

SHAPE AND FORM

As you look around, you see countless shapes and forms. What is the difference between a shape and a form?

A shape is made by connecting lines, like a circle cut out of a sheet of paper.

Forms are three-dimensional, enclosing space, like a basketball.

There are three basic types of shapes:

RECTILINEAR FORMS (see transparency "SQUARE SHAPES AND FORMS")

This form is the most commonly used form in our homes. Most of our rooms follow this form, and many pieces of furniture and accessories are also rectilinear. This is true for many reasons:

1. This form easily fits on drafting boards, building sites and machines in factories.
2. These forms fit together well and help conserve space.
3. This form feels stable and secure because of the 90 degree angles.
4. This form establishes unity and rhythm when repeated.

There is a danger of this form feeling harsh or monotonous. However, when placed on a diagonal, it becomes a dynamic element. In summary, these shapes create many different effects, depending upon the way they are used, the size, the color, and placement.

Some examples of square and rectangular shapes used in a house are: refrigerators, beds, pillows, dish washer, rugs, window, and doors.

ANGULAR FORMS (see transparency "TRIANGULAR SHAPES AND FORMS")

Angular forms include triangles and pyramids. These are found in most sloping roofs. In modern homes, they are also used as angled walls, which add a great deal of life to a room. They are more flexible than rectangles because the angles can be manipulated in many ways. They are the strongest shape.

Diagonals usually make things look larger. They also suggest motion and are less common, so they attract and hold attention.

Some examples of triangular shapes use in our homes are: window treatments, Christmas tree, and accessories.

CURVED FORMS (see transparency "CIRCULAR SHAPES AND FORMS")

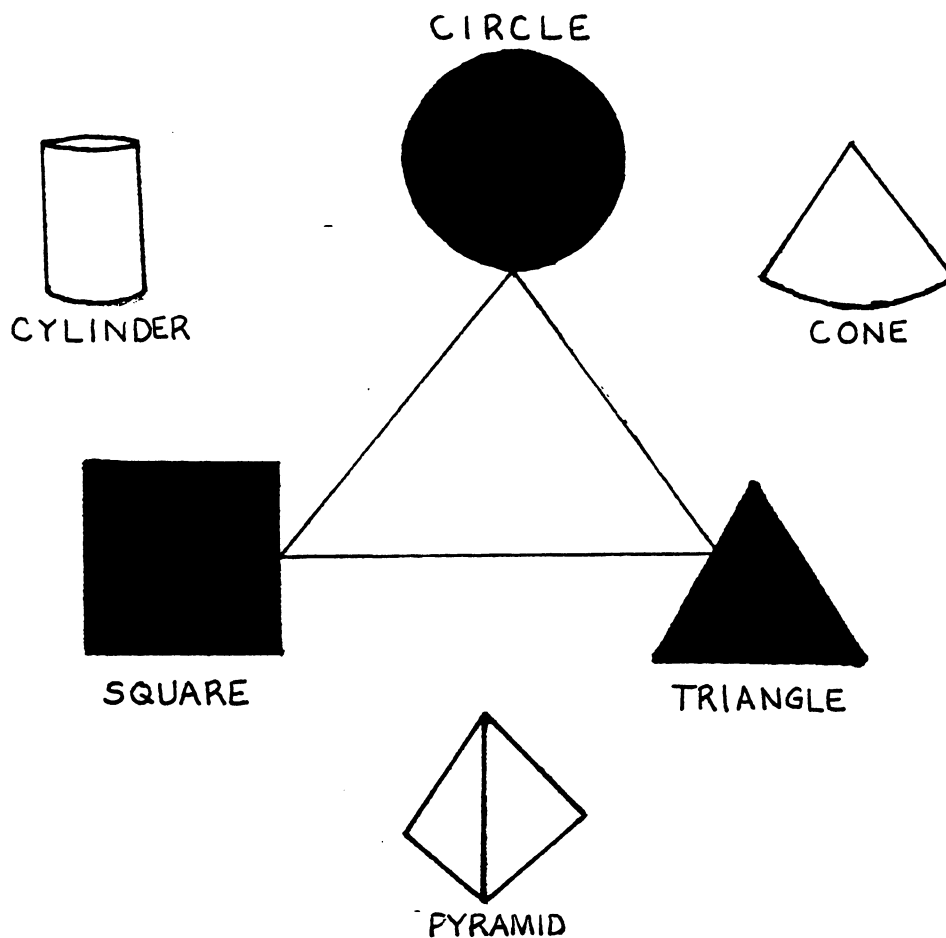
Curved forms combine continuity and change. They bring to mind things found in nature: flowers, trees, bodies, or clouds.

Circles and spheres have unique qualities:

1. They are conservative and economical forms because they resist breakage.
2. They remind us of motion, probably because they remind us of balls.
3. They provide great unity—every point on the edge is equidistant from the center.

Have students think of examples of curved lines in their homes (plates, bowls, lampshades, pillows, tables, chairs, stools, etc.).

We usually do not find a home that is made from rectangles, triangles, or circles, however, we do find combinations of these various shapes.



Show students pictures of different geometric shapes and have them try to analyze the main shape.