

a convenient basis on which to discuss the effects of room surface colour on the appearance of space.

By choosing different values for different components of the interior it is possible to dramatise or to buffer the pattern of light and shade created by the lighting. An example of this is the use of a high-reflectance (high value) wall opposite a window wall.

By choosing colours of different chromas it is possible to create a pattern of emphasis. Strong emphasis requires strong chromas, but their use calls for caution. An area of awkward shape that might pass unnoticed at weak chroma can look unsightly at strong chroma. Also, a small area of strong chroma might be stimulating but the same chroma over a large area could be overpowering.

The selection of hue is partly a matter of fashion and partly a matter of emotion. By choosing a predominant hue for a space it is possible to create a 'cool' or 'warm', 'restful' or 'active' atmosphere. Figure 1.18 illustrates the use of surface colours in public and commercial interiors. The children's room in the library in Figure 1.18(a) uses upholstery in strong primary colours to provide a vibrant and stimulating atmosphere. This contrasts with the use of blues and reds in the commercial interior in Figure 1.18(b), where a calmer and more sophisticated ambience is required.

All rooms will have a mixture of colours, and this fact raises the question of colour harmony. There are a number of so-called rules of colour harmony, which are little understood. However, it is widely believed that the main variable influencing pleasant colour harmonies is the difference in value for the two colours compared; the greater the difference in value, the greater the chances of achieving a pleasant colour combination. The effect of chroma differences is thought to be similar, combinations of colours with large differences in chroma tending to be pleasant. As for hue differences, there is not believed to be any consistent effect, with all the same hues, closely related hues or complementary

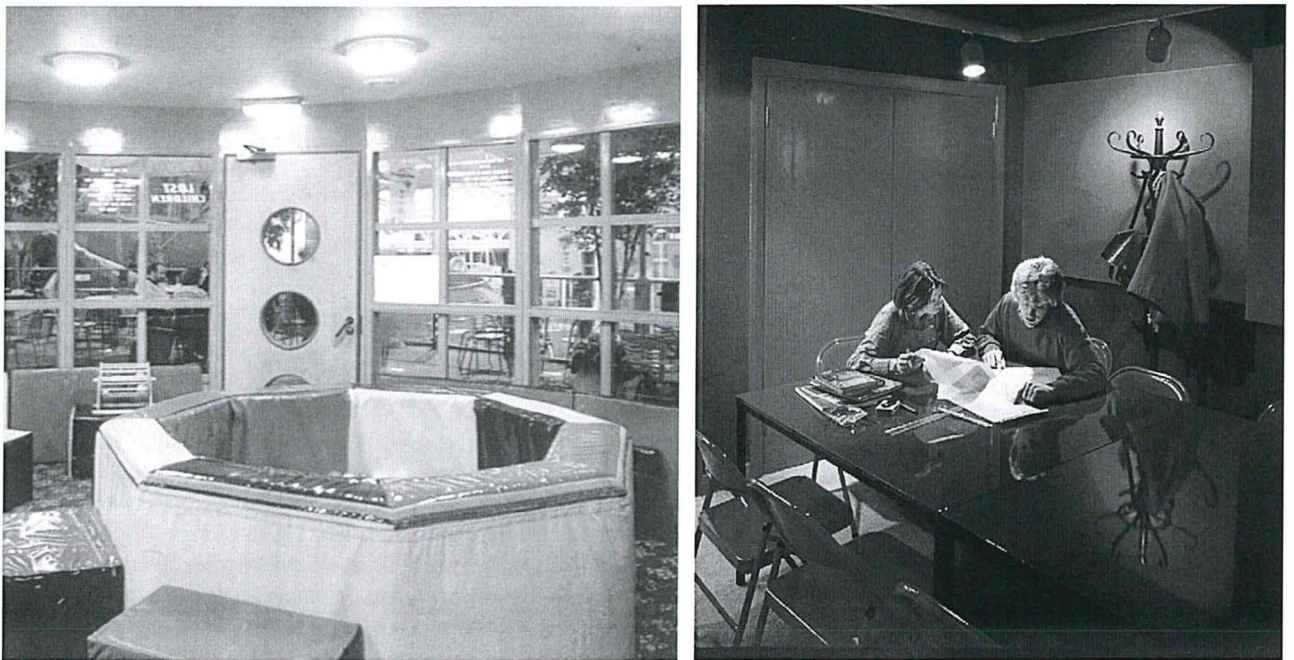


Figure 1.18 (a) Use of colour to enhance the appearance of a children's play area; (b) use of colour to enhance the appearance of a commercial interior (advertising agency meeting room)