

HARMONY

Harmony is the result of a single unifying theme that relates the components of space. There are two aspects to harmony--unity and variety. Complete unity would become boring and monotonous without some variety. Variety could appear disorganized and over stimulating if not combined with unity.

Unity is achieved by repetition and similarity of parts such as selecting furnishings that correspond with the architectural design. Color, texture, or patterns are coordinated when the same color of carpet is used throughout the house. Kitchens of today are a good example of unity because they are built to appear uncluttered and for ease of maintenance. However, too much unity can be uncomfortable if complicated design elements are repeated too often.

Variety brings spice to a room. It can be accomplished with color, texture, form, or space, or a combination of old and new objects. Too much variety can appear cluttered and confusing. It is important to remember that there needs to be an underlying theme.

Most of the time it is not as easy to identify good design as it is to identify poor design. The purpose of studying design is to recognize the basic elements with which we are working and to discover successful principles used in other designs.