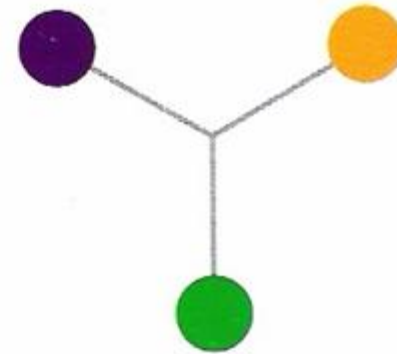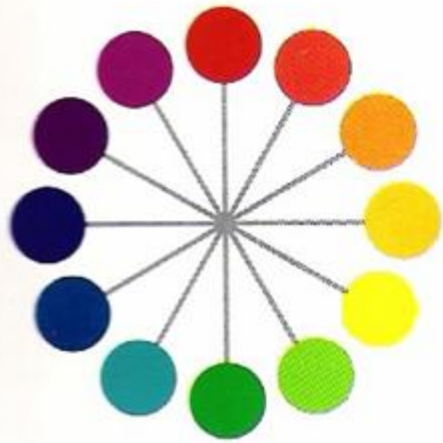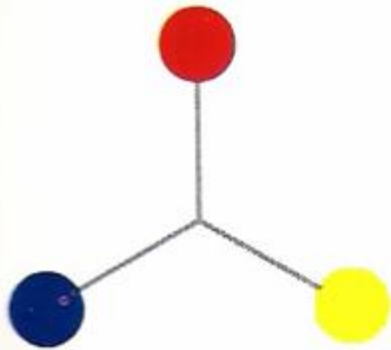# COLOR HARMONY

The Color Wheel

The **color wheel** or **color circle** is the basic tool for combining colors. The first circular color diagram was designed by Sir Isaac Newton in 1666.
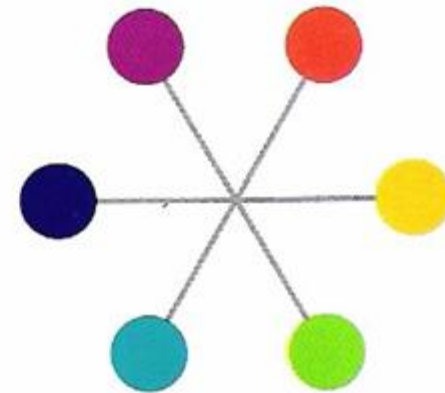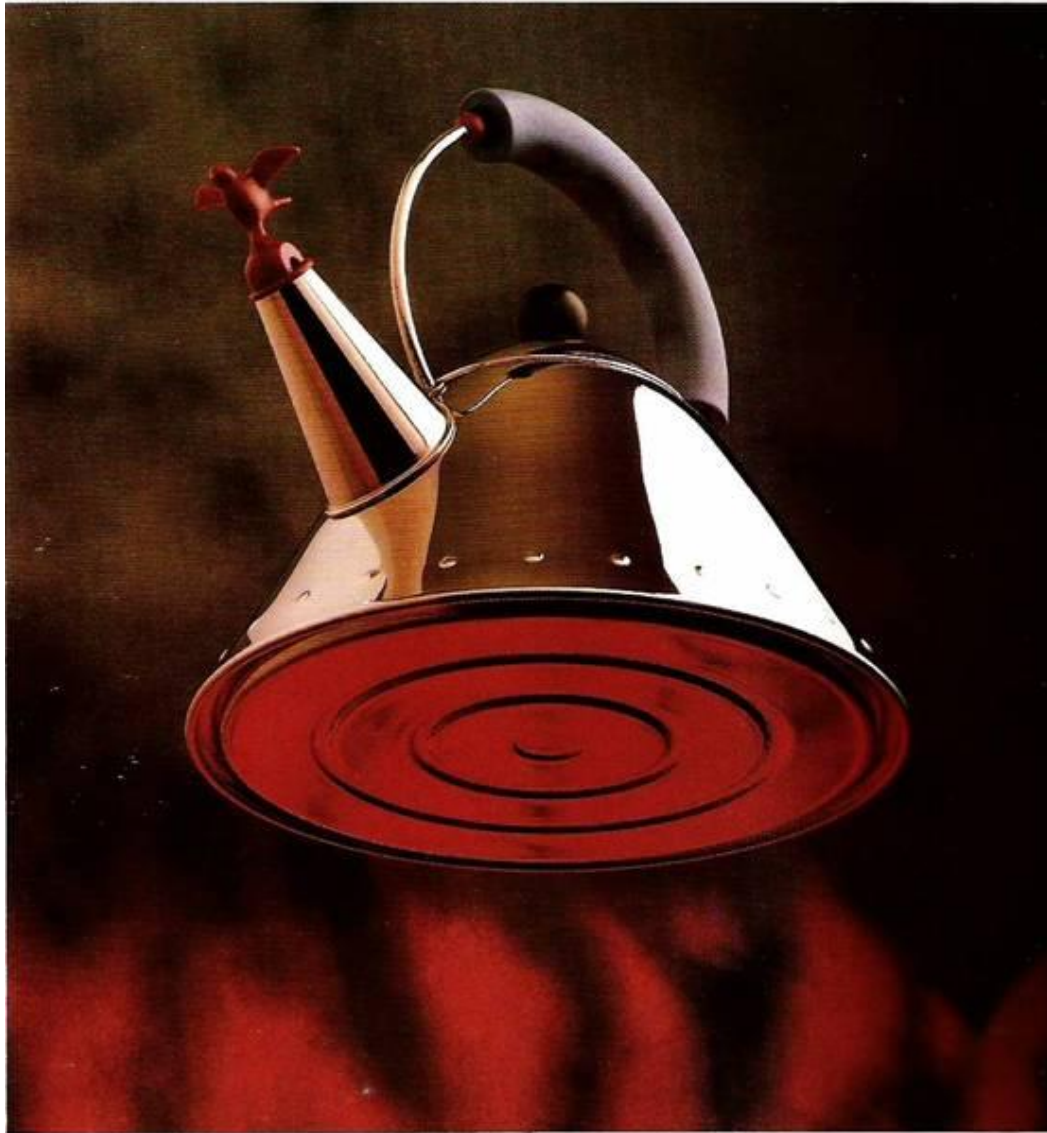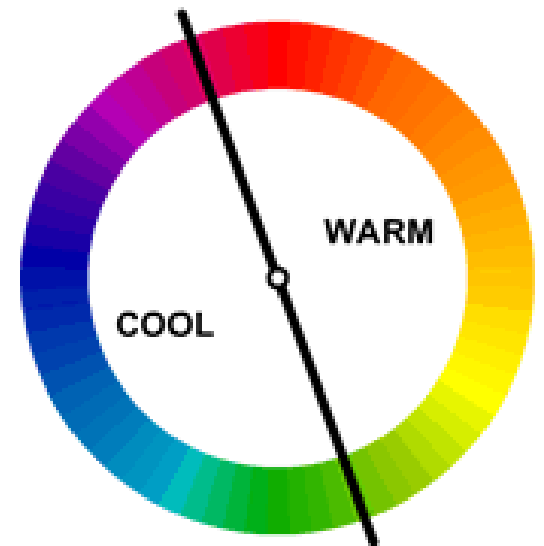
SECONDARY

PRIMARY

TERTIARY

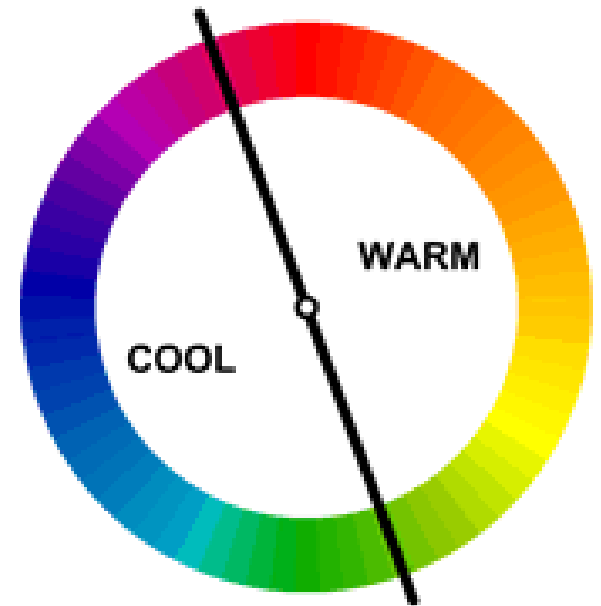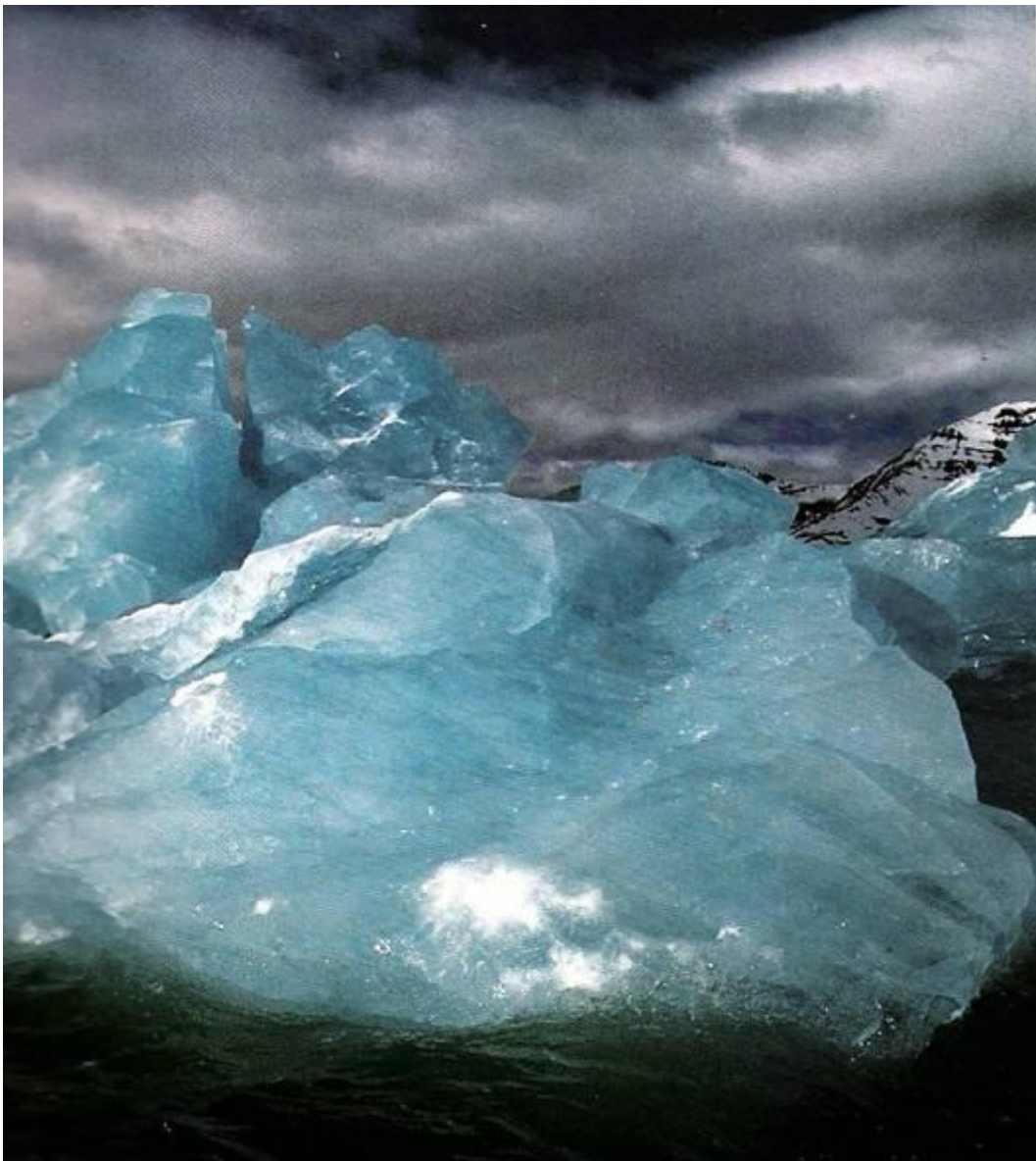The **primary colors** are red, yellow and blue.
The three **secondary colors** (orange, green and purple) are created by mixing two primary colors.
Another six **tertiary colors** are created by mixing primary and secondary colors.
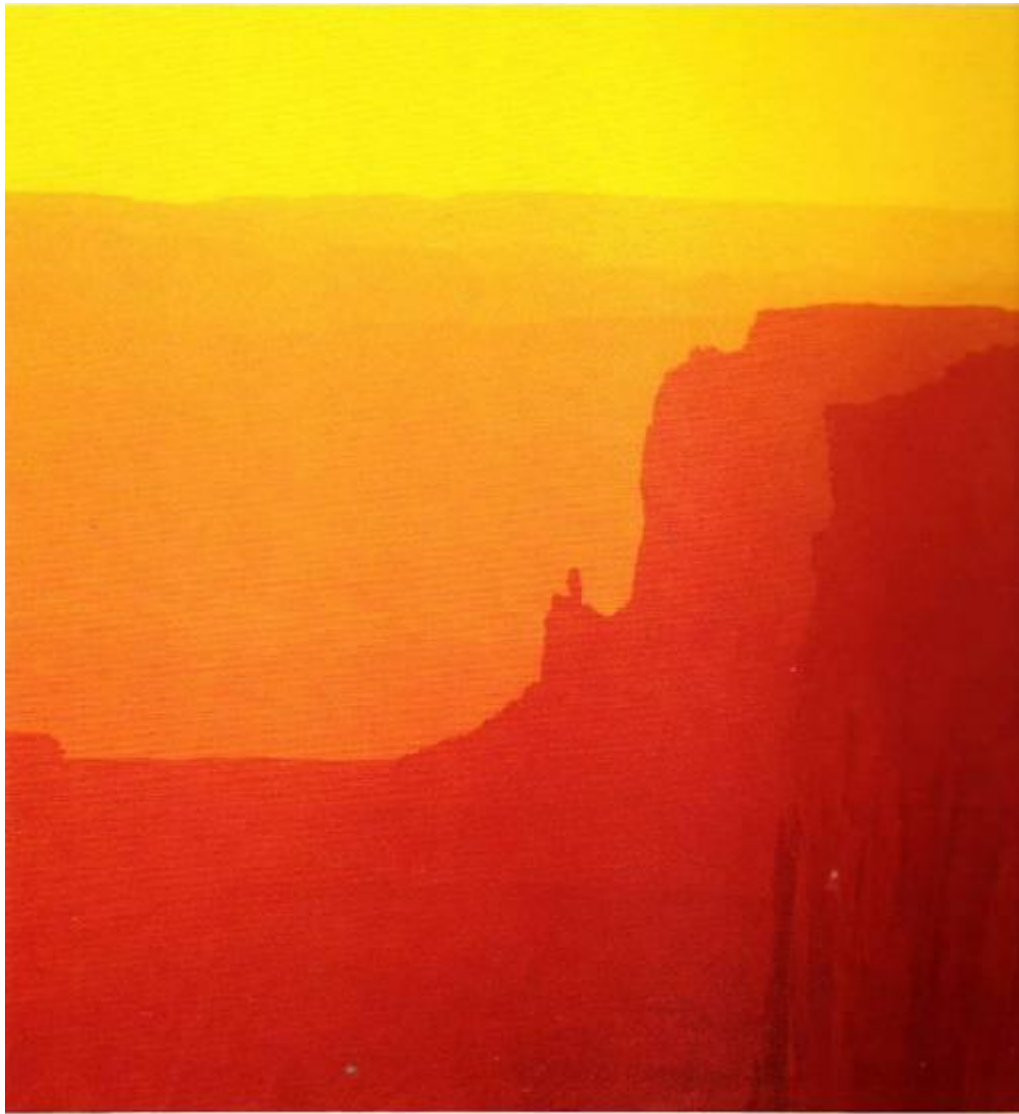
Hot

Cold

Warm

Cool

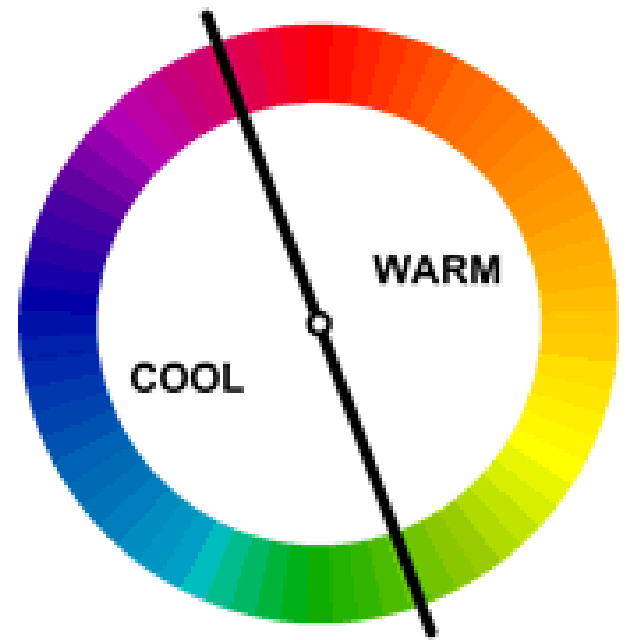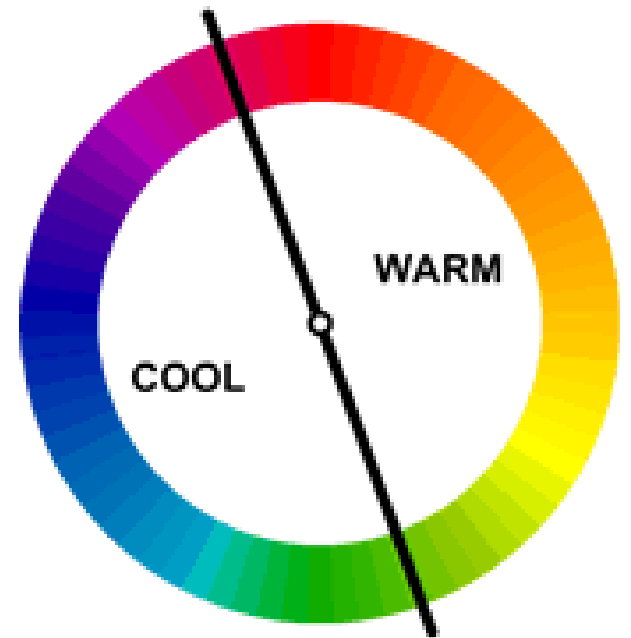**A designer should not use color without a specific plan or goal.**
Color is used for:

- Conveying emotion and meaning
- Changing perception of space
- Changing apparent size
- Showing similarities and differences
- Linking spatially separated objects together (Grouping)
- Attracting attention
- Creating emphasis
- Smoothing to improve image quality
- Creating aesthetic and emotional appeal

The Color Wheel

Color Harmony Principles

- There are a number of color combinations that are considered especially pleasing. These are called **color harmonies** or **color chords** and they consist of two or more colors with a fixed relation in the color wheel.
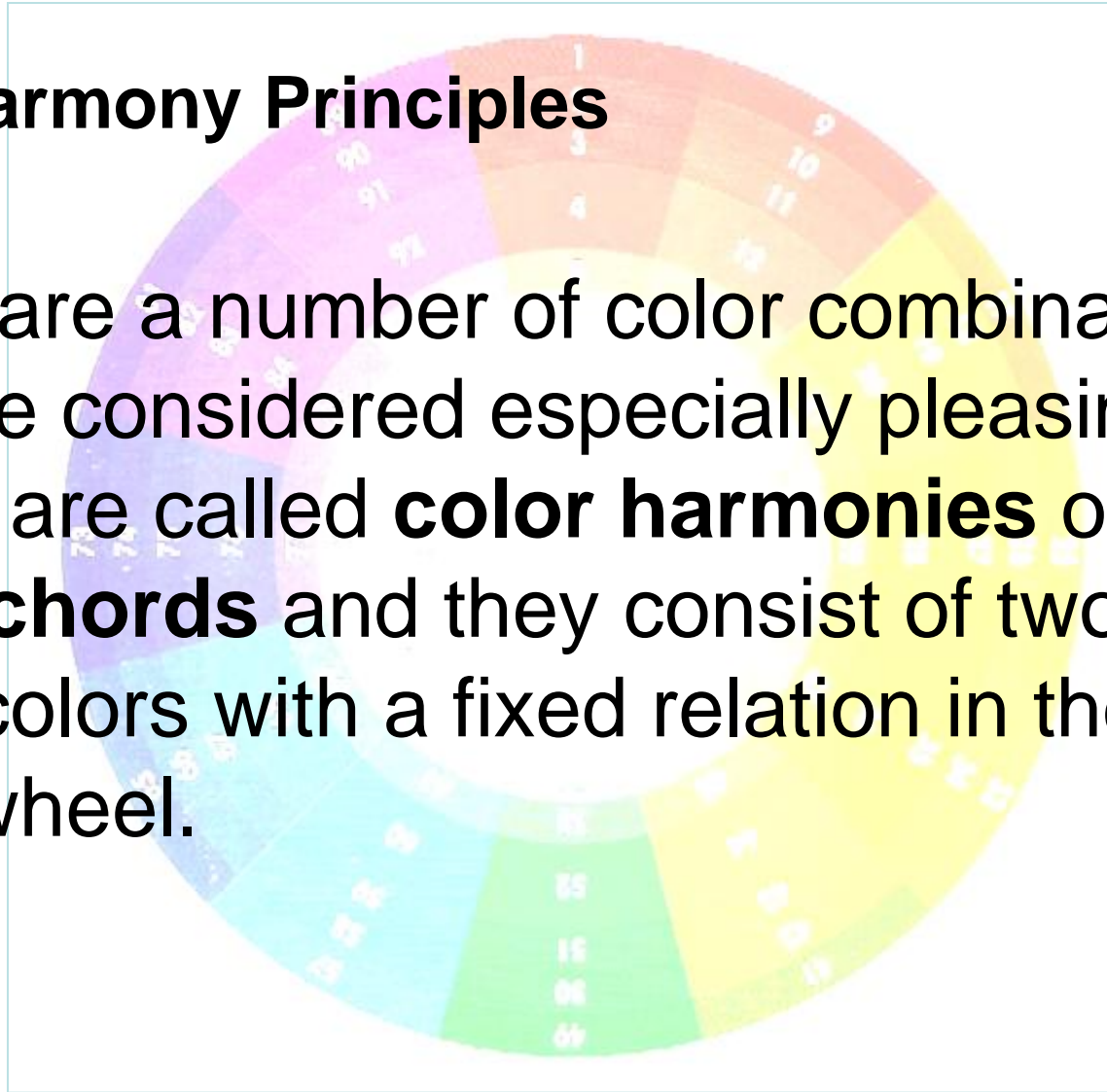
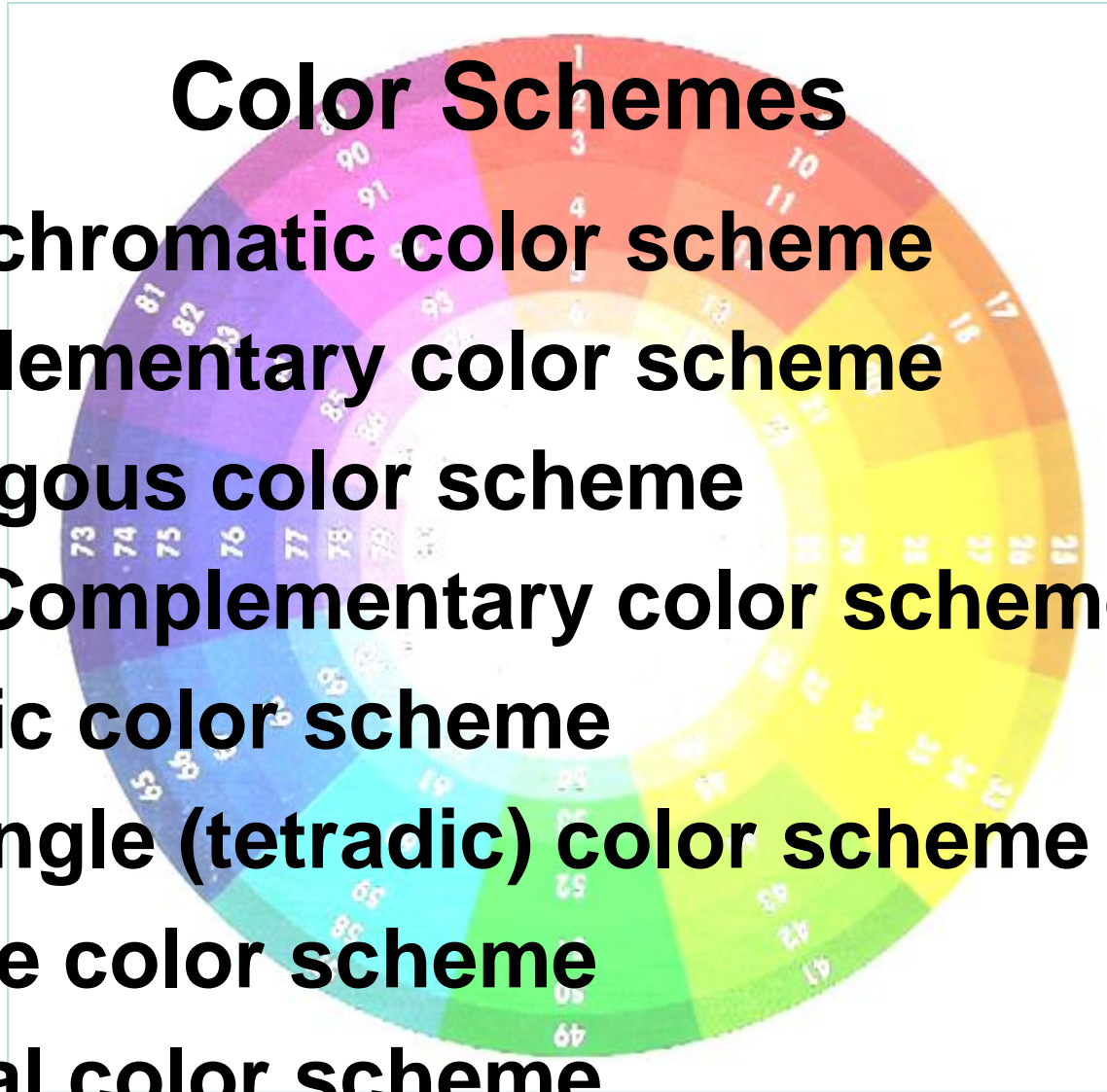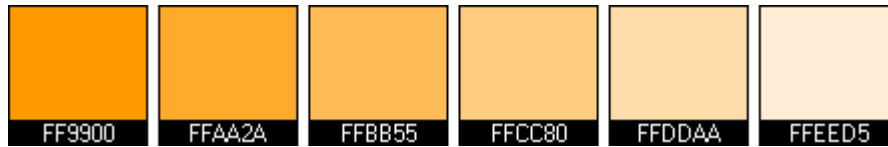# Color Schemes

- **Monochromatic color scheme**
- **Complementary color scheme**
- **Analogous color scheme**
- **Split-Complementary color scheme**
- Triadic color scheme
- **Rectangle (tetradic) color scheme**
- **Square color scheme**
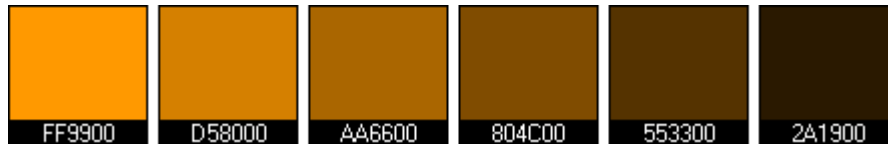- **Neutral color scheme**
- **Accented neutral color scheme**

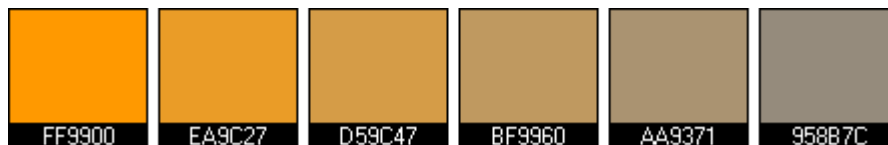# **Monochromatic scheme** is created by taking one Hue and repeating it in various Tints, shades, and Tones

Tints - adding white to a pure hue

FF9900	FFAA2A	FFBB55	FFCC80	FFDDAA	FFEED5

Shades - adding black to a pure hue

FF9900	D58000	AA6600	804C00	553300	2A1900

Tones - adding gray to a pure hue:

FF9900	EA9C27	D59C47	BF9960	AA9371	958B7C

Complementary color scheme
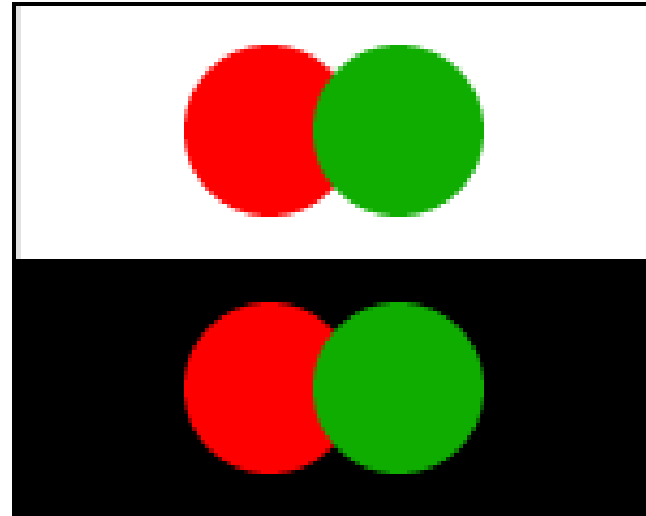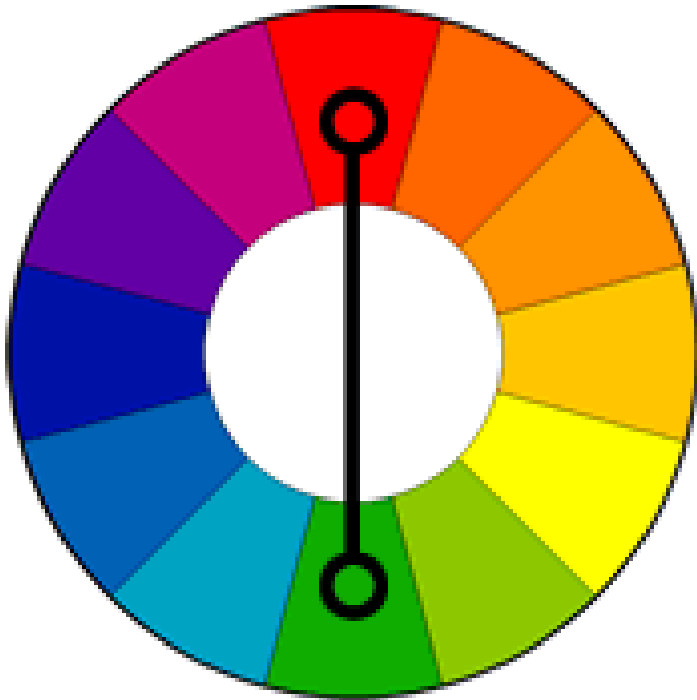
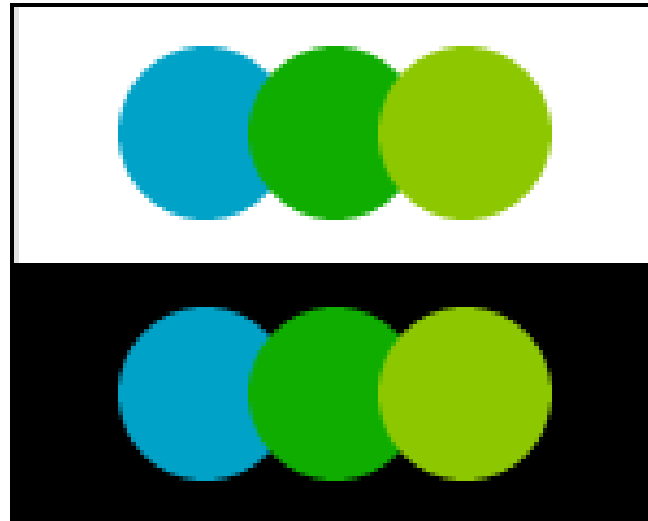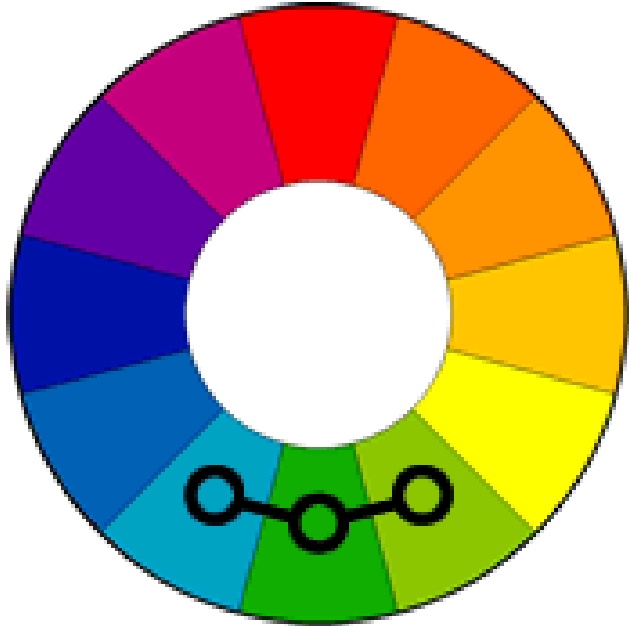Colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel are considered to be complementary colors (example: red and green).They work well when you want something to stand out.

Analogous color scheme

Analogous color schemes use colors that are next to each other on the color wheel. They usually match well and create and comfortable designs. Choose one color to dominate, a second to support. The third color is used (along with black, white or gray) as an accent.

Split-Complementary color scheme
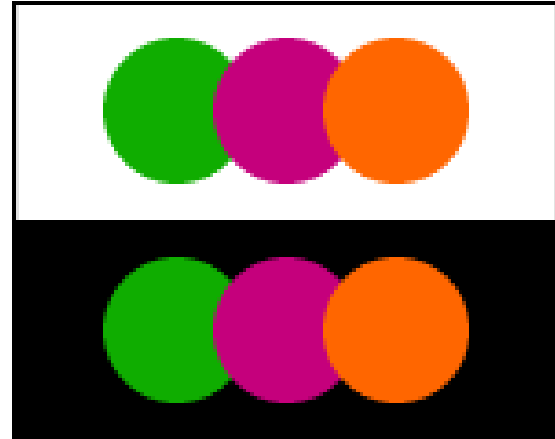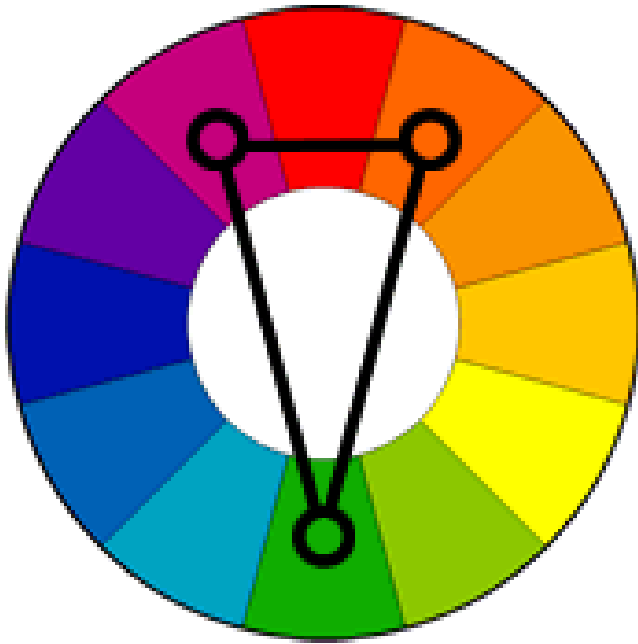
The split-complementary color scheme is a variation of the complementary color scheme. In addition to the base color, it uses the two colors adjacent to its complement.

Triadic color scheme
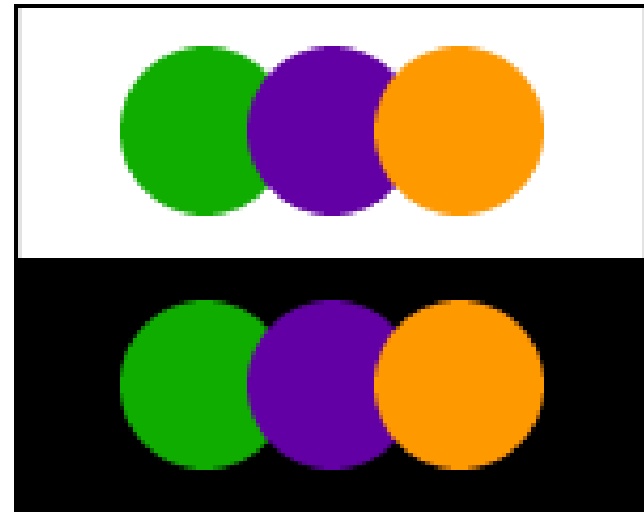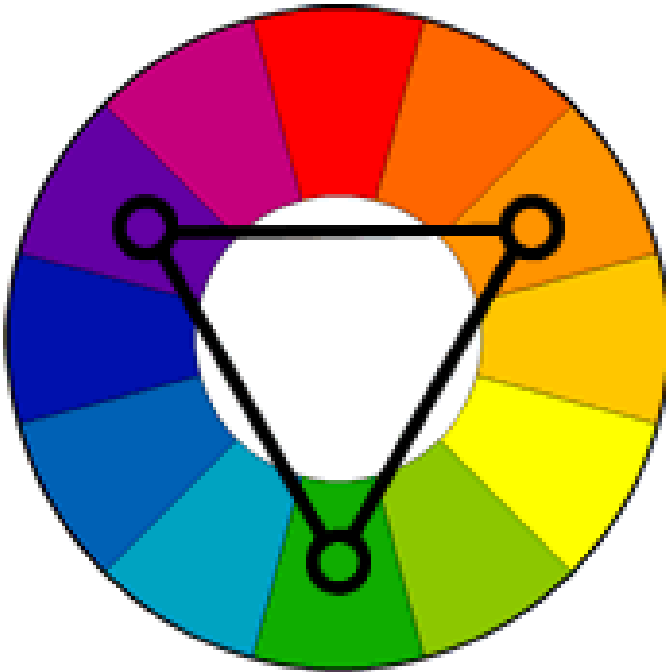
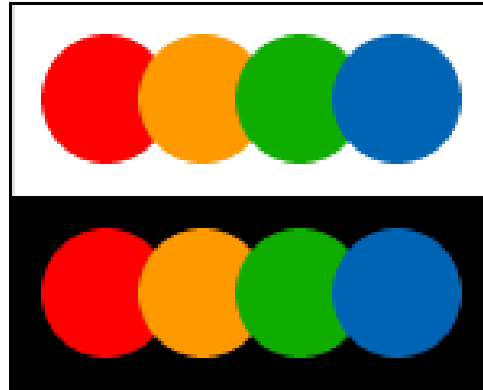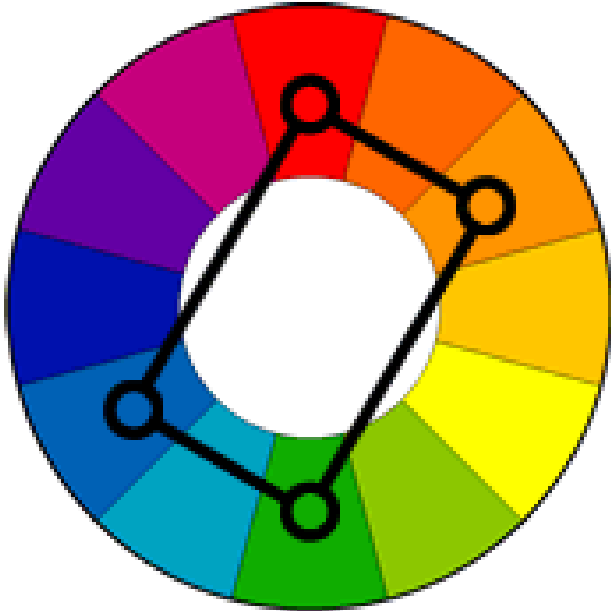A triadic color scheme uses colors that are evenly spaced around the color wheel. To use a triadic harmony successfully, the colors should be carefully balanced - let one color dominate and use the two others for accent.

Rectangle (tetradic) color scheme

The rectangle or tetradic color scheme uses four colors arranged into two complementary pairs.
This rich color scheme offers plenty of possibilities for variation.
Tetradic color schemes works best if you let one color be dominant.
You should also pay attention to the balance between warm and cool colors in your design.
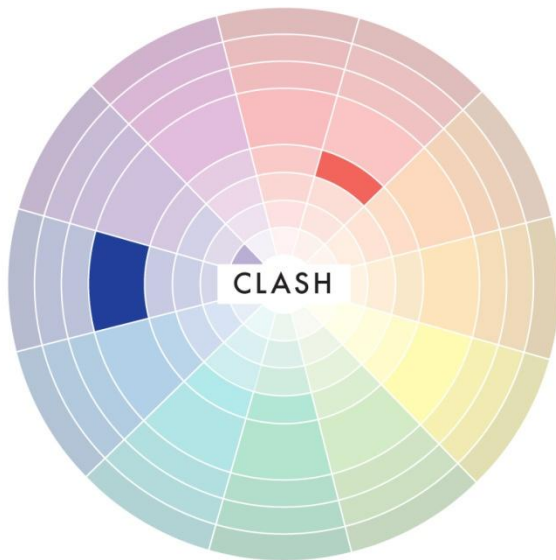
Square color scheme
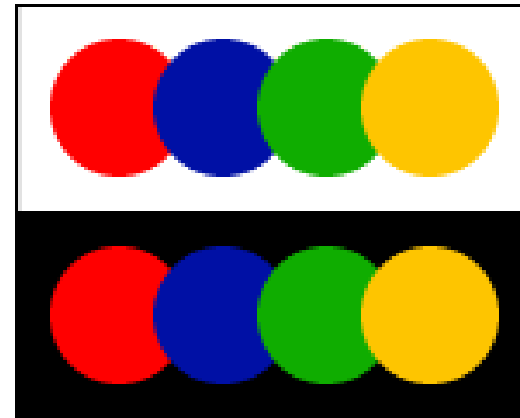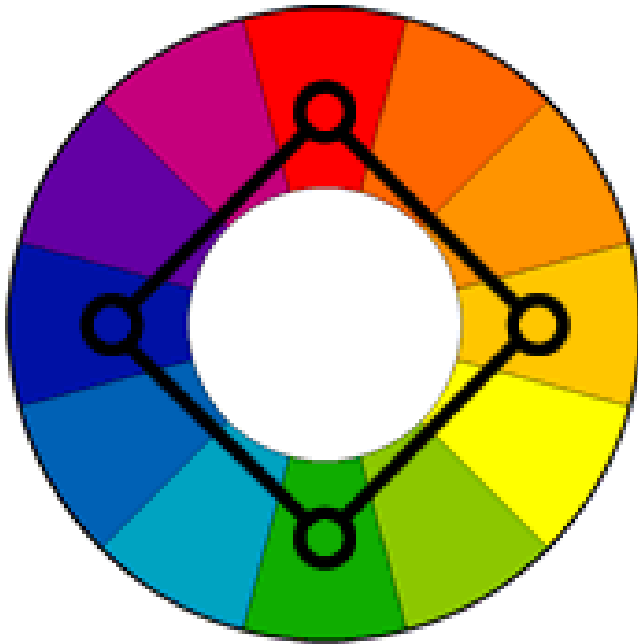
The square color scheme is similar to the rectangle, but with all four colors spaced evenly around the color circle. Square color schemes works best if you let one color be dominant.

Clash scheme

- Combine a color with **one** hue on either side of its complementary

- **Neutral color scheme**
- A color scheme that includes only colors not found on the color wheel, called neutrals, such as beige, brown, and gray.
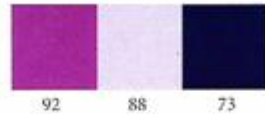
- **Accented neutral color scheme**
- A color scheme that includes neutral colors, like white, beige, brown, grey, or black, and one or more small doses of other colors. eg.brown and beige with green, gray and black with red
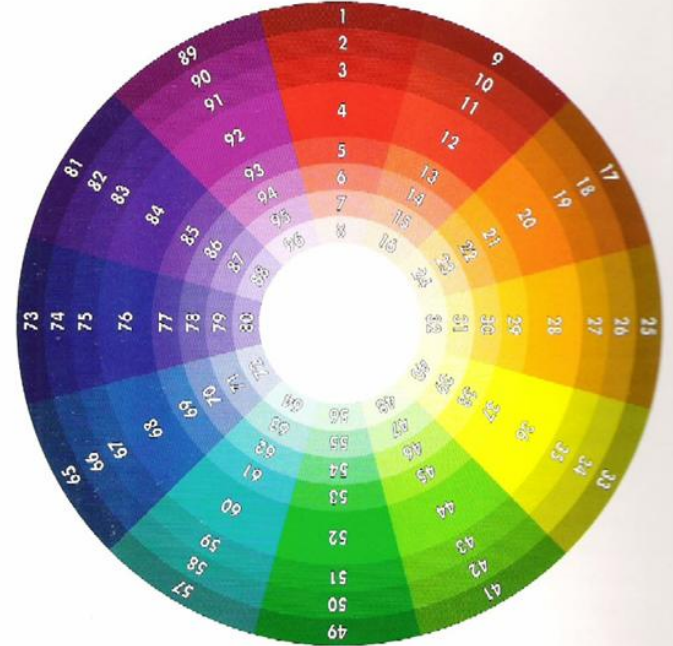
| 105 | 101 | 98 |
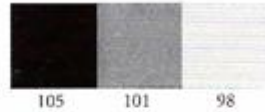
ACHROMATIC SCHEME

Without color, uses only black, white, and grays.
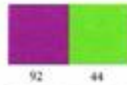

| 92 | 88 | 73 |

ANALOGOUS SCHEME

Uses any three consecutive ues or any of their tints and shades on the color wheel.
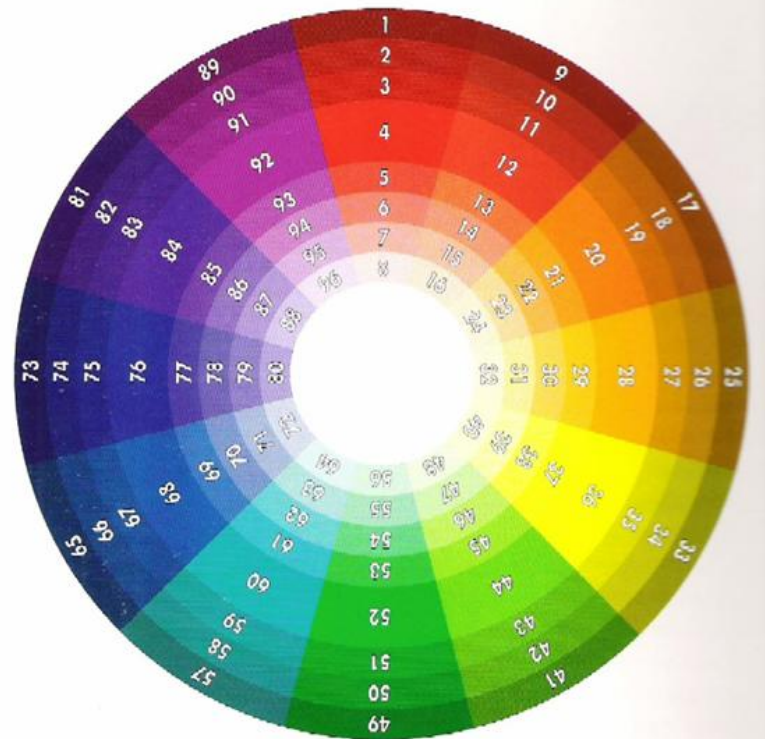

The Color Wheel

COMPLEMENTARY SCHEME

Uses direct opposites on the color wheel.

MONOCHROMATIC SCHEME

Uses one hue in combination with any or all of its tints and shades.

The Color Wheel

NEUTRAL SCHEME

Uses a hue which has been diminished or neutralized by the addition of its complement or black.
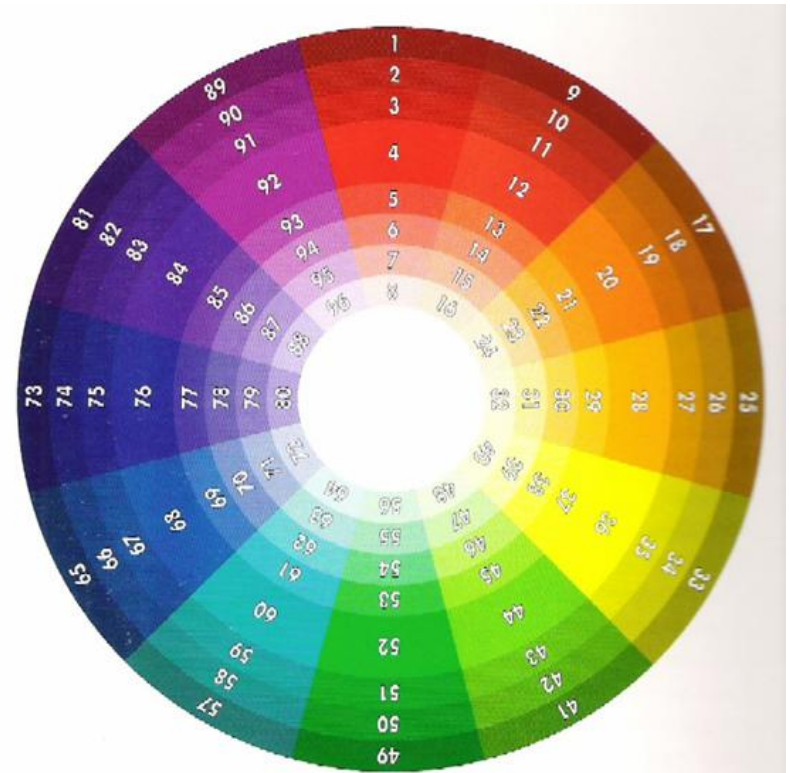
17 32 26

SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY SCHEME

Consists of a hue and the two hues on either side of its complement.

20 57 73

PRIMARY SCHEME

A combination of the pure hues of red, yellow, and blue.
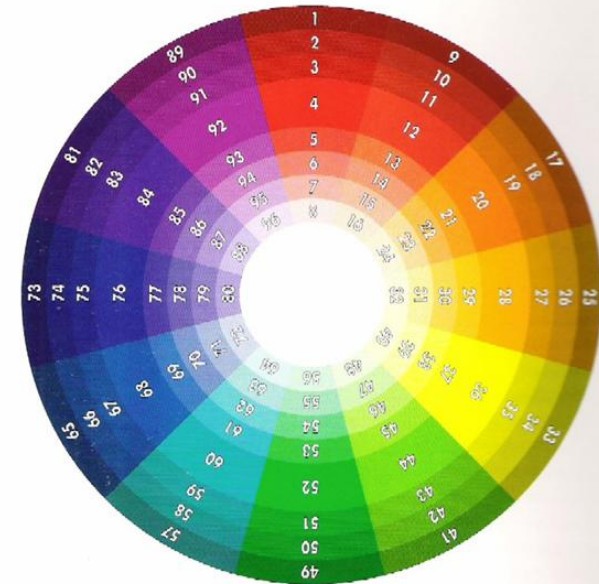
4 36 68

The Color Wheel

SECONDARY SCHEME

A combination of the secondary hues of green, violet, and orange.
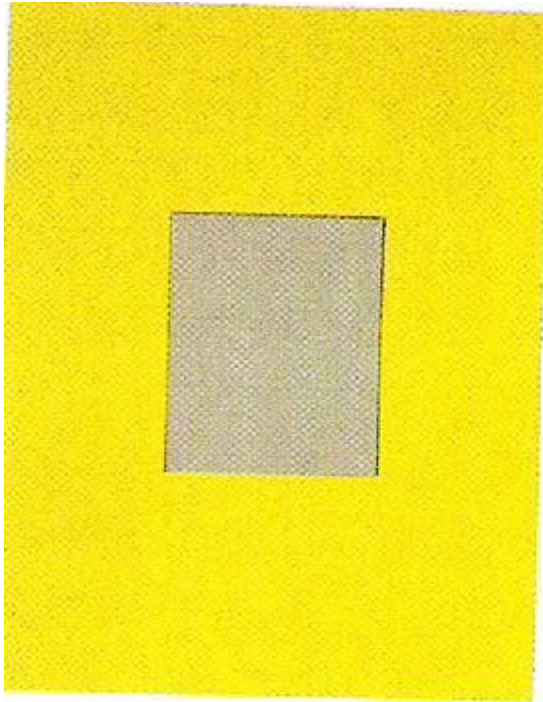

TERTIARY TRIAD SCHEME

A tertiary triad is one of two combinations: red-orange, yellow-green, and blue-violet, or blue-green, yellow-orange, and red-violet; all of which are equidistant from each other on the color wheel.
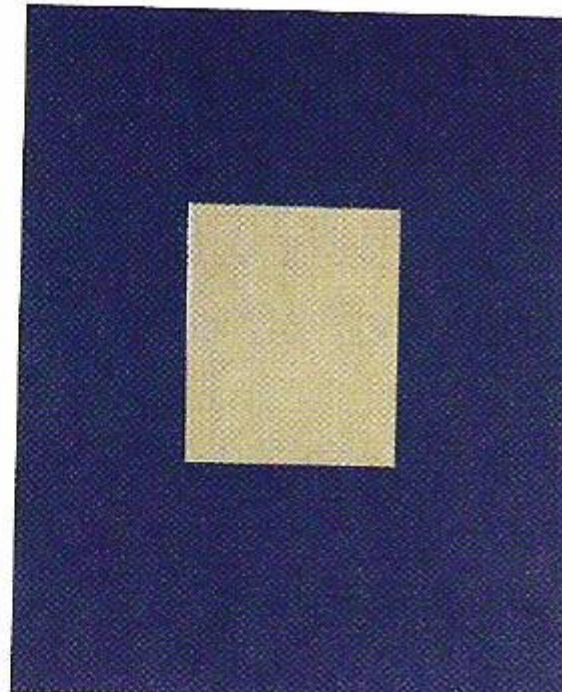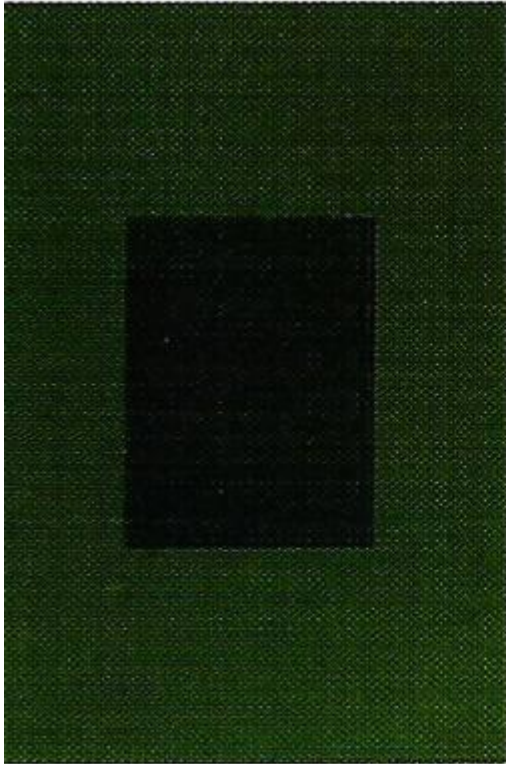

The Color Wheel

How we perceive color?
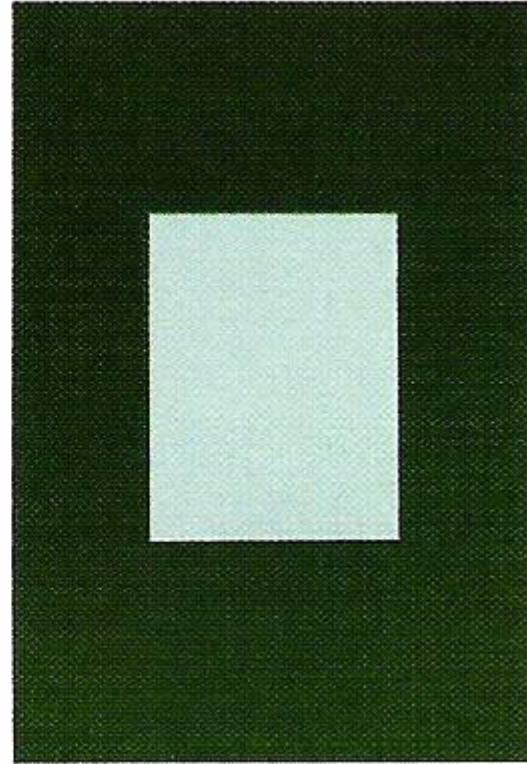
Simultaneous contrast

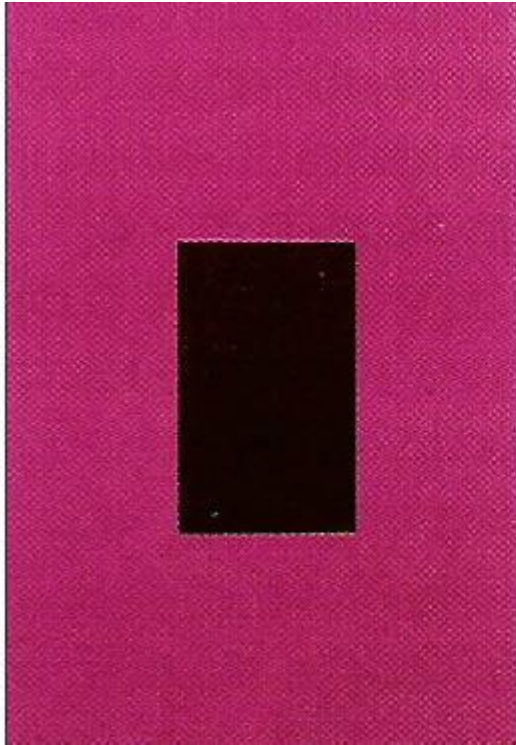Gray tone appears cool when placed on a warm background

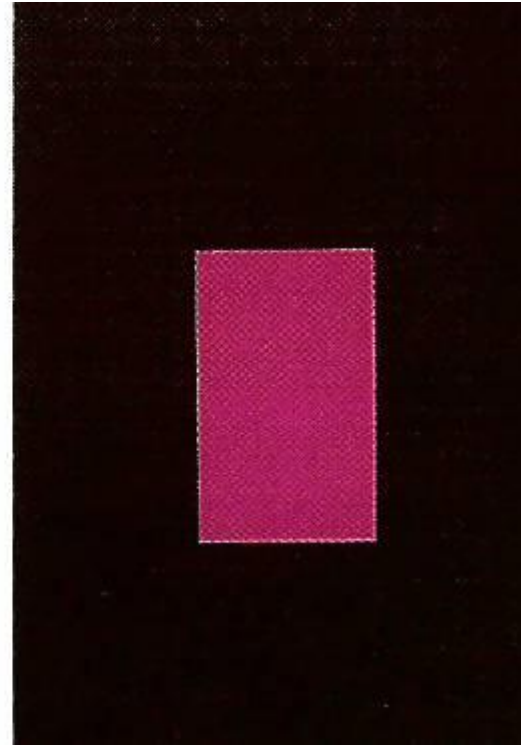Gray tone appears warm when placed on a cool background

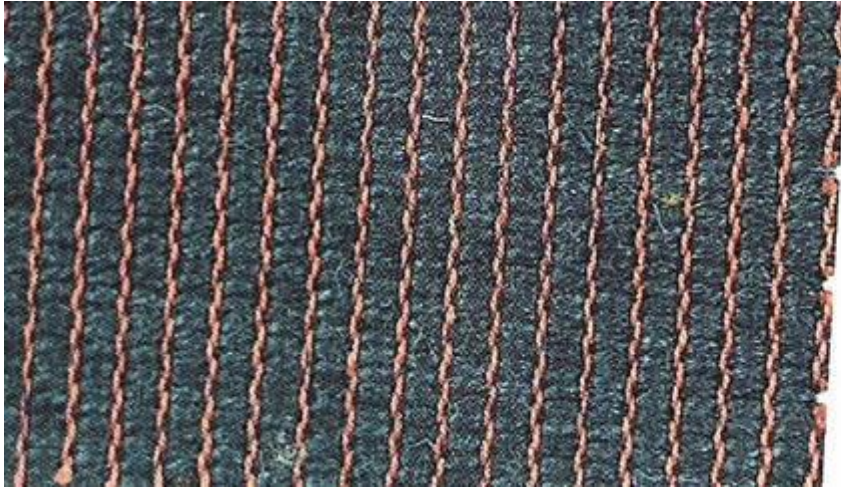**Green background appears lighter**

Green background appears darker

Dark tone placed on the lighter background appears darker

Light tone placed on a dark background appears lighter

Multicolor textile seen from a distance appears to take on a single color as a result of two tones mixing together

Multicolor textile viewed at a close distance

Multicolor textile viewed at a close distance

Multicolor textile seen from a distance appears to take on a single color as a result of two tones mixing together
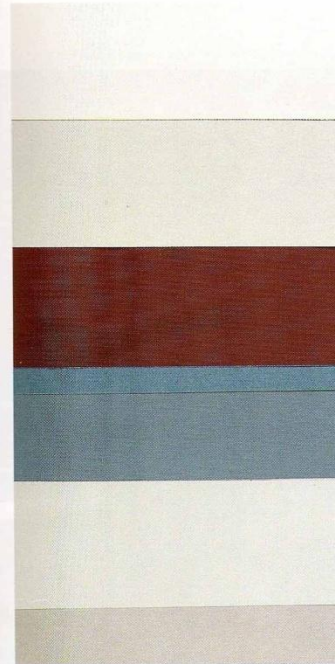
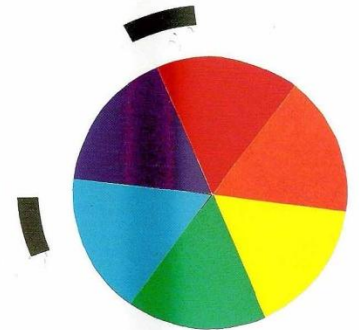Figure 10.8   In a bar chart, the chromatic colors are seen surrounded by neutrals.

Figure 10.9   The two chromatic tones on one side of the color wheel approach an analogous scheme, although the violet between them is omitted.

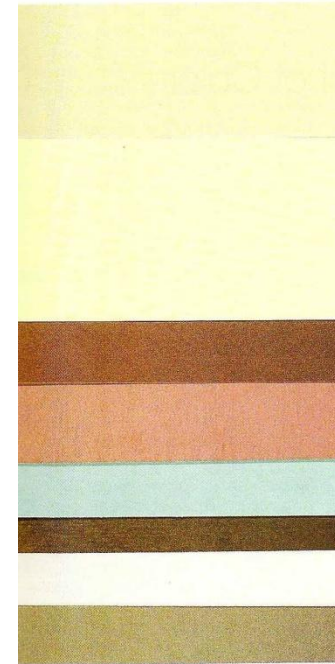White and neutral colors with red brown and soft blue; clash scheme.

Figure 10.14   In a bar chart, the red, yellow, and blue bases of the soft tones makes the triad basis of the scheme apparent.
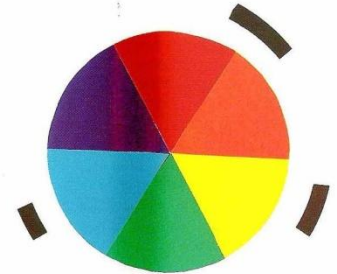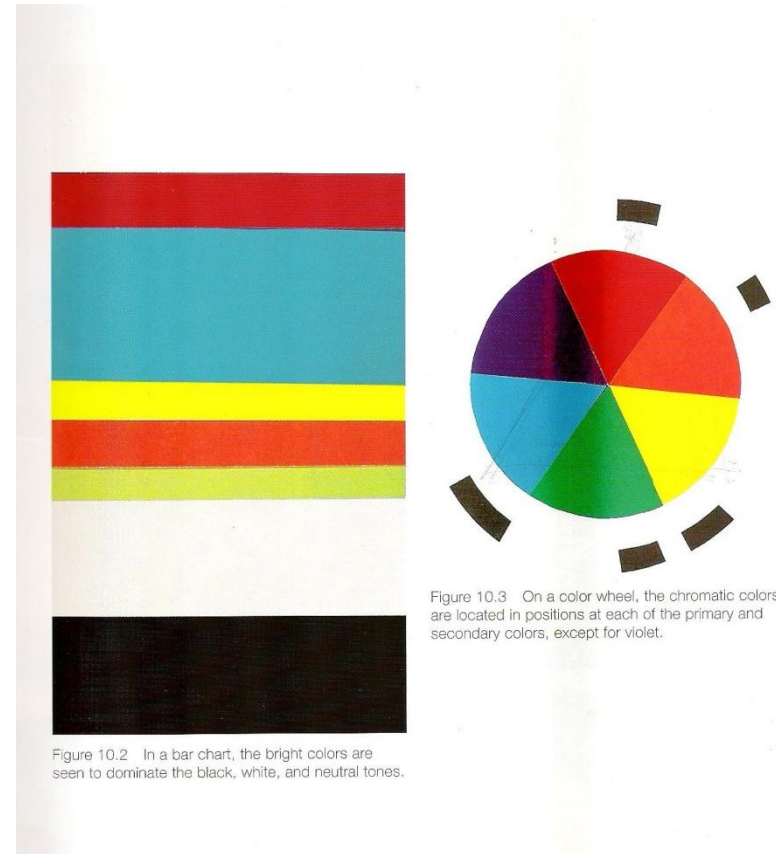
Figure 10.15   The nearly equal-spaced locations of the color tones on a color wheel is typical of a triad scheme with its comfortable balance of tones.

Neutral tones of beige, tan and brown are used with limited areas of rose and soft blue ; triad scheme.

Figure 10.2 In a bar chart, the bright colors are seen to dominate the black, white, and neutral tones.

Figure 10.3 On a color wheel, the chromatic colors are located in positions at each of the primary and secondary colors, except for violet.
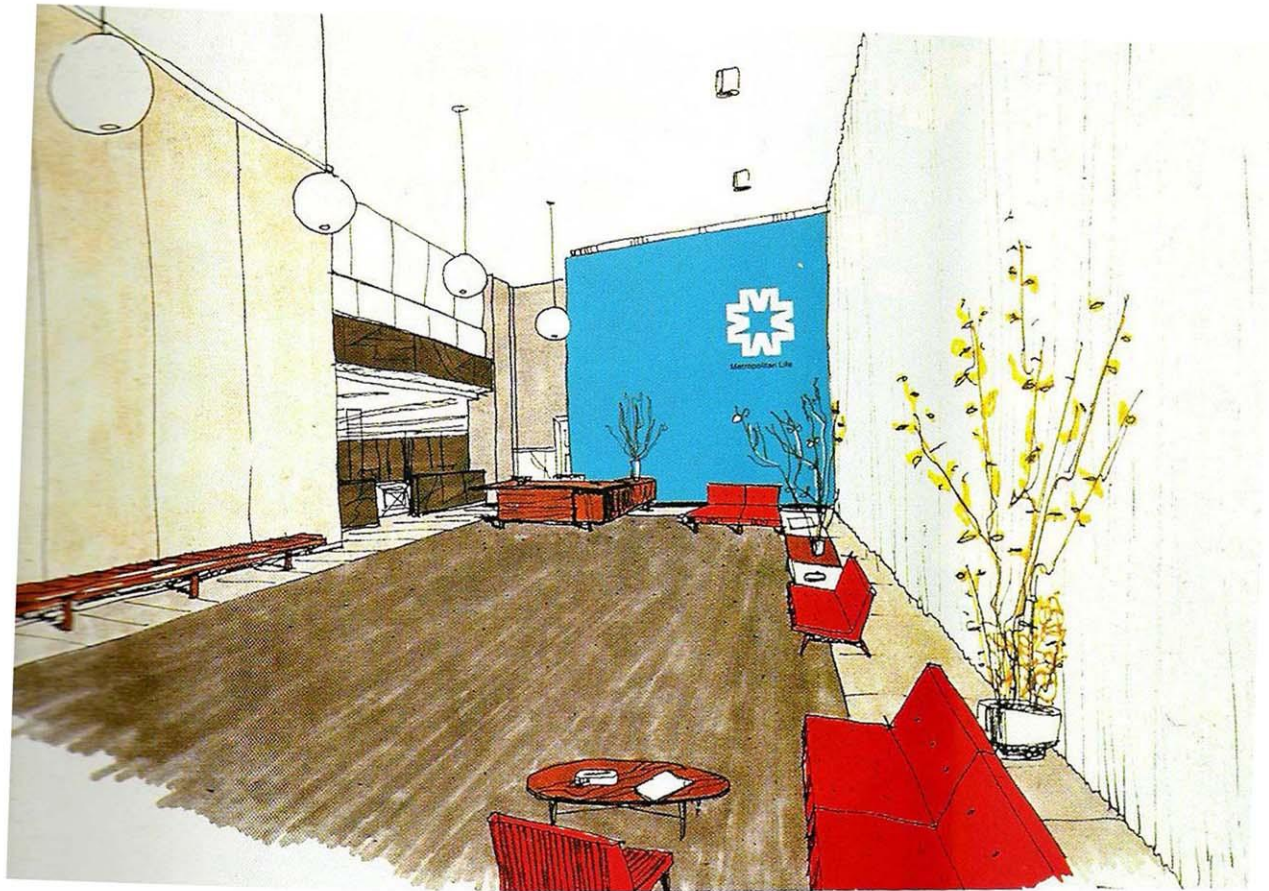
Achromatic + neutral+ primary and secondary colors.

Colored illustration of a shop interior when ceiling -mounted light sources are used.
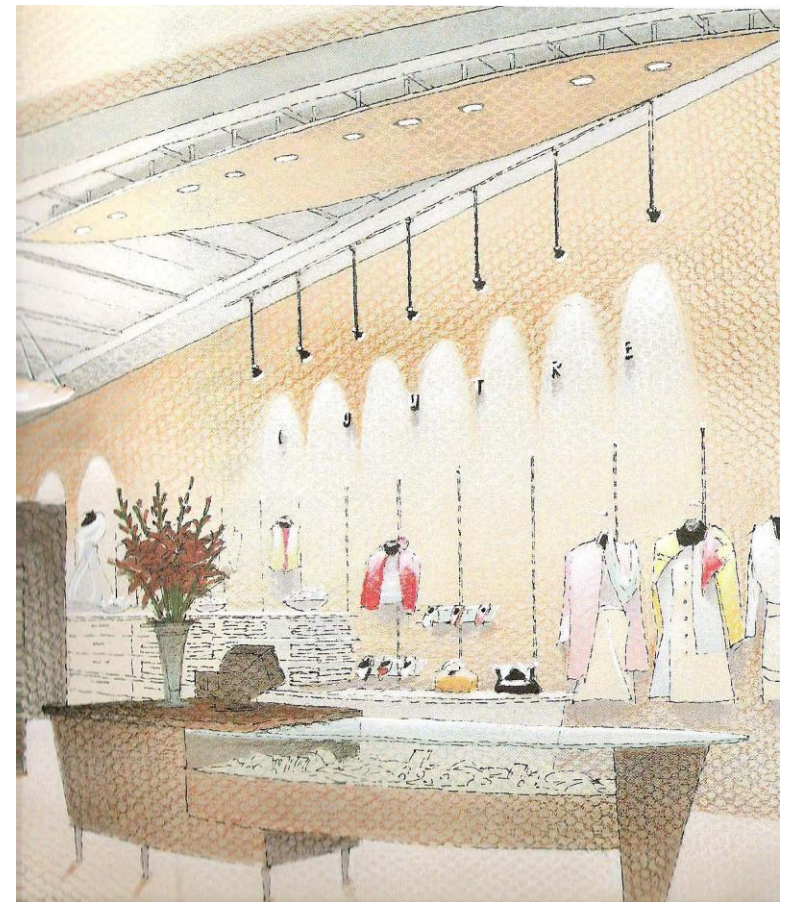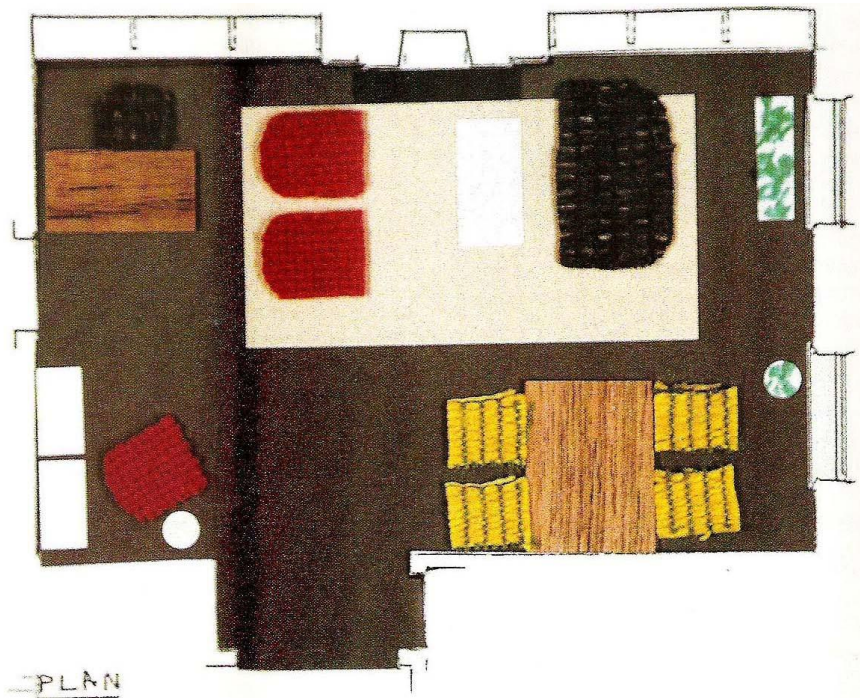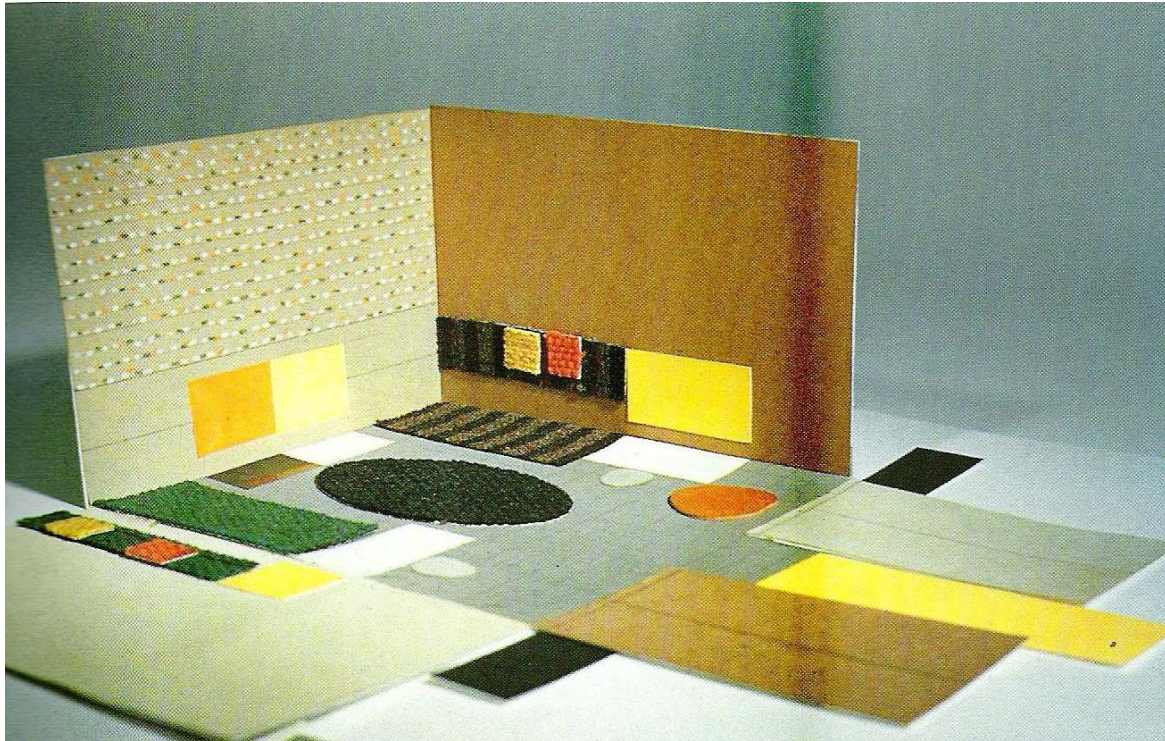
Color proposal drawing for a lobby space of
Headquarters of Metropolitan Life Insurance
Company.

Colored samples are organized into a sample board ready for analysis.

PLAN

Same samples are arranged in a floor plan format making it possible to see where each color will be used.

Material samples in plan and elevation format .

REFERENCES

•Pile,John. Color In Interior Design.,The Mc Graw Hill Companies.,1997,USA
•Mc Cloud.,Kevin,Choosing Colors, Watson- Guptill Publications,2003.,USA
•Whelan, Bride.,Color Harmony.,Thames and Hudson., 1994.,UK
•www.tigercolor.com