

7. HOME DECORATION

7.1 Introduction to Elements of Arts

7.2 Introduction to Principles of Design

Let's Discuss Home Decoration and Home Design.

Every human being has a wish that his/her home should be nicely decorated. One needs to understand that the home should not be merely decorated but it should be pleasant and appealing. It should create welcoming atmosphere so that the visitors feel comfortable. The family members, on returning home after working for long hours should feel relaxed. So, the home should not be merely decorated but should have good design.

Design is the creation and organization of form, space, colour, pattern and texture to achieve beauty and individuality. Considering the space crunch, especially in urban areas and the constantly increasing prices of the houses, utility of the space and economy become the important aspects to be achieved in designing of a home.

In order to create a good design for home, a family may take help of a professional Interior Designer. But it is necessary to remember that each individual has a natural ability to recognize beauty which can be utilized in creating beautiful atmosphere in the home. The knowledge of elements of art and principles of design can provide necessary guidance and the application of this knowledge in home design will definitely help to create lively and pleasant atmosphere in the homes.

7.1 Introduction to Elements of Arts :

Do you know the elements of art?

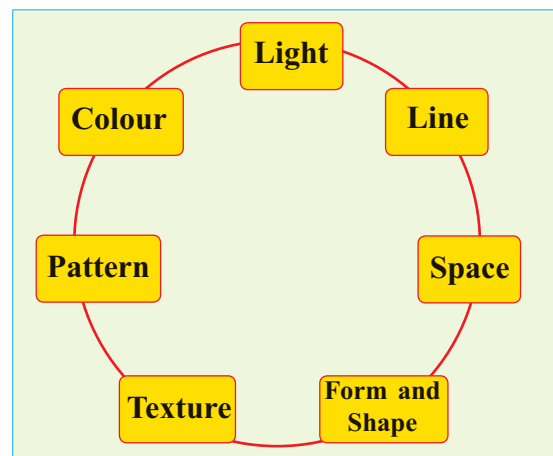


Fig. 7.1 Basic Elements of Art

1. **Light** : Light is one of the most important basic elements of art. It is an external element of art and design.

Definition : Light is an element that illuminates and makes everything visible.

It is both an art element and a necessity. Without light, no art is visible to the eye and no design can be produced, appreciated or utilized. The expression of beauty is incomplete without light.

Do you remember ?

Light can be natural or artificial. Both are important aspects of home decoration from the point of view of functionality and design.

- a. **Natural light** : We all are familiar with this term. It is the visible radiant energy of the sun which makes everything visible to us. It varies widely in colour and intensity throughout the day and hence creates various psychological effects on human minds. Bright sunshine evokes cheerfulness in the interior of a home or any commercial place whereas inadequate lighting produces gloomy and sad atmosphere.

b. Artificial lighting : Artificial lighting is equally important in Interior decoration. It becomes the necessity at night and if the intensity reduces during the day time as well. It can be totally controlled. Its intensity can stimulate activity and creativity or relaxation. It can change the nature of space, direct human movement, provide appropriate atmosphere and enhance the richness of textures. It helps to create interest in home decoration by creating emphasis and rhythm at suitable places.



Fig. 7.2 (a) Natural light in Interior

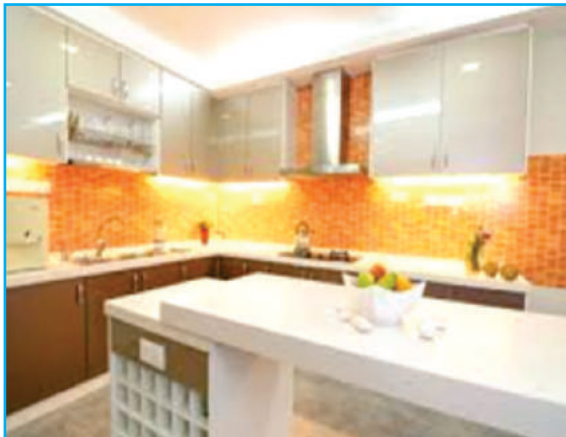


Fig. 7.2 (b) Artificial light in Interior

2. Line : Line is the basic element in creative design. Lines are important in-home decoration as they add character to a room and also create various psychological effects on human minds. Each line conveys certain feelings to the viewer.

Definition :

- **Line is a chain of dots or points joined together.**
- **Line is a connection between two points in space.**

Characteristics of Lines : Each line has peculiar characteristics because of which it becomes unique and important in any kind of design.

- Lines may be straight or curved; they have only one dimension that is length and no breadth.
- A line is versatile and can define or limit shape, divide areas, suggest movement, speed or direction.
- All lines have direction- horizontal, vertical or oblique. Each direction has a distinct and different effect upon the observer.
- A line, to certain extent is capable of expressing specific emotions. They assume expression and meaning through association with natural forms and human body positions.

Let's Discuss :

Psychological effects of lines : Various types of lines are associated with various human body positions and forms from nature. Thus, through these associations they suggest meaning and expression and create various psychological effects on human minds.

a. Vertical lines : These lines through their association with human body at work which is vertical, indicate life and action. They symbolize feelings like uprightness, honesty, dignity, etc. Trees and mountains reach up to pierce the sky so we think of them as reaching, climbing and inspiring. Buildings, which are tall, are dominating

and powerful. At home the vertical lines of the doorways, draperies give the necessary strength and height to the room. Vertical lines create an optical illusion of increased height.

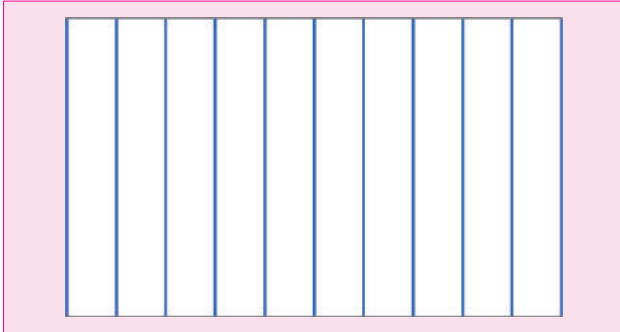


Fig. 7.3 (a) Vertical Lines



Fig. 7.3 (b) Vertical Lines in nature

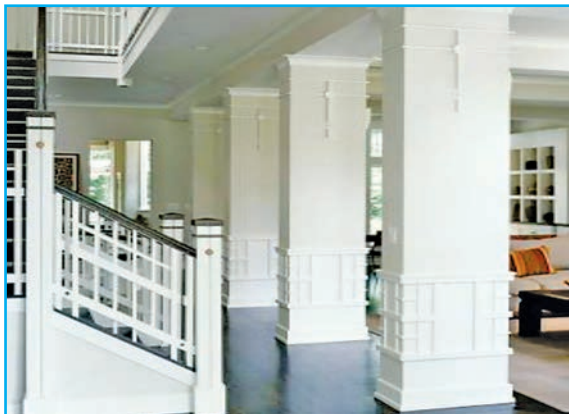


Fig. 7.3 (c) Vertical Lines in building
Fig. 7.3 Vertical Lines and their Associations

b. Horizontal lines : A horizontal line is observed in human body when man lies down and he is resting or sleeping. Any landscape painting with dominating horizontal lines gives a feeling of calm and

peaceful atmosphere. Thus, these lines evoke feelings of repose, rest, balance, stability. It is calm, passive and quiet as a still lake. At home we find such lines for beds, book cases, tables etc. Horizontal lines create an optical illusion of increased width.

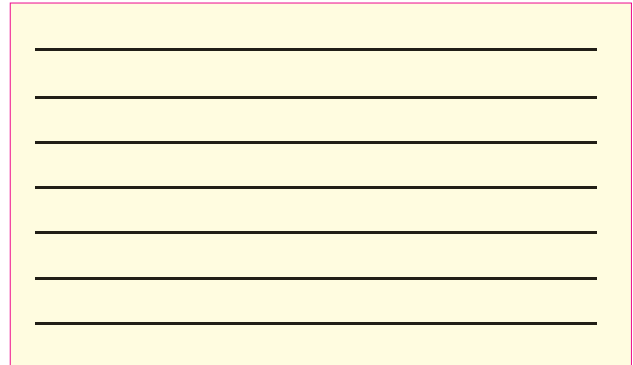


Fig. 7.4 (a) Horizontal Lines

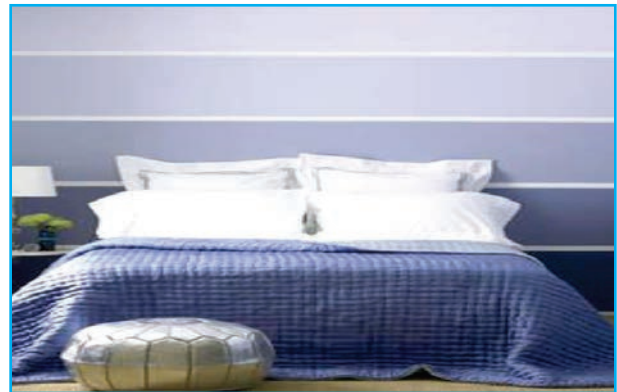


Fig. 7.4 (b) Horizontal Lines in Home Furnishing



Fig. 7.4 (c) Horizontal Lines in Human Body

Fig. 7.4 Horizontal Lines and their Associations

c. Diagonal or oblique lines : Human body in movement takes this angular position. While applying force, for example while pushing a heavy piece of furniture human body position is diagonal. Similarly, while

driving a bicycle or riding a horse with speed, the human body position is diagonal. Thus, these lines suggest movement, force, restlessness, activity and excitement. They are dynamic, suggesting movement as in wind driven rain. In architecture they show the slant of roofs.

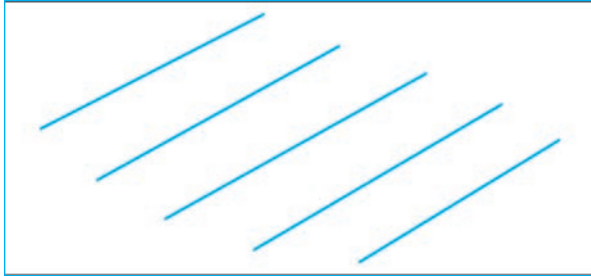


Fig. 7.5 (a) Diagonal Lines



Fig. 7.5 (b) Diagonal Lines in Human Body



Fig. 7.5 (c) Diagonal Lines in Nature

Fig. 7.5 Diagonal Lines and their Associations

d. Curved lines : These lines look gracious and flexible. Human body in the performance of dance or play takes number

of curved positions. They may take varied forms like a semicircle, spiral, undulating line etc. Because of harmonic transition in the change of direction, it has flowing continuity. Its slow lazy movement is passive, feminine and soft. They are youthful and gay. At home we observe them in curtains and furniture. Undulating lines convey gentle motion like the ripple in a pond.



Fig. 7.6 (a) Curved Lines



Fig. 7.6 (b) Curved Lines in Human Body



Fig. 7.6 (c) Curved Lines in Curtains

Fig. 7.6 Curved Lines and their Associations

3. Space : It is an important element of art. In interior design walls and floor create the

form of a room and enclose the space within. It is the space that we use for carrying out various activities.

Definition : Space is defined as emptiness, void or interval between things.

It is easy to understand the importance of space because for any human activity space provides the facility for movement and experience. It plays an important role in the use of an object.

Can you recall ?

Importance of Space :

- The importance of space is realized easily because for any human activity space it must. It provides the facility for movement and experience.
- It is the space within a piece of a pottery that determines the capacity and the nature of its use.
- It is the eye of the needle that enables the use of needle for the purpose it is intended to serve.
- It is the space inside a cupboard that enables the contents to be stored inside.
- Likewise, how much tea or coffee can be poured into a cup, how big a flower arrangement can be done in a given flower vas are the points related to the space enclosed within them.



Fig. 7.7 (a) Functional Space in a Cup

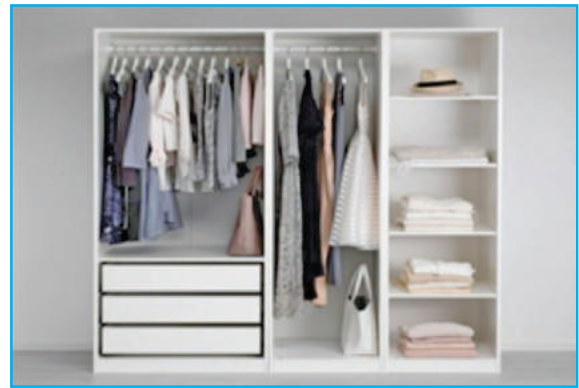


Fig. 7.7 (b) Functional Space in a Cupboard

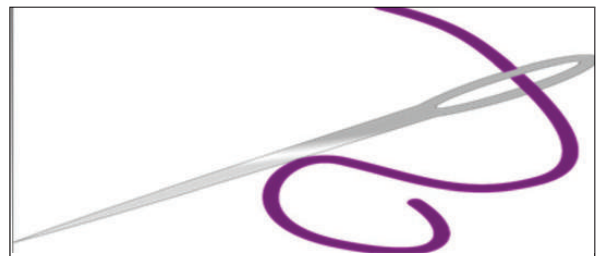


Fig. 7.7 (c) Functional Space in a needle

Fig. 7.7 Functional Considerations of Space

Space is a very important element in interiors. Space can be cheerful or depressing, noisy and stormy or calm and peaceful depending on the way the designer has made use of the various elements to form the interior. In today's urban areas, space has become a costly element. The houses are pretty small in comparison to the houses seen in the past. The successful use of art elements helps to create the interiors that are functionally as well as aesthetically appealing. The successful use of art elements like colour, texture, pattern and light help to create the interiors that are functionally as well as aesthetically appealing.

4. Forms and Shape : When various lines moving in different directions intersect each other various shapes are formed.

Definition :

- **Shape** is a two-dimensional enclosure of space.
- **Form** is defined as three dimensional shape.

Form and space are interrelated. Shapes are mostly the flat enclosures of space and form includes a volume surrounded by limiting factors. Form is something solid and tangible. Shapes and forms enable us to judge the size of objects.

Form is the most important element in home decoration. Without the beauty of form, excellent colour, texture and pattern are of no avail. A diversity of forms helps to give interest to interiors. For example, a rectangular sofa grouped with spherical lamp bases, curved upholstered furniture, pillows and supporting frames show a variety of forms within a room.

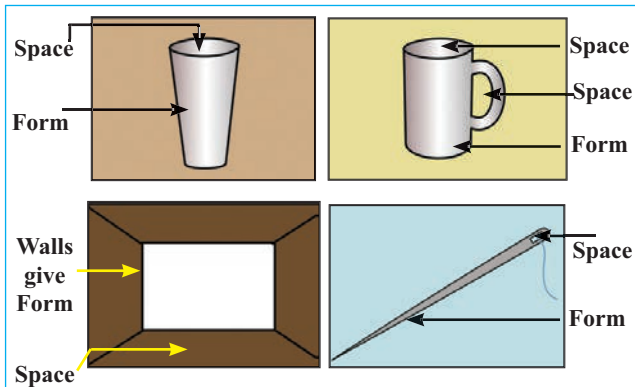


Fig. 7.8 (a) Form and Space



Fig. 7.8 (b) Diversity of forms in Interior

5. Texture : Each and every object whether natural or artificial has its own texture. That means each object has originality in

its texture. Thus, we come across varied textures around us.

Definition : Texture is the surface quality of a material or an object. It is understood either by touching the object or by looking at it.

Types of Texture :

- a. Tactile textures :** The texture that is understood by running our hand over the surface is called as tactile texture, for example; rough, smooth, soft, hard etc.
- b. Visual textures :** The texture that is understood just by looking at the object is called as visual texture.

Know this :

Textures are important in human life as well as in interior design.

- Textures add character and interest to materials and objects.
- They affect us physically, for example; the rough and coarse furnishing materials irritate us and hence make us uncomfortable.
- Textures affect reflection of light and thus the colours.
 - The polished, smooth surfaces reflect lot of light making the colours appear bright and brilliant thus creating glare.
 - The rough and coarse textures reflect less light and thus make the colours appear dark and ultimately make the interior dark and gloomy.
- They affect the maintenance of interiors.
 - Smooth textures reflect lot of light and show the dirt and dust and call attention for the cleanliness but can be cleaned easily.

- Rough, coarse textures do not show dirt and dust quickly but take time for cleaning.



Fig. 7.9 (a) A Carpet with Soft Texture



Fig. 7.9 (b) A Carpet with Rough Texture

Fig. 7.9 Textures in Interior Design

- 6. Pattern :** Pattern is an important art element that should be considered in home decoration.

Definition :

Pattern refers to any kind of enrichment done on a surface.

Thus, it is defined as any surface enrichment.

Use of surface pattern for home decoration helps to create liveliness and interest in a room. But if it is used intensively, it may create restlessness and unnecessary excitement. Opinions differ on how much pattern is desirable in a room, but it is customary to use pattern on at least one fourth of the total surface areas. A large room can support more pattern than a small room.

Remember This :

There are four types of patterns- naturalistic, stylized, geometric and abstract.

a. Naturalistic motifs : These patterns resemble natural forms. They look like pictures usually of flowers, animals and sceneries.

b. Stylized motifs : They are based on natural forms but the lines are simplified and some imaginary forms are added for decoration.

c. Geometric motifs : They are based on the pure geometric forms of circle, rectangles, and triangles with variations. Geometric patterns include stripes, dots, checks etc.

d. Abstract motifs : These are artist's own representations of natural objects. He uses his imagination to indicate the objects. They do not represent any known form and are hard to understand.



Fig. 7.10 (a) Naturalistic Pattern

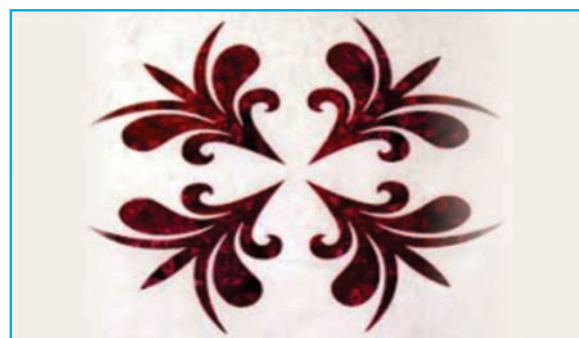


Fig. 7.10 (b) Stylized Pattern



Fig. 7.10 (c) Geometric Pattern

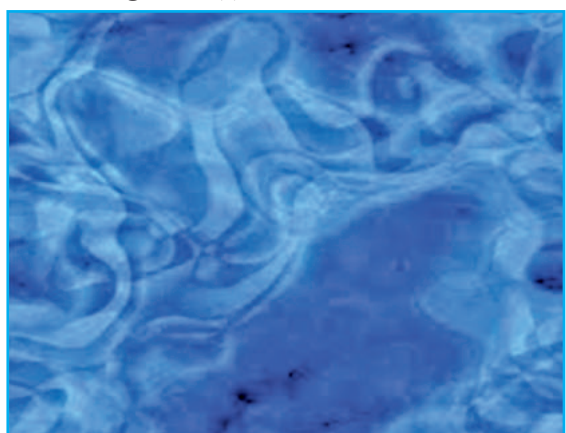


Fig. 7.10 (d) Abstract Pattern

Fig. 7.10 Types of Patterns

- 7. Colour :** Colours have a tremendous effect on the emotions of people and are largely responsible for the atmosphere created. Different colours create different emotional responses. Some people are more sensitive and more stimulated than others by certain colour schemes. Thus selection of colours in Home Decoration needs to be done carefully.

Definition : Colour is the quality of light reflected from an object to the human eye.

Colour is the impression received by the mind from certain stimulations of the retina. When light falls upon an object, some of it is absorbed and remaining is reflected back. The apparent colour of an object depends

upon the wavelength of the light that it reflects.

For example, if an object appears green, it is absorbing all the other wavelengths of colour that make up white light and is reflecting only green rays. An object that appears white is reflecting all the colour rays that make up light, while a black object absorbs all the colour rays that make up light reflecting none.

Understand the following :

Dimensions or properties of colour : There are three dimensions or properties of colour.

i. Hue : It is the dimension of colour that helps to identify colour, in simple words it is the **name given to a colour** for example red, blue, orange all are the hues. **It also represents the warmth or coolness of a colour** for example; red is a warm hue, blue is a cool hue and green an intermediate hue. The hue of a colour can be changed by mixing adjoining hues.

ii. Value : Value indicates the **lightness or darkness** of a colour. The value of a colour can be changed by adding white or black to any colour. When white is added to a colour in more or less quantity, one gets many 'tints' and when black is added to a colour in more or less quantity, one gets many 'shades'. White has the highest value while black has the lowest value.

iii. Intensity or Chroma : Intensity refers to the **brightness or dullness** of a colour. It is the **strength or weakness** of a colour. Colours can be made bright by adding more colour and dull by diluting the colour or by adding grey colour to it. For example, pure red has high intensity while brick red has low intensity.

Always Remember :

Colour Wheel : The colour wheel has the same progression of hues as in the spectrum and they are bent into a circle. In Prang colour wheel, the twelve hues in a colour wheel can be divided into primary, secondary and intermediate hues.

i. Primary colours : Red, yellow and blue are primary hues. They are so called because they cannot be produced by mixing other hues. But many other colours can be produced by mixing them.

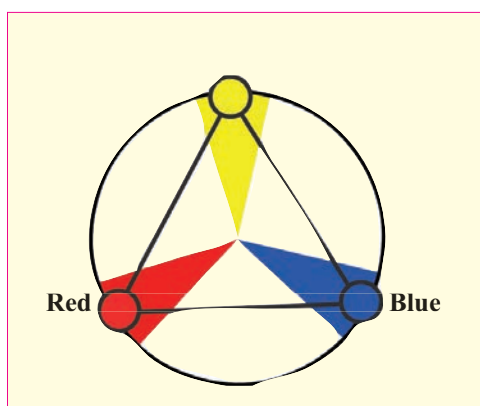


Fig. 7.11 Primary colours

ii. Secondary colours : Green, orange and purple are secondary colours. Equal amounts of two primary hues produce secondary hues.

- Green = Yellow + Blue
- Orange = Red + Yellow
- Purple = Red + Blue

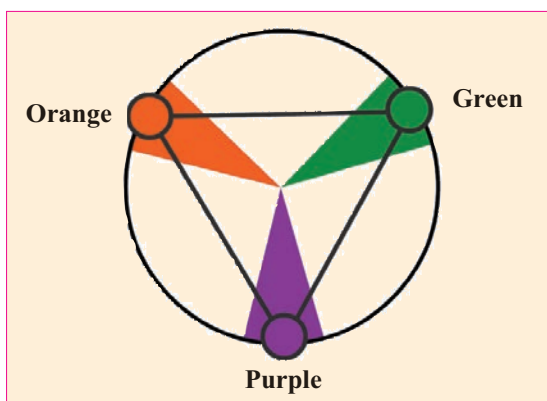


Fig. 7.12 Secondary colours

iii. Intermediate colours : These colours are midway between each primary and its adjacent secondary hue. There are six intermediate colours namely Yellow-green, Blue-green, Blue-purple, Red-purple, Red-orange, Yellow-orange.

- Yellow-green = Yellow + Green
- Blue-green = Blue + Green
- Blue-purple = Blue + Purple
- Red-purple = Red + Purple
- Red-orange = Red + Orange
- Yellow-orange = Yellow + Orange

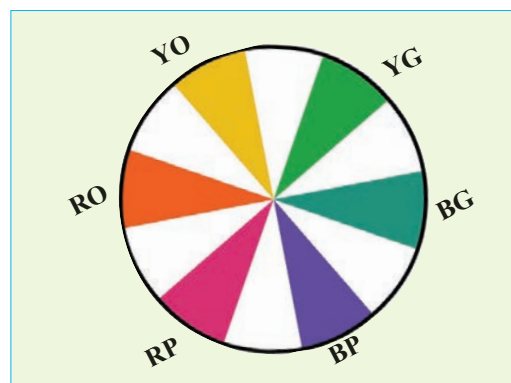


Fig. 7.13 Intermediate colours

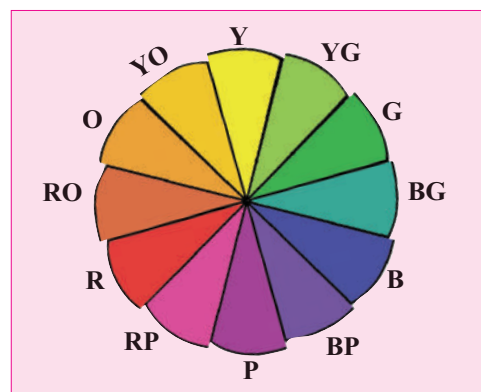


Fig. 7.14 Colour Wheel

Internet my friend :

1. Search various elements of art on internet and observe various pictures.
2. Search for colour wheel and colour schemes on the internet.
3. Read about the psychological effects of colour on human mind.
4. Find out warm, cool and neutral colours.

Colour Schemes : While using colours for home decoration, number of times it is observed that colour combinations done by some people look very appealing. Such people have colour sense and whatever combinations are done by them look interesting. But not everyone has such colour sense and colour schemes provide guidelines for them in selecting colours. It is necessary to remember that colour schemes are not the rules for selection of colours and that they just provide guidelines.

Classification of Colour Schemes

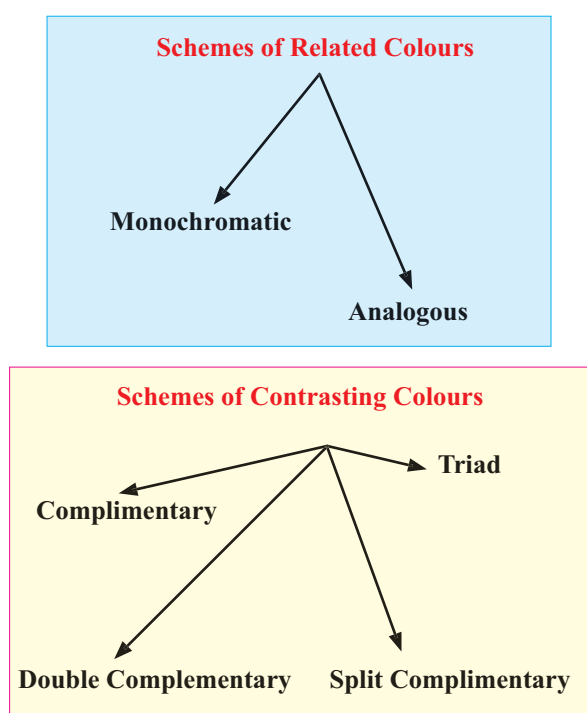


Fig. 7.15 Colour Schemes

Theoretically the following types of colour schemes are identified :

- 1. Monochromatic colour scheme :** This scheme is also called as 'single colour scheme'. In this colour scheme only one colour is selected from the colour wheel and used. For example, red, pink, maroon etc. This colour scheme is likely to be monotonous. To create interest, variations in colour values, colour intensities and textures need to be done.

- 2. Analogous colour scheme :** This colour scheme uses the colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel. For example; yellow, yellow green, green, blue green. The selection of colours needs to be done very carefully in this colour scheme otherwise it may become too warm or too cold.

- 3. Complementary colour scheme :** Colours that are exactly opposite each other on the colour wheel are called as complementary colours. Two such colours are used in this colour scheme. For example; blue and orange. Such colour schemes are usually dynamic and evoke a lot of interest.

- 4. Double complementary colour scheme :** Two colours next to each other on the colour wheel and their complementary colours are used in this colour scheme. For example, yellow, yellow-green, purple and red-purple.

- 5. Split complementary colour scheme :** The selection of one colour along with two colours that are on either sides of its complementary colour creates split complementary colour scheme. For example; blue, yellow orange and red orange. This is also a contrasting colour scheme.

- 6. Triad colour scheme :** This colour scheme uses three colours which occur at the points of an equilateral triangle placed anywhere on the colour wheel. For example ; primary triad- yellow, red and blue.

Use your brain : Note that for each of the colour schemes, an example has been given. Find out one more different example for each colour scheme and write the same in the table given below.

Sr. No.	Name of the Colour Scheme	Example
1.	Monochromatic	
2.	Analogous	
3.	Complementary	
4.	Double Complementary	
5.	Split Complementary	
6.	Traid	

7.2 Introduction to principles of design :

A designer uses various elements of art to create design. The arrangement and selection of elements of art namely light, line, space, form and shape, texture, pattern and colour help the designer to express his/her ideas. Along with these elements of art, basic principles of design namely harmony, balance, rhythm, emphasis and proportion are used by the designer to create design and achieve his/her objectives.



Fig. 7.16 Principles of Design

The principles of design serve as guides in the process of formulating good designs.

In home decoration (home design), a person should take help of the elements of art and the principles of design to create beautiful and functional places. This helps to enhance the aesthetic appeal of interior spaces. Person must have the knowledge of manipulating the elements of art and principles of design for achieving this objective.

Let's Discuss all the principles :

- 1. Harmony :** In simple words harmony is unity. It means similarity in appearance and characteristics of the elements of art used in a combined manner.

Definition : Harmony is the art principle which produces an impression of unity through the selection and arrangement of consistent objects and ideas.

It can be achieved through the selection of consistent lines, shapes, sizes, textures and colours. For example; for an article that is rectangular in shape, one should use horizontal and vertical lines for its decoration whereas for a circular object the use of curved lines turns out to be harmonious.

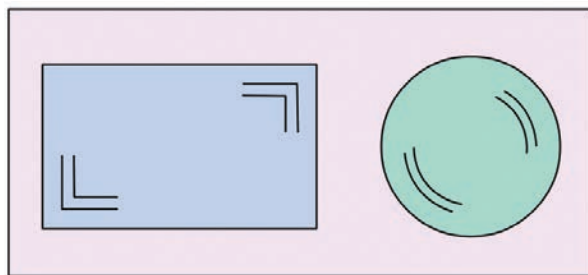


Fig. 7.17 Harmony Through Lines

Too much similarity may create monotonous effect. To avoid monotony some variety is needed which can be achieved through shapes, size, texture, idea and colour. A good design must combine these two important principles namely unity and variety to add interest.

In home decoration, in the arrangement of furniture shape harmony should be considered. Large objects or masses should be placed to follow the boundary lines of the enclosing shape, and only the smaller objects should vary from the general directions. To give variety, some of the small objects may be placed at slightly varied angles.

The first picture given below is a picture of a living room where the sofa is placed parallel to the wall length and the sofa chair is placed an angle to add a touch of variety. The second

picture has cartoon images on the wall which harmonize in the room as it is the children's bedroom.



Fig. 7.18 (a) Shape harmony in Furniture Arrangement



Fig. 7.18 (b) Harmony in Children's Bedroom

Fig. 7.18 Harmony in Interior Design

2. **Balance** : This is a principle that helps to create appealing visual impact in visual art as well as in all fields of home decoration.

Definition :

Balance is defined as rest or repose.

Balance is achieved by grouping shapes and colours around a center in such a way that there are equal weights on all sides of the center.

There are three types of balance- symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial.

a. Symmetrical balance : This is also called as formal balance. This balance is obtained by arranging identical objects or the objects having identical visual weights at equal distances from the central point. It creates formal atmosphere especially suitable in places where formal atmosphere is required for example in offices where formal meetings are to be held. It is quiet and dignified. It lacks variety and may become monotonous.

b. Asymmetrical or informal balance : It is also termed as informal balance. It is created when the objects that do not attract same amount of attention are arranged at different distances from the central point. It creates informal atmosphere and affords greater opportunity for variation in the arrangement.

c. Radial balance : When all the parts or elements radiate from the center out to the periphery the balance is called radial balance.

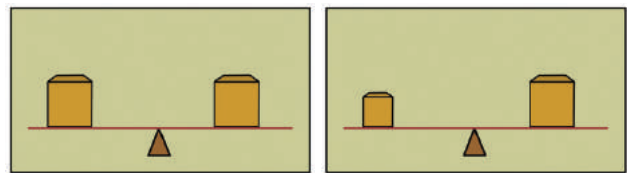


Fig. 7.19 Symmetrical and Asymmetrical Balance

Balance plays an important role in home decoration, where the visual weights on both the sides of an imaginary axis should attract equal attention of the viewer's. This can be achieved by using bright colours, bold forms, large patterns, strong contrasts which have more psychological impact on human minds. It is used in almost all the aspects of home decoration like furniture arrangement, flower arrangement, table setting etc.

In home decoration, while arranging the furniture, the large pieces of furniture should be placed first, with regard to balancing centers of interest in the room. The smaller, movable

objects would then be arranged so that they will make convenient groups as well as balanced units. After the furniture has been arranged, the attention is turned to the balance within each group. A well-balanced wall will have approximately the same amount of attraction on both the sides of the center line.



Fig. 7.20 (a) Formal Balance - Interior



Fig. 7.20 (b) Radial Balance - Rangoli Design

Fig. 7.20 Balance in Interior Design

3. Rhythm : Rhythm helps to create an orderly movement of the eye throughout the design or decoration.

Definition : Rhythm is defined as a kind of movement in a design. But it must be recognized that not all kinds of movements in a design are rhythmic. In art, rhythm means an easy connected path along which the eye may travel in any arrangement of lines, forms or colours in a design.

Rhythmic eye movement can be created through :

- a. Repetition of shapes
- b. Progression of sizes
- c. Radiating lines
- d. Continuous line movement

These are also called as types of rhythm.

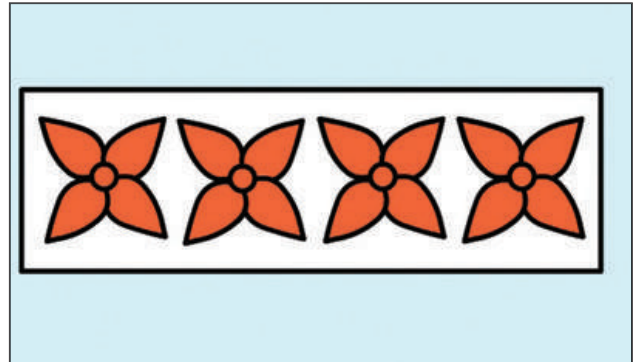


Fig. 7.21 (a) Repetition of Shapes

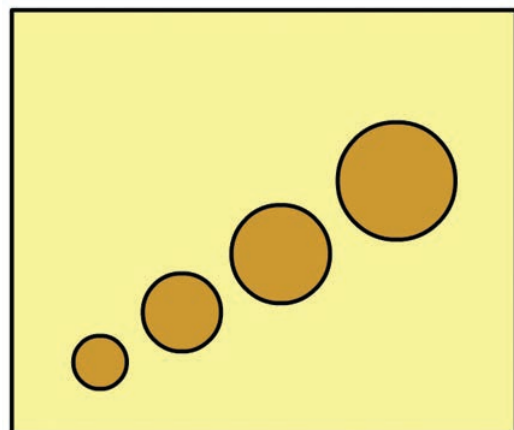


Fig. 7.21 (b) Progression of Sizes

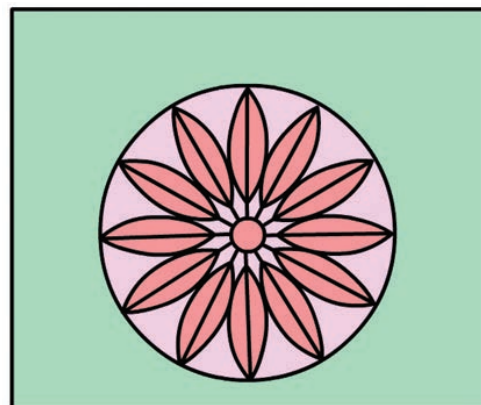


Fig. 7.21 (c) Radiating Lines

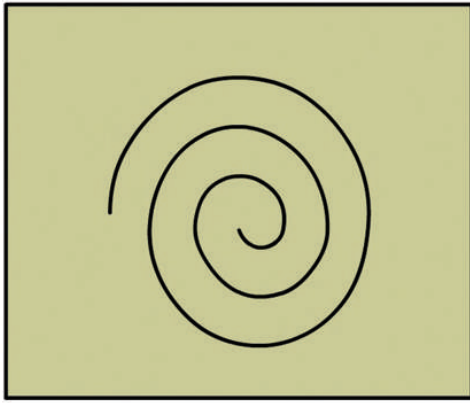


Fig. 7.21 (d) Continuous Line Movement

Fig. 7.21 Ways of Creating Rhythm in Design

In home decoration rhythm is seen in the pleats of curtains and draperies, arrangement of artificial lights, in rangoli design, in flower arrangement etc. It may also be observed in a wall paper or a rug pattern. It is easy to imagine a wall paper or a rug pattern with bold, swinging, rhythmic line which may be very agreeable when seen in a small piece, but repeated over so large an area as the whole wall or floor, it will show too much action and will detract from the objects in the room. In other words, the coverings of walls and floors should either be plain or have a very quiet design so that they create the effect of backgrounds for furnishings and furniture to be seen or placed against them. One can enjoy rhythmic movement in small areas, such as in curtain materials or in posters. In arranging furniture and decorative objects in the room, these should be so arranged as to carry the eye towards the centres of interest where it should remain at rest for a while and then slowly moves through the other objects.



Fig. 7.22 (a) Rhythm in Wallpaper



Fig. 7.22 (b) Rhythm in Flower Arrangement

Fig. 7.22 Rhythm in Interior Design

4. **Emphasis :** In simple words, emphasis means giving importance to some feature in the design or an object in an arrangement. It helps to create a centre of interest or focal point in a design. It is necessary to understand how to subordinate some elements in order to emphasize specific element in a design or arrangement.

Definition : Emphasis is the art principle by which the eye is carried first to the most important thing in any arrangement, and from that point to every other detail in the order of its importance.

A designer needs to understand the following aspects for creating emphasis:

- a. **What to emphasize :** In each field of decoration, the most important features may vary, but the one that should have the least emphasis is likely to be the same, it is the background against which objects are seen. That means the background should be less conspicuous than the objects to be seen against them.
- b. **How to emphasize :** There are many ways of creating emphasis:
 - i. by placing or grouping of objects
 - ii. by using contrasts of colour

- iii. by using decoration
- iv. by leaving sufficient space as background around an object
- v. by Contrasting or using unusual lines, shapes or sizes

c. How much to emphasize : The simplest answer to this question is “keep it simple”. There should not be too much decoration in a design.

d. Where to place emphasis : If the object is to be viewed on a horizontal surface, it should be placed at the centre of the space under consideration, with equal margins on all the sides. If it to be viewed in vertical position, the lowest margin at the bottom should be the widest one, with equal margins on all the other sides.

In home decoration, one should keep it in mind that the amount of emphasis suitable varies with the room and with the people who live in it. It is advisable to limit the amount of pattern in a room, so one should decide where it will be enjoyed most and then subordinate the other objects in the room, so that the pattern may be appreciated. It is desirable to have one principal center of interest in every room, but each wall should have its own focal point so that the room may be agreeable to look at from any position.

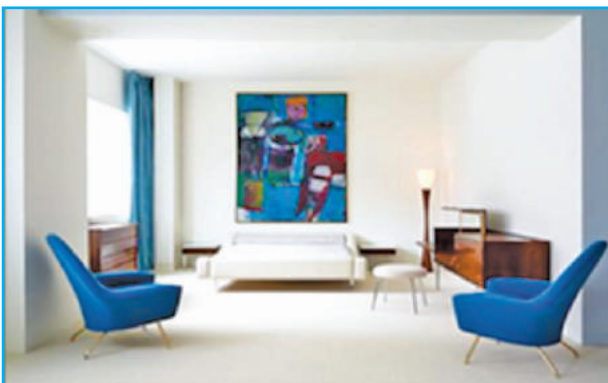


Fig. 7.23 (a) Emphasis - Room Decoration



Fig. 7.23 (b) Emphasis-Party Decoration

Fig. 7.23 Emphasis in Interior Design

5. Proportion : It is the basic principle of design. This principle finds application in all designs, be it dress design, interior design or any other kind of design.

Definition : The principle of proportion is also called the law of relationship.

This principle states that the relations between various parts of the same object, the relationship with the objects in a group and the relationship with the whole area should be pleasing and consistent. For example; the sizes of various parts of furniture should be proportionate to each other, the size of the furniture should be proportionate with the rest of the furniture pieces in the group and size of the complete group should be proportionate with the size of the room.

The ‘**Greek oblong**’ is a standard for good proportion. It is also called as ‘**the golden oblong**’. This oblong uses the ratio of 2:3 or 3:5 which are useful in deciding any space division or arrangement, sizes of objects or decorative designs.

The Greek oblong measured approximately two units on the short side and three equal units on the long side. Most people find this more beautiful than a square because the equal sides make the square more obvious because of which

it has no variety. It has more beauty than a very long, narrow oblong, in which there is variety but the breadth and length vary so greatly that they there is variety but do not seem to be related.

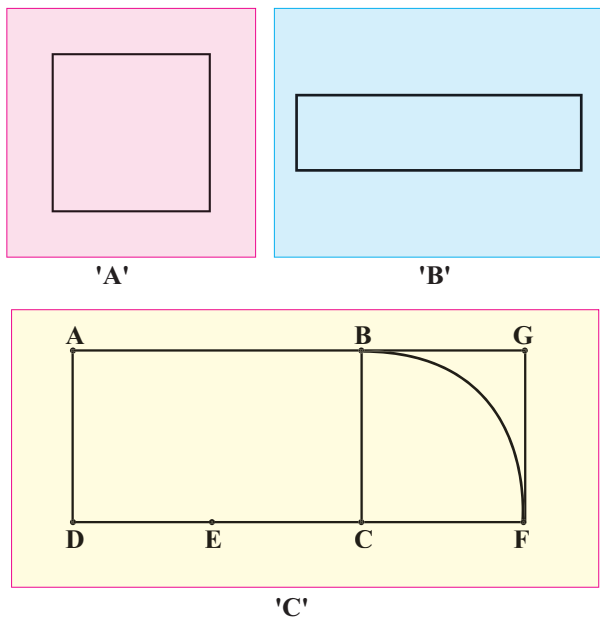


Fig. 7.24 Square, Long Narrow and Golden Oblong

In the above sketch, 'A' depicts a square in which all sides are equal and so there is no variety. 'B' depicts a long narrow oblong having variety but no unity. 'C' is based on the principle of golden ratio where there are two equal parts on the shorter side and three equal parts on the longer side. This oblong has unity as well as variety. Thus, the proportions are found interesting.

In any design if the proportions seem to be incorrect, the correct use of lines helps to alter proportions apparently. It is often said that horizontal lines add width and vertical lines add height.

In Interior Design, this property of lines to alter the apparent sizes becomes very useful.

For example, the room that is too low may have a suggestion of vertical stripes in the design of the wallpaper. Windows that are too short may have long, narrow draperies and no valance. The chair that is too low may have vertically striped cover. The stripes should be arranged to carry the eye up and down. While selecting and arranging the furniture, the person must have knowledge of scale. Scale is an important aspect of proportion. If the room is big the furniture pieces can be big and for a smaller room, the furniture pieces should be small in size.



Fig. 7.25 (a) Proportion in Furniture Arrangement



Fig. 7.25 (b)Wall Paper With Vertical Design

Fig. 7.25 Proportion in Interior Design

Can you recall ?

- Every family wishes to have a well decorated and nicely designed home.
- The knowledge of elements of art and principles of design can provide necessary guidance to the family members for creating beautiful, pleasant and functional spaces.
- The basic elements of art are- light, lines, space, form and shape, texture, pattern and colour.
- Light is the element that makes it possible to produce and appreciate any design. The expression of beauty is incomplete without light.
- Line is the basic element in creative design. Lines add character to a room and also create various psychological effects on human minds.
- Space is an important element in art. For any human activity space provides the facility for movement and experience.
- Form and space are interrelated. Shapes are mostly the flat enclosures of space and form includes a volume surrounded by limiting factors.
- Each and every object whether natural or artificial has its own texture. There are two types of textures- Tactile and Visual.
- In home decoration pattern helps to create liveliness and interest in a room.
- Colour is an important element of art. Colours have a tremendous effect on the emotions of people and are largely responsible for the atmosphere created. Thus, selection of a colour scheme needs to be done carefully.
- Along with the elements of art, basic principles of design namely harmony, balance, rhythm, emphasis and proportion are used by the designer to create design.
- In simple words harmony means unity. Harmony is the art principle which produces an impression of unity through the selection and arrangement of consistent objects and ideas.
- Balance is defined as rest or repose. It is achieved by grouping shapes and colours around a center in such a way that there are equal weights on all sides of the center.
- Rhythm is defined as a kind of movement. In art, rhythm means an easy connected path along which the eye may travel in any arrangement of lines, forms or colours in a design.
- Emphasis is the art principle by which the eye is carried first to the most important thing in any arrangement, and from that point to every other detail in the order of its importance.
- Proportion is the basic principle in art and design. It is also called the law of relationship.

Exercises

• Objective questions :

1) Multiple choice questions :

1. Natural light varies widely in colour and _____ throughout the day.
a) Intensity b) darkness
c) colour value d) lightness

2. The feeling of life and action is indicated through _____ lines.
a) horizontal b) vertical
c) curved d) diagonal
3. The feeling of movement and restlessness is created by _____ type of lines.
a) vertical b) curved
c) diagonal d) horizontal

4. In interior design walls and floor create _____ of a room and enclose the space within.
 - a) shape
 - b) form
 - c) area
 - d) texture
5. The texture that is understood by touching the object is called _____ texture.
 - a) tactile
 - b) visual
 - c) rough
 - d) smooth
6. The flat enclosures of space are called as _____.
 - a) shapes
 - b) forms
 - c) area
 - d) volume
7. The patterns that use pictures of flowers, fruits etc. are called as _____ patterns.
 - a) geometric
 - b) stylized
 - c) naturalistic
 - d) abstract
8. Out of the following colours _____ is a secondary colour.
 - a) Green
 - b) Blue
 - c) Pink
 - d) yellow
9. The colours prepared by mixing two primary colours are called _____ colours.
 - a) Intermediate
 - b) cool
 - c) Secondary
 - d) warm
10. The colour scheme that uses only one colour is called as _____ colour scheme.
 - a) complementary
 - b) monochromatic
 - c) analogous
 - d) triad

2) Match the following pairs :

A	B
Form	Impression of unity
Pattern	Identical objects
Complementary colour scheme	Repetition of shapes
Symmetrical balance	Surface Enrichment
Harmony	Yellow and Purple
Rhythm	Volume

3) Identify whether the following statements are true or false :

- a) Lines do not create psychological effect on human beings.
- b) The form of a room encloses space.
- c) Texture is realized by touching as well as through vision.
- d) Stylized patterns look like forms observed in the nature.
- e) Intermediate colours are prepared by mixing two primary colours.
- f) Black object reflects all the waves of light and absorbs none.
- g) Analogous colour scheme uses colours that are next to each other on the colour wheel.
- h) Harmony is achieved through the selection and arrangement of consistent objects and ideas.
- i) Symmetrical balance is achieved by arranging unidentical objects around the axis.
- j) In art rhythm is related to movement of the eye.
- k) In creating any design, the background is always kept less conspicuous.
- l) The Golden Oblong uses the proportion of 3:3.

• Short answer questions :

1) Define the following terms :

- a) Harmony
- b) Asymmetrical balance
- c) Rhythm
- d) Emphasis
- e) Proportion

2) Differentiate between the following :

- a) Natural and artificial lighting.
- b) Psychological effects of vertical and horizontal lines.

- c) Shape and form
- d) Tactile and visual texture
- e) Symmetrical and asymmetrical balance

3) Write short notes on the following :

- a) Importance of texture in human life
- b) Monochromatic and analogous colour schemes
- c) Complementary and double complementary colour schemes
- d) Radial balance

4) Answer the following in brief :

- a) What are the various characteristics of lines as an art element?
- b) What is space? What is its importance in Interior Design?
- c) Describe various types of patterns in brief.
- d) What are the various dimensions of colour?
- e) Explain split complementary and triad colour scheme with the help of suitable examples.

• Long answer questions :

- a) What is harmony? Explain its use in interior decoration.
- b) Describe how the principle of balance is useful in interior design.
- c) Explain the term rhythm and describe how it is useful in interior decoration.
- d) What are the various aspects of emphasis? Explain with the help of sketches.
- e) What is emphasis? How is it useful in interior design?

Project / Assignment :

1. Download five pictures from the internet showing furniture arrangements in various rooms and try to identify the use of various elements of art and principles of design.

Practical / Related Activities :

1. Prepare a colour wheel.
2. Draw freehand designs in the squares of 10 cm × 10 cm on plain paper and colour them up by using any two colour schemes.

