

CHAPTER : 27

HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES, SPACE MANAGEMENT AND DECORATION

One of the basic necessities of man is a home. Home is a place where a family lives or home is a residence suiting the comfort, safety, privacy, health and interests of family. Home is a place where every family member develops his human qualities and feels safe. For a good house, following points should be kept in mind:

1. Home should be suitable from the point of view of health or it should be airy and well lit.
2. Home should have adequate space for daily activities of every member to provide comfort.

Home activities–

Every household has house hold chores like cooking food, eating food, bathing, washing clothes, care of children, studying, collection of things, hospitality, etc. All these activities are fulfilled in the home. Where there is enough space, each activity is carried out in a different room. If the space is smaller, then all the activities have to be adjusted in the same room. For example, kitchen can be used for studying also; bedroom can be used as common place for studying and sitting as well.

Every home should be planned in such a way that space can be allocated for each activity. If the home is big enough then no problem arises. But if the home is small compared to the requirements then

problem arises. If the home is small then good homemaker can make efficient use of space for meeting all the needs. Therefore, howsoever the home is, if space is not allocated for activities of all family members then it create discontent among the members. While dividing home for various activities, following points should be kept in mind–

1. Space allocation should provide maximum comfort to members
2. Every space in the house should be used efficiently.

There are many factors that affect the space allocation in a home. Some factors are- number of family members, available goods, available space, age and interests of members, economic level, etc.

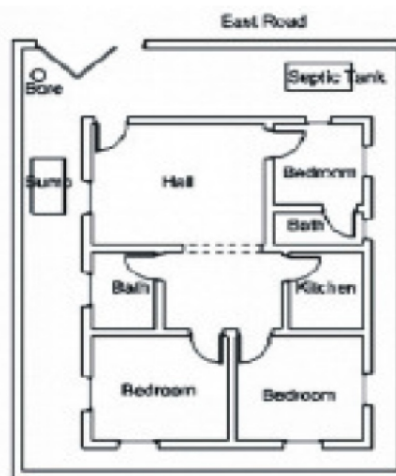


Figure : 27.1 (space arrangement)

But it should be taken care that space is

allocated for the important activities like- kitchen, toilet, bathroom, sleeping room. In addition to this an efficient homemaker can utilize space like courtyard, hallway and gallery for multiple use.

While accomplishing various activities following points for space management should be kept in mind–

1. Drawing room or living room.
2. Bed room
3. Dining area
4. Kitchen
5. Bathroom
6. Guest room
7. Children's room
8. Store room
9. Verandah

1. **Drawing room or reception room**– Every home whether big or small should have a drawing room. It should be well utilized and well maintained. It should be airy and well lit. Other than receiving guests, family can use it as common room on holidays or for entertainment.

Living room is the place where all the family members can sit together and enjoy, except these stitching, knitting, chopping vegetables, etc can be done in this place. This place has one more advantage that presence of guests in this room does not affect the privacy. This room can also be used as dining area.

2. **Bedroom**– This is the room where family members can rest at day or night. This place should be safe, calm and adequate for resting. This room should be away from drawing room or noise. If the bedroom is big enough then small sofas can be placed which can be used

for guests when needed. Sometimes activities like painting, playing, studying can also be carried out.

3. **Dining room**– Modern families do not like to eat in kitchen. Therefore, they have separate dining area. Dining room should always be near the kitchen. If kitchen is big then small area in it can be converted into dining area. If space in kitchen is less then courtyard near the kitchen can be used as dining area.
4. **Kitchen**– It is the most important room in the home because the level of family and its health depends on this area. Maximum time of a homemaker is spent in this room. In modern times when homemaker has also started working outside, the kitchen needs to be properly managed and equipped with modern appliances. Therefore, work simplification should be taken care of. In homes where separate area is not available for kitchen, then small space in room or in courtyard is arranged for cooking. However the kitchen should be always clean and tidy. There should be adequate space for cooking and keeping food items.

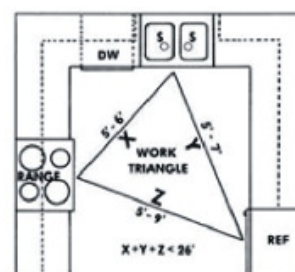


Figure : 27.2
(work simplification)

5. **Bathroom**– The right place for bathroom is near the bedroom. The bathroom should be

well lit and airy. These days a toilet is also attached with bathroom. If the bathroom is big it can be used as a dressing room also.

6. **Guest room**– If the home is big then a guest room is also arranged. It is located in one of the corners of the home so that it does not disturb privacy of the family. Guest room can be used as a study room also.
7. **Children's room**– Every home should have a separate room for children because children are those members of the family who need most love and safety. The furniture in children's room should be of less height, simple and light which can be used by children for studying, playing and painting. Such a place should always be kept for children which they feel that it belong to their. This room can be a small in area in the courtyard or in the bedroom. Children can carry out their activities in this place.
8. **Store room**– Boxes, suitcases, extra beds, etc are kept in the store room. This room should be near the bedroom. This is useful as well as safe near bedroom. In modern homes, a store room is arranged in every room to store things related to that particular room.
9. **Verandah**– A verandah can be present on all the four sides of the home or in front and back of the home. The front verandah can be used for guests also. Other people like milkman, hawker or a strange person can also be made to sit in the verandah who otherwise cannot be invited inside the house. The backyard is often used by homemaker for her household chores or by children for playing.
While doing space management, keep the

following points in mind–

1. **Inter relation of rooms**– This is like dining room should be near kitchen so that food can be served easily.
2. **Traffic**– The passafe near room should be open for easy walking. There should be no obstacles causing botheneck
3. **Seclusion**– Between two rooms to maintain seclusion, the location of doors and windows should be properly designed taken care. The inside of room should not be visible from outside. For example, instead of locating door in the center of the room place it the corner.
4. **Maximum use of space**– Space in room or in home should be used as much as possible.
5. **Furniture management**– Every room should have suitable furniture. If space is less than multi-purpose furniture should be used like sofa-cum- bed which can be used as sofa in day and as bed at night.

Wherever possible, space management should be such that the worker can perform two- three activities together. Like there should be hall near kitchen in which homemaker can watch TV, can take care of food placed on gas and help children with their homework.

Use of colours and decorative materials in home decoration– In modern context, home decoration does not mean making home a decorative piece but it means making home well equipped the things that increase productivity and comfort. Home decoration is a an art which gives new look to the home and is a reflection of personality of all the family members.

According to Sunder Raj, internal decoration is a creative art which can transform even a simple

house.

The elements essential for home decoration should be known so that different items in the home can be used comfortably and in a beautiful way. The elements of art are– (1) Line, (2) Shape, (3) Construction, (4) Colour, (5) Light, (6) Location.

Colors

Color is an important element of art which can be used for making home attractive and beautiful. To add beauty to different places and things, colour should be used according to the location, time and situation. The main source of colour is light. According to Prang, there are three qualities of a colour–

1. Hue– That is the name of color, example- red, green, blue.
2. Value– That is the lightness or darkness of color, example- light green and dark green.
3. Chroma– That is brightness or dullness, example- blood red, faded red.

Prang's colour wheel– Prang has given a color cycle. On the left side hot colors are placed while on the right side cool colours are present. Red and yellow are hot colours because these are colours of fire and sun. Blue and green are cool colours because these are colours of water and grass.

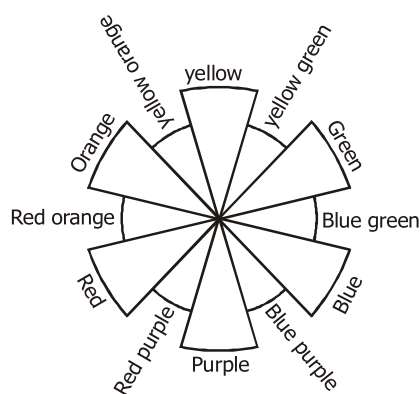


Figure : 27.3

Prang's Colour Wheel

Classification of colours– Colours are divided into 3 types– Primary colours, Secondary colors

and tertiary colors.

1. Primary colours– These are primary colours which are found in natural state. These are not obtained from any other color. Examples are red, blue and yellow.
2. Secondary colours– These colors are obtained by mixing two primary colours in right proportion. Examples are orange, violet and green.
3. Tertiary colours– When a primary color is mixed with a nearby secondary colour then we obtain a tertiary colour. Examples are red-orange, red-violet, yellow-orange, yellow-green, etc.

Apart from these colours black, white, grey and brown colours are also found which can be used in different ways to make home attractive. These colors are known as neutral colors. According to Prang, the things colored with hot colors look big in size and appear to be nearer. Whereas things colored in cool colours look small. Just like black and white are complementary, in the same hot and cool colours are complementary to each other.

Color scheme–

Colors have a special influence on our lives. Therefore, colours should be used carefully. Colour scheme is of two types–

Color scheme			
Associated color scheme		Contrast color scheme	
Monochrome scheme	Adjacent color scheme	Contrast color scheme	Segmented color scheme

In addition to these, tri-color scheme and quadrangular colour scheme is also used.

Monochrome scheme– In this scheme, a single colour is used for home decoration. But value of that colour is changed using black and white colors in different proportions. Similarly, Chroma can also be varied. Examples are green, light green, dark green, bright green and dull green.

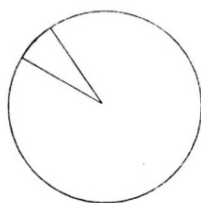


Figure : 27.4
Monochrome scheme

Adjacent colour scheme– In this scheme, colour is used according to Prang's colour scheme in which any colour and two colours near to it are used. Example- if yellow is the main color then yellow-green and yellow-orange can be used.

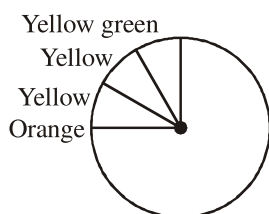


Figure : 27.5
Adjacent color scheme

Contrast colour scheme– In contrast colour scheme, opposite colours in the colour wheel are coordinated. Examples are red and green, blue and orange. If two contrast colours are used then it is known as bi-color scheme. Examples are red- green, blue-orange.

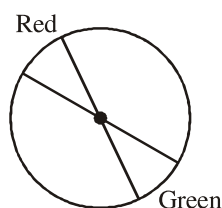


Figure : 27.6
Contrast color scheme

Segmented contrast color scheme– In this scheme, instead of color opposite to the main color, the colour adjacent to the opposite colour is used. Examples are yellow- red, violet-blue.

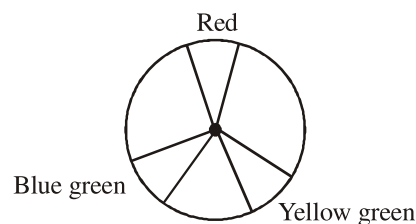


Figure : 27.7
Segmented contrast color scheme

Tri-color scheme– Using any three equally spaced colours in the color scheme is known as tri-colour scheme. Examples are three primary colors– red, blue, and yellow.

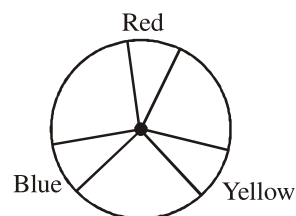


Figure : 27.8
Tri-color scheme

Quadrangular color scheme– When four colours equally spaced in the colour scheme are used it is known as quadrangular colour scheme. Examples are yellow, orange, green, blue, violet, and red; or yellow, green, blue, violet and orange.

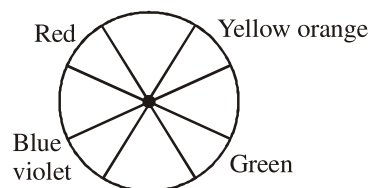


Figure : 27.9
Quadrangular color scheme

Classification of colours on the basis of mental effects–

1. **Hot and cool colours**– The relation to nature is the basis of these colours. Red, yellow and orange are considered hot colours because these are colours of fire and sun. Blue colour is of sky, green is of plants and so they give us the cooling effect.

2. **Heavy and light colors**– Some colours give the effect of heaviness like black, brown and red while some give a light effect like blue, pink and white. Therefore, heavy colours or dark colours should be used on floor while light colours should be used on ceiling and walls.

3. **Advancing colors and receding colors**– The colors which emerge and leave more of their effect are known as advancing colours while colours which appear far away are known as receding colours. Generally hot colours are advancing colours and cool colors are receding colors.

Precautions while using colors are–

1. Colours should be used according to interests of person or a family. Some people like multi-purpose scheme while some like plain white.
2. The quantity of colour to be used is of utmost importance. Example- bright violet colour can look beautiful if used in small place but not on all walls. Blue colour in large space will look attractive but red colour in large space will look tiring.
3. Colours should be used according to the objective of room. Example- bedroom is room for rest, so calm colors should be used. Children like bright and dark colours, therefore multi-colours can be used in their room.
4. Colours should be used according to size of the room. Example- using light colours in small room makes it look big while dark colours

make it look small.

5. In cold climate spaces hot colours look good while in hot climate cool colours look good.
6. Same color looks different on different surfaces like red, yellow and orange look bright on satin, silk but dull on hand-spun, jute and cotton clothes.
7. Contrast colours make each other look dark. Example- when black and white are used together then black will be seen more black and white appears more white. Using any other colour with black will not make black more black.
8. Colours can be used according to fashion also. Example– earlier only white tiles and wash basin were used in bathroom. Nowadays they are available in different colors. The color which is mostly in fashion is used.

Decorative items– For interior decoration of home many decorative items are needed. But mere presence of decorative things cannot make home beautiful but items have to be properly arranged to make house look beautiful. These items provide completeness and feasibility to interior decoration and also increase artistic value. Examples are photo frames, sculptures, lamps, clocks, plants, etc.

Following are types of decorative items–

1. **Artistic and aesthetic items**– The items of which main purpose is to increase aesthetic value are known as artistic and aesthetic items. Examples are artistic pictures, sculptures, flower- decoration, artistic mirror, etc.

2. **Functional and useful items**– These items are of aesthetic value and also are useful like lamps,

clocks, ash tray, etc.

3. **Natural items**– These items are related to nature. These can be used as such or can be modified. Examples- plants, aquarium, fans, fountains, shells, dry leaves, etc.

Following points should be kept in mind for home decoration–

1. Decorative item should be placed at appropriate location in house according to the item's nature. Example– clock should be hung on a wall. Do not hang war pictures in bedroom.
2. Too many decorative items make the space crowded. Therefore they should be decorated either in groups or classified before decoration.
3. Functional items should be fully used. Examples clock should always work, lamp should give proper light, etc.
4. Items should be such that they can be changed according to fashion.
5. Decorative items should be useful for the decorative style. Example– in traditional style of decoration folk art items and historical items will look good while in modern style, modern items like 3-D, electric fountains will look perfect and attractive.

Thus, not only proper use of decorative items is enough but also their timely care is important.

IMPORTANT POINTS–

1. Home is a place where a family lives and where every family member develops his human qualities.
2. A person does many activities in his home and so requires proper space for doing work.
3. Home decoration makes home look beautiful, attractive and comfortable. A homemaker can give different looks to the home as per her

likes.

4. Colour is an important element of home-decoration which helps in making home attractive.
5. Colours used in home decoration affects our attitude.
6. Colours should be used according to objectives of the room.
7. Many decorative items are used in home decoration like sculptures, pictures, lamp, clocks, etc.

EXERCISE :

1. Choose the correct options–

- (i) Kitchen is ——— type of space
(a) Useful (b) Useless
(c) Secluded (d) None of these
 - (ii) Name of color is known as
(a) Colour (b) Primary colour
(c) Hue (d) Value
 - (iii) ——— is a hot colour.
(a) Green (b) Blue
(c) White (d) Yellow
 - (iv) Red, blue and yellow are ——— colours
(a) Secondary (b) Tertiary
(c) Primary (d) Contrast
2. Write in short–
(i) Primary colours
(ii) Functional items for home decoration
 3. Why is home decoration useful?
 4. How should colours be used for home decoration?
 5. Explain different colour schemes with examples.
 6. What precautions should be taken while using colours?

ANSWERS

- (i) b (ii) c (iii) d (iv) c