

Design Principles – Rhythm and Repetition

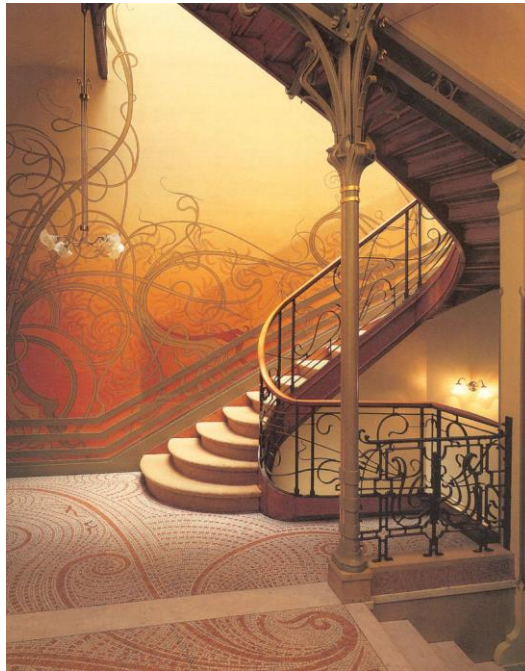
I. Terms: Rhythm and Repetition

II. Definition of the terms: Rhythm and Repetition are similar visual concepts.

- *Repetition* is created by the duplication of elements of art or the assemblage of very similar elements.
- *Rhythm* is the visual flow through a work of art, incorporating repetition

III. Examples of the terms: *Rhythm* works with *Repetition* of art elements such as LINE and SHAPE.

LINE:



(Victor Horta, Interior of the *Tassel House*, 1893)

- Curved, spiraling lines are repeated in the floor design, railing, wall pattern, and pillar. The *rhythm* moves up the rounded stair steps.



(Auguste Herbin *Composition* 1939)

- Auguste Herbin used curved lines repeatedly in this two-dimensional work. The curvilinear repetition creates a gentle rhythm. He even gave it a musical title, “Composition.”

SHAPE/MASS:



(Ryan McGinness *Untitled* 2008)

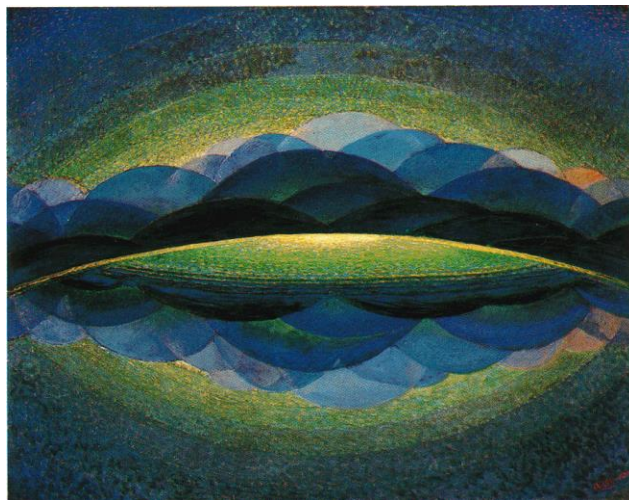
- The grouping of similar abstract shapes demonstrates rhythm and repetition.



(Charles Garnier *The Opera, Paris* 1861-74)

- We tend to like see similar motifs in architecture. This building has a stable appearance as a result of all of the repetition employed in the design. The regular and predictable patterns create a comfortable and consistent rhythm.

TEXTURE:



(Gerardo Dottori *The Lake* 1920)

- This painting shows repetition and rhythm of LINE and SHAPE which have been enhanced by the same treatment of TEXTURE throughout the work.