

Balance

Art & Design

Symmetrical and asymmetrical balance, and the weights each handles.

Symmetrical

- Mirrored about an axis
- Immediate, formal, stable
- Reads as authority or ceremony
- Easy to achieve, hard to enliven
- The centre becomes the strongest place

Asymmetrical

- Unequal parts, equal visual weight
- Dynamic, informal, contemporary
- A small dark can balance a large pale
- Requires a judgement every time
- Tension is part of the effect

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Visual weight comes from value, chroma, size, isolation and interest, not from area alone.

Turn the work upside down. Balance survives inversion; a composition held together by subject matter does not.