



Welcome to Olive Avenue's four part series on design. The elements of interior design are space, line, form, light, colour, texture and pattern.

Space is all about taking advantage of the space that is available to you and working within it, it doesn't play a part in quilting.

Line however does. In interiors line relates to the horizontal and vertical lines in a room, in a quilt they can add the illusion of width, length or draw the eye to a focal point.

Form is the shape of the room, so let's equate that to the shape of the quilt. It could be geometric, free form, the quilt edge can change, the shape can be round, square or rectangle. When natural textures are used the form can be organic.

In a room the light is either man-made or natural, in a quilt we have control over the light by our colour choice.

Now for the big one, colour! Colour in any environment or soft furnishing can create a mood, evoke memories and emotions, alter the perceived space within the design, it is largely affected by tonal value which creates light and shade. Choose the right colours for your project and your more than half way there.

Texture refers to the surface of the quilt, the fabric can be manipulated, smocked, gathered, embroidered, it can copy nature. Texture adds detail and gives feeling to a quilt.

Pattern is the seventh element and sits comfortably with colour. Like texture it adds to the quilt, it can be a repetitive design through to organic, it can be themed, it can take on whatever you want your design to be.

We have taken the design elements and related them specifically to soft furnishings that include quilts, throws, table runners and all things fabric in the home. In some sections we refer to interiors, as ultimately the projects you are creating are part of the interior design of the space you are working in.

Part 1 looks at the maths behind a design. We look at the types of tools to measure your projects, why you need an understanding of both imperial and metric, how to measure, calculate meterage and plan a quilt or a throw for a specific space and then the more intricate maths of the design and measurement process.

Part 2 is all about the design elements colour and light. This can be the fun part but if colour choice can be a scary subject, grab your pen because you are going to be busy. First up we look at colours and the all important colour wheel. How it works, how colours are mixed, the hues, the schemes and ultimately choosing your palette with confidence.

Part 3 is about understanding the different style types. We'll cover how to choose and mix styles to put your stamp on it plus delve into the important part colour plays in style. Style is closely connected with the design elements of line and form. In this section we will look at how these three elements impact your piece or collection.

Part 4 pulls all the details together and finishes the seven design elements. We will review light and how it impacts the final embellishment by using texture and pattern. We will explore different types of embellishment and how embellishment impacts the texture and pattern, becoming wholly or part, of the design to complete the look.

We hope you enjoy the talks we have put together. You are putting in the time, money and effort to make a project, even a tiny coaster, can make an impact on your table. Make it in both senses, as good as it can be. It must be an enjoyable process so think about your elements. Even if you don't have a quilt in the making or still thinking about what you will create next, you will be able to apply the information to many facets of designing projects.

Part 3 - Style

Style is everywhere. It can be confusing, it can be defined, it can be yours. Understanding your style will make everything from the architectural side of building a house and decorating to clothes shopping a more enjoyable task. To pick your own personal style or a style you like is hard and that is because styles aren't concrete. They move, they are flexible and they change. What you choose today may not always be your style and nor does it have to be. Don't lock yourself in, allow your self to be flexible and add or subtract as you go. Remember that your style is yours because it is slightly different to the 'label' and that is what we want to achieve. To identify the features that make up a style, break it down into the individual design elements.

What is Style: In my view it is a collection of design elements, that in different combinations, create a particular type of look. The name of that look becomes a style. To be able to look at the design elements they need to break away from the collection or the whole look and become individual.

FASHION

Four fashion styles:

Dramatic - strong shapes, tailored and structured lines, large styled features, large prints, different, one-offs

Romantic - more dresses than pants, florals, lace, ruffles, pleats, bows, beads

Classic - smart, elegant, polished, sophisticated, refined, streamline

Sporty - relaxed, casual

INTERIORS

Industrial Style - from old factories, industrial spaces that have been converted to lofts and open living spaces

Colours - black, white, greys, browns

Textures -, exposed bricks, metal

French Provincial Style - warm, cosy, reflection of homes in Provence in the South of France, 17th - 18th century

Colours - warm gold, earthy grass greens, cobalt blues, russet reds with bases of cream and white

Textures - inspired by landscapes, farmhouse tables, stone floors, rough plastered walls

Coastal Style - beach, clean, evoke breeziness, feels like summer

Colours - natural tones inspired by the coast, blue and white

Textures - rope, driftwood, sand

Hamptons Style - light, bright, whitewashed, sophisticated, beach, calming

Colours - soft grey, blue and green tones, duck egg blue, mint green, off white to very pale/light beige

Textures - stone floors, black timber, natural materials add warmth

Scandinavian (Scandi) Style - minimalism, modern, simplicity, functionality Victorian,

Colours - backgrounds of black and white, light coloured timber, soft hues

Textures - wood, cotton, linen

Classic Style - symmetry, balance, order, central focal piece, inlays,

Colours - inspired by nature, tones of yellow, blue, green and brown. Greys terracotta and pinks and off white as features

Textures - fabrics have texture and subtle patterns, stripes mixed with block colours

So from these examples, you can see it is the colour you put into the style, not so much the style that will make the statement. Keep this in mind now as we look at quilting styles.

Quilting Styles

Album, centennial, friendship quilts (special occasion, significant to the recipient)

Amish quilt (recycled clothes, Pennsylvania Amish)

Applique quilt (surface designs)

Art quilt (artistic)

Bargello quilt (squares to make a wave pattern)

Charm quilt (scraps, every piece of fabric is different)

Crazy patchwork (scraps, random, lends to embroidery)

Cathedral window patchwork (folding stitching 3D)

English paper piecing (paper templates, hand stitching)

Foundation paper piecing (machine on freezer paper, points)

Lap quilt (usually a 36inch (90cm) square)

Lattice quilt (borders between each block)

Log Cabin

Medallion quilt (a large central block of a pattern then multiple different borders)

Memory quilts (made from a child's clothing scraps)

Mini quilts (for walls, placements, maybe scaled down quilt patterns)

One-patch block (one block or patch repeated for the entire quilt)

Puff quilts (individually stuffed blocks)

Quilt blocks (fabric pieces joined to form a design, the design blocks have names, see Part 1, Maths Behind the Design)

Sampler quilt (different block styles on the one quilt, usually lattice joined)

Stained glass window patchwork (black bias)

Somerset patchwork (folding)

String quilt (long fabric strips, lace, old ties, ribbons)

Trapunto quilting (dimension)

Watercolour or Colour wash quilt (2 inch squares, different colours and prints)

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