



How to Create Color Harmonies Based on the Color Wheel



Colors....

*They affect us in countless ways....
mentally, physically, consciously &
subconsciously....*

*Can you imagine a world without **COLOR**?*



Color is more than just an aesthetic tool...

- Color can be the most powerful design element if used effectively.
- Color is vital for providing information about our well as helping us to navigate around in them.
- Color can be used practically, decoratively architecturally to give a sense of place.



Being able to use colors consciously & harmoniously
can help create spectacular results!

With colors, an Interior Designer can:

- Set a mood, attract attention, or make a statement...
- Use color to energize or to cool down...



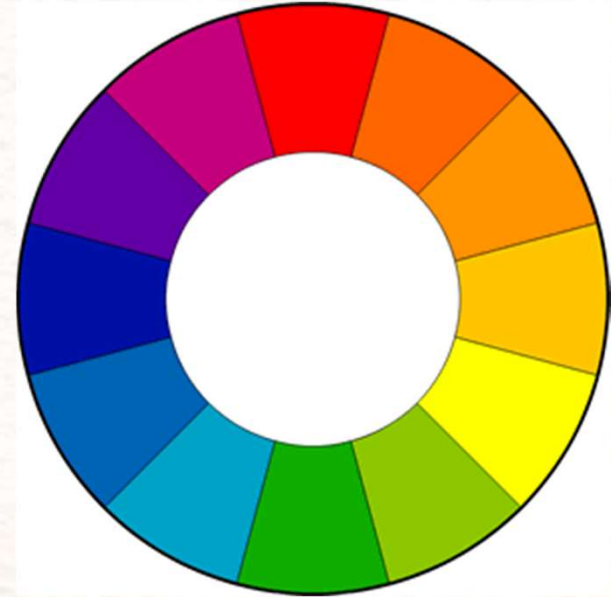
By selecting the right color scheme, an Interior Designer can:

- Create an ambiance of elegance, warmth or tranquility...
- Convey an image of playful youthfulness...

The Color Wheel....

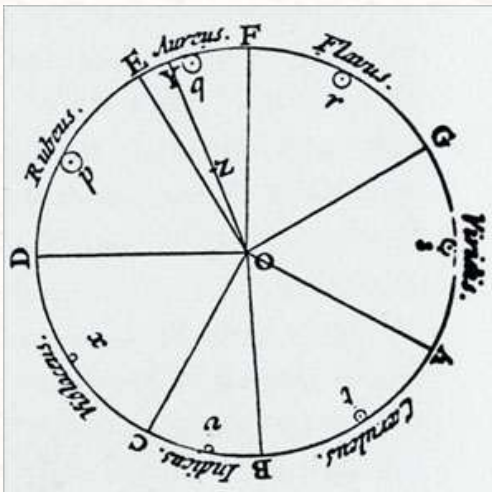
A chart of colors of the visible spectrum that is used to show how colors relate to each other.

It is also the basic tool that is traditionally used by artists in the combining of colors.



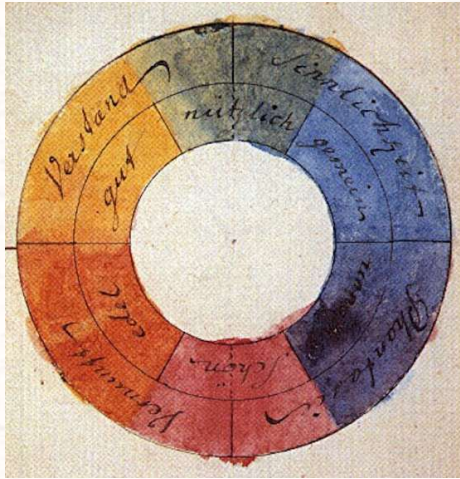
The History of Color Theory Principles...

- Color theory principles first appeared in the writings of Leone Battista Alberti (c.1435) & the notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci (c.1490).



- Sir Isaac Newton invented the first circular diagram of colors in 1666.
- Newton passed a beam of sunlight through a prism which produced red, blue, yellow, green and cyan beams of visible spectrum.
- By joining ends of the color spectrum together he was able to show the natural sequence of the color spectrum together.
- Newton associated each color with a musical note.

The Color Wheel's History, continued....



- A century later, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a German poet, artist and scientist, began studying the psychological effect of colors; how colors made people feel.
- Goethe created a color wheel showing the psychological effect of each color....blue gave a feeling of coolness and evoked quiet moods; yellow had a warming effect and red made people feel cheerful....

“Color itself is a degree of darkness.” ~ Goethe

The Color Wheel as we know it today....

- By the mid 1900's Johannes Itten, a Swiss color and art theorist, working in a German school, known as Bauhaus, developed the current color theory.
- Itten modified the color wheel based on red, yellow and blue colors as the primary colors.
- His color wheel contains a total of 12 hues and is the one that is most familiar to us.



“He who wants to become a master of color must see, feel and experience each individual color in its many endless combination with all other colors.” ~ Itten

The Color Wheel is comprised of....

three primary colors, three secondary colors, and six tertiary colors.

Primary Colors (red, blue and yellow)

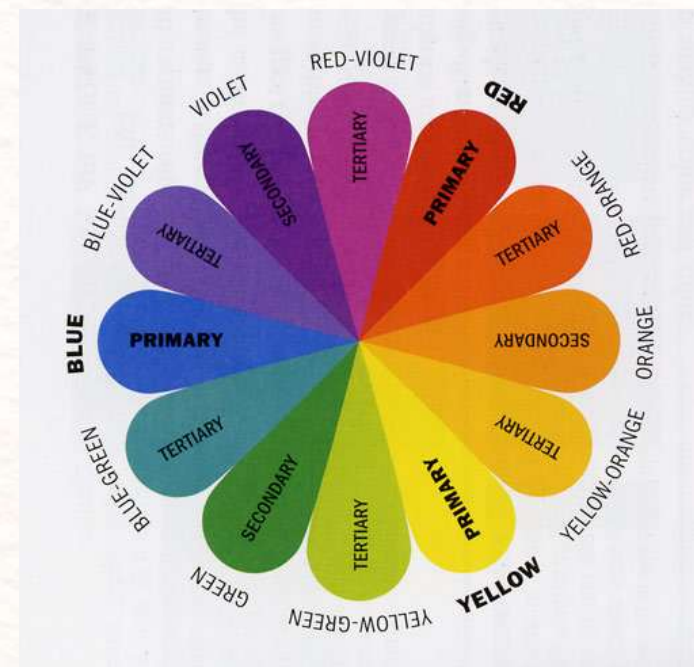
- Cannot be made by mixing other colors.

Secondary Colors (purple, green and orange)

- Mixing two primary colors together.

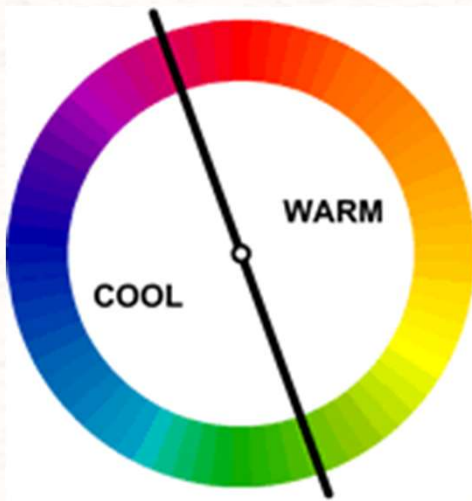
Tertiary colors (red-violet, blue-violet, blue-green, yellow-green, yellow-orange, and red-orange)

- Combining a primary color with an adjacent secondary color.



The Color Wheel can also be divided into....

Warm and Cool colors



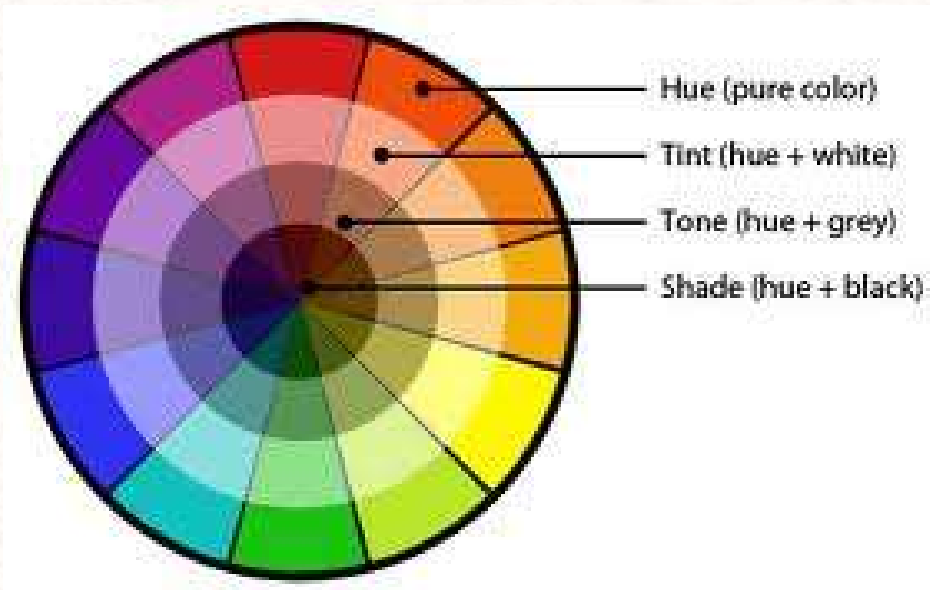
Warm Colors: Vivid and Energetic; Tend to advance in a space

Cool Colors: Give an impression of calm & create a soothing impression.

White, black and gray are considered to be neutrals.

HUE:

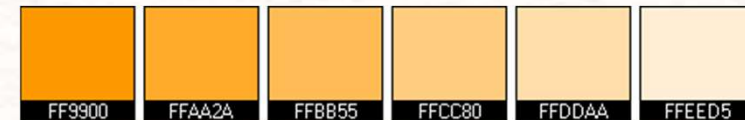
- One of the twelve colors on the color wheel.
- *Pure* color – without tint or shade.



TINTS, SHADES & TONES:

These terms are often used incorrectly, although they describe fairly simple color concepts.

If a color is made lighter by adding white, the result is called a **tint**.



If black is added, the darker version is called a **shade**.



And if gray is added, the result is a different **tone**.



Color Harmony

- Color harmony delivers visual interest and a sense of order....it represents a satisfying balance or unity of colors.
- The color wheel becomes the designer's tool for creating the color harmonies.
- Color harmonies consist of two or more colors with a fixed relation on the color wheel and combinations of these colors are pleasing to the eye.
 - Monochromatic
 - Analogous
 - Complementary (or Direct Complementary)
 - Split-Complementary
 - Triad
 - Tetrad/ Double Complement

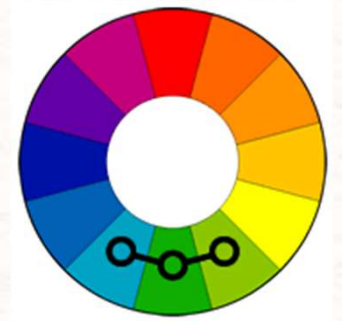
MONOCHROMATIC:

- Monochromatic harmony uses variations in value (tints, tones & shades), lightness and saturation within the same color family.
- Schemes looks clean and elegant.
- Produces a soothing effect, particularly with blue or green hues.



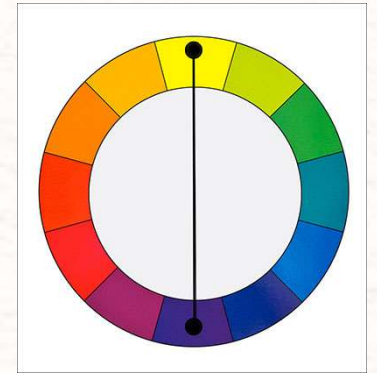
ANALOGOUS:

- Analogous harmonies are based on three or more colors that are adjacent to each other on the color wheel.
- One color is used as a dominant color; others are used to enrich the scheme.
- Similar to monochromatic schemes but with more distinction.



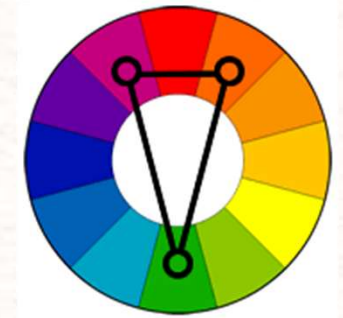
COMPLEMENTARY:

- Complementary colors are two colors that are opposite each other on the color wheel.
- Scheme produces best results when a warm color is used with a cool color – like red and blue-green.



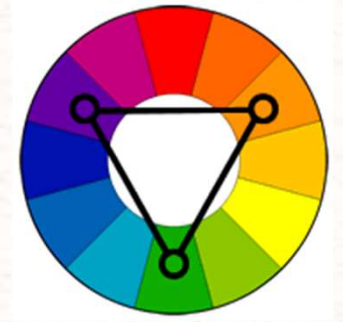
SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY:

- A Split-Complementary color scheme results from one color paired with two colors on either side of the original color's direct complement.
- Scheme contains three colors.



TRIADIC:

- Triad harmonies uses three colors equally spaced around the color wheel.
- The scheme is commonly used due to the strong visual contrast it offers while retaining harmony and color richness.
- Not as contrasting as the complementary scheme; it offers a more balanced, harmonious aesthetic.



TETRADIC/ DOUBLE COMPLEMENTARY:

- Tetrad combinations are made up of four hues equal distance from one another, forming a square or rectangle on the color wheel.
- The most varied of the color harmonies, however, if all hues are used in equal amounts it is hard to harmonize and can appear unbalanced.
- One color is often chosen to serve as the dominant color, subduing the others.

