
PROPORTION and SCALE

- A straight sofa requires a rectangular or an oval coffee table
- A sectional or sofas set at right angles require a round or square coffee table
- The larger (in width and length) the end table, the larger the lamp in height and width
- A large wall can accommodate a large wallpaper pattern
- Decorate a small room with small furnishings and a large room with larger pieces
- Tall individuals prefer deep seating, short individuals prefer shallow seating
- Children require furnishings appropriate to their size

Proportion and Scale are affected by the elements of design.

Line affects the perceived size of products.

Space - In order to allow large pieces and accessories to be aesthetically pleasing and appreciated, leave an empty space between them.

Texture - A large room decorated in rough textures will visually appear smaller and a small room decorated in shiny surfaced pieces will visually appear larger.

Color has a specific influence on proportion. A dark piece on a light colored wall will look larger than a dark piece on a dark wall.

Light - A room that is not sufficiently lit will appear visually smaller. Shadows contract visual space.

BALANCE

Balance is a sense of visual equilibrium and the harmonious relationship of the products within a space.

Variables affecting balance:

- Size and shape of the room
- Space for clearance (passage)
- Choice of background covering
- Selection of furniture
- Design and motif of window coverings
- Selection and display of accessories

NOTE: Avoid overcrowding. Leave some unfilled spaces.

Use pairs to unify:

- Place two chairs on either side of an occasional table
- Provide a chair for a desk
- Provide seating for a table

NOTE: To prevent a room from feeling lopsided, walls opposite each other should visually weigh the same.

Create balance by mixing:

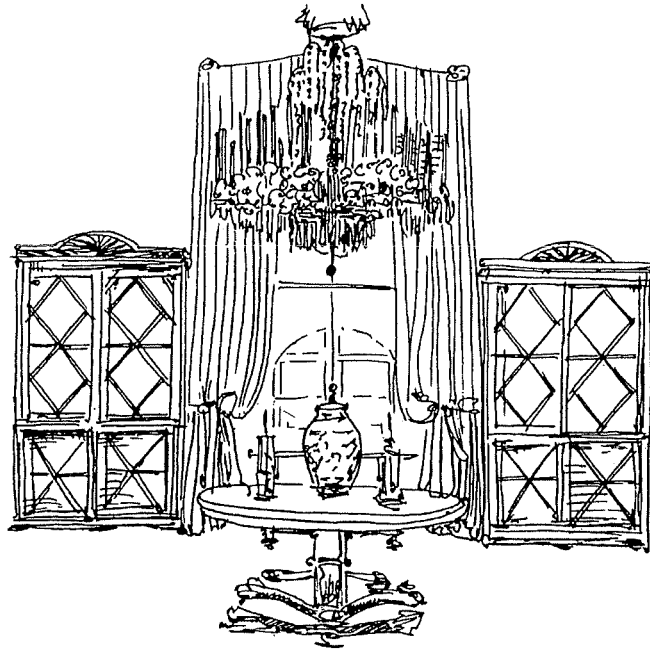
- Flamboyant with simple objects
- Humorous with serious objects
- High with low
- Light with dark
- Patterns and textures

There are four basic types of balance: Bisymmetrical, symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial.

NOTE: Use the appropriate balance for the chosen decorating style.

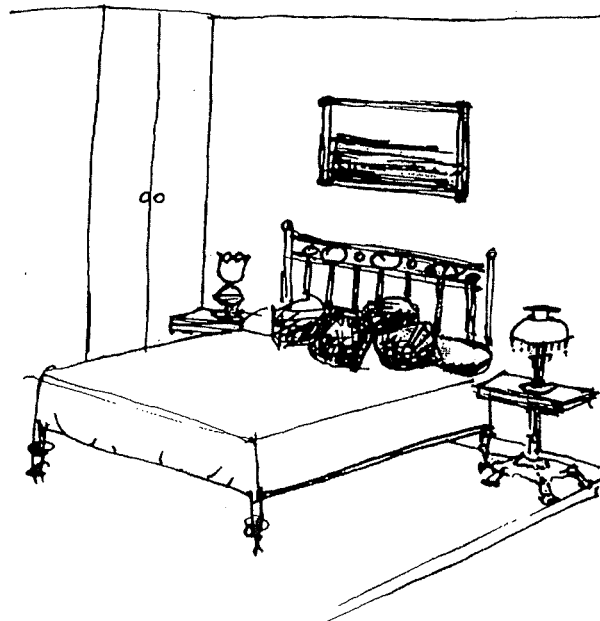
Traditional – bisymmetrical, symmetrical and radial
Country – symmetrical, asymmetrical, radial
Modern – asymmetrical and radial

BISYMMETRICAL BALANCE



Bisymmetrical: The application of **identical** objects and space on either side of center
More appropriate for a formal atmosphere
i.e. Identical end tables and lamps on either side of a sofa

SYMMETRICAL BALANCE



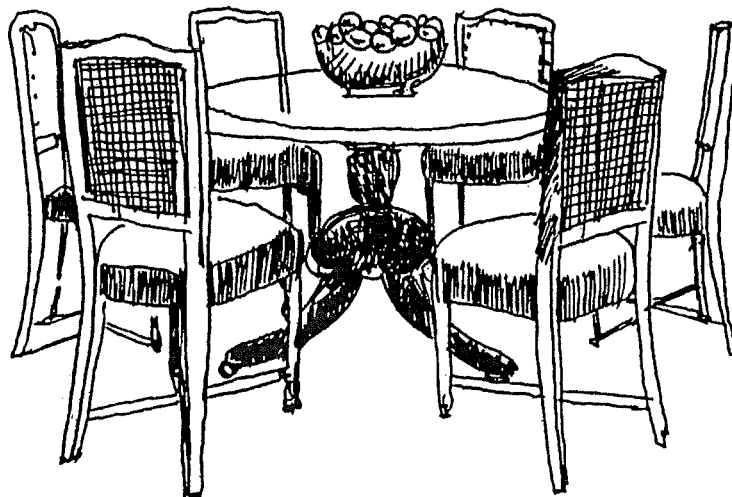
Symmetrical: The application of **similar** objects at equal distance from center.
More appropriate for a semi-formal, restful atmosphere
i.e. Similar end tables and lamps on either side of a sofa

ASYMMETRICAL BALANCE



Asymmetrical: The application of **different** objects consuming the same amount of visual space on either side of center. This balance can be formal or informal; it is flexible, creates visible space and an environment in harmony with nature.
i.e. A sofa across from two chairs; a picture on one side and a plant on the other side of a sofa or chair

RADIAL BALANCE



Radial: The application of objects in a **circular** arrangement from a center point.
i.e. A round table surrounded with chairs spaced evenly apart