THE EVOLUTION OF GROCERY RETAIL ARCHITECTURE

Shoppers are faced with nearly 39,000 items at grocery stores today.[1]

That sounds daunting, but retail chains and grocers facilitate today's retail grocery experience through efficient design, e-commerce integration, apps, self-checkout, pick-up service and other features.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Here's a look at how grocery retail architecture and design trends have evolved over the past 50 years.

After World War II, supermarket construction exploded across America. Large supermarkets, while comprising only 5% of all food retail outlets, reported nearly half the sales volume. [2]

1960s

Americans demanded a more diverse array of items in grocery stores in the 60s. To compete with the burgeoning fast food industry, many supermarkets expanded to include delicatessens and bakery departments.[3]

1970s

The 1970s witnessed the rise of technology in grocery retail experience. The introduction of the Universal Product Code (UPC) directly impacted retail design and store layout since it allowed grocers to precisely estimate how much stock of a particular product was required.

1980s

With the economic recovery in the 1980s, supermarket chains built massive retail architecture spaces to draw customers.

By the late 80s, the supercenter store materialized. Retailers now offered food, general merchandise and pharmacy items under one roof.

1990s

By the mid 1990s, supermarkets had taken on a wider variety of formats, including conventional supermarkets, superstores, super warehouse stores, wholesale clubs, convenience stores and supercenters.

Conventional supermarkets, or stores with 9,000 items or more and which included a deli, comprised only 26% of the industry's total volume in the mid-90s. Just a little over a decade earlier, they accounted for more than 50% of the industry's total volume.

Wal-Mart became the largest retailer in the U.S. selling groceries through the supercenter, a format that combined food and general merchandise offerings.[4]

AFTER 2000

SUSTAINABLE DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

By 2007, more grocery retailers had embraced sustainable architecture design.

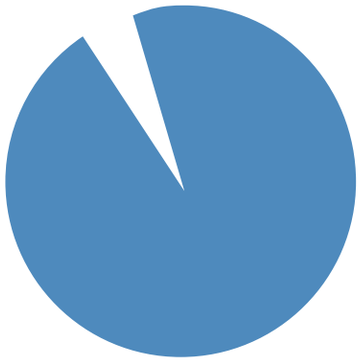
21.6% of participants reported green building is a goal for their organizations.

58.5% stated their organizations were considering green building options.[5]

SELF CHECKOUTS

6%

of supermarkets in the U.S. provided self-checkout lanes in 1999.



By 2007,

95%

offered self-checkout.[6]

ONLINE GROCERY SHOPPING AND RETAIL

Today, we are witnessing the convergence of the offline and online grocery retail worlds.

1/4 of American households currently buy some groceries online, up from 19% in 2014.

Within 10 years, more than

70%

will engage with online grocery shopping.[7]

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