

LINE



A **line** is a mark between two points. There are various types of lines, from straight to squiggly to curved and more. Lines can be used for a wide range of purposes: stressing a word or phrase, connecting content to one another, creating patterns and much more.

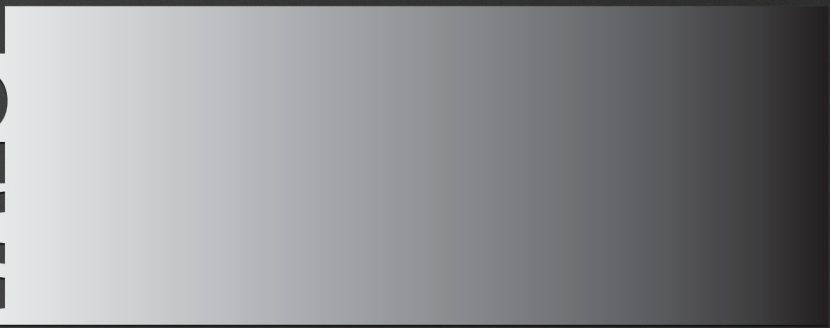
SHAPE



Height + width = shape. We all learned basic shapes in grade school - triangles, squares, circles and rectangles. Odd or lesser seen shapes can be used to attract attention.

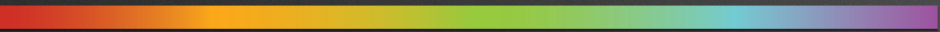
There are three basic types of shape: **geometric** (triangles, squares, circles etc), **natural** (leaves, animals, trees, people), and **abstracted** (icons, stylizations, graphic representations etc).

VALUE



Value is how light or how dark an area looks. A gradient, shown above, is a great way to visualize value - everything from dark to white, all the shades in-between, has a value. Use value to create depth and light; to create a pattern; to lead the eye; or to emphasize.

COLOR



Color is used to generate emotions, define importance, create visual interest and more. CMYK (cyan/magenta/yellow/black) is **subtractive**; RGB (red/green/blue) is **additive**.

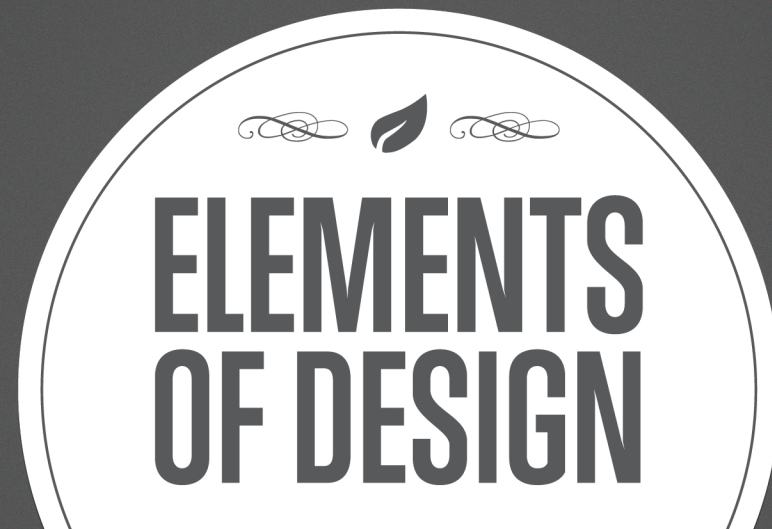
Some colors are **warm and active** (orange, red); some are **cool and passive** (blue, purple).

There are various **color types** (primary to analogous) and **relationships** (monochromatic to triad) worth learning more about as well.

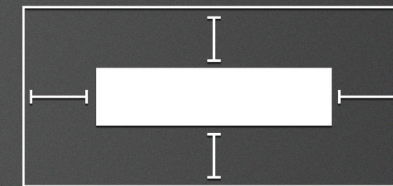
TEXTURE



Texture relates to the surface of an object; the look or feel of it. Concrete has a rough texture; drywall has a smooth and subtle texture. Using texture in design is a great way to add depth and visual interest. Printed material has actual, textile texture while screen material has implied texture.



quick reference sheet



Space is the area around or between elements in a design. It can be used to separate or group information. Use it effectively to: give the eye a rest; define importance; lead the eye through a design and more.

SIZE



Size is how small or large something is: a small shirt vs. an extra large shirt, for example. Use size to define importance, create visual interest in a design (via contrasting sizes), attract attention and more.

SPACE

