

success indicator:

- you will be able to apply design elements and principles to room designs

life skills practiced:

learning to learn

project skills practiced:

identifying design elements and principles



The design elements and principles are the building blocks of any design, whether on fabric, in a furniture arrangement, a color scheme, or an accessory for your room. Before you get started, take some time to review them. The **elements** of design are **line, shape, form, color, texture,** and **space**. How you combine and organize these elements in creating a final product is guided by the principles of design. These principles are **balance, proportion, rhythm, emphasis,** and **harmony**.

introduction

DESIGN BUILDING BLOCKS

design elements

Line

Line defines the shape of things; it can make a pattern and cause the eye to move from place to place. Changing the line direction can produce an optical illusion.

- diagonal lines appear active and sometimes restless
- curved lines appear gentle, quiet, and restful
- horizontal lines add the appearance of width
- vertical lines add height
- jagged lines add excitement or restlessness



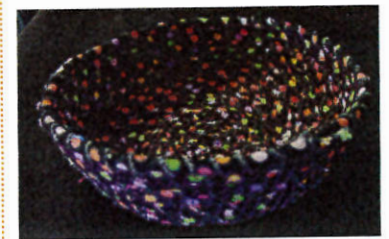
Shape

Shapes can be geometric, like a circle or square, or irregular.



Form

When a shape has three dimensions, it becomes a form.



Color

Light is made up of energy of different wavelengths. Various wavelengths of visible light are seen differently by the eye and create the colors we see. Primary colors are red, yellow, and blue.



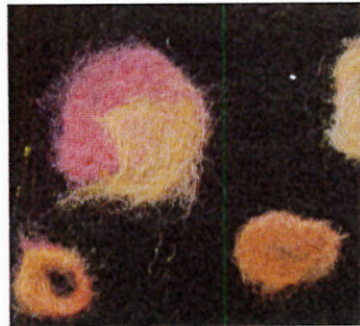
Texture

Surface can appear rough or coarse or smooth and fine.



Space

Space can be the area that a shape or form occupies or the background against which we see the form or shape.



Balance

Placing objects on either side of a center point creates a feeling of stability, that things belong together and that both sides are of similar weight.

Formal Balance - Similar objects are placed at equal distance from the center point of an arrangement. Each side is a mirror image of the other side.

Informal Balance - Balanced, but not the same on either side of a central point. Items may be unequal distances from the center and may be different items of different weights.

Examples of How to Achieve

To create balance, use more or less weight.

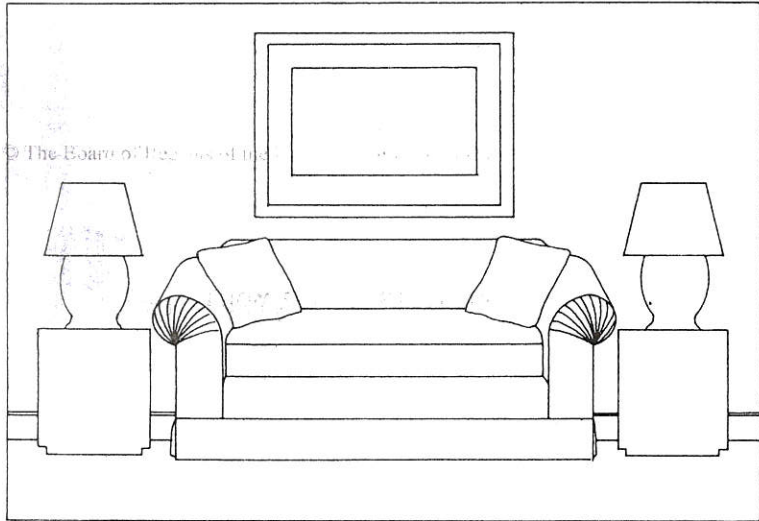
For more weight use:

- large size
- warm or dark colors
- rough, busy texture and pattern
- irregular shapes

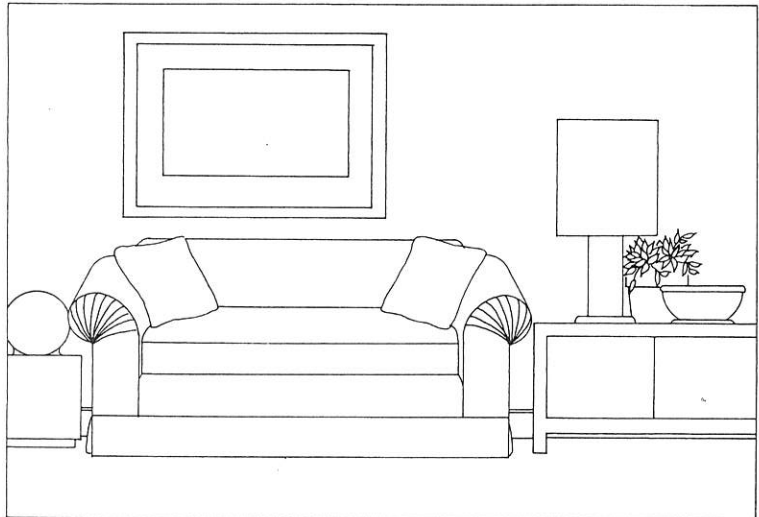
For less weight use:

- small size
- cool color
- smooth, plain texture and pattern
- small, geometric shapes

When arranging furniture, use both formal and informal balance. Formal balance helps avoid restlessness; informal balance helps avoid stiffness.



Formal balance.



Informal balance.

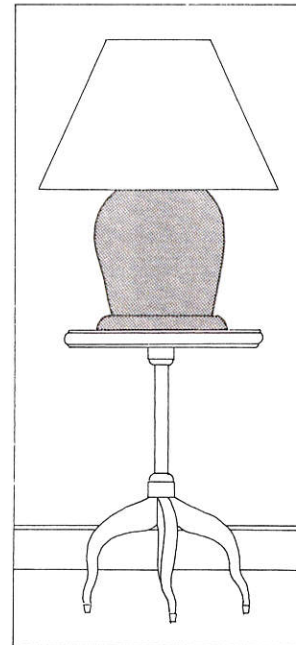
Proportion

A pleasing relationship between the size of the different parts of a design, how they relate to each other and to the whole design.

Examples of How to Achieve

Design a pleasing relationship between the:

- amount, value, and intensity of colors
- quality and kind of textures used
- size and shape of elements or items
- furniture and the room itself



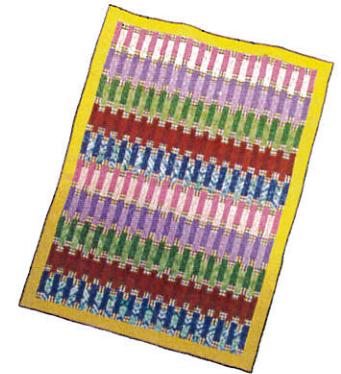
Lamp too large - out of proportion to table.

Rhythm

Repetition creates movement that the eye follows from one part of a design to the next.

Examples of How to Achieve

- repeat lines, forms, shapes, colors, textures, and patterns throughout a room or project, causing the eye to move where you want it to go



Emphasis

The center of interest or focal point in design. It draws your eye to the main idea, shape or focal point.

Examples of How to Achieve

- place things in prominent positions
- use interesting or unusual shapes and forms
- use contrasting colors
- leave space around objects
- use special lighting



Harmony

A pleasing combination of similar and different elements. Unity and variety help create harmony.

Unity - A theme or idea that helps pull different parts of a design together to create a pleasing, complete item or arrangement.

Variety - Contrast or difference that adds surprise, interest, and life to a room or design.

Examples of How to Achieve

To create unity:

- repeat a line, shape, color, or texture
- use similar lines, colors, shapes, or textures
- group items

To create variety:

- use small amounts of contrasting colors, textures, lines, patterns, shapes, and forms or materials
- use accessories

EXPERIENCE:
now it's your turn

Activity: ID's Please

Study the photos on this page. Identify examples of design principles and elements.

Teachers, see school standards on Pages 94-100.

