

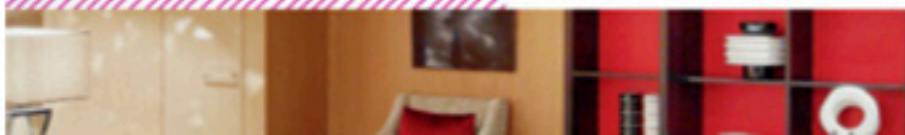


INTERIOR FOCUS



AN INTRODUCTION TO
BASIC INTERIOR
DESIGN ELEMENTS AND
PRINCIPLES TO ACHIEVE
SUPERIOR RESULTS

BY KATE ST JAMES, FDIA



BALANCE

Balance refers to the distribution of visual weight in a room. There are three styles of balance: symmetrical, asymmetrical and radial.

Symmetrical balance is most often found in traditional or formal interiors and is characterised by the same or similar objects being placed in the same positions on either side of a vertical axis, such as two bookcases either side of a fireplace or two identical side tables and lamps either side of a bed or sofa.



Symmetry is also found in the human form and we are most comfortable with this type of arrangement. Asymmetrical balance is achieved with an odd number of and/or mismatched elements. It tends to be used in contemporary interiors and is not always easy to achieve. We are not always comfortable with asymmetry and this is where the expression "feeling off balance" comes from.

Radial balance is when all the elements of a design are arranged around a centre point such as a spiral staircase, circular rug, circular sofa or round dining table and chairs.

ABOVE Everything in this elegant bedroom, designed by Massimo Speroni, is beautifully proportioned, from the use of colour to the size and shape of the artwork, cushions and furniture. massimointeriors.com.au Photography Stu Morley
LEFT This project by Greg Natale is an example of perfect symmetrical balance. gregnatale.com