

Module 6: "Piet Mondrian: 'Neo-plastic Art'"

Lecture 17: "Composition and Space"

The Lecture Contains:

- Composition and Space
- Piet Mondrian and Minimalism in Design Approach

◀ Previous Next ▶

Module 6: "Piet Mondrian: 'Neo-plastic Art'"

Lecture 17: "Composition and Space"

Composition and Space



Plates5. Compositional structure of Guernica and the painting

Picasso's Guernica (Plate5) is one of the most researched works raised various social issues. Apart from the social issues the work is example of one of the finest paintings of Picasso. "Guernica has been the subject of more books than any other work in modern art and it is often described as..."the most important work of art of the twentieth century", yet its meanings have to this day eluded some of the most renowned scholars."

(Ref: http://web.org.uk/picasso/secret_guernica.html ; June 4, 2012)



Plates6. Piet Mondrian's Composition and structural elements

(Ref. Plates6 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet_Mondrian ; June 4, 2012)

Mondrian's above paintings (plates6) shows the steps of underlying abstract structural elements. The steps leading to abstraction reveals the inner structural element of composition.

Simplifying the decorative qualities and revealing the inner structure is the essence of *Pure Plastic Art* form.

Module 6: "Piet Mondrian: 'Neo-plastic Art'"

Lecture 17: "Composition and Space"

About Space

Before discuss about color and its relationship we need to clarify the concept of 'space'. Most of us encounter with two kinds of space- Two Dimension (2-D) and Three Dimension (3-D). Industrial Design deals with both kinds of space. While Visual Communication deals with 2-D Space, Product Design commonly deals with 3-D Space. 2-D design is conceived with in a limited space while 3-D design creates its own space.

Concept of any form has to think in term of space and its relationship with various components. Greek architecture and sculptures exhibited complex relationships with the help of 'ratios and proportions' of forms in space. In modern architecture, the use of space has created the new grammar or idiom. The Modern Architectural in term of space produced some of the following principles-

Space is the area between and around objects. The space around objects is often called negative space; negative space has shape. Space can also refer to the feeling of depth. Real space is three-dimensional; in visual art when we can create the feeling or illusion of depth we call it space.



Plates7. Barbara Hepworth

(Source: <http://www.barbarahepworth.org.uk/> ; June 4, 2012)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barbara_Hepworth_June_4,_2012

Barbara Hepworth (Plate7) is one of the finest sculptors of 20th C who tried to explore the relationship between 'mass and void'. Industrial Design (product design) has to deal with 3D volume through 'mass and void' exercises. Eventually, the proportionate application of 'mass and void' would generate the essence of aesthetic beauty. Hepworth's sculptures exhibit true examples of such aesthetic beauty.

Module 6: "Piet Mondrian: 'Neo-plastic Art'"

Lecture 17: "Composition and Space"

Piet Mondrian and Minimalism in Design Approach

Piet Mondrian's minimalist work in *Pure Plastic Art* has influenced the entire modern profession of Industrial Design. Following are some of the examples of Minimalist work in various fields of Industrial Design (Product Design and Visual Communication):



Plate8. A Minimalist Poster Design
'Tribute to Michael Jackson'



Plate 8 B



Plate8 C. Van Doesburg
1929-30

(Source: http://www.google.co.in/search?hl=en&q=minimalist+bauhaus+posters+design&bav=on.2.or.r_gc.r_pw.r_qf.cf.osb&biw=1350&bih=555&um=1&ie=UTF-8&tbm=isch&source=og&sa=N&tab=wi&ei=A1fMT_aglsHPrQfx_Km_Dg ; June 4, 2012

<http://www.google.co.in/search?q=Minimalist+Poster+design&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=alfMT6r2ClnXrQfm8PXNDg&sqj=2&ved=0CFcQsAQ&biw=1350&bih=555> ; June 4, 2012)

The above minimalist poster design (plates8) illustrates the simplicity in term of color and form that evokes the essence of modern design concept. It became the philosophy of modern era to appreciate the aesthetic beauty of such approach.

- Minimalism describes movements in various forms of art and design, especially visual art and music, where the work is stripped down to its most fundamental features. 'Straight line' became the new form of aesthetic appeal. "Minimalism describes movements in various forms of art and design, especially visual art and music, where the work is set out to expose the essence, essentials or identity of a subject through eliminating all non-essential forms, features or concepts."

(Ref. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Minimalism> ; June 4, 2012)

- WWII introduced the philosophy through The *Bauhaus*. In late 1960s and early 1970s in the USA Minimalism became one of the most powerful movements. Along with art, music and literature adopted the new movement as well. It is an abstract art movement, also popularly known as, ABC Art.

Module 6: "Piet Mondrian: 'Neo-plastic Art'"

Lecture 17: "Composition and Space"

- The philosophy of essential form and color attributed to a new inspiration not only in the art for but also in Industrial Design. The *Bauhaus* became the cauldron of Neoplastic Art and Design philosophy. It resulted in finding a new form of aesthetic beauty through 'straight line'. Naturally such philosophy greatly influenced the field of Industrial Design. Industrial Design Products.



Plate9 A. Minimalist Painting



Minimalist Sculpture



3D Work

Source: Plate9A <http://www.google.co.in/search?q=minimalist+painting&hl=en&prmd=imvns&tbn=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=zFfMT7bmJcXqAfK0oylDg&sqi=2&ved=0CGAQsAQ&biw=1350&bih=555> ; June 4, 2012

- "...posited on the fundamental principle of the geometry of the straight line, the square, and the rectangle, combined with a strong asymmetricality; the predominant use of pure primary colors with black and white; and the relationship between positive and negative elements in an arrangement of non-objective forms and lines." (Ref. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_Stijl).
- Based on the pure geometric forms compositions are derived through asymmetric arrangements. Interestingly architecture took the first step to integrate the Neoplastic ideal in their work. Discarding the ornamental quality and introducing the minimal forms through straight lines became a new language of aesthetic expression.