Part 2 Design
Element of Color

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Color Schemes

- The way colors are used together in making different combinations of colors.
- Six basic combinations are used in fashion design.
- They are: Monochromatic, Analogous, Complementary, Split-complementary, Triad, and Accented neutral.
School Colors

- Are usually of a complementary schemes, so banners and uniforms look vivid and exciting.
- Be careful of this scheme for daytime clothing.
- Clothes worn together in full strength, these colors can give a real jolt!
- When tints and shades are used they can be sophisticated and pleasing.
Accented Neutral Color Scheme

- This scheme combines white, black, and gray, or sometimes beige with a bright color.
- Example: gray and black striped suit and white shirt with a red necktie or scarf.
- Depending on the type of outfit, the accent can be placed at the best place to show off your body – near the face, shoulders, or around the waist.
Using Colors in Apparel

- Fashion tends to bend the rules a bit, but here are the BEST guidelines to follow in fashion.
- Black – sophisticated – wear for formal occasions.
- Brown – natural and informal.
- Navy – looks good on almost everyone.
- Beige and gray – professional or tailored image. They are quiet and unassuming.
More Fashion Color Guidelines

- White – looks good with all colors.
- Off-white – is better for most people than pure white.
- Red, green, and blue – many tints/shades. These tints and shades are good for almost all occasions.
- Yellow – for casual, fun clothes – not so pleasing with many skin tones.
- Bright colors – fun for active sportswear or as accents with a neutral color.
Neutral and Texture

- Using a color with a neutral makes the color appear brighter.
- White and gray appear brighter when used beside black.
- Texture affects color.
- The look of a color in a corduroy fabric would be different from that of the same hue in satin.
- From a distance the colors in narrow stripes and small plaids will appear blended.
How to Create an Illusion

- Use color to your advantage.
- Dark, cool, and dull colors make form smaller.
- Physical shortcomings can be hidden with cool colors, dark shades, and dull intensities.
- Slimming colors are black, navy blue, dark blue-violet, chocolate brown, and dull dark green.
ILLUSIONS

- Light, warm, and bright colors make a form seem larger.
- They advance and seem to increase the size of the wearer. Such colors are white, yellow, orange, and red.
- If a person is heavy in certain sections, use dark, dull colors in that area.
- Light, bright colors are to be placed on areas that are thin.
More on Illusions

- Light or bright colored shirt is worn with dark, dull pants, the upper part of the body will look larger.
- Attention is drawn by wearing bright colors.
- It is best to use the bright colors in small areas.
- Bright colors are also more easily remembered. You can not wear bright articles of clothing as often as more subdued outfits.
- A single color for an entire outfit makes a person look thinner and taller.
Color Illusions

- Special care when combining two colors in an outfit. Sharply contrasting colors appear to shorten the body. They appear to break up the body into separate parts.
- Why? The eye stops at a line of contrast instead of moving up and down in a vertical direction.
- An example is a wide belt or waistband of a sharply contrasting color makes a person look shorter.
- If a person is too tall, the garment can be broken up with different colors on the top and bottom. How about a brightly colored belt?
Emphasize Physical Features

- Use a small amount of a light or bright color in an advantageous location.
- White collars are often put at the neckline of a dark dress to draw attention.
- Do not use more than three major colors in an outfit. It is best to use one color for a large area and another color, or two, for smaller areas.
- When thinking about colors for clothing, try to reflect your personality.
The personal coloring includes: hair color, skin, and eyes.

This combination is called the total color tone.

It is your skin that is the most important.

Why? – covers the most area of your body.

They are basically in one color family – orange.
More on Skin Tones

- Consider the warm or cool undertones of the skin— which is a subdued trace of a color seen through another color.
- We all seem to have an undertone of either blue or yellow.
- Test for this by: use a two-inch circle from white paper. Place that over the skin of the inner lower arm, notice the undertone of blue or yellow.
Test for Undertone

- Compare your “test picture” arm with others to see the big difference between cool and warm skin undertones.

- The warm undertones will have a more yellow cast and the cool undertones will make the skin look a bit bluish.
Key Your Color Choices

- This is your personal coloring for visual harmony.
- Drape colored pieces of fabric around your neck and shoulders to see which look best. Stand in front of a mirror to study the effect of this experiment. Try to use natural lighting. Have a helper give you their truthful opinion.
- What colors make your hair and eyes look bright and lively?
- Does your complexion look more yellow or brown or red with some colors?
Color Categories

- Four main categories.
- 1. Winter
- 2. Spring
- 3. Summer
- 4. Autumn

- These have nothing to do with a person’s birth date – developed in the 1930’s and 40’s.
Color Categories

- Largest number of people – Winter
- Ancestry is Asian, Indian, Polynesian, South American, African, or Southern European.
- Hair is usually dark and may turn prematurely.
- Most have brown eyes with some gray or green eyes.
- Skin tone is a blue undertone.
Winter People

- Can wear true black or white.
- Clear, true vivid colors from light to dark make them look good.
- Dull or dusty colors should be avoided.
- Silver jewelry looks the best.
Spring Season People

- Heritage from Scandinavia, Britain, and northern Europe.
- Hair is flaxen or strawberry blonde to medium – or reddish-brown.
- Most have blue eyes (some golden brown or green eyes).
- Skin has a yellow (warm) undertone.
- They should wear hues with yellow undertones. Medium to light colors are better. Gold jewelry looks the best.
Summer Season People

- Backgrounds from Scandinavia and Northern Europe.
- These people have a rosy, delicate coloring with a blue undertone.
- They may blush and sunburn easily.
- Hair is ash blond, later darkens with age.
- Blue eyes – most common.
- Cool coloring of skin. They should wear dusty, muted shades with blue or undertones. Cool, soft colors are the best. Silver jewelry is the best.
Autumn Season People

- From many diverse racial backgrounds.
- Redheaded Irish are typical of this category.
- People with dark skin tones are autumns if they have a truly golden undertone.
- Reddish highlights in hair going from blonde to dark chestnut brown. Eyes are usually brown.
- Skin has freckles with a yellow undertone.
- Wear strong, but dusty, colors with orange and yellow undertones. Earthy, muted shades such as the colors of wood and metal are good. Yellows, oranges, and browns are accented nicely with gold jewelry.
Summary

☐ Your fondness of a particular color – use it with a hue that is good for you.

☐ Wear the flattering color next to your face to show off your skin, hair, and eyes.

☐ Wear the less flattering color in the pants or in accessories.

☐ A light color next to your face gives more color to the skin for most people.

☐ If a dark value is placed next to a pale skin, it will drain color away to make the skin look even lighter.
Intense Colors Summary

- Avoid highly intense colors near the face. Use them for a little touch, unless your complexion is near perfect.
- Brown eyes are not influenced by color as much as other eye colors.
- The right combinations can give you a GREAT look! Keep these guidelines stored in your memory. Use this year’s colors to your advantage and use only the ones that seem right for you.