

LINE

By definition, a line is the shortest distance between two points. However, lines can be thick or thin, bold or sketchy, and evoke different emotions.

In interior design, the word "line" is usually used to describe the outline of a shape. Lines may be described as masculine or feminine, precise or loose, depending upon their length, direction, width, angle, or curve.

There are four basic types of lines: vertical, horizontal, curved, and angled. Any other type of line is a variation or combination of the basic lines.

We often use words defining lines to express our feelings.

1. Vertical lines lend dignity and formality to spaces. They may create feelings of aspiration and ascension if they are high enough.
2. Horizontal lines are restful, relaxing, and informal, especially if they are long.
3. Diagonal lines are more active because they suggest movement.
4. Big upward curves tend to uplift and inspire.
5. Horizontal curves denote gentleness, femininity, graciousness, and relaxed movement.
6. Large downward curves express seriousness and sadness.
7. Small curves represent playfulness and humor.
8. Zig-zag lines are overpowering and should be used with caution.
9. Undulating lines are very gradually waving lines that represent femininity and relaxation. They are used on headboards and the backs of sofas.

Textiles are a great representation of line because the warp and filling yarns are lines. If a textile is closely woven, the lines are absorbed, but if it is loosely woven, the lines are clearly visible.

Lines can emphasize or de-emphasize shapes. They can change the apparent proportions of objects and rooms.

Through the skillful use of line, the designer can emphasize, create, or manipulate spaces.

1. Use vertical lines to create a feeling of loftiness and assurance, emphasize (high ceilings, tall doors and windows, and upright furniture placement).
2. Use horizontal lines to create informal comfort (low ceilings, broad openings, and stretched-out furniture).
3. Use diagonal lines to create a feeling of activity and energy (sloping ceilings, oblique walls or furniture placement).

A skillful designer will use several of these lines together, creating a total effect that is varied, but unified.