

## Balance + harmony out of Chaos

### **MY DESIGN DEFINITION OF DESIGN:**

Making your eye move through the quilt and being comfortable while there.

### **OUR TOOLS:**

#### **Value**

1. Your eye goes to contrast!
2. It takes DARK to show LIGHT.
3. DARK comes forward, LIGHT recedes.

#### **Color**

1. Your eye looks for more of the same.
2. Warm Color Come forward, cool recedes.
3. Color is less important than value

#### **Contrast**

1. Your eye goes first to contrast
2. Contrast is more than dark and light
3. Decide what is most the important area in you quilt, put your greatest contrast there.

#### **Magic number and shape**

1. Work in uneven numbers, think 3's
2. Magic shape is the triangle.
3. The third two-thirds rule

#### **Unity**

1. By grouping items of interest you increase the impact of the focal point
2. Make a busy and confusing quilt more pleasing.
3. They can complement and play off each other.

#### **Line**

1. The eye follows lines.
2. Can be helpful to help move the eye through the quilt.
3. Be careful that the lines do not lead you off the quilt.

#### **Repetition**

1. If colors and items are repeated in uneven numbers it is more interesting.
2. It helps to achieve harmony.

## GOOD DESIGN PART 2

### *Applying what we learned*

#### **FABRIC:**

When building a stash, you need all values and scales. Not just the pretty mediums that draw us the minute we walk into a store.

#### **Focal Fabric, Applique**

- a. Don't up stage it.
- b. Can determine your color scheme and theme.
- c. Choose fabrics from several different scales for interest
- d.** Keep in mind what you want your quilt to say.
- e. When trying to duplicate fabrics in a quilt book or sample, look closely at the colors, is it a toned or pure blue, green or purple blue etc.
- f. Primary colors will always go together, likewise pastels

#### **QUILTS TYPES :**

##### **All Blocks the same:**

1. Watch your DK./Lt. Contrast so that the design of the block shows. ***Mirror for secondary designs.***

##### **SAMPLER QUILTS :**

1. Keeping a smaller value range within the block can make it less busy.
2. Use something that is consistent throughout the blocks to add unity and balance.

##### *When someone else makes the blocks*

1. Sometimes hard to balance. Look for a way to make the triangle.
2. Consider sashing as ways to tie them together

Make the whole more important so that the individual blocks are less important

##### **Scrap Quilts:**

1. All Scrap
  - A. Needs to have a strong pattern with light to dark contrast or an over all with no design such as a one patch quilt.
  - B. If you are doing a Dark-light only scrap quilt, always use anything med. consistently as a Dk. Or Lt.
2. Planned or partly planned
  - a. **Pulling fabric**, when one doesn't go, either take out or put more in to make it live there and hold hands. If using lots of colors, use lots of colors
  - b.** The colors you use can give the brain something to lock onto and identify very quickly as well as make a statement. Baby, Masculine, season, etc.

##### **Sorting,**

Quickly sort into two piles, Dk./ Lt., then sort each of those into dk./lt. Again which should give you three piles, Dk, Med. and light. Continue for more piles.

#### **PUTTING THE BLOCKS TOGETHER:**

Place your blocks on the design wall, Walk away. View them several times for awhile. Take note of the ones that stand out first, looking for the three that you see first. Place these in your triangle. Find the next three and do the same. Continue to balance and distribute your color, value or focal points. Remember the uneven number rule. If you have four and don't want to make another, you can sometimes work two close together to read as one point on the triangle.

### **SASHING:**

1. Don't over play your blocks. Just because you haven't used a color in your focal fabric does not mean that that is the best choice for the sashing. They are supporters unless that is the planned focal point of your quilt. They can add a lot of interest, help to unite sampler or different blocks but sometimes don't get the forethought they deserve.

1. Remember that darks come forward.
2. They can divide or connect

### **CORNER STONES:**

Using different colors and values can add interest. Spots are not always good.

### **INNER BORDER**

1. Acts like the little inner mat on a framed picture
2. The color you put there will bring out that color in the quilt.
3. Can be used to stop a busy quilt center.
  - a. When the quilt body is warm, use cool and use warm for a cool one.
  - b. Since this is often a strong color, make it the smaller one
4. If the body and border is busy, a plainer mid sized border will separate them.
5. When there is a large value change in different parts of your quilt, a mid value border is usually the best and helps to tie it together.

### **FINAL BORDER:**

Needs to complete, strengthen quilt statement without overpowering.

1. So many design opportunities with the borders.

### **BINDING:**

1. Can be used to contain the quilt and bring you back to the focal point or quilt body.
2. Ask yourself, "Do I need to draw another line?" If not, use something that is the same value as the border.

### **THREAD**

Keeping in mind that dark/bright comes forward and light/cool recedes, and you don't want your stitches to show, choose lighter and/or toned down thread. If you want it to, do the opposite.

Thank you for being so attentive and hope you have learned something helpful. I don't claim to be an expert but glad to help where I can. Don't hesitate to ask but in the end it is your quilt and you are the creator. If you like it it's good, if it bothers you, get help. The more you learn the more you will see previous faults. That's called growing and learning. When something doesn't feel right, go through these handouts and see if you can trouble shoot with that. Remember how your eye works. Always remember what you are trying to say, don't let the supporting actors over act the star and give your eye a place to rest. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

Remember, **Good Design = Harmony and Balance or making your eye move through your work and enjoying the ride.**

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