CHAPTER 18

TITLE: INTERIOR DECORATION IN MODERN TRENDS

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INTRODUCTION

Interior decoration may be defined as the art of decorating a room so that it is attractive, easy to use and functions well with the existing architecture. The goal of interior decoration is to provide a certain "feel" for the room; it encompasses applying wallpaper, soft furnishes, painting wall and other surfaces, choosing furniture and fittings, such as light fixtures and providing other decorations for the areas such as paintings and sculptures. Interior decoration is done professionally by interior decorators, it is considered a design filed.

Interior decorations refer to the decorating and furnishing of interior spaces. It deals with all aspects of lighting, colour, texture, paint, furniture purchase and placement, flooring selection and installation, fabric installations, windows treatments, and accessories. An interior decorator is charged with applying or updating the finishes and elements that will be included within a room space. The whole objective of interior decoration is to make a house aesthetically pleasing and at the same time, unique.

History of Interior Decoration

Interior decoration actually dates way back to ancient times when homes first came into existence. However, interior design really started in the 19th century and changes have happened in lightening like fashion since then. Here is a brief look at the history of home interior design metamorphosed to what we have in this modern time.

In ancient times, there is evidence that interior design was important to the Egyptians and Romans. Of course, at this point in the history of interior design, it was restricted to the very wealthy.

From the Romans, we have evidence that they carefully planned their rooms around the way that they would be used, which is a key part of modern interior design. Wealthy Romans, for

instance, would have separate living rooms for summer and winter seasons, designed based on optional comfort during the warm and cold months. Both the Romans and Egyptians, of course, did take some care to participate in interior decorating as well as another important feature in interior design.

The next major development in the history of interior decoration design came in the Italian Renaissance, when all arts experienced a surge in popularity, with wealthy patrons giving money to support the arts. It was at this time that interior decorating and interior design began to resemble what it came to be in later years in the history of interior design. Rooms began to be decorated, designed around function and form, with some of the most prominent examples being the lavish interior designs of the palace at Versailles, an expression of royal decadence. Still at this point in the history of interior design, such things were well out of reach of the average person.

The change in the history of interior design that made it accessible to the common man was the industrial revolution, which both made cheaper goods possible for home decoration it also created an economic revolution in the United States as middle-class families soon had extra money to acquire luxury things such as interior design. During this time interior design magazines were developed, and the profession of interior decoration designer really took hold. Today of course, it is its own industry with billions of dollars being spent each year in design and decorating.

Contemporary Interior Decoration

Contemporary styles are international in character. Designers and manufacturers are cooperating to produce low-cost furnishings material for small rooms, combining ease of upkeep and functionalism. Units permitting maximum use of wall space are designed on a modular system to allow flexible combinations. Lighting is emphasized, and arrangement is based on a correlation of scale, balance, comfort, pattern and colour. They also emphasized that around the world, contemporary fine art is being used in businesses, restaurants, hotels and other hospitality services. It's decorative and comes in many styles to fit in with any type of decoration. Hotels interior decorators have especially grown fond of this type of art because it blends so well with a variety of vacation spots and hotel themes - the beach, mountains, and everywhere in between! When guests arrive into the hotel, they want to receive a nice "welcome". One way they can be welcomed is to hang several pieces of artwork in the hotel lobby.

Principles of interior decoration

Interior decoration is the organized arrangement of one or more elements and principles (e.g. lines colour or texture) for a purpose. Awareness of the factors and principles in decoration is the first step in creating successful visual compositions. These principles, which may overlap, are used in all visual design fields, including graphic design, industrial design, architecture and fine art.

The principles govern the relationships of the elements used and organize the composition as a whole. Successful design incorporates the use of the principles and elements to serve the designer's purpose and visual goals. There are no rules for their use. The designer's purpose and intent drives the decisions made to achieve appropriate scale and proportion, as well as the degree of harmony between the elements. Great home decoration and interior design may improve the quality of life if it has a healthy (healthy breathing air) and safe environment.

The principles of design consist of:

- **Unity:** unity refers to a sense that everything in the artwork belongs there, and makes a whole piece. It is achieved by the use of balance, repetition and/or design harmony. Two objects like a living room and a dining room can be unified by giving these similar features like a shared hardwood floor design. Unity helps the objects like furniture in having and looks like it belongs together
- **Variety:** The use of dissimilar elements, which create interest and uniqueness. Variety like a painting or some reflective wood panels added on a plain wall may be used to reduce monotony. Helps infuse colour to a house decor to attempt to increase design beauty. Decor interest usually increases the visual appeal of architecture and interior design.
- **Functionality:** A hotel decor must have good functionality. For example, a bedroom must function well as a place to sleep and store clothing as well as looking nice. It must have a healthy and safe environment.
- **Attraction:** Attraction is how much an observer is attracted to a particular design such as a particular style of a house. It may involve studying the psychology why certain people are attracted more to a particular decor than other designs. Considering the psychological effects of colour, shapes, design and design style in designing a home. In interior design, styling the design is important; the designer should make a home style that the prospective owner will like. Remember when selling a design like a house, you are not just selling a house but also a lifestyle. (Kilmer R. et al 1992)

Types of Interior Decoration

There are many different styles that can be used for the interior decor of a home and the decor that is used often reflects the functional use of the premises. Hotel interiors require a lot of attention, conforming to the look to be given to the hotel.

However, a home decor may not be elaborate as that of a hotel but should be beautiful, classic and conform to required colour scheme. Hotel decor is given utmost importance keeping the kind of guests in mind. Comfort and impression are the keyword in hotel decor. The furniture and the interiors need to be comfortable and beautiful so that guests feel when they visit hotels. Most hotels want to be attractive to their customers who will in most cases be strangers to the hotel as they are more than likely going to be travellers and tourists. There should be concentration in order to create a good impression as their reputation is what the difference between the hotel succeeding or failing.

Elements and Factors to be considered when planning interior decoration

The factors to be considered when choosing home/hotel interior decorating materials, creation and ensuring success of a piece of art. These are elements of design and art. These elements serve as tools conveying basic ideas in home furnishings. They are valuable aids in helping to decide how, when and what to be done to achieve colour, texture and pattern harmonisation in home decor.

- **Colour:** colour is the most expressive element of art and is seen by the way light reflects on a surface. When choosing colours for any establishment or home it needs to be remembered that there are certain architectural and psychological aspects of colour, thus colours can substantially alter the apparent size or shape of a room, or add to its warmth, cheerfulness, peace and quiet, e.g. reds, oranges and yellow are warm and stimulating; pastel shades are cooler and more restful; green is cool and has soothing pleasing effect; pale blue is fresh and cool.

A colour wheel may be used to help in selecting the final colour scheme. A colour wheel is the spectrum bent into a circle. It is a useful tool for organizing colours. The colour wheel describes the relationships between colours. It is laid out so that any two primary colours (red, yellow, blue) are separated by the secondary colours (orange, violet, green).

There are primary colours, secondary colours and tertiary colours.

(a) Primary colours consist of red, blue and yellow. Secondary consist of orange, purple and green.

(b) Secondary colour is made by mixing two primary colours on either sides of the colour wheel.

(c) Tertiary colours consist of red-orange, red-purple, blue-purple, blue-green, yellow-orange and yellow-green. Tertiary colours are made by mixing a primary and secondary

(d) Complementary colours are colours that are opposite to each other on the colour wheel

- **Space:** Space is the area provided for a particular purpose. It may have two dimensions (length and width), such as a floor or it maybe have three dimensions (length, breadth and height). Space includes the background, foreground and middle ground. Space refers to the distances or areas around, between or within components of a piece. The importance of space is often overlooked. The use of an optimum amount of furniture creates empty spaces for movement, gives room a sense of freedom and can affect the moods created by any scheme of interior decoration. Space can be increased by using few partitions, providing larger openings between rooms, providing glass walls and also by building of porches, verandas and similar extensions. Often in small cramped rooms, the affective use of mirrors on opposing walls creates an illusion of space so that the room appears larger than its true size.

- **Texture:** Texture is the way the surface of an object actually feels for example fabrics, room accessories: sandpaper, cotton balls, tree bark, puppy fur, etc. In the artistic world, we refer to two types of texture: tactile and implied. Tactile texture (real texture) is the way the surface of an object actually feels. Example, the surface on an object look like it feels. Example, texture may look rough, fizzy, and gritty but cannot actually be felt. This type of texture is used by artist when drawing or painting.

Given below is the list of words which are often used to describe textures of various surfaces:

(a) Blistered, bristly, bumpy;

(b) Coarse, corrugated, cracked, creepy, crinkly, crisp, crumpled, curly;

(c) Delicate, dense, downy, dull, dusty;

(d) Feathery, filmy, fine, firm, flexible, foamy, frilly, furrowed, fussy;

(e) Glassy, glossy, granular, gritty, grooved;

(f) Hairy;

(g) Lacy, leathery, lumpy;

(h) Marbled, messy, metallic;

(i) Perforated, pierced, plaited, pleated, polished, porous, powdery;

(j) Quilted, quiet;

(k) Ribbed, ridged, rippled, rough, rubbery;

(l) Sandy, satiny, scaly, shaggy, shiny, silky, smocked, smooth, solid, spongy, stiff;

(m) Thorny, tough, twisted;

(n) Unpolished, velvety, waxy, woody, wavy, woolly.

Texture gives characteristic and beauty to objects, interiors, buildings and is even important in landscape gardening. The roughness or smoothness of a material affects its capacity to reflect or absorb light. Students of design and interior decorators are aware of this and also of importance of combining textures suitably. Coarse texture and dainty fabrics do not blend well, while fine texture and pastel tints are harmonious. This explains why even in the clothes we wear it is important to combine the right kinds of fabrics in appropriate colours.

In furnishing a room, the homemaker needs to remain aware of the texture of upholstery she buys and how it will blend with the wooden surfaces of the furniture, the floor coverings and the walls.

- **Value**: Value is an element of art that refers to the relationship between light and dark on a surface or object and also helps with form. It gives objects depth and perception value; it is also referred to as tone. Basically shading.
- **Lines**: Lines are basis elements of design and contribute greatly towards the overall mood created in any arrangement. Lines have been associated with the position of human body. Horizontal lines suggest repose, steadiness, tranquillity and solid stability. They are found in tables, low backed chairs and book-shelves and balance the severity of vertical lines. Vertical lines suggest life, activity and dignity. They may be severe, strong, and direct and disciplined in the effect they may produce. They create a feeling of height. The doorways and draperies in a room give it strength and height. Diagonal lines suggest movement and force. They disturb the discipline of vertical lines and the solidity of horizontal lines. They may lend a feeling of a sophistication and refinement of a room thereby arousing interest. In the home they are often founding staircase and in some fabrics. Curved lines add grace and flexibility to a scheme of furniture or furnishing. They achieve a joyful, subtle and rich effect. Yet in order to be truly effective they must be designed carefully. They are often seen in tied-back window curtains and legs and corners of furniture.

Form: Forms and lines are closely related. It is a combination of lines that gives a rise to forms. Though hard to define, form is something solid and tangible. It is an important element in home furnishing. Without giving due consideration to the harmony of form in any room, an entire arrangement may become pointless. Two examples may make it clear.

i. A beautiful shaped well polished mahogany table needs to be displayed against a light background of blue-green or against pastel shades. Its beauty would be lost against floral

prints or dark material.

ii. The combination of furniture of different types in a single room needs to be well-planned so that materials, shapes and styles do not clash.

Forms in a room should carry the eye from one object to another and this becomes pleasing when the shapes are well distributed and balance each other. Generally dominance of one kind of form or shape unifies the total effect.

The form of any object should suit its function i.e. the use to which it is put. Similarly the form of an object is influenced by the material out of which the object is made.

Patterns: Forms put together make up a pattern. Pattern in a room may be seen in designs and motifs repeated on cloth, in the arrangement of pictures on a wall, in the arrangement of colour and decorative items and also in the arrangement of furniture itself. However, patterns (prints or designs) refer generally to additional enrichment added to any surface. The judicious use of pattern lends liveliness and interest in a room. Generally pattern should be used for about 1/4 of the total surface area. If the walls and carpets are plain, then draperies and upholstery may be patterned.

Harmony: To be in harmony means to be in arrangement and to be pleasant. This relates to the effect or impression of unity created in design. It embraces five aspects of design viz. Shapes, sizes, texture, idea and colour. It usually refers to the repetition of anyone of the aspects listed in a design. Repetition should not induce monotony. This could be reduced by introducing contrast occasionally in shape, size and texture. Monotony due to repetition of colour could be reduced by way of accent.

Proportion: The principle of proportion, also known as the 'law of relationships' refers to how an object, idea or colour is related to other with regard to size, numbers, quantity etc. It is the ratio of comparative size or of one thing considered alongside another. The ratio considered most appropriate for interior decoration is 1:5 and 1:3. This ratio should be observed in designing of furniture, amount of colour space, and structure. Mounting of pictures should depict good proportion with regard to size and design of frame chosen. Space allowed on all the sides of picture mounted should be such that stability is present.

Balance: A balanced arrangement provides a sense of restfulness and repose. It refers to steadiness and calmness - the sum required to make two sides of an account to be or appear equal. This is attained by grouping shapes and colour around a central point in such a way that the general effect has the semblance of equilibrium.

Balance is of three types:

i. Formal Balance: Here objects of equal interest and weight (rather identical) are placed at equal distance from a central point of interest.

ii. Informal Balance: Here objects are not placed at equal distance, but placed such that they appear to be in equilibrium. Lighter or smaller objects are placed closer to the central point, while heavier and bigger objects are placed further away.

iii. Optical or obvious balance: This is a slight variation of formal balance, when objects which are not identical in shape and colour, but are placed equidistant from the central point, as they have equal value of interest and attraction.

Rhythm: Rhythm as a principle is defined as an organized movement used to create interest and movement, and reduce monotony. Variations are had in the repetition of either colour, design or size, that is, they may be repeated alternatively or one after another. It could be simple repetition, continuous or in progression of size. Line movement could be created where the eye moves from one point to another finally resting on a special object of interest.

Design: A design is defined as an orderly arrangement of lines, forms, colours, textures etc creating beauty. Designs are of two types:

1. Structural design.
2. Decorative design.

Structural design: It denotes the structure or construction of objects. It is made up of size, form, colour and texture. Basic requirements are:

1. That in addition to bring beautiful, it must be suited to the purpose it is supposed to serve.
2. That it be simple.
3. That it be well proportioned.
4. That it be suited to the material of which it is made and to the processes which will follow in making it.

Decorative design: A decorative design is achieved by lines, colours or materials that have been applied to a structural design for the purpose of adding a richer quality to it. Basic requirements are:

1. The decoration should be in moderation.
2. The decoration should be placed at structural points, to strengthen the shape of the object.
3. There should be enough background space to give an effect of simplicity and dignity to the design.
4. Surface patterns should cover the surface quietly.

5. The background shape should be as carefully studied and as beautify as the patterns placed against them.

Colour Combinations In Interior Decor

Colour, a basic element of design, be it structural or decorative, compromises of:

1. Hue or basic colour such as red, blue, etc.

2. Value or shade, referring to the darkness or lightness of a colour. White added to a colour generally produces what is referred to as a tint, and black added to a colour produces shades.

3. Intensity which includes the strength or purity of a colour, viz. bright blue reddish brown etc.

The Colour Wheel or the Prang's Colour System

Primary colours. All colours are created out of combinations of three primary colours: red, yellow and blue, with white or black added.

Secondary colours. By combining the primary colours, we get the secondary colours: orange (yellow + red), Green (blue + yellow), Purple (red + blue).

Tertiary or Intermediate colours. These colours are obtained by mixing primary and secondary colours.

By combining in this way, it is possible to make a colour wheel of an infinite number of colours.

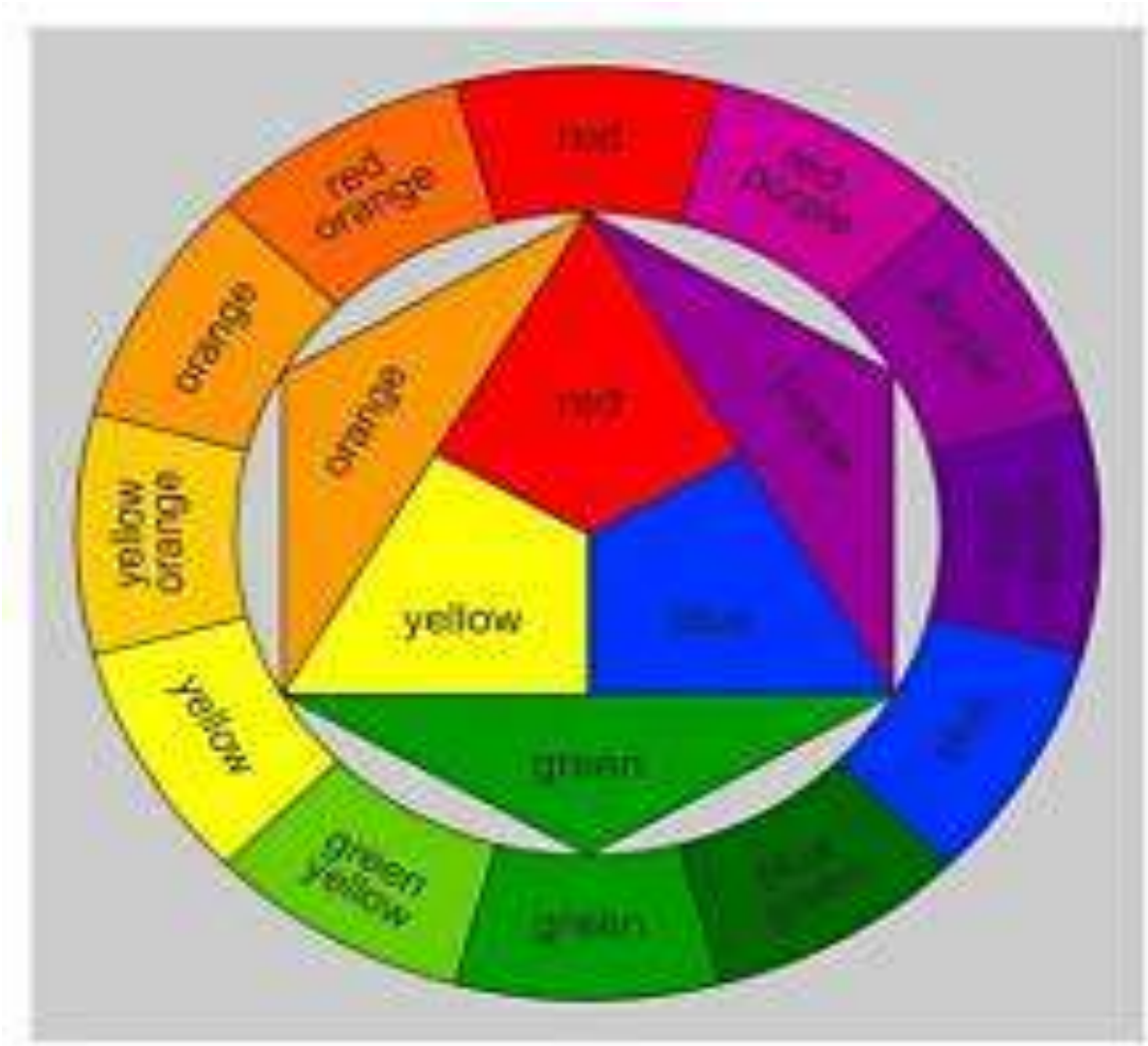


Fig1. Colour Wheel diagram

Colour Wheel

Colour Schemes

The basis for choice of colours and colour schemes are many. One can select a pleasing combination of colours from a wall paper, or fabric, an oriental rug, a flower, a scene or even a picture in a magazine. It is advisable to let one colour predominate and limit the whole scheme to two or three more colours with their values and shades. Some rules for choice of colour are:

1. Always choose colours that please you personally. Choose a subtle and calm colours if you prefer a restful atmosphere and intense colours if you like liveliness and cheer. That is if it is your personal home. But if for clients for example, wedding ceremony, the colour chosen by

the client should be dominant.

2. Don't be afraid of colour. Experimenting on paper will give you confidence. But remember larger batches of colour are more intense. Try out various colour combinations and then "Live with them", that is, look at them frequently before you actually start buying.

3. Colours of walls, etc. should harmonize with furniture, draperies and carpets.

4. Colours chosen should be colourful and definite and not dull and wishy-washy.

5. Generally, darkest colours are used lowest in the room.

6. If walls are favoured by dark and bright colours, then these should be softened by light colours in furnishings, and remember dark walls look richer by night.

7. Ceiling may be white or natural or tinted with the colour of the walls of the room.

8. Use the dullest tones for the largest areas i.e. floors, wall and ceilings, next brightest for large pieces of furniture, and the brightest colours for small accessories.

The use of colour helps to achieve the following three effects:

1. Contrast. Here different colours are used as foils or background, to flatter each other.

2. Blend. Here, various shades and tint of the rug colour for the walls, upholstery etc.

3. Accent. Here gradations of one colour, plus one sharp contrasting colour for shock value is used. This contrast effect may be obtained by use of complementary colours, light and dark shades, bright and dull, warm and cool colours, pure and greyed down colours.

Colour Harmonies

In making a colour scheme, the following combinations may be used effectively:

I. **Monochromatic Colour Harmony**. This harmony is achieved by the use of different tints or shades of hue or colour. It is a colour harmony of the judicious and harmonious use of different values of a single colour. This colour harmony is often termed as monotonous and an antiseptic combination. It is difficult to use; effectiveness if achieved, provides a subtle and glamorous background. Here the major colour is allowed to predominate, and the sequence of shades and tints is gradual. Sometimes, it is usual to add a small amount of a complementary or contrasting colour for accent. It is suitable for a very vivid personality.

II. **Analogous Colour Harmony**. This colour harmony implies the use of colours lying close to each other on the colour wheel. Such colours harmonize well if not widely separated in spectrum, or else they may clash creating restlessness and stimulation. Effectiveness and use of judicious amount of colours lying adjacent to each other on the colour wheel imply dignity and spaciousness.

III. **Complementary Colour Harmony**. This colour harmony is achieved by the use of two colours, which lie directly opposite each other on the colour wheel; for example - yellow and purple or red and green when used together. However, judgement must be used as to the quantities and position of colours used. One colour looks good in the presence of a small amount of its complement rather than in equal portion. The best rule to follow is to use the complement of colour sparingly so as set of the original colour.

IV. Split Complementary Colour Harmony. This harmony involves the use of three colours. It consists of the use of a single hue, used along with two hues lying adjacent on either side of its true complement on the colour wheel. Thus the true complement is omitted; for example, instead of using blue with its complement orange, this harmony implies the use of blue with red orange (lying to left of orange) and yellow orange (lying to right of orange), the true complement of blue.

V. **Triad Colour Harmony**. Here three colours are used together to get a harmonious effect. It is a harmony of colours which are at points of an equilateral triangle, superimposed on the colour wheel such as green-orange and purple. By moving the triangle on the wheel, the two triadic harmonizing colours of any hue can be determined. For example, if the triangle is moved so that one point is at yellow-green, it is found that red-orange and blue-purple are the colour to be combined with yellow-green for triadic colour harmony.

Psychological Properties and Significance of Colour

In addition to the proper combination of colour, a prime factor in setting the atmosphere of your home will be the psychological properties of the colours chosen. So the choice of a colour not only reflects your personality and taste but also creates an emotional feeling about your home. Listed below are the psychological properties of some of the commonly used colours:

Red-Orange. Heat, stimulation, activity, richness, splendour and dignity.

Pink. Daintiness, gaiety and animation.

Yellow-yellow green. Dryness, crispness, relaxation, warmth, light and cheer.

Green, blue. Coldness, spaciousness, passivity and tranquility.

Violet. Coolness, limpness, dullness, daintiness, femininity and reservation.

Brown. Warmth.

Decorative Use and Effect of Colour

Red: Stimulating or cheering to the melancholy or depressed. It compels attention and bright. Use in small quantities in dining room, library and kitchen.

Blue: Soothing to the nervous system, cool and soothing to behold. It portrays royalty and elegance.

Yellow: Bright and highly stimulating, cheerful, elegant. It radiates splendour, radiance and brightness. Use in small quantity when light is poor.

Green: Bright and soothing to temperament. Symbolic of serenity and portrays the natural colour of life, green herbs.

Orange: Associated with life, wellbeing and energy; avoid bright orange in a large hall.

Brown: Depressing if used a lot, best combined with orange or gold; use sparingly to avoid drabness in living room, hall and library.

Purple: Associated with royalty, heroism and passion, mystery, pomp and gorgeousness. It has a soothing influence. It must be used sparingly.

Pink: Slightly stimulating. Could be used in hall, bedroom and nursery.

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