Colours in Scandinavian Design

The most important factors for choosing colours within Swedish Design seem to be the light, the space and the nature. The individual’s perception of what is ugly or beautiful is based on experiences gained over many years. One learns to see, understand and appreciate the colors in nature in all their variations and one gets used to the fact that interiors and exteriors usually have certain types of colours. The nature is an important reference to which colours we appreciate most. New impressions are interpreted and evaluated against the background of the references which we already have. What one recognizes and can interpret is usually perceived as beautiful. The references differ between different countries, different cities, different cultures and different types of nature, and people’s opinions of what is “beautiful” are stamped by the places in which they grow up. These differences are worth noticing and preserving since the colour character is an important part of that quality which is difficult to define but which is called "mood" or "atmosphere" and which is the basis for how we perceive our environment to be good or not.

Berit Bergström, Stockholm, Sweden. Mrs Bergström is working for NCS Colour AB in Stockholm, Sweden. She is Managing Director and teacher for the NCS Colour Academy (Scandinavian Colour School). NCS Colour Academy organizes and develop colour courses in colour theory, colour design, decorative painting techniques and use of paint, all for professionals. Mrs Bergström has a lengthy experience giving colour courses and presentations worldwide in NCS on a very high level. She has carried out colour design courses for countless colour professionals and has conducted colour studies at university level worldwide. She has also carried out colour research projects, one of which with the purpose to inform professional colourists about useful results from Swedish colour research work. This was published in a booklet in Swedish and English. Mrs Bergström is the President of AIC dating from 2010 to 2013. She was the secretary of the Colour Science Foundation (1991-1997) with the task to grant funds for different colour research projects within the field of colour. She was the chairperson of the AIC Study Group on Colour Education between 1998 and 2009. AIC is an international colour research organisation with annual meetings held around the world. She is the secretary of the Swedish Colour Centre Foundation.

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