

Balance as a Principle of Interior Design

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Abstract: Does it strike you why some rooms give you an instant calmness and control while others bring out the sense of anxiety and discomfort? Well, the answer is finding the right balance. Balance is may be defined as a psychological sense of equilibrium which places the parts of a visual in a pleasing arrangement. The visual balance in the room provides a sense of repose and a feeling of completion. This paper will discuss balance as an important principle of interior design.

Keywords: Balance, design, equilibrium, interior design

INTRODUCTION

Interior design may be defined as a multifaceted profession, which involves the application of technical and creative solutions within structures to achieve a built interior environment [1]. Designing involves many design principles however of particular focus is the balance. Balance refers to equilibrium among all forms in a room. All furnishings should be distributed evenly throughout the space. The significant factor to balance is the vertical line, which has objects placed on each side that complement one another thus balancing. For example, of two framed pictures of equal size looks appropriate hanging side by side unlike two pictures of different sizes. A balanced relationship between objects can take a number ways.

Ways of Achieving Balance

1. Symmetrical Balance

In symmetrical balance, formal spaces are split into two sides that mirror each other. It is the easiest way to achieve balance since the design elements are repeated on each side. It provides a feeling of formality and elegance. One disadvantage of this type of balance is that it is static and thus creates boredom. This is attributed to the fact that half the composition mirrors the other half hence easy to predict.

2. Asymmetrical Balance

In this case, there is an unequal visual weight on either side of the composition. This scheme uses the dividing line; however, it relies more on the eyed sense to

complete the design. Asymmetrical balance is characterized by balanced spaces with unequal visual weights on either side of the central line [2]. While it is more difficult to achieve this type of balance, it is dynamic and evokes feelings of vitality, modernism, energy and movement.

3. Radial Balance

Just as the name suggests, radial balance is a distributed arrangement of items around a central point either extending inwards or outwards. Elements radiate from a central point. Ripples on a pond and sun rays are perfect examples of radial balancing.

Interior designers often create a feeling of balance either by introducing design elements or creating symmetry in space. The way in which such balance is created affects the client's impression.

Importance of Visual Balance

The human eye has the ability to make distinctions in all its surveys. Balance allows the human eye to scan the room and refocus continually. It produces calm and relation. An unbalanced composition provides a feeling of disorienting and makes the viewer feel uncomfortable. The measure of visual interest in an area or a design is termed as visual weight [3]. When a composition is balanced, every part of it holds some interest. This, therefore, keeps viewers engaged with the design. Without visual balance, all areas of the design might not be visible, and thus; viewers might not spend much time in areas with less visual weight. Visual balancing is, therefore, important to ensure that all areas of the design area are given importance by the viewers.

Factors Affecting Visual Balance

Visual balance results from visual weight and direction. Those factors that affect visual balance can be narrowed down to the specific factors that affect visual weight and those that affect visual direction. Visual weight is the measure of how much anything on the composition attars the viewer's eye. Visual direction, on the other hand, can be defined as the perceived direction of visual forces [4]. Factors that influence visual weight include; Size of the object, large objects appear to be visually heavier than smaller objects, shape of the object also influences the visual weight; regular objects are visually heavier than irregular objects. Density also has a significant effect on the visual weight. Packing a concentration of elements in a particular space gives more weight to that space. Those factors that affect visual direction also affect the visual balance of a design area. These factors include location of elements. The visual weight of an element imparts neighboring elements direction in them. Movement also affects the visual balance of a design area since elements maybe designed to appear moving in any direction.

Balance as a design principle is an important element in bringing equilibrium to the design area. Finding the right balance is key towards offering a different look by giving a welcoming a satisfying feeling. Balance is a fundamental design principle that brings stability and makes spaces aesthetically pleasing.

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CONCLUSION