

The primary role of a set designer is to talk with the director “conceive the visual and stylistic elements and props” (Pallin, 2010) so one of the most important skills someone needs to have to be employed in the set design and production industry is being able to communicate effectively. One way to do this is through accurate drawings of ideas and designs. This is most commonly done through one and two point perspective drawings. One point perspective is where there is only one vanishing point on the horizon line and all lines lead towards that. Two point perspective is where there are two vanishing points on the horizon line and all lines are leading towards them.

Another key skill needed in the set design and production industry is understanding principles of design. This will help the designer to communicate their and the directors ideas and the story to the audience. One of these principles of design is colour theory. This is where a certain colour can communicate certain emotions and thoughts. Other principles are unity, rhythm “help to guide the viewer's eye around a piece” (BBC Bitesize, date written NA), emphasis, proportion “essential for creating accurate images” (BBC Bitesize, date written NA), and balance. These can make a piece aesthetic and appealing to look at. They can also help to tell the story and convey the correct emotions to the audience. All of these principles and elements have been used since the start of humanity to convey stories and emotion.

Another key not only knowing how to use the tools but also when to use them. For example using a drill and screws to attach a piece of plywood to a frame would be a waste of resources as a staple gun would be more appropriate. Knowing the materials being used would also be useful because then they would know how to treat it and use it to get the best results for their goal. For example plywood is very flexible so can be used to make curved structures and using things like oak wood would be extremely difficult as it is not flexible since it is a hardwood.

- Pallin. G (2010), *Stage Management: The Essential Handbook*, New edn, London: Nick Hern Books.
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- Lidwell. W, Holden. K, Butler. J (2010), *Universal Principles Of Design*, Revised and Updated edn, Beverly, Massachusetts: Rockport Publishers.
- CBJ LTD (2017), *Understanding the different types of plywood and their uses*, Available at: <https://www.cbjltd.co.uk/news/understanding-different-types-of-plywood-and-uses> , (accessed: 20/10/2023)