

# Work experience – First steps with the company Heinrich Schmid



Tasks for independent work at home or for project days at schools



3.1. Learning about the painting trade

Colours and rooms

# Things to know about colours

Colours are of great importance for art. But they also play an important role in the craft - especially in the painting profession.

To be angry, to see red or to turn yellow with envy - these expressions show that colours evoke emotions. So you also have positive or negative feelings when you enter a room. Whether you feel comfortable or not depends, among other things, on the colour or pattern of the walls. That is why it is good to know what goes together and where and how you can set contrasts or patterns as accents when you design a room yourself.

# Step 1: Look briefly at the basic concepts in colour theory

# Basic colours

You cannot mix these colours from other colours:



Red, Yellow, Blue (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow)

White and black are called achromatic primary colours.



# Colour circles

The representation of colours in colour circles is centuries old. Even Johann Wolfgang von Goethe developed one. The best-known colour wheel, however, is that of Johannes Itten. It was published in 1961, when Mr Itten was working as a Bauhaus lecturer in

Weimar. It plays a major role in painting, architecture or interior design. His colour wheel contains 12 colours in a certain order. Based on this order, it is possible to see which colour is perceived as contrasting with another (complementary or opposite) and which colours are regarded as related colours.

#### **Cold colours**

The colours white, grey and blue seem cold when you look at them. Gradations such as blue-greengrey, silver and blue-violet also evoke a feeling of coldness in many people.

#### Warm colours

Red, yellow, orange are among the warm colours.

# Complementary colour

These are colours that are opposite each other on the colour wheel and form a contrast. (see colour wheel above)

# Secondary colour/Tertiary colour

Secondary colours are created when you mix two primary colours. If you add another colour to the mixture, you get a tertiary colour.





# Dealing with, colours, patterns and contrasts

How a room is designed depends on many factors. When designing a room, a painter must take into account the client's wishes, but also the lighting conditions, furniture and the type of room and what it will be used for.



There are a few rules of thumb for room design that are usually helpful as recommendations:

- Use a maximum of three colours for a room. Otherwise it could become too tiring for the eye.
- If you have chosen a bright colour, e.g. orange, use it on a maximum of one third of the wall surface or use it as a line or pattern. Alternatively, you can use such a colour as an accent when choosing furniture or home accessories.
- o Larger pieces of furniture should be considered when choosing colours.
- o Professional interior designers usually choose one of the following three options:
- choose three adjacent colours (shades) to create harmony and calm in the room
- choose three colours by placing a triangle on the colour wheel and see which colours are at the tips to make the room quite colourful and yet not jumbled (it can also be a different colour wheel than ltten's)
- Choose two colours that contrast with each other so that the room does not look boring.

You can create contrast in different ways. Either you use colours that are considered complementary colours, i.e. opposite each other on the colour wheel, e.g. blue and orange. Or you use a very light colour and the same colour very dark, e.g. light green and dark green.

How which colour affects us, which colours are suitable for which living space and what you should bear in mind when mixing or disposing of colours can be read here, for example: <a href="https://www.malerpraxis.de/farblehre-stile-trends/farben/farben/">https://www.malerpraxis.de/farblehre-stile-trends/farben/farben/</a>.

Also try to use other sources and look at interior design examples in online magazines or furniture stores.