

Interior Design Terms

A ready reckoner

Abstract: Style of design that uses general forms verses detailed realistic representations.

Accent Colors: Contrast colors used to enhance room color schemes.

Accent Lighting: Controlled and specifically focused lighting for accenting interior decor elements or architectural details.

Accessible Design: Interior and exterior design that meets prescribed requirements for people with disabilities. Guidelines and laws related to accessible design include such issues as standard dimensions and features such as door widths, clear space for wheelchair mobility, countertop heights, audible and visual signals, switch and outlet height, and more.

Accessories: Objects such as books, plants, vases, lamps, and decorative pieces.

Acrylic: A synthetic fiber that's derived from a plant or chemical resin. Acrylic's best properties are its moderate strength and acceptance of brilliant color dyes. Acrylic also has a plush loft that will not flatten.

Adaptation: Furniture that captures the feel of an original design or period, but differs in some details.

Ageing: Decorative technique used to create the effect of wear-and-tear on wooden, painted, plastic or other surfaces.

Antique: Could be anything ranging from a piece of furniture to art. The U.S. government considers any item over 100 years old to be an antique, whereas most collectors use 50 years as a benchmark.

Antique Finish (or Antiquing): A paint or stain finish applied to an object to give an aged look.

Antique Satin: A drapery fabric that has a lustrous effect, normally made of rayon/acetate blends.

Arcade: A series of arches, with supporting columns or piers.

Area Rug: A small rug or carpet which covers only part of the floor.

Arm Caps: Coverings, usually crafted from fabric, to protect the top surface of sofa and chair arms.

Arm Chair: Seating that has both a backrest and armrests.

Armoire: A tall wardrobe with doors and shelves for clothing, more recently armoires have been adapted for use as an entertainment center or computer workstation.

Achromatic Colours : Black, white and grey.

Backsplash: A small strip (usually wood) placed against the wall or on the back of a dry sink or console.

Balance: The arrangement of objects around an epicenter, or creating an even feel or atmosphere in a room.

Baluster: A small turned, square or flat column that supports a rail. Also used to form chair backs.

Banding: An Inlay or Marquetry that produces a color or grain contrast along the perimeter of a surface such as a tabletop.

Bar: A counter like piece of furniture or built-in cabinetry typically used for mixing and serving drinks.

Bar Stool: A stool that has a seat height of about 30", opposed to a counter stool that normally has a seat height of 24" to 26".

Baroque: A highly ornate decorative style that originated in Italy in the 1600's. The style is characterized by irregular curves, twisted columns, elaborate scrolls and oversize moldings. The Italian equivalent of French "rococo".

Batik: Form of hand-printing fabric that originated in Indonesia; technique involves using wax as a resist to create a negative image.

Bauhaus: A style of the early 1900's taking its name from the German School of Architecture. This minimalist style has had a great effect on contemporary architecture and furniture design.

Bead: A small, convex molding of a nearly semi-circular section.

Beading: A decorative detail that resembles a row of flattened beads.

Bed Frame (or Bed Base/Frame): A frame or type of platform that a bed rests on. Usually, a metal or wooden frame with legs used to raise the bed off of the floor, headboards can be attached to most bed frames. Find bed frames and bedroom furnishings.

Bed Skirt: A gathered or pleated strip of cloth reaching from the bottom of a mattress or box spring to the floor. Also referred to as a dust ruffle or bedskirt.

Bedding Ensemble: Can be any combination bedspreads, pillow shams, bed skirts, etc.

Bedspread: A decorative covering for a bed that can reach to the floor on either side and usually is large enough to cover the pillows.

Bench: A long seat that can seat at least two people. Benches can be made from any material from wood to concrete.

Bench Cushion (or Bench Seat): A long seat cushion that covers the entire deck area of a sofa, loveseat or settee, opposed to individual cushions.

Bentwood: A process of steam bending wood for shaping into furniture parts, particularly chairs.

Beveled Edge: A slanted and polished edge finishing detail used on wood, marble, glass, etc.

Bird's-Eye: A marking of small spots often found in the wood from sugar maple trees. Highly prized throughout furniture history.

Blanket: A large piece of woven material used as a covering for warmth, especially on a bed.

Blinds: Window coverings designed of either horizontal or vertical slats. Blinds can be made of wood, aluminum, fabric, or other materials. Horizontal blinds traditionally open from the bottom up, while vertical blinds open and close to the side.

Block Printing: The oldest form of printing known to man. Motifs are obtained by the use of wooden, linoleum or copper blocks.

Bolster: A long and usually cylindrical stuffed pillow or cushion. Also an oversized backrest or pillow which can be rectangular or wedge-shaped.

Bookcase: A piece of furniture with shelves that is normally used in an office or study for storing books.

Bungalow Style: An architectural style of a small house or cottage usually having a single story and sometimes an additional attic story. Most commonly associated with Victorian and Craftsman period bungalow homes and decor.

Bunk Bed: Two beds that are joined together so that one is placed above the other.

Bureau: A dresser used to store clothing also a piece of furniture with drawers used as a desk. Bureau's normally feature either a fall-front, which slopes at 45 degrees, a tambour front or a cylinder front. Find bedroom furniture.

Butt Joint: The junction of the ends of two pieces of wood such as on a sill.

Butterfly Table: A small drop-leaf table whose leaves are supported by a swinging support resembling a butterfly wing on a rudder.

Beauty : Although beauty is subject to highly individual interpretation, and conditioned by time and culture, the qualities of a design that please the senses and lift the spirit are generally achieved through the application of the Principles of Design

Bright Colours : Bright colours result from mixing chromatic colour with little or no achromatic colour (black, white or grey).

Bubble Diagram : Bubble diagrams represent the first stage in planning. A diagram in which bubbles represent activity zones placed in proximity relationships. Bubble diagrams may be refined to depict space adjacencies and circulation patterns between zones, as well as the shape and size of the rooms.

Café Curtain: A curtain that covers only the bottom half of a window and hangs from a wire or thin curtain rod.

Cane: Split rattan, often used to cover chair seats and backs.

Cane Chair: These chairs were first made in England and were very popular since they were cheap, light and durable. First used in America in the late 1600's.

Canopy: A fabric covering attached to a frame at the top of bedposts.

Canopy Bed: A bed supported by four tall posts with a cross members joining the posts that may be used for a supporting a fabric canopy cover, swags, curtains, etc.

Cast Iron Furniture: Iron furnishings made with molds. Very popular since the 1800's for many items including garden furniture, plant stands and cast iron beds.

Casters: Round wheels attached by a swivel to furniture pieces for mobility. Commonly used on dining and office chairs.

Casting: The method of forming metal objects by pouring molten metal into a mold and allowing in to harden.

Ceiling Fan: Both decorative and functional fans, which are installed on the ceiling to circulate air in a room.

Centerpiece: An ornament used to occupy the center of a dining table.

Ceramic Tiles: Glazed clay tiles, which stand up to large amounts of wear and tear very well.

Chaise Lounge: An upholstered armchair with the back and seat lengthened for reclining. Styles range from formal to contemporary. Also referred to by some as a French long chair.

Chamfer: A corner or edge that is cut at an angle or beveled.

Chandelier: A ceiling-mounted lighting fixture consisting of two or more arms bearing lights. Styles can range from small and simple to extremely large and ornate.

Chest: A tall, narrow piece featuring a series of drawers for storing clothing.

Colonial: American furniture from the 1700's through the Revolutionary era. The formal styles are usually mahogany or cherry while plainer furniture was done in

pine, oak, and maple. Queen Anne and Chippendale designs are often included in this category.

Colonnade: A range of columns connected by a horizontal entablature or cornice at the top.

Color Scheme: Color combinations for the interiors of rooms and homes in general.

Color Transfer: The process of applying a color from one material onto another by the means of moisture or heat. The term can also refer to the accidental seepage of color from one material to another.

Combing: A painting effect in which a comb (or comb like tool) is dragged across the paint or glaze to create a series of lines.

Comforter: Comforters cover the mattress, but not the box spring. Since the top and bottom fabrics of a comforter are quilted together with a filling material in between, they are usually fluffier and thicker than a bedspread or coverlet. Comforters are usually used with a dust ruffle to cover the box spring. Comforters are usually too short to cover the bed pillows, therefore most people use shams.

Commode: A small, low chest with doors or drawers, many traditionally styled nightstands are referred to as commodes.

Computer Desk: A desk that's specifically designed to accommodate a personal computer.

Console (or Console Table): A term originally applied to a bracket that supported cornices or shelves and later used to describe tables that were affixed to a wall and supported with legs at the front. Today it describes any type of table used along a wall.

Contemporary: A term covering many styles of furniture that developed in the latter half of the 1900's. Contemporary pieces have an updated look that's softened and rounded compared with the stark lines of modern design.

Corduroy: A cotton or rayon velvet that's woven with ridges (or cords).

Corner Cupboard: A triangular shaped dining room china cabinet made to fit into a corner.

Cornice: A molding that crowns or runs along the top of a curio, hutch, etc.

Couch: A term from the 17th and 18th Century used to refer to a daybed. Not used as a term for a sofa or settee until more recent times.

Cupboard: A cabinet, box or closet with shelves designed to hold cups, dishes or food.

Curio (Collectors Cabinet): A case piece featuring glassed in shelves and doors for displaying collectibles.

Cushioning: Materials used to provide comfort in upholstered furniture and bedding. Popular cushioning materials include polyurethane foam, polyester, cotton, latex and wool.

Character : Character differentiates one home from another; it is the result of the expression of style and the individual personality of each household member. Even when a particular style of design is adopted, such as Georgian or Minimalism, the home should still reflect the unique personality of its residents, rather than merely faithfully recreating the various components of the style.

Chromatic Colours : Any colours other than white, grey and black.

Circulation : After the programming phase, programme data is analysed and circulation routes (traffic flow) between rooms or areas is carefully evaluated as an important first step in space planning. Space is allocated to rooms or activity areas, as well as to the circulation system (comprised of entry halls, corridors, concourses and stairways) that will accommodate movement between them.

Major circulation routes through a building are determined by architectural structure (such as walls, doors and their direction of swing); minor traffic paths within individual rooms or areas are influenced by furniture placement and the space needed to perform activities in each area.

A good circulation plan avoids inconvenient routes and invasion of privacy and deters traffic crossing activity areas to minimize the risk of accident. In the interests of space economy and efficient traffic flow, circulation routes should be short, direct and as free of turns as possible. The most frequently travelled

routes (major and minor) should be the shortest. Fewer structural walls allow for easier traffic flow.

Traffic patterns must be allocated adequate width. Minimum passage width is 91 cm (3ft) but the study of proxemics (interpersonal space) suggests that passing in such a narrow space might cause a degree of psychological discomfort to people who are not well acquainted, with the result that one would probably stand back for the other to pass. Hallways in average homes are usually over 1 metre wide, but 107-122cm is more appropriate for major circulation routes accommodating heavier two-way traffic, and for moving furniture. The greater the volume of traffic, the wider the traffic flow routes will need to be. Building codes stipulate minimum corridor widths for non-residential buildings.

Ideally, rooms should be accessible without having to go through one to reach another, but where rooms must be used for circulation; the space should be planned so that the most direct route is along one side or across a corner, rather than crossing through the centre of activities or seat groupings. The space allocated to the circulation route should also be wide enough that the traffic flow does not interfere with the activity in the room. Furniture placement should allow traffic to flow, or redirect the traffic to eliminate unnecessary or disruptive flows.

To analyse traffic patterns, lines and arrows may be drawn on a bubble diagram or floor plan to show where people will be walking. These circulation routes should be kept as empty and as direct as possible. On a floor plan, *natural* traffic patterns can be identified – routes where we would logically walk to get from one space to another – and the flow may need to be controlled and diverted (by devising a *corrected* plan) away from areas where it would cut through seating arrangements or disrupt activities. In public buildings and spaces, circulation is improved where the design makes it is clear to people how to enter, how to find their way around, and how to get out (Nielson & Taylor, p.130).

Colour : A characteristic of light or of object surfaces that is perceptible to human vision and that is described by various colour names, such as red or blue

Commercial Design : The design of non-residential interiors. Also known as Contract Design.

Complementary Colours : Colour combinations that appear opposite one another on the colour wheel, such as red and green, orange and blue, yellow and violet.

Concept Statement : Initial written statement of the principal workable idea(s) in response to the design problem, expressing the main ideas and approach behind the proposed design solution.

Construction Drawings : Also known as 'Working Drawings'. Final working drawings: plans; elevations, sections and details accompanied by drawing notes.

Contract Design : The design of non-residential interiors (*cf.* Residential Design). Also known as Commercial Design.

Contrast : Contrast, or opposition, is the arrangement of opposites of an element to create visual interest and drama. Contrast is the difference between colours, values, patterns, shapes, forms or textures, or in light or line. Large variances or abrupt changes are described as 'sharp', 'high' or 'vivid' contrast; small variations are described as 'low' contrast.

Contrast in colour may involve using complementary colours which sit opposite one another on the Brewster-Prang colour wheel; or placing high key colours (light values) next to low key colours (darker values) next to one another, with no progression through middle values between them. Contrast can be seen in patterns, between busy and plain; light and dark; small repeat and large repeat. Contrast in shape, form and line involves the juxtaposition of angular shapes and rounded shapes; of large and small; of solid, visually 'heavy' objects and light, delicate ones; or of straight lines with curves and verticals with horizontals. Contrast in either tactile or visual texture can play on the dissimilarity between surfaces which are hard and soft; matt and polished; patterned and plain; warm and cool; rough, bumpy or jagged and smooth and even.

Contrast makes individual objects more interesting and meaningful, provides relief from uniformity and adds asymmetrical balance to a scheme. Restraint in the variety of some elements (such as colour) should be counterpoised by range and contrast in others (such as texture or colour value) in order to provide interest.

Cool Colours : Colours near the violet end of the spectrum are designated as cool. Green and blue are cool colours. Violets may be either warm or cool, depending on their relative content of red or blue. Greys and other neutrals may be warm or cool, according to their content of warm or cool chromatic colour.

Critical Path : A schedule of activities required to complete the design project, showing the time that each activity will take to complete and the dependencies between activities and highlighting milestones towards the final output.

Dado Joint: A rectangular groove across the width of a board or plank that another piece of wood fits into. **Dado Rail:** A Wooden rail or molding that's fixed horizontally along a wall, usually about a third of the way up from the floor.

Design: The art of conceptualizing the appearance of an object or space. The term also refers to the style, appearance, or characteristic of an item such as a modern lamp or rustic bench.

Diagramming: The process of placing a two- or three-dimensional representation of the proposed space on paper.

Dull Colours : Dull colours result from mixing chromatic colour with a complementary colour, with an achromatic colour, or with both.

Dhurrie Rug: A flat woven wool or cotton rug featuring beautiful designs.

Dinette: A small dining set, which is often used in the kitchen.

Dining Room: Traditionally a formal room dedicated to the serving of meals.

Distemper: Paints made by mixing pigment with water and bound with casein, glue or egg. Widely used before the arrival of emulsion.

Dovetail: Joint construction made by cutting pins in the shape of dovetails, which fit between dovetails upon another piece. Commonly found in drawer construction.

Dowel: A headless wooden pin used in furniture construction.

Drapery: A draped fabric window treatment.

Dresser: A long chest of drawers used to store clothes. Term originally referred to a type of sideboard that was used for serving food and storing dishes.

Dying: The process of applying color to fiber stock, yarn or fabric; there may or may not be thorough penetration of the colorant into the fibers or yarns.

Elevation: An elevation is a view of a 3-dimensional object from the position of a horizontal plane beside an object. In other words, an elevation is a side-view as viewed from the front, back, left or right.

Elements of Design : There are 8 or more elements of design (acronym **SMaLL PaCTS**):

1. **Space** (the physical boundaries of a room)
2. **Mass** (the actual or apparent density of an object)
3. **Light** (natural and artificial)
4. **Line** (created by the furnishings and architecture of a room)
5. **Pattern** (repetitive design)
6. **Colour**
7. **Texture** (the feel, appearance or consistency of a surface)
8. **Shape** (2-D outline) and **Form** (3-D configuration)

Embossing: A technique to impress or stamp a design onto a piece of furniture; mostly used on wood pieces to resemble carving.

Emulsion: A water-based paint that's mainly applied to walls and ceilings.

Ergonomic: Term that relates to furniture design and function for the human form; very commonly found in home office furnishings such ergonomic chairs for example.

Felt: A cotton material commonly used for cushioning or lining the inside of a piece of furniture such as a jewelry armoire or the drawers of a buffet.

Feng Shui: Literally translated as wind and water, it's an ancient Chinese scientific practice based on selecting or configuring a site, structure or interior so as to harmonize with the spiritual forces that inhabit it.

Fiber: A natural or synthetic substance such as cotton or polyester that can be separated into thread-like filaments and be spun, woven or matted.

Fiber Rug: A floor covering made of tightly twisted strips of paper often coated with vinyl to resist friction and moisture.

Fiberboard: A board made of compressed wood fibers and glue.

Fiberfill: Generic term for all stuffing fibers or materials used in battings, quilting, sleeping bags, pillows, etc.

File Cabinet: A piece of office furniture used for storing files. File cabinets normally consist of one to four drawers.

Finger Joint: A joint in which two pieces of wood are cut in an elongated zigzag pattern and joined together with glue.

Finish: The surface coating of an item, which can include paints, stains, varnishes, fabric treatments, etc. Wood, metal, fabric, stone and many other materials require a finish for reasons such as coloring, texture, and protection from moisture.

Floor Lamp: A tall lamp with a base that stands on the floor.

Floor plan: or floorplan, is a diagram, usually to scale, showing a view from above of the relationships between rooms, spaces and other physical features at one level of a structure. Dimensions are usually drawn between the walls to specify room sizes and wall lengths. Floor plans will also include details of fixtures like sinks, water heaters, furnaces, etc. Floor plans will include notes to specify finishes, construction methods, or symbols for electrical items. It is also called a "plan"

Flow: A smooth continuity achieved by design and decor elements being arranged harmoniously with some sense of shape, style and color.

Foam: Padding material used in upholstered furniture and mattresses. Common types of foam include polyurethane, latex, and Viscoelastic ("Visco" or "Memory Foam").

Focal Point: An area to which the eye is drawn. This could be a part of a room, a view, landscaping, etc.

Fretwork: An open or pierced woodcarving with an oriental influence, primarily used as a decorative element in Chippendale-style furniture.

Function : Also referred to as 'utility'. Design must satisfy the functional or utilitarian needs of the residents or users for whom the space is designed. The credo *form follows function*, coined by the American architect Louis Sullivan towards the turn of the twentieth century, denotes that the form of an object or space should be a straightforward rendition of its proposed use.

Among the factors that inevitably influence the design of a space, a paramount consideration is the function(s) that it will serve, and the designer's priority is to devise solutions that fulfil these functional requirements. Functional performance is regarded as the first test of design quality for interiors

Function is not an absolute determinant of form. That is to say, a given end use might be accommodated equally well by a number of different designs: the requirement that a seat be comfortable is met by millions of strikingly different designs of chairs.

The functional segment of the client brief describes, among other things, how the space is used, by how many people, how often and at what times of day, and whether the end-users have special requirements in terms of access or mobility. This information will inform such determinations as how much space should be allocated to each room, zone or activity; adjacency relationships to other related spaces (since functions should flow smoothly from one zone to another); the design and placement of architectural elements; seating, work surface and storage space requirements and configurations; lighting, wiring, heating, and plumbing layouts; and which materials, finishes and colours would be best suited to the proposed end-uses of the space.

Hardwood: Wood derived from trees such as oak, beech, maple, mahogany, and walnut.

Headboard: An upright structure rising above the mattress at the head of the bed.

Harmony :

Harmony consists in achieving a balance between unity and variety. Unity involves combining elements and furnishings with a fundamentally similar or compatible character (for example, by using a cohesive colour scheme or furniture of a consistent style), and in such a way that subordinate elements complement dominant ones, in order to achieve a consonant and unified overall scheme.

Variety is the absence of sameness; it adds interest and excitement. Unity and variety complement and balance one another. Unity without variety would result in sterility and monotony; while a cacophony of assorted and competing shapes, colours, patterns and styles, without some unifying elements would seem chaotic, dissonant and lacking in visual clarity.

It is possible to achieve a pleasing balance somewhere between the extremes of monotony and excessive variety, by holding most of the design elements – shape, form, mass, line, light, pattern, colour and texture fairly constant, or at least keeping them compatible or proportional, and varying or contrasting only one or two elements. Objects have numerous properties, and it is possible to unify by coordinating certain aspects such as colour, material, shape, texture or period, while retaining variety in others.

Hue : Hue is the quality that gives an identifying name to a chromatic colour. The terms hue and colour are often used interchangeably.

Inlay: Decorative patterns created with pieces of different woods or other materials, which have been set into the surface of wood furniture.

Lacquer: A hard, protective varnish that is applied as a topcoat to furniture.

Laminate: Any thin material such as wood or plastic that's glued to the exterior of a cabinet or other surface.

Lap: A joint of two pieces lapping over one another.

Lattice: An openwork decoration of crisscrossed wood, iron plate bars, etc. in a diagonal or square pattern.

Lightness and Darkness : The degree to which a colour reflects light. Light colours reflect much of the light that falls on them and are called pale or pastel. Dark colours absorb much of the light that falls on them and reflect little light.

Matte Finish: A finish that's more flat than shiny.

Mattress: A piece of bedding to sleep on that conventionally consists of multiple layers of foams and fibers with a metal innerspring unit to provide support. Mattresses are usually used along with a box-spring or foundation unit to support the mattress and reduce wear. Many of today's better quality mattresses no longer use innerspring units and are made entirely of latex or other types of foam products.

MDF: Medium density fiberboard; made from compressed particles of wood and used in the construction of furniture.

Modular: Furniture units that can be rearranged or stacked in different configurations.

Modular Seating: Seating units (usually upholstered), which are easily joined to or arranged with other units to form different seating arrangements.

Mortise & Tenon: A slot cut into a piece of wood to receive a tenon of another piece of wood to form a joint.

Maquette : A maquette is a detailed plan, often used in 18th century decorating practice, showing all furniture and other elements in top view, and surrounded by four elevations representing each wall of the room. Furniture is depicted on the elevation of the wall to which it will be closest. The elevations are placed directly adjacent to their their respective side of the floor plan, so that they can be thought of as walls, cut out and folded up into a vertical position to create a box arrangement – a simplified 3-dimensional model of the room. This form of presentation works better for conventionally shaped spaces than for irregularly shaped ones.

Mood : Mood is one of the basic considerations in the design of an interior. The mood or atmosphere of an interior space relates to how it makes users feel. It can be relaxed or formal; opulent or austere; stimulating or relaxing; cool and airy or warm and intimate. It is important to consider mood when planning an interior design scheme. Mood should be appropriate to the function of a room – for example, stimulating red hues might be less suited to a bedroom than would relaxing pastel or neutral hues. Different colours, textures and lighting effects can convey different moods within an interior space: darker colours and subdued lighting can create an intimate mood; vibrant colours and bright lighting can produce a more stimulating atmosphere.

Neutral Colours : Neutral tones are produced by mixing complementary colours. Mixing a chromatic colour (one which is *not* white, black or grey) with an achromatic colour (white, black or grey) will partially neutralize the resultant colour.

Nesting Tables: Tables of varying sizes stored one under the other, normally consisting of a set of three.

Neutral Color: Colors such as white, black, gray and tan, which easily blend with other colors.

Niche: A recess in a wall for displaying a sculpture or other accessory.

Objectives of (Good) Design : The objectives of good design (remembered by the acronym **CUBE**) are:

1. **Character** – the result of the expression of style and individuality
2. **Utility** – the functional purpose of the space
3. **Beauty** – achieved through the application of design principles
4. **Economy** – economy of monetary, human, and natural resources

Post-occupancy Evaluation (POE) : An important final stage in the design process. Post-occupancy evaluation involves following up on the completed job to measure the success of the design solution. POE may involve a questionnaire, interview or walk-through inspection with the client so that the designer can

make any adjustments to improve the result. Evaluation may also be invited from peers. The process may be repeated at appropriate intervals.

Primary Colours : Colours that cannot be produced by mixing other colours, but which can be blended to produce almost all other colours. The primary colours are red, yellow and blue.

Principles of Design : Certain aesthetic concepts have evolved to explain how and why certain combinations and relationships of elements are pleasing. These are the principles that should govern the use of the Elements of Design (remember the acronym **HERBS**):

1. **Harmony** (through Unity and Variety)
2. **Emphasis**
3. **Rhythm**
4. **Balance**
5. **Scale and Proportion**

These principles represent yardsticks against which to evaluate the success of design in achieving the Objectives of good design: Character, Utility, Beauty and Economy (CUBE).

Programme Document : The design programme document, the initial stage in the Design Process, identifies all the factors that must be considered for a successful design solution. It identifies the goals, defines the requirements and clarifies any restrictions on the design project.

Progression : Progression, or gradation, is a type of rhythm which consists of repetition of one or more qualities of a design element (such as shape, mass, light, line, pattern, colour, texture or space) in an escalating or diminishing sequence. Progression involves using, for example a progressive 'value distribution' (a sequence of colour values which are gradually lighter or darker); or using a variety of objects or pattern repeats which are progressively smaller or larger (such as nesting tables, or a 'wedding cake' arrangement of steps around a fountain); or applying a range of textures in successive degrees from rough to smooth, or hard to soft. Although progression is more dynamic than simple

reiteration, variations in the characteristics of an element are gradual and subtle and the result is a more calming and orderly scheme than contrast, which involves abrupt shifts between poles such as light and dark, or patterned and plain, to produce a more dynamic and dramatic effect.

Proposal : After the initial concept development stage of the design process, and based on the Concept Statement, a proposal is presented to the client for review, feedback and approval. The proposal will include the Design Concept, comprising conceptual drawings and scaled floor plans showing furniture placement, and one or more moodboards proposing colour, materials and finishes. Depending on the scale of the project, the proposal may include additional sketches, perspective drawings, full colour renderings, 3-D models and computer simulations. The proposal will also include a budget estimate as well as a time frame showing events in sequence and a completion date.

Rattan: A type of climbing palm with very long and tough stems that are often used in wickerwork.

Recliner: A chair or rocker that reclines back.

Reclining Furniture: Furniture that has a mechanical system allowing the user to adjust into a reclining position. Also called motion furniture.

Renaissance Style: This furniture design movement began in Italy in the 13th Century and continued through the 17th Century. It often features ornamentation inspired by Michelangelo and Raphael. The furniture is true to the purpose of the piece and often incorporates mythological or biblical figures. Walnut is often the wood of choice.

Residential Design : The construction or remodelling of private residential space on behalf of the end-user client

Square Leg: A four sided leg of equal dimensions on all sides (resembling a fence post) that supports a piece of furniture such as a coffee table or dining table.

Stacking: The wall or window area that's required for draperies when they are completely opened.

Staining: The step in the finishing process where coloring (stain) is applied to a piece of wood furniture.

Stamps: Various names and letters are often found stamped on French furniture made in the 18th Century or later. These stamps are an important means of identifying the makers of individual pieces of furniture.

Steam Bend: A method of bending a single piece of wood (bowback chair, bowed splat, etc.) into a furniture part.

Stenciling: Method of creating patterns by covering an area of a surface and applying color to the uncovered area.

Schedule : Details the type and placement of each colour, material or style (paint, trim, wall coverings, etc.) in an interior.

Schematics : Schematics are quick drawings or sketches to visualise ideas, space allocations, circulation patterns ('traffic flows'), spatial and activity relationships, colour schemes and other important details of a design.

Secondary Colours : Secondary colours are those formed by mixing two primary colours. The secondary colours are orange (a mixture of red and yellow); green (a mixture of blue and yellow); and violet (a mixture of blue and red).

Shade: A shade is a darker colour tone produced by mixing a chromatic colour with black or dark grey.

Space Allocation: To assign an area (or volume) of space to a given function, in determining the location and layout of rooms or zones.

Specification: A written list with detailed descriptions of all materials, furnishings and accessories to be acquired.

Style :The decorative design of an interior.

Suite: A complete matched set of furniture, such as a bedroom suite.

Swivel Chair: A chair that swivels, such as a swivel office chair or swivel recliner.

Symmetrical: A formal, mirror-image balance in design or decorating.

Table Lamp: A freestanding lamp designed to be placed on a surface such as an end table or nightstand.

Table Runner: A narrow decorative strip of fabric running down the middle of a dining table.

Tapered Leg: A leg that becomes incrementally smaller towards the bottom.

Tea Table: A small portable table, which is frequently used in place of a coffee table. Traditionally the top has raised edges like a tray and side pullouts for candles.

Teapoy: A small piece of freestanding furniture designed for holding tea.

Tertiary Colours : Tones formed by mixing a primary colour with its adjacent secondary colour, such as red-orange, blue-green. There are six tertiary colours, resulting from the six possible permutations of primary and adjacent secondary colours.

Texture : Texture is the visual or tactile surface quality of a material – the relative smoothness or roughness of the surface. Texture refers to the quality of a surface as perceived directly by touch (tactile texture) or indirectly by the eye (visual texture). Texture is produced by material, colour, line, relief and finish, and visual texture can also be produced by pattern.

Texture is the element is most often overlooked in design. Uniformity of texture will produce a bland and unsatisfactory scheme, even when there is variation in colour, but a scheme based on a restrained palette of colours and materials can provide visual and tactile interest through diverse textures.

Texture is used in a broad sense to cover the properties of solidity, reflectivity, translucency and transparency (Dodsworth, p.133).

Tint : A tint is a light colour tone produced by mixing a chromatic colour with white or light grey.

Tongue & Groove (or Matching): Wood pieces that join on edge with a groove in one piece and a corresponding tongue on the other to interlock. Commonly used on furniture doors for example.

Upholstery: Furniture such as sofas and chairs covered in fabric, vinyl, leather or other materials.

Value: The lightness or darkness of a color.

Vegetable Dye: Dye colors that are derived from the natural pigments of plants and botanical products.

Veneer: Thin sheets of wood applied to a furniture surface to create decorative inlay patterns of wood grain.

Vibration : Vibration is a visual distortion that can occur when vivid contrasting colours are placed adjacent to one another. Since the eye interprets some colours as closer than others – warm (advancing) hues are perceived to be closer than cool (receding) ones – the eye cannot focus sharply on bright red and bright green if they are adjacent. The lines where vivid contrasting colours meet will appear blurred and the colours themselves may appear to vibrate. This distorting effect may account for the sense of disharmony and discomfort produced by colour schemes that juxtapose strongly contrasting colours.

Wabi-Sabi: Representing a Japanese worldview, it's a style of perceiving art and beauty that pervades all things imperfect, impermanent and incomplete.

Wainscot Chair: An Elizabethan oak chair with a back that's paneled like wainscoting on a

Wall Clock: Any type of clock that's made specifically for hanging on a wall.

Wall Mirror: Any type of mirror that's designed to be hung on a wall.

Wall Sculpture: A decorative wall hanging made from any material including wood, metal and synthetic materials.

Wall Units: Large free-standing or wall hung units which can have drawers, shelves, cabinets, desks, entertainment centers or other features.

Wallpaper: A decorative material which is used to cover and decorate the interior walls of homes, offices and other buildings. Wallpaper is usually sold in rolls and is put onto a wall using wallpaper paste.

Wardrobe: A tall upright cabinet with a door or doors. Designed for storing clothing.

Warm Colours : Colour near the red end of the spectrum are designated as warm. Red, orange and yellow are warm colours. Greys and other neutrals may be warm or cool, according to their content of warm or cool chromatic colour.

Working Drawings : Also known as 'Construction Drawings'. Final and detailed drawings: plans; elevations, sections and details accompanied by drawing notes necessary for the construction of the design.

Wicker Furniture: Furniture woven from materials such as willow, reed, and rattan.

Wine Rack: A rack for storing bottles of wine. Wine racks can vary in size from a small rack used on a kitchen counter to something as large as a big bookcase.

Writing Desk: A smaller sized desk or table commonly used for personal use such as writing letters or paying bills.

Zigzag: A molding or stitching with a series of frequent sharp turns from side to side.

Zones : Areas that have a similar function or accommodate similar activities, such as work zones, dining zones, study zones, private zones and storage zones.

Zoning : Involves designating space and allowance for specific types of uses and activities.

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