

ABC INTERIOR DESIGN CONSULTANT

Basic Guidelines in Decorating

Whether you are decorating a room in your home or your office there are three basic guiding principles you must consider if you want to achieve success. They are the function, the mood and the sense of harmony you would like to have.

FUNCTION

The starting point for creating a successful room is deciding on its function. Take for example, the living room, what is its function? It is generally accepted that a living room is a place of conversation; it may be also used for quiet reading, as well as for entertainment.

If it is to be a place of conversation then the furniture layout and the other elements in the room should be conducive to friendly conversation; the chairs should be arranged facing one another so that a group can sit and talk together. For more intimate conversation then the furniture conversation chairs may be placed closer together. To facilitate quiet reading there should be a comfortable chair in one corner of the room accompanied by a table and a reading lamp. If its purpose is primarily for entertaining, all chairs should have a table service where hosts and guests can easily and comfortably handle refreshments.

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MOOD

A successful room expresses a particular mood; it maybe sophisticated, rustic¹, sleek, rugged, modern, traditional, cool, warm, urban or country. Whatever the mood or style desired, it can be achieved by the combination of furniture, fabric, colour and lighting fixtures in the room.

HARMONY

Harmony refers to the opportunities of all elements used in decorating. Three kinds of harmonies are important.

Scale: There should be harmony in scale. A queen-sized² should not be placed in a tiny bedroom.

Quality: Every element should be harmonious in quality. This means in that, for example, an expensive chair should not be placed in a low-budget living room.

Colour: Vibrant colour, for example, purple and yellow that go well together are quite appropriate for a modern setting but would be “wrong” for a country style setting.

¹ Having qualities ascribed to country life or people.

² The standard size of a queen sized bed is 153x204 cm.