

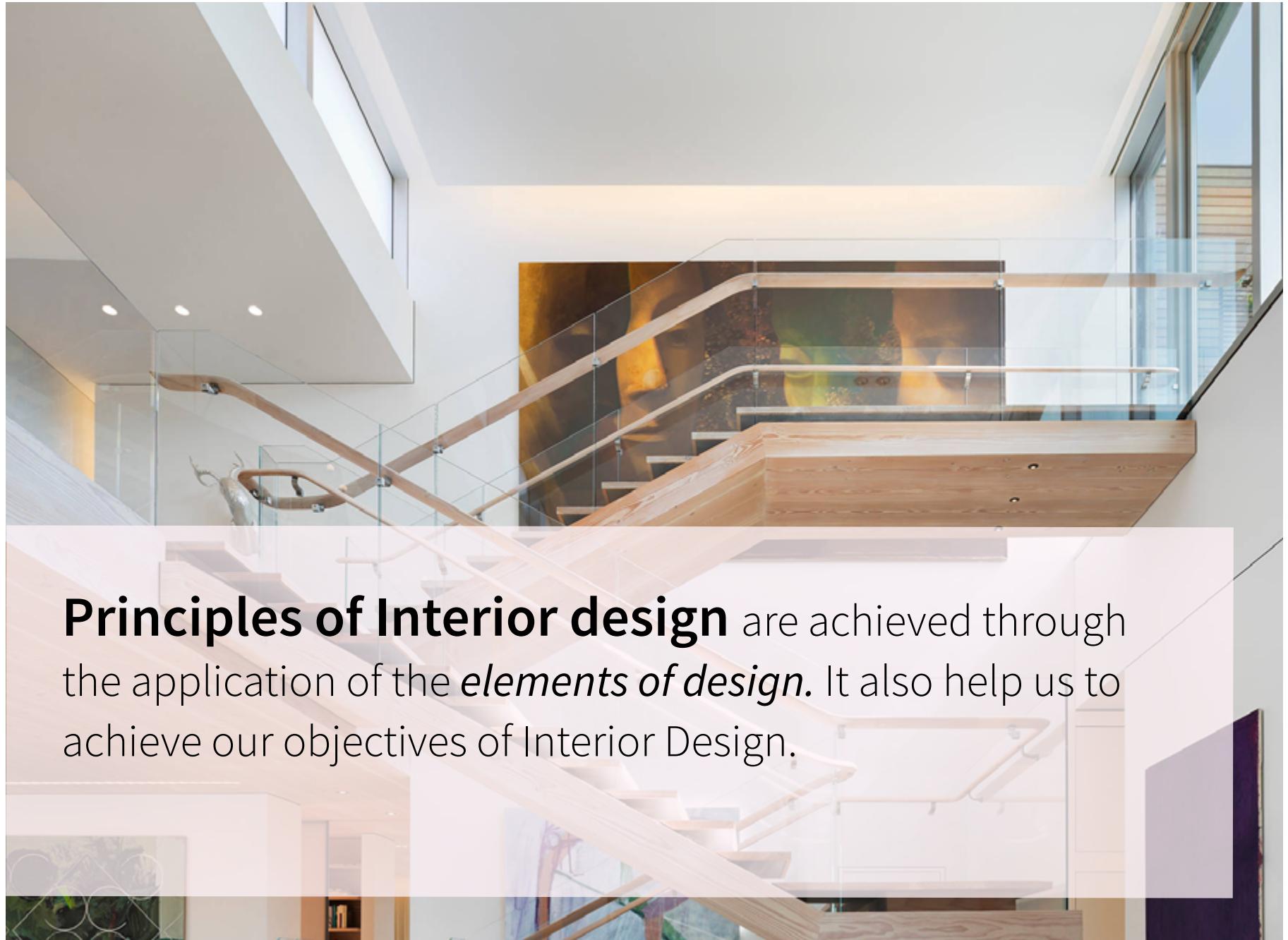
10/09/2020

PRINCIPLES

of Interior Design

Cebu Technological University - Pinamungajan Campus
IDT111 Interior Design Materials and Application 1
Professor: HANNAH PAÑARES - ABASA





Principles of Interior design are achieved through the application of the *elements of design*. It also help us to achieve our objectives of Interior Design.

Interior design **Principles**

Balance

Emphasis

Contrast

Rhythm

Scale and Proportion

Details

Harmony and Unity



Balance

Balance in interior design is all about the visual weight of your space and how to divide it between two sides. It can be created through the introduction of different forms, colors, or textures. Balance has three types: ***radial***, ***symmetrical*** and ***assymmetrical***. Choosing which one can have a huge effect on the perception of your client within the space.



Symmetrical Balance

Symmetrical balance is achieved when items are actually repeated or mirrored along a central axis.

It portrays a feeling of stability, calmness and dignity.

Symmetry can be achieved, through the use of pattern, arrangement of furniture, fixtures and millwork and through application of colour.



Symmetry works well in bedrooms as it creates a visually balanced feel to the space, which is calming on the mind.



Symmetry is at play here with the focal/axis point being the bed. The mirrors, bedside table and lamps mirror each other eitherside of the bed, reinforcing the focal point to the room.
The dressing table placement also reinforces the axis line creating a well balanced ordered space.

Symmetry is something that we pick up subconsciously because it is so familiar to us. It actually surrounds us everywhere, from looking at ourselves in the mirror to the natural world outside. The 1:16 ratio or the Golden Ratio, to be precise.

As most rooms have a focal point to them, symmetrical balance works by utilising the invisible axis (from the centre of your focal point) and applying mirrored arrangements of different elements either side. Focal points are an important aspect of a room, as they provide us with not only visual interest but a sense of order.



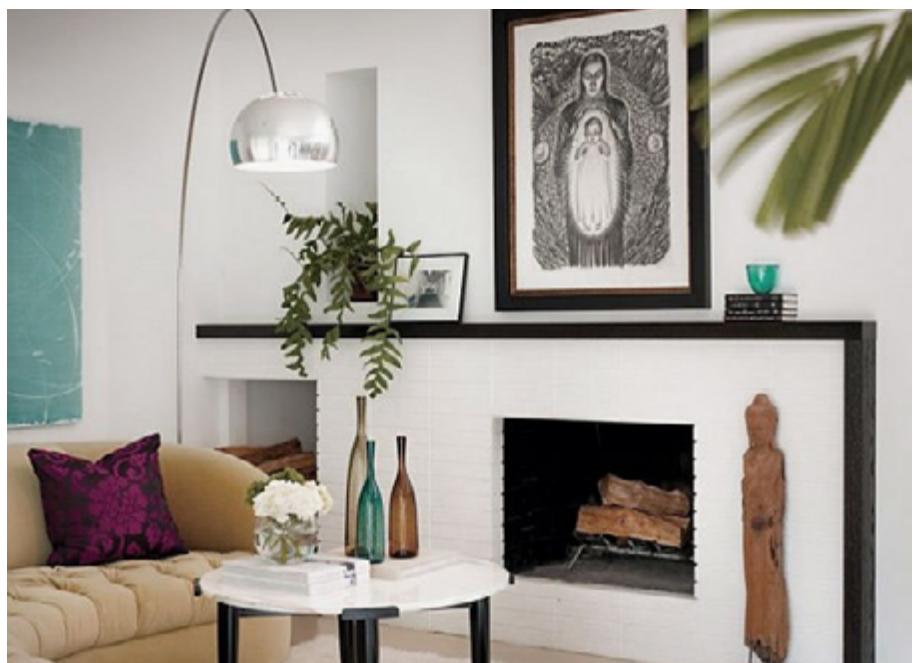
The art deco inspired hallway above, uses symmetrical balance brilliantly. It is clear what is the focal point, and the mirroring of the different elements either side reinforce the central axis, creating a uniformed and harmonious look and feel to the space.

Asymmetrical Balance

Asymmetrical balance relates very strongly to the visual weight of objects.

Complex shapes often feel heavier and for that reason are commonly used to achieve asymmetrical balance.

Technically, asymmetrical balance can be harder to achieve, but if it's done well, it can make a space so much more interesting and alive. The reason for this is that it creates tension and surprise in a room with the visually unexpected.



Usually asymmetrical balance creates a less formal or rigid scheme. The design tend to have a more relaxed feel to them as a variety of elements are working together to create balance.



The above bedroom space is balanced by the use of the objects such as the artwork on the wall and vases to the left of this asymmetrically designed bed. The dark colour of the focal wall is balanced out by the lightness of the window.



An asymmetrical arrangement on the coffee table can include a tall vase of flowers balanced with a stack of books with a decorative item placed on top. The varying heights play up the visual tension, creating interest.

Radial Balance

Radial balance is almost circular

Distributed arrangement of items around a central point either extending outward or inward.

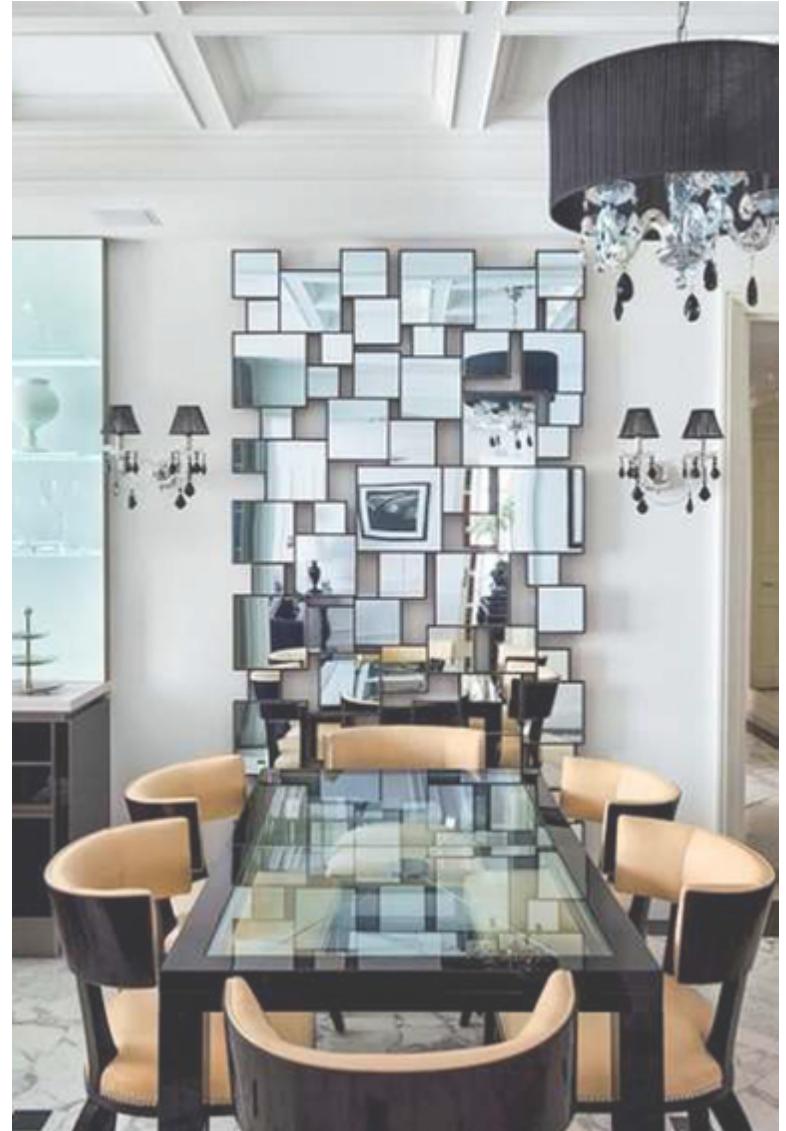
This principle is commonly used to create focus on an object.



Emphasis

Emphasis also known as focus in the interior design principle states that a central piece of furniture or art needs to play roles of grabbing attention. A room where everything gets equal importance will seem be boring. You need an anchor or a piece of object in that will catch attention.

To create emphasis in interior design involves creating a point of focus within a space. The **focal point** to be visually significant enough to catch and hold attention. Elements such as texture, form, pattern, light and color helps to emphasize specific focus points. Sometimes the way you position your intended point of focus within an interior space is one very important.



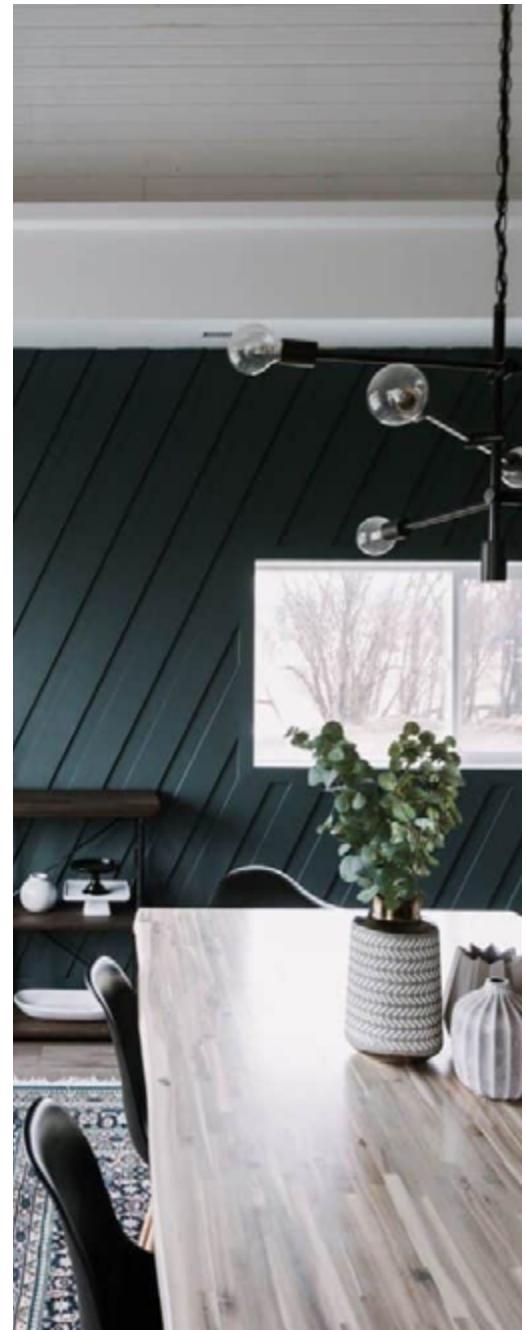
In this picture, the collage of mirror frames in different sizes hang in the wall is emphasizing the dining room.



When it comes to emphasis in interior, your space should dictate where the viewers look.

Several different ways creating focal point in interior design. Here are few most common examples:

- Use Statement Furniture - Large furniture or statement pieces serve as good focal points. Large brown sofa can be great focal point in living room. In Bedroom and dining area, room will mostly play role of center piece. You will want to spice up everything. Example would be throw pillows on the bed to catch attention and create emphasis.
- Add a Back Splash – Bathrooms and kitchens tend to have their own focal points such as tile back splashes either in the stove or in the shower. Make sure it includes a bold pattern or color.
- Use Art – Mirrors and artwork carry entire rooms. Make sure you select artwork or mirrors big enough for the wall you hang it on. Place mirror or artwork at eye-level. Highlight the piece by adding accent lighting.
- Add An Accent Wall– when it comes to focal points, accent walls have always been a popular choice. Usually, accent walls are the furthest wall away from the room's entryway. Draw attention by using patterned wallpaper or bold paint color.
- FEELING - sharp, jagged, graceful, smooth



Different types of Emphasis in Interior Design

- ④ Subordinate – this type of emphasis includes small decor and accessories. For example, a throw in a contrasting color you drape on a couch, small room features such as small art and trinkets around the room.
- ④ Sub-Dominant– this type of emphasis includes smaller features such as central furniture, curtains and rugs.
- ④ Dominant – this type of emphasis involves any features you add in to dominate the space completely. For example, a giant chandelier that hangs at eye level on top of your dining table. It can also be a giant vase of flowers. Dominant emphasis can also be a huge antique bed or a giant trunk that grabs all the attention in the room.
- ④ Emphatic – this type of emphasis uses architectural or natural focal points, clear features and natural structural parts of the room such as a grand archway or a giant set of doors at your entry.





As an Interior Designer, can you have more than one focal point in a single room?

Usually in entering a room, ideal space should one focal point, but when there is more than one focal point, room decoration more complex. A room looks messy or disorganized when there are two many objects trying to grab your attention. However if the client really really likes having two or more focal points, you can first make a decision which of those object is more important.

Does every room need to have a focal point?

Focal points are the aspects of a space where the eye goes to first. There should be a focal point in every room. Having one area for the eyes to rest brings peace, harmony and balance. When you enter a room and the attention is scattered due to not having a focal point, it feels messy and disorganized. When you add a focal point, everything just seems to come together and be more organized in terms of design.

Contrast

Contrast in interior design has to do with the distinction of the color or luminance of objects separating them from each other. It is achievable using three elements. These are space, form, and color. One can utilize prints or pads of two colors inverse such as white or dark to realize differentiate and make a recognizable object.



Different ways to create Contrast

- ④ Creating Contrast using Shapes – a type of contrasts that make use of the difference between rounded, smooth edges and angled sharp corners. Usually seen most often with home furnishings but it can be also utilised with various types of wall art accessories with other objects such as mirrors.
- ④ Creating Contrast through Mixing and Matching – contrast designer purposefully mix and match items that feel opposite of each other. Example fabrics with solid color, then mixing and matching with patterned items.
- ④ Creating Contrast with Texture – a type where you use two textures that contrast, such as rough and smooth in this way it can add weight to space visually.
- ④ Creating Contrast with Color – this type is the most obvious method where using two opposing shades of color where one color dominates while the other accentuates it.



Rhythm

Rhythm Rhythm in interior design is all about the visual repetitions of patterns. Rhythm is defined as recurrence, continuity or organized movement. When you repeat color, shapes, pattern, texture or complementary similar pieces through space, you create visual interest and rhythm.



In design, you can create rhythm by thinking about contrast, transition, progression, and repetition. When you use these mechanisms you create senses of movement in your interior, as you lead the attention of the viewer from one element of design to another. A room with no rhythm is like an untended garden. Full of potential, but not much else.

Type of Rhythm in Interior Design

④ Radiation

Radiation is an element of rhythm in interior design when the features in the room are balanced and repeated around a center point.

Some examples:

- » circular table with a vase of flowers and chairs radiating off the table.
- » Stairs going in circle around center point like on image presented above.
- » Adding a circular pendant light on top of the table plus two circle prints on the wall emphasizes radiation.
- » circular mirrors repeating and radiating around each other. This creates a soothing, balanced look that appeals to every viewer.

④ Contrast

Contrast is an element of rhythm that involves directly opposing colors and shapes. It can be found in many different ways. Below are some examples:

- » Shapes – curves in a chair compared to strong square lines on table
- » Colors – Green and red, the opposite colors in color wheels, create contrast. The green in your garden against your red window shutters and door, for instance.
- » Styles – Many dining rooms have plenty of traditional details of architecture already built-in. You can hang modern paintings to contrast old-fashioned interiors, for instance.

→ Transition

Through the transition, rhythm leads the eyes gently and subtly into an uninterrupted, continuous flow from one spot in the room to the next.

Transition is not as easy to define as the other principles. Unlike gradation or repetition, transitions tend to be a smooth flow, in which the eyes glide from one spot to another. Using a curvy line to lead the eye gently is the most common use of transition. Examples of this include rounded edges, winding paths or arched doorways.

Example: the curved lines of a couch accentuate curves in bay windows, leading your eyes around the room interior.

→ Gradation

Another principle of rhythm is gradation. The size of the same room objects changes from large to small or from small to large, from light to dark or vice versa. This creates a nice rhythm drawing the eyes up and down the line of gradation.

This type of rhythm is taking different sized elements and decreasing or increasing one or more of its qualities. Varied sizes would be the most obvious implementation of this.

You can also use color to achieve gradation such as a monochrome color scheme where every element is a shade slightly different from one hue.

④ Repetition

Repetition is a principle of rhythm that is based on similar patterns, colors, textures, forms shapes and similar lines throughout your interiors. The technique of repetition gives the room a clear sense of cohesiveness and stability.

For instance, when the eyes follow a continuous movement along the halls by using repeating floor lights or upright posts.

When you repeat framed prints that are the same size, this is an effortless method of achieving a gentle, lovely rhythm. Repetition is using the same elements more than one time in space.



What are examples of establishing a rhythm in design?

One example is establishing a rhythm by using colorful pillows. Echo it again in the rug and another time in a painting. Repetitions such as this help in carrying your eyes around the room.

In decorating rooms, planting a garden, planning a dinner party, decorating your bedroom or buying clothes, the more repetitive and similar the colors and shapes are, the greater the impact.

Chairs can be a bit different if you are an antique collector but they need to be compatible in style, color, and shape. One-color needs to dominate a space. One color needs to be predominant.

When too many things are going on, it is a bit like weeds in a garden, distracting everyone from the flowers.

You need to feel rhythm rather than see it. It is more like perceiving rather than precisely measuring. Take a break and then look at your room once again with fresh eyes. If your space feels rhythmic and your eyes easily move through it, your design is complete. However, if you feel that something is a bit off, keep tweaking the elements until you feel that everything is all right.

How do you create balance in rhythm?

Rhythmic balance is created when there is an even weight distribution in a room. Each of the elements of design needs to work with other elements to create a true equilibrium. There are three rhythmic balance styles: radial, asymmetrical and symmetrical. Radial symmetry - is when all design elements are arrayed around one central point. Asymmetrical balance - You achieve balance with dissimilar objects that have eye attractions or equal visual weights. Asymmetrical balance is less forced and more casual in feeling but harder to achieve. Asymmetry suggests movement and the result is interiors that are much more lively. Symmetrical balance - found in old-fashioned interiors, symmetrical balance is characterized by repeating the same objects in the same position on either side of vertical elements.

Scale & Proportion

Scale refers to one object's size concerning another. Specifically, the concept of scale is used when one object's size is known for certain. Few examples are the standard wall heights, height of a table and chair or how many meters a bathroom or shower should be so as not feeling too cramped.



Proportion refers to balancing elements of design such as texture, color, and shape. Architects and designers link proportion often with scale, referring to comparative sizes of objects.

Tips on how to create correct Scale and Proportion

→ Repetition

Use colors and patterns that repeat. For example, a square coffee table and a square panel of wainscoting on your wall maintain the room's proportions.

→ Patterns

Every patterns need to be within the scale in a small room. In other words, when your room is small, use fewer prints and make sure they are smaller patterns. Big rooms can handle more colors and larger prints. If your room is small but like big prints, make sure that the print is used sparingly and has tons of white space around it.

→ White Space

By uncovering some surfaces and leaving some walls bare. Usually this space is above and around furniture. Remember a room doesn't look good when every square millimeter is filled up.

→ Height

Higher ceilings mean that furniture can be more imposing and taller. In contrast, lower ceilings will mean lower decor and furniture with less height. The exception of this rule is to use modern, low furniture in rooms with taller ceilings to acquire an effect that is nothing short of dramatic.

→ Furniture

In every room, the main furniture sets that stage for the sizes of all other furniture. For example, an over-sized couch won't look very good with a tiny side table beside it.

→ Size

Large rooms can handle large-scale decor and furniture. Small rooms need more delicate, petite decor and medium or small-scale furniture. Take a nice long stroll throughout your home's rooms. If something feels off, it may not have the right proportion or scale for the room. Replace, remove or rearrange it until you have the home and rooms that you desire.

→ Texture

Interior space gains interest and richness with a variety of textures for example designers use paint or paper for wall textures to highly focal points. Adding area rugs and carpets add texture to floors which balances wood paneling on the wall or smooth paint.

→ Light

Light affects space perception. Thus, controlling light does contribute to proportion success. When the focus is brought to an area, the shadow causes space to seemingly retreat. Interior designers usually provide good light for activities in space such as working on a computer, crafting or reading. Dim lighting is sometimes conducive to relaxing conversations or viewing television. Shutters, shades, and curtains help in controlling natural lighting.

→ Regular Space

Proportions in space have to do with objects being placed within spaces. For instance, balance large break-fronds on one wall with two medium chairs on the side. If each chair is large, the furniture would look overscaled. In contrast, if the chairs are too small, the proportions would be off.

→ Shape

Within a space, repeating shapes establishes visual harmonies that the eyes agree with. For instance, repeating furniture's curved shapes, accessories or fabric patterns to produce elaborate, complex effects such as a Victorian style, with satisfying proportions.

→ Color

Repeating colors in various areas within space creates a pleasant balance of color. By using color scheme that include various hues and you will be able to achieve color proportions in harmonious senses.



Details

In interior design, when the topic of Detail comes up, this means paying specific attention to a project's smallest details in interiors. When you don't cut corners and ensure every last detail you agreed on is in place, a project becomes successful. Details enhance a room's overall theme and need to be just right.

Even the smallest features are maximized through their usage. The small details in interior design may not have an impact by themselves but when they are all together in a room and every level of immense care is applied, this is the perfect method of composing a perfectly-finished, flawless home.



Type of Details *in Interior Design*

④ Light

Lights are details that must never be overlooked. Let's see a few examples:

Adjust the height of the light to add value to space.

Find light themes that match your interior.

Play with Ambient lighting to draw eyes to certain spots.

Timeless quality chandeliers are great for adding value to your space.

④ Accessories

Aside from other elements of an interior, room accessories are classified as details as well. Accessories can include rugs, throw pillows, candle holders, picture frames, small artistic objects, figurines, lamps, glass displays, small vases, etc...

Adding all the right accessories and paying attention to how the room transforms into something wonderful is an essential design skill.

④ Furniture

Brilliant light, sleek and smooth furniture looks great while being functional at the same time. Using furniture with their own small details is going to look fabulous in any corner in your home. Statement furniture can create an entire ambiance all by themselves.

④ Partitions

Separating walls and partitions another type of details. Partitions that are minimalistic give both spaces partial vision while providing both panache and adequate privacy to space.

④ Staircases

Staircases are a great place to add in details. staircases are misunderstood as the only transitional spaces that are vertical. Floating staircase can be great detail and eye catcher. Projecting handrails can be elegant, simple and save in material, space and cost. Carve out rails like a niche and add in wood-paneled walls.

④ Fenestration

Fenestration is the way doors and windows are arranged on a building's elevation. Fenestration involves windows and sliding aluminum that have specific lintel or sills or wooden frames for windows allowing the only light in the room.

→ Accents

Design accents are a fantastic tool for interior design. Plus, details and accents can be applied to any house style to amplify the fine details of any theme. When you combine small details with big furniture pieces, the atmosphere you create can make a strong impact and change the entire look of your room. Pay very close attention to details that are decorative and making sure you don't add them in haphazardly.

→ Metallics

Metallic accents in the house can be developed using more pieces that are metallic. Usually, metallic bathroom fittings, handles, light switches, and sockets are going to look great. You can accent this with candelabra, a metallic chandelier, and even metallic wall sconces. Gold, silver, and brass are going to look great coupled with all the built-inn metallic details already in place. Imagine a minimalist room with metallic accents, the look is striking and traditional, remaining contemporary year after year.

Harmony & Unity

Unity refers to elements repeating in design whether they are materials, shapes or colors. Overall, they look like they all fit together.

Harmony is the sense that all your design elements fit together perfectly.



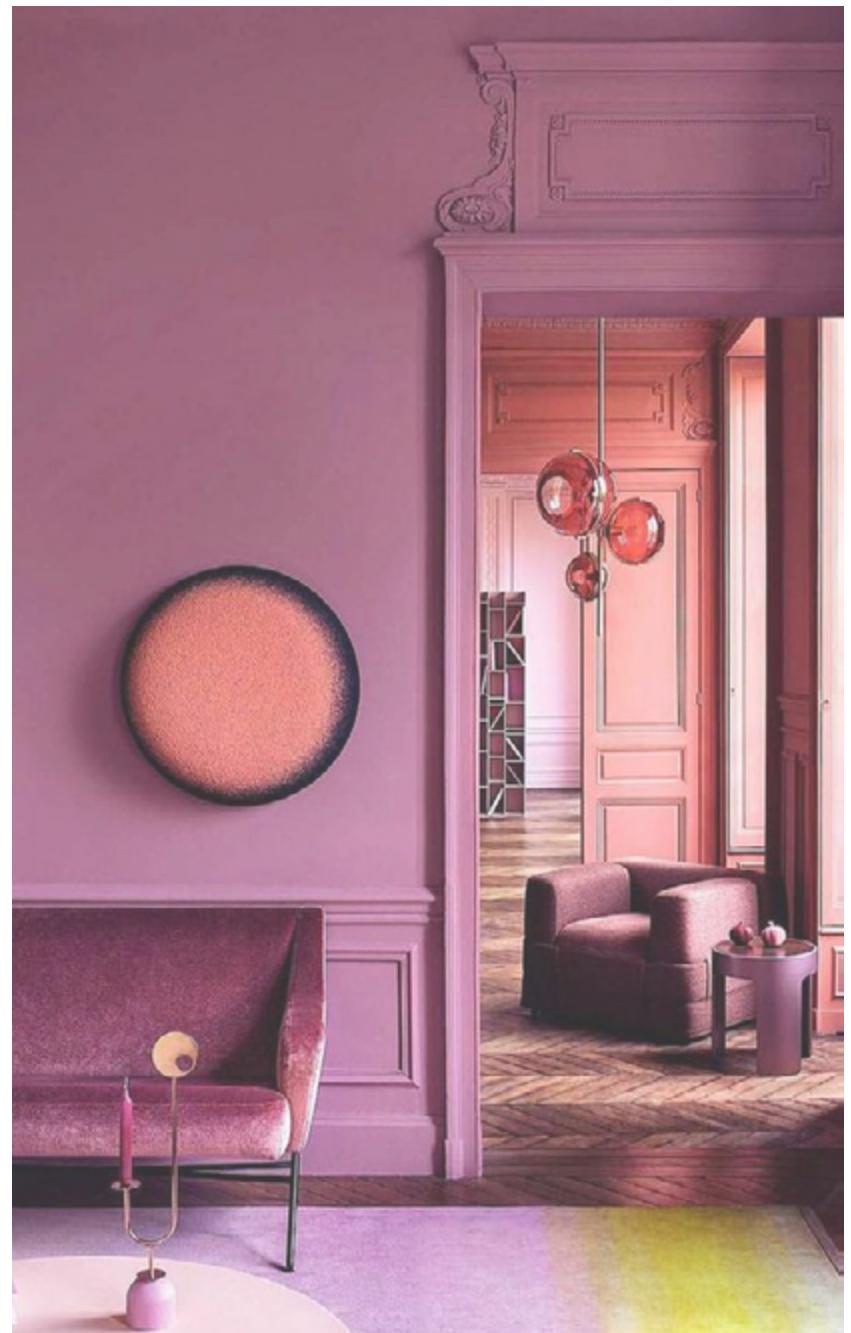
Different methods to achieve Harmony and Unity

- ➔ Theme – altering basic theme helps to keep interest alive and achieving overall unity.
- ➔ Rhythm – it happens when recurring color, size, position and graphic elements with the use of focal interruption point.
- ➔ Repetition – element is mimicked (copied) many times over a particular space.
- ➔ Continuation – is the sense of having a pattern or a line extended.
- ➔ Similarity – is the ability to seem that other elements are repeated.
- ➔ Perspective – is a sense of elements being distant from each other.

Tips to achieve Unity and Harmony

1. Use elements that repeat around a room or around a surface to keep the lines of energy moving in space.
2. Each element in your room has a visual element such as pattern, color, shape, and size. Create an overall space balance using these elements.
3. Symmetrical arrangements are related to harmony and elegance. Thus, when you aim to follow the rule-book for symmetry, you create a formal atmosphere. You can create a less formal room when you group similar objects on one side of the space and keep the other one less match.
4. When you are using furniture to create a composition, use a rectangle where the ratio of the short to the long side is 1 is to 1.618. This is what designers call the golden ratio.

5. To guide the eyes away from less attractive features, focal points are necessary. These point toward more important room elements. Make sure you position everything on a square rather than a diagonal axis.
6. In your living space, avoid unnecessary clutter. When you clear clutter, this makes spaces seem bigger. The reason is that your eyes have less to focus on. It also makes it easier to find stuff in spaces with less competition for your attention when you show off your priceless pieces such as sculpture and art. epition
Use colors and patterns that repeat. For example, a square coffee table and a square panel of wainscoting on your wall maintain the room's proportions.





How Do You Incorporate Harmony And Unity In Your Overall Design?

In your overall design, you need to incorporate unity and harmony. To do this, find a way to connect every object. Find a common theme. Is there something that brings a room together? You might even want to broaden your scope and try and unify an entire home.

What Is Variety And How Does It Relate to Unity And Harmony?

Even if sameness is necessary, variety is also essential. This keeps the eyes from moving around and rests on a space that has a factor of “sameness.” When you contrast hard and soft materials, combining old and new architecture or furniture. You can implement variety in your spaces. On the other hand, you want to ensure that there is a contrast within your theme. At times, excessive amounts of variety can result in a space looking cluttered and confusing. To unify a collection of spaces, use color schemes. Use a color along with various textures, sizes, shapes and shades to create harmony.