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What do the Circles signify?



One of the most fundamental shapes of design is the circle. Undoubtedly; it is also the most frequently utilised and probably amongst the most ancient shapes ever known to the artistic history of mankind. The technical definition of circle is *“An ellipse in which the two axes are of equal length or a plane curve generated by one point moving at a constant distance from a fixed point”*.

However, what this article aims to explore is the design perspective of not just the strictly circular shape but also the rounded and spherical design elements, in general. Essentially; there are several significances of the circle used for communicating various implications. Here are some of the main significances that can be conveyed through various designs using circles into its composition.

The Softness & Flexibility

The delicate soapy bubbles, fluffy pillows and rubber-bands have one thing in common – the circular form. This explains the strong connect of the circles with the properties like softness and flexibility. This further implies the sense of care and comfort projected by the rounded designs of various objects and layouts. Circles have always had a feeling of bounciness and joy associated with them. This might have something to do with the bouncy nature of the tennis balls that we have known since our very childhood while playing various games. This relates to the immense favouritism of circular shapes amongst the kids.



The Philosophy & Spirituality

Circle is geometrically, one of the most balanced shapes because any line that passes through its radius, divides it into two equal halves. This also has a more deep touch to it, as different processes in the universe are well knit into the matrix of actions and reactions in a cyclic pattern. Hence the circles are not just an icon of stability but also contain a philosophical flavour within. Whether it is the huge galaxies in the space or the smallest of subatomic particles; they are all more or less; rounded in nature. Several spiritual symbols like yin-yen are also made in a circular fashion to ascertain the sense of independence and completeness. This is why circles are also of very high religious and spiritual importance across the world.



The Thoughts & Ideas

One of the most popularly accepted notion regarding the thoughts and ideas, is that they always pop-up into circular rings. This might be because of the comic representation in different cartoons and animations that have been portraying their confused characters, pondering over circular thoughts. Also, the fog-like haziness of ideas in the inception phase could be one of the reasons for their cloudy or circular nature accepted world-wide.

