ID 40
Residential Design
Space Planning/Design Principles
We’ve already discussed several factors to consider when furniture planning:

- Size and scale
- Appropriateness
- Durability and Maintenance
- Budget concerns
- Client lifestyle and entertainment needs

Another very important consideration is **Aesthetics**.
- To design a room that is functional AND beautiful.
Design Goals:

- “Viewing the work of the Interior Designer…gives a yardstick for measuring excellence.”

- “We expect a space to service its practical purpose well…We also expect it to give us a sensory experience…”

- “…to offer a visual experience that would be appropriate, satisfying, and even memorable.”

Taken from: INTERIOR DESIGN, by John Pile
Harmony and Unity:

- Revisit your knowledge of the principles and elements of good design:
- **Unity** within a design creates feelings of comfort and harmony.
- **Unity** and **harmony** can be established by:
  - Using coordinated fabrics
  - Selecting closely related color schemes
  - Employing stylistic consistency
- If overused these techniques may also produce boring, “blah” designs lacking interest.
Variety and Contrast:

- Giving the eye different shapes, textures, and unexpected colors to focus on creates visual interest.
- Adding areas of contrast creates a “punctuation mark” within the design.
- **Contrast** is created through comparison:
  - Light colors next to dark
  - Larger objects next to smaller ones
  - Always include some form of unexpected element
The concept of "balanced design" is very important to our comfort level within a space. We establish balance through conscious decisions regarding:

- Furniture size
- Furniture placement
- Value (visual importance/hierarchy)
- Color
- Selection of materials
Visual Hierarchy:

- When you enter a room, where does your eye go first?
- What do you look at next?
- Do your eyes make a continuous circuit around the room, or do they jump from one thing to the next randomly?
  - Do you feel calm and relaxed in the space, or slightly fidgety and ready to move on?
- This concept is called “visual hierarchy”.
Principles of Hierarchy:

● Focal Point
  ▼ Every space should have one element that immediately captures attention.
  ▼ Next establish levels of visual importance to everything else, by comparing:

● Scale and proportion
  ▼ Furnishings should relate to the size of the space, and be in proper scale with each other.

● Color and pattern

● Symmetry vs. Asymmetry
Symmetrical Design:

There are two basic theories of design placement: Symmetry vs. Asymmetry

- **Symmetrical layouts** express:
  - Formality
  - Dignity
  - Stability
  - Conservative environments
  - Traditional expectations

These principles apply to space planning, furniture, artwork and accessory placement.
Asymmetrical Design:

- **Asymmetrical layouts** express:
  - Openness to change
  - Informality
  - Dynamic, active surroundings
  - Unexpected environments

- When asymmetry is too strong it can cause a sense of dissatisfaction and imbalance.
Space Planning:

- Soon you will be designing a full-scale remodel project.
- Nothing in the residence will be retained except the “shell” of the exterior.
- You will be involved in Space Planning and Furniture Planning.
- These are the two most commonly requested “Scope of Service” items.
First Steps...

- Always begin space planning by considering the primary function of each space.
- Consider what items or furniture “clusters” are needed to support that use.
- Consider secondary functions as well:
  - Leave enough floor space to allow flexibility in the furniture configurations when necessary.
Square Footage Needs:

- Consider basic sq. ft. requirements for typical spaces. Your textbook suggests:
  - Living Room: 150 to 400 sq. ft.
  - Dining Room (area): 75 to 250 sq. ft.
  - Kitchen: 50 to 125 sq. ft.
  - Master Bedroom: 120 to 200 sq. ft.
  - Bathroom (standard): 30 to 60 sq. ft.

These recommendations are for small to average sized projects!
Compromises:

- In a smaller home, EVERY sq. foot is a compromise borrowed from somewhere else.
- Ask the client to assign levels of importance to each room’s square footage requirements.
  - **Always consider the resale factor**
- Remember to consider circulation pathways.
- Appoint space wisely....
How to begin!

- Make a quick schematic diagram of each of the spaces you’ll be including in the project.
- **Use a basic block format** based on the sq. footage you’ve determined for each space.
- Remember that each space should be represented in $\frac{1}{4}” = 1’ - 0”$ scale.
- Begin to study and format the “adjacencies” of the spaces.
  - ▼ Always consult the client to determine any special layout needs or preferences.
Adjacency Studies/Bubble Diagrams:

- Interview your client to determine which rooms should be next (adjacent) to each other.
- Common examples would be:
  - Living room/Dining Room
  - Kitchen/Dining Room
  - Bedroom/Bathroom
- Begin to study these adjacencies by diagramming the relationships with quick “bubble” shapes.
  - By considering these spatial relationships, a rudimentary floor plan will begin to take shape.
Clients often prefer a dining room with direct access to the kitchen and a somewhat open relationship with the living room.

Code requires that a bathroom be accessible to all living areas and smaller bedrooms.

Plumbing is less expensive when grouped in a central wall location.

- Space plan bathrooms next to or above the kitchen.
- Place a powder room next to the utility room.
- Plumbing walls are required to be 6” thick (just like exterior walls).
Natural Light Factors:

- **South facing** windows are the most favorable orientation for natural light.
  - ▼ Providing consistent sunlight for most of the day.
  - ▼ Can be too intense in warmer climates.

- **North facing** windows offer cooler, more diffused light.
  - ▼ Best suited for artist’s studios and home offices.
  - ▼ Weaker intensity allows for a more comfortable work environment.
Volumes and Planes:

● Always space plan in 3 dimensions.
  ▼ Vary ceiling height, floor and wall planes.

● Remember to consider ceiling height and the volumes created.

● Revisit your knowledge of design principles:
  ▼ Vertical lines (planes) = create stability, permanence.
  ▼ Horizontal lines (planes) = enhance rest, repose.
  ▼ Diagonals = create movement, dynamics, excitement.
  ▼ Curving/rectilinear lines (planes) = create softness, openness. They create organic and sculptural flow.
Analyzing existing spaces:

- Analyzing existing spaces can make these theoretical ideas seem less abstract.
- Research several interiors showcased in design magazines.
- Try to make a comparative study between good design and bad design.
- Evaluate the elements that make the space work and/or not work...
Magazine Exercise:

- As an assignment, select one of these room layouts to share with the class.
- Based on the visual clues in the photo, determine the designer’s concept for the space.
- Write a short essay stating the design concept and supporting your theory.
- Be prepared to give a 5 min. presentation based on your ideas.
- The assignment is worth 25 points.
What to look for:

- **Function:**
  - Is the room’s size/shape well suited to its purpose?
  - Is the circulation well planned?
  - Does the furniture selection and placement support the function of the room?
  - Is the space lit well?
What to look for:

- **Materials and Structure**:
  - Does the choice of materials support the function/intended use of the space?
  - Are the materials adequately durable and low maintenance?
  - Is the workmanship of high quality?
  - Have health and safety been considered in this environment?
What to look for:

**Visual Expression:**

- Is the character and ambience of the space consistent and appropriate to the client’s lifestyle?
- Are the Designer’s intentions clear and strongly developed?
- Does the design provide variety and contrast, or is it “blah” and subdued?
A Quick Example:

- Look at the sample I’ve provided…
- Using all the visual clues in the photograph, I decided that the Design Concept might be…

  *Elegant Sophistication*

- Now let’s try to pin-point the concept!
The first thing I noticed was the age, style of dress, and pose of the “client”.

- Obviously older.
- The choice of jewelry suggests wealth. The simplicity suggests sophistication.
- The pose suggests the “lady-like” upbringing of a more privileged social class.
- Her facial expression suggest a certain aloofness and inaccessibility.
- The clothing suggests elegance.
Visual Hierarchy:

- The use of color and patterns establishes a hierarchy of design elements.
- The focus may be different for each of us, but the path my eye takes is:
  ▼ Woman
  ▼ Sofa
  ▼ Draperies

Remember:
This is a Kravet advertisement, so the focal point is actually the fabrics!
The use of color is a huge factor in determining this design concept.

- Blue and white color scheme on the walls is very classical, and matches the client’s “cool” demeanor.
- The wall color, carpet color, and white accents become neutrals, allowing the fabric patterns to take precedence.
- Gold, blue, and purple have traditionally been the colors of royalty… reserved for only the highest social class.
Use of Patterns:

• Another key visual indicator is the use of pattern in the fabrics.

• All the fabrics used are traditional and classic:
  - ▼ Stripes = Formality, Stability (vertical stripes: heighten, horizontal stripes: elongate)
  - ▼ Chintz = Classically popular pattern that never goes out of style or fashion.
A few final design elements to support my theory of “Elegant Sophistication”:

- Window and hearth embellishments create a feeling of timeless classicism.
- Ceiling height also suggests a traditional space of a certain historical age.
Surprise Elements:

- It’s always very important to include a few unexpected elements in every design.
- There are two in this photograph:
  - The contemporary lamp within an otherwise stately environment. Notice how the colors and striped pattern create a design repetition.
  - The grouping of white vases. The variety of contemporary shapes is in stark contrast to the traditional nature of this room. The arrangement keeps the whole space from becoming too “stuffy”.

What’s Next:

- The next several class sessions will be devoted to presentations:
  - Project A
  - Magazine Exercise
  - Project B
- Remember to present a professional image.
- Use design vocabulary to express yourself.
  - Support your design with its relationship to the concept.

One final note: Review the Bathroom Planning hand-out for basic dimensions and clearances. We cover bathroom design much later in the semester.