kensington and Chelsea respectively, show the highest average incomes, indicating they are likely places where residents might have more disposable income to spend

on luxury services like VR interior design. These areas also tend to have a higher concentration of affluent individuals who might be interested in innovative, high-end home design solutions.

# 2.Population density:

For a VR interior design firm, boroughs like Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, or the City of London would be ideal locations. High population densities in these areas likely correspond to a concentration of wealth and a market interested in premium home design services.

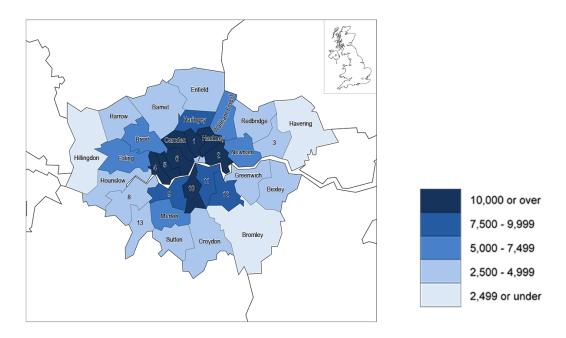


Figure 6: Population density by London borough, with darker shades representing higher density.

Dense areas mean a larger audience and potential customer base within a smaller geographic area, which can lead to greater brand visibility and a higher rate of word-of-mouth referral within the community. These factors combined make these boroughs favorable for a business that offers cutting-edge interior design solutions such as VR.

# 3. Average Property Price in London

Higher property values often signal a more affluent population with greater spending power for discretionary services like interior design.

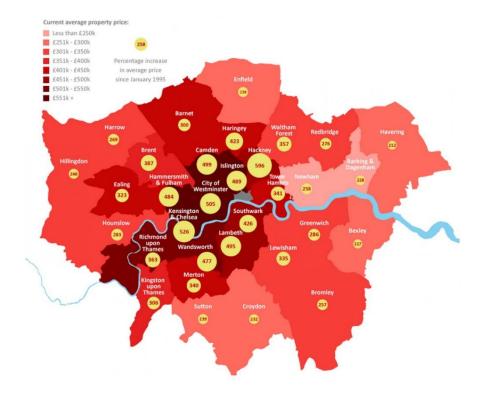


Figure 7: indicates the average property prices across London boroughs

Kensington and Chelsea, recognized for luxury and high property values, present an optimal location for VR Space Avenue. These boroughs are indicative of a population with the financial means to invest in high-end services, such as innovative VR interior design. By establishing a presence here, VR Space Avenue can access a market segment that appreciates luxury and is willing to pay for advanced design solutions. The locale's alignment with upscale living, combined with its cultural prestige, offers a strategic advantage, resonating with the company's sophisticated brand image and its focus on offering premium services.

## 4. Site selection for VR Space Avenue:

In Chelsea, London, the average retail rent is particularly high due to the prestige of the area, averaging £86.18 per square foot per year. This is significant as it reflects the affluent nature of the area, which is home to designer brands and specialty shops.



In Chelsea, a prime rental spot for your VR Interior Design Studio would be along King's Road or close to Sloane Square. These areas are known for high foot traffic and an array of high-end retail shops and galleries, which can provide a steady flow of potential clients who already have an interest in premium lifestyle services.

While the cost is a crucial factor to consider, the potential customer base in Chelsea could justify the investment, as the residents and visitors of this borough have the economic capacity to engage with high-end services like those offered by a the company.

#### 7.FINANCIAL AND PRICING STRATEGIES

For VR Space Avenue in Chelsea, London, your financial strategy should focus on capitalizing on the high potential for revenue in an affluent market, while your pricing strategy must reflect the value and exclusivity of your services.

## 1. Financial Strategy:

<u>Initial Investment:</u> Secure funding for initial costs like rent, renovation, equipment, and marketing. Options include business loans, investors, or personal financing.

<u>Cash Flow Management</u>: Keep a strict ledger and regularly forecast cash flow to ensure you can cover operating expenses and any unexpected costs.

<u>Reinvestment:</u> Allocate a portion of profits to upgrade technology and training, ensuring the business stays ahead of the curve.

# 2. Pricing Strategy:

<u>Value-Based Pricing</u>: Set prices based on the perceived value to the customer rather than just the cost-plus model, allowing you to charge a premium for high-quality, bespoke services.

<u>Tiered Services</u>: Offer packages at different price points to cater to various customer segments within the market.

<u>Consultation Fees</u>: Charge for initial consultations to ensure the clientele is serious and to cover the time spent in customizing design proposals.

Overall, the financial health of your VR Interior Design Studio will rely on meticulous planning and a keen understanding of the Chelsea market's dynamics. Your pricing should clearly communicate the quality and exclusivity of your offerings, positioning your studio as a premium service provider in the interior design industry.

# 3.Cost benefit analysis:

In Chelsea, the high rent for a VR Interior Design Studio—potentially around £100,000 annually—is offset by the area's affluent clientele and heavy foot traffic. Initial setup costs, including renovations and VR equipment, could total £70,000, while ongoing yearly expenses such as salaries, marketing, and maintenance might reach £200,000. However, these costs are likely to be balanced by substantial revenue due to high demand for luxury services in the area, with sales potentially exceeding £500,000 annually. Additional benefits include increased brand visibility and potential partnerships with nearby high-end businesses. The

expected net benefit, considering both tangible and intangible advantages, is positive, suggesting Chelsea as a viable location for the firm.

#### Justification:

- High Average Income: Chelsea's wealth indicates strong spending power for luxury services.
- Affluent Market: The area's property values suggest residents value and invest in their homes.
- Premium Pricing Strategy: Reflects the bespoke nature of VR services, catering to affluent clientele.
- Tiered Services: Broadens market reach while maintaining high-profit margins.
- Strategic Location: High foot traffic and visibility in an upscale area support higher pricing.
- Investment Balance: Calculated use of savings and loans mitigates financial risk.
- Market Positioning: Aligns with local demographics and competitive luxury services.
- ROI Potential: A careful financial strategy promises a favorable return on investment.

#### 8.MARKETING COMMUNICATION PLAN

"Step Into Your Future Home Today":

Invites potential clients to experience their future homes through VR, adding a sense of immediacy and excitement to the interior design process. By focusing on these elements of brand positioning and messaging, VR Space Avenue can effectively communicate its value proposition and resonate with its intended audience. This strategy not only differentiates the brand in a competitive market but also aligns closely with the expectations of a sophisticated clientele in Chelsea.

The objective of our marketing communication plan is to establish and promote the VR Space Avenue as a leading innovator experience:

- Build Brand Awareness.
- Generate Leads
- Educate Market
- Engage Community
- Showcase Portfolio
- Drive Conversions

## Outline of Communication Methods and Strategies:

## 1. Digital Marketing:

- ➤ Utilize SEO to improve online visibility.
- > Develop a user-friendly website showcasing VR demonstrations.
- Leverage social media platforms for engagement and portfolio display.

# 2. Content Marketing:

- > Create blog posts and articles on interior design trends and VR innovation.
- Produce video content for virtual tours of past projects.

#### 3.Email Marketing:

- > Send out newsletters with the latest designs, offers, and industry news.
- > Implement drip campaigns for lead nurturing.

#### 4. Public Relations:

> Craft press releases for newsworthy milestones and partnerships.

Collaborate with design magazines and influencers for features and reviews

# 5.Local Engagement:

- Participate in local events and sponsor community initiatives.
- ➤ Host workshops and seminars on VR interior design.

# 6.Advertising:

- ➤ Invest in targeted online ads to reach the Chelsea demographic.
- ➤ Use traditional advertising in local upscale publications.

# 7. Direct Marketing:

- > Distribute brochures and promotional material in high-end neighborhoods.
- ➤ Offer exclusive promotions to Chelsea residents.

# 8. Partnerships:

- ➤ Partner with local real estate agents and luxury home developers.
- ➤ Collaborate with local artists and galleries for unique design elementsThrough these methods and strategies, VR Space Avenue aims to become synonymous with luxury, technology, and innovative interior design in London's high-end market.

By implementing these communication methods and strategies, we aim to create a cohesive and impactful marketing communication plan that elevates our brand, drives customer engagement and acquisition, and positions the VR Space Avenue as a leader in innovative interior design experiences in London.

#### 9.CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT (CRM)

# Personalized Client Experience:

- ➤ Implement a CRM system to capture and analyze customer data, preferences, past interactions, and design preferences.
- Create detailed customer profiles to understand individual needs, style preferences, budget considerations, and project timelines.
- ➤ Use personalized communication and design recommendations based on client data to enhance the overall client experience and build lasting relationships.

# Timely Follow-ups and Communication:

- ➤ Develop a structured follow-up process after initial consultations, design presentations, and project milestones.
- ➤ Utilize automated reminders and personalized email workflows to keep clients informed about project progress, upcoming meetings, and design updates.
- Ensure timely responses to client inquiries, feedback, and concerns to demonstrate responsiveness and dedication to customer satisfaction.

# <u>Customer Feedback and Engagement:</u>

- Implement surveys, feedback forms, and post-project evaluations to gather insights into customer satisfaction levels, design preferences, and areas for improvement.
- Actively seek feedback during and after design projects to address any issues promptly, showcase responsiveness, and improve future service delivery.
- Engage clients through newsletters, design tips, and exclusive offers to maintain ongoing communication and foster a sense of community and loyalty.

# **Implementation Plan:**

#### CRM System Selection and Integration:

- > Select a CRM software or platform that aligns with our business needs, scalability requirements, and data management capabilities.
- ➤ Customize the CRM system to capture relevant client information, design preferences, project details, communication history, and follow-up tasks.
- > Train staff members on using the CRM system effectively for data entry, updating client profiles, scheduling follow-ups, and generating reports.

## Data Collection and Segmentation:

- > Start by collecting comprehensive client data during initial consultations, design briefings, and project kick-offs.
- > Segment clients based on criteria such as project size, budget, design style, frequency of engagement, and referral sources.
- ➤ Use segmentation to tailor communication, design proposals, and marketing efforts to specific client segments and their unique needs.

#### Workflow Automation and Communication Tools:

- > Set up automation workflows within the CRM system for automated follow-ups, appointment reminders, and post-project surveys.
- ➤ Integrate communication tools such as email templates, chatbots, and SMS notifications to streamline client communication and enhance responsiveness.

# Regular Client Touchpoints and Relationship Building:

- > Schedule regular touchpoints throughout the design process, including design reviews, progress updates, and milestone celebrations.
- Organize client appreciation events, virtual design workshops, or exclusive previews to engage clients and strengthen relationships beyond project timelines.

#### **Evaluation Methods for CRM Effectiveness:**

- ➤ Customer Satisfaction Surveys: Conduct regular surveys to gauge client satisfaction levels, gather feedback on service quality, design outcomes, and overall experience.
- Client Retention Rates: Measure the percentage of repeat business and referrals from existing clients, indicating the effectiveness of our CRM strategies in fostering loyalty.
- Response and Resolution Time: Track response times to client inquiries and the efficiency of resolving issues or concerns raised by clients.
- ➤ Sales and Revenue Growth: Analyze the impact of CRM initiatives on sales growth, upselling/cross-selling opportunities, and revenue generated from repeat clients or referrals.

➤ Data Accuracy and Usage: Evaluate the accuracy and completeness of client data within the CRM system and analyze how effectively this data is utilized to personalize client interactions and improve service delivery.

By implementing these CRM strategies and evaluation methods, the VR Interior Design Studio aims to build long-term relationships with clients, enhance customer satisfaction, drive repeat business, and position itself as a trusted and preferred choice in the competitive interior design industry.

#### 10.CONCLUSION

VR Space Avenue is set to open in Chelsea, London, targeting the area's wealthy residents with a penchant for luxury and advanced services. The firm will offer VR-powered interior design, enabling clients to virtually experience and tailor their space. The storefront will mirror the brand's innovative ethos, while marketing will combine digital outreach with local initiatives.

The business model relies on investment in technology and skilled staff, with pricing reflecting the bespoke service offered. VR Space Avenue aspires to redefine interior design with a unique blend of conventional expertise and VR innovation in a prime London locale.

#### LIST OF REFERENCE

- 1. Gatherit (2022) How Virtual Reality is Transforming Interior Design.
- 2. Esteves, J.R., Cardoso, J.C.S. and Gonçalves, B.S. (Year) 'Design Recommendations for Immersive Virtual Reality Application for English Learning: A Systematic Review'
- 3. Kapferer, J.-N. and Bastien, V. (2009) The Luxury Strategy: Break the Rules of Marketing to Build Luxury Brands. January edition.
- 4. Tang, Y.M., Lau, Y.Y. and Ho, U.L. (2023) 'Empowering Digital Marketing with Interactive Virtual Reality (IVR) in Interior Design: Effects on Customer Satisfaction and Behaviors Intention', Journal of Theoretical and Applied Electronic Commerce Research, 18(2), pp. 889-907