



Pretty in Pink - Embellishments

CLASS NOTES

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.

The 7 design elements and incorporating them into embellishment

SHAPE / FORM - spaces to fill - empty spaces - 3D

SPACE - The area between design objects and elements

LINE - Form - Width and length

PATTERN - repeating a shape or form

TEXTURE - defines the surface of a shape or form

LIGHT - natural or manmade colour, texture or pattern have no significance without light.

COLOUR - A science - hue, value, intensity - the most complex of the elements

Part 4 - Embellishments

THREADS

- Design elements: Create a line
- Outline a form
- Fill a space

Thickness of threads:

Types of thread materials: Cotton, wool, silk and rayon

Variegated thread:

Metallic and Filaments

Japanese threads

TRIMS

Design elements: Line
 Surface texture

Sequins

Beads

Ribbons

Suede Ribbon

YARNS AND FIBERS

Design elements: Texture and Colour

Bramble vine

Coconut fibre

Pineapple yarn

Orchid Roots

Cocoon shells

Wool Fabric

Matching your wool and threads

Leather

Felt shapes

Tulle

Velvet

STITCHING STYLES

Design elements: Fill a form and space

Filling stitches:

Open stitches:

Hardanger

Using a stencil

SEWING TECHNIQUES

Bias
