



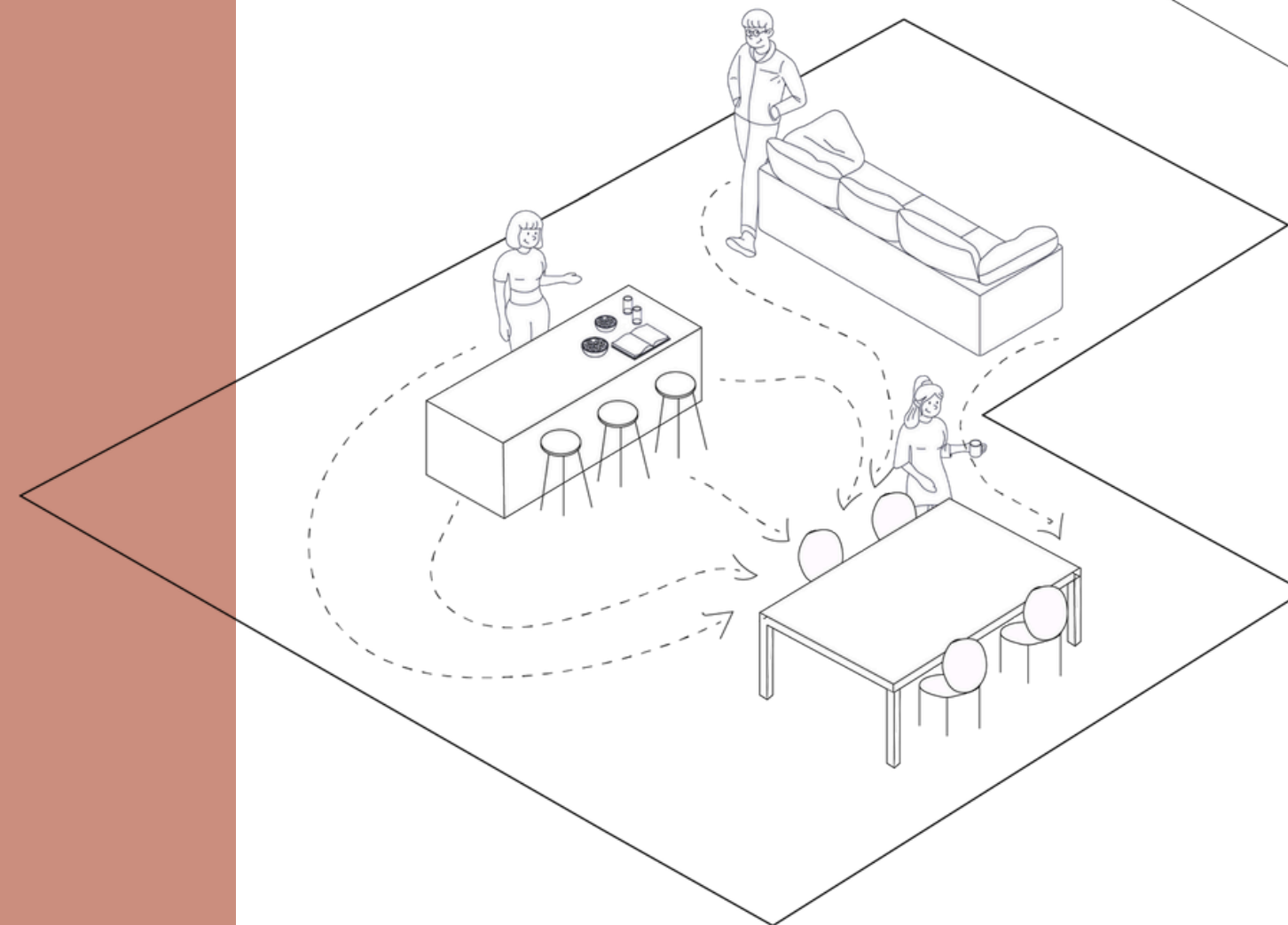
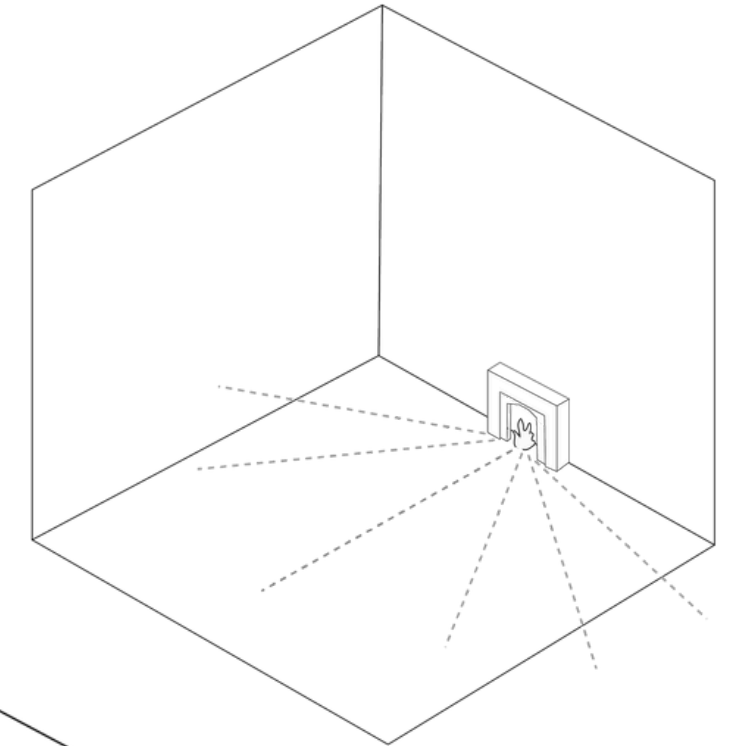
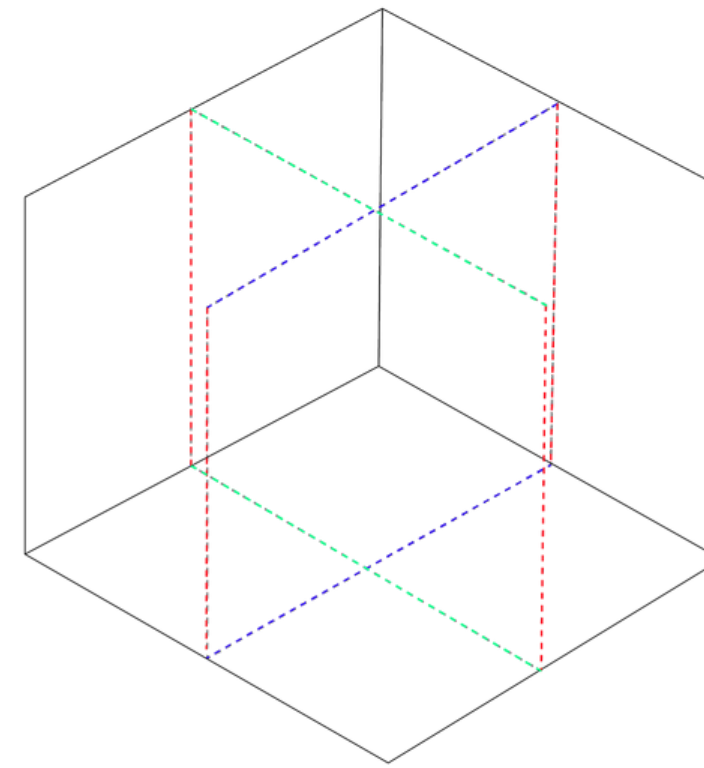
Module 2.
Axes & Proportions



Have you ever walked into a room that just felt right?
You couldn't say why – it simply worked.
And then there are the other rooms. Nothing is wrong,
exactly. The sofa's fine, the colours are fine. But your
eye doesn't know where to land, and the whole space
feels a little restless.

Most of the time, the difference isn't the furniture.
It's direction – whether the room gives your eye a clear
line to follow and a place to rest. Designers call that line
an axis, and once you can see axes, you can't un-see
them. They're the quiet structure behind every room
that feels calm and intentional.

In this module, we're going to find them in your space.

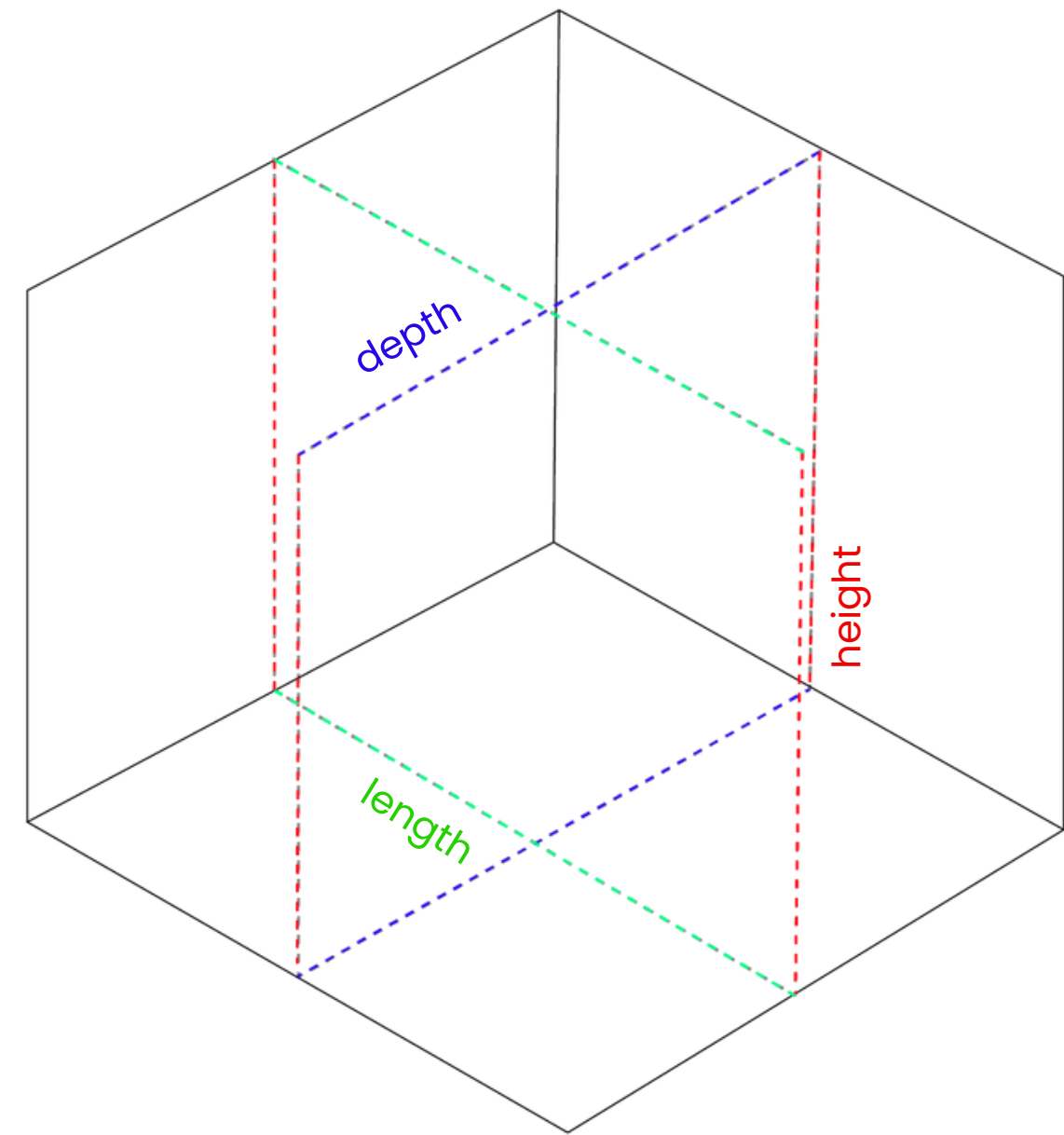


AXES

An axis is just an imaginary line that organises a space.
You already live with three kinds, even if you've never named them.

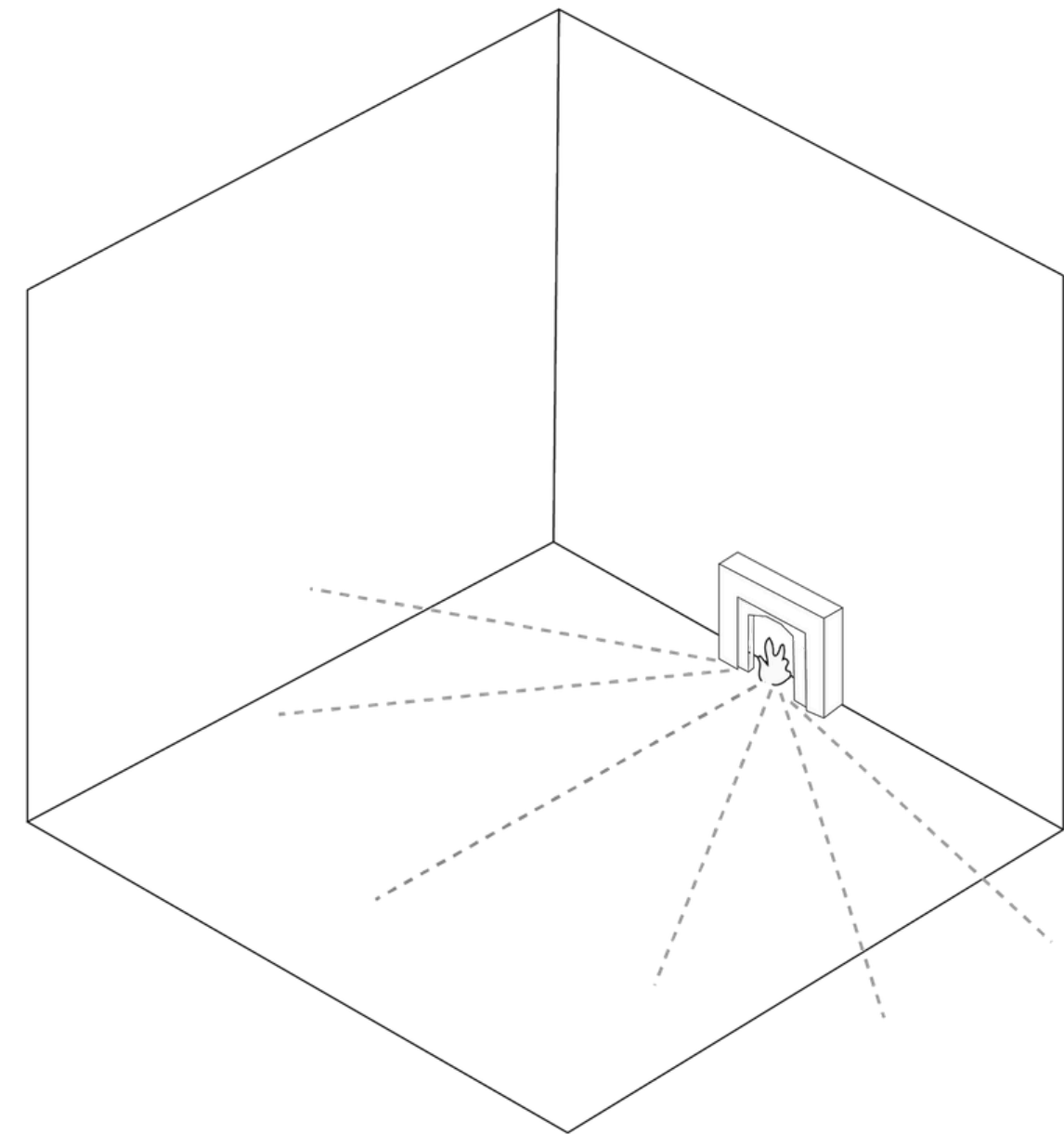
Spatial axes – the bones of the room.

These are set by the architecture itself: one line for length, one for depth, one for height. You read them by noticing where the walls, windows, doors, and built-in features sit, because those define the room's main sightlines – the natural directions your eye travels. You don't create spatial axes; you discover them, and then design with them.



The focal axis – where the eye lands.

A focal point is the spot you want a person to notice first: something that makes you happy and naturally draws attention, like a fireplace, a large window with a view, or a striking piece of art. The focal axis is the straight, unbroken line that leads to it. A sofa facing a fireplace, for example, creates a strong axis between the two and reinforces the fireplace as the heart of the room. One caution: if everything competes to be the focal point, nothing is. Too many, and the room feels busy – that "I don't know where to look" feeling. One clear focal point per space is usually plenty.

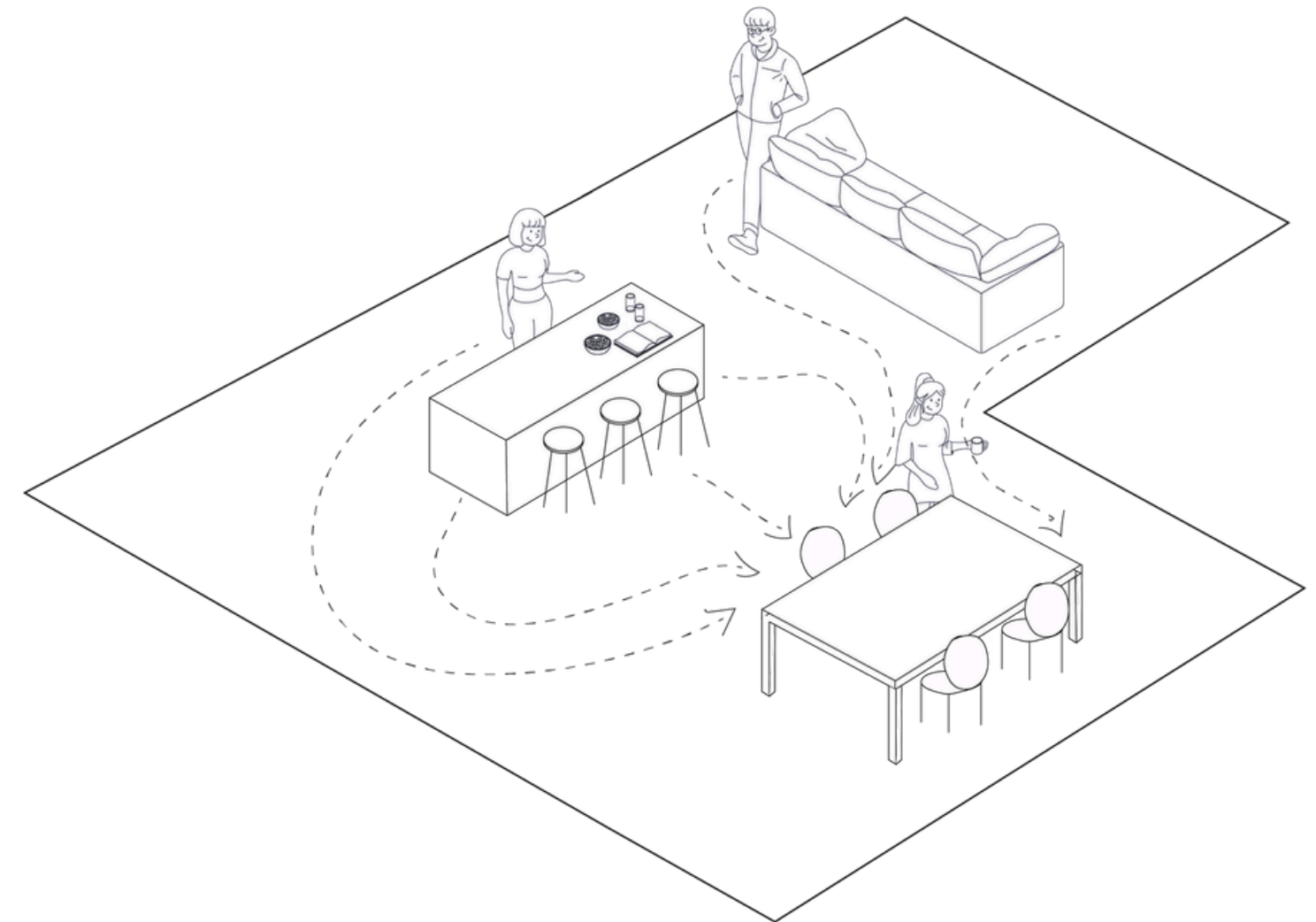


Functional axes – how you move and connect.

These are the invisible paths you take as you move through a space – the route from the kitchen to the dining table is one of the most natural. Keep these paths short and direct, with nothing major to walk around, and a room feels effortless.

There's a social version too: the line that supports conversation and eye contact when people sit together.

Sometimes a functional axis even becomes a feature – picture a kitchen island placed right on the natural route through a home, becoming the spot where everyone pauses and connects.



PROPORTIONS

Proportion is simply the relationship between the sizes of things in a space. Two classic guides give you a head start:

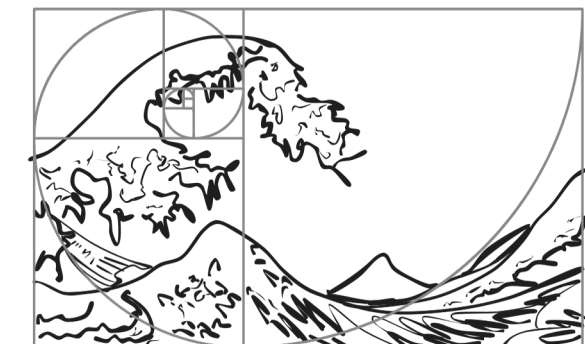
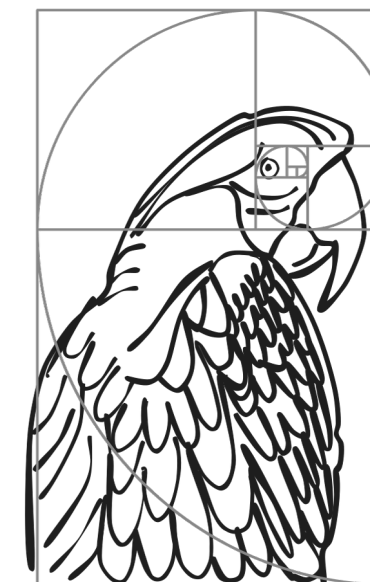
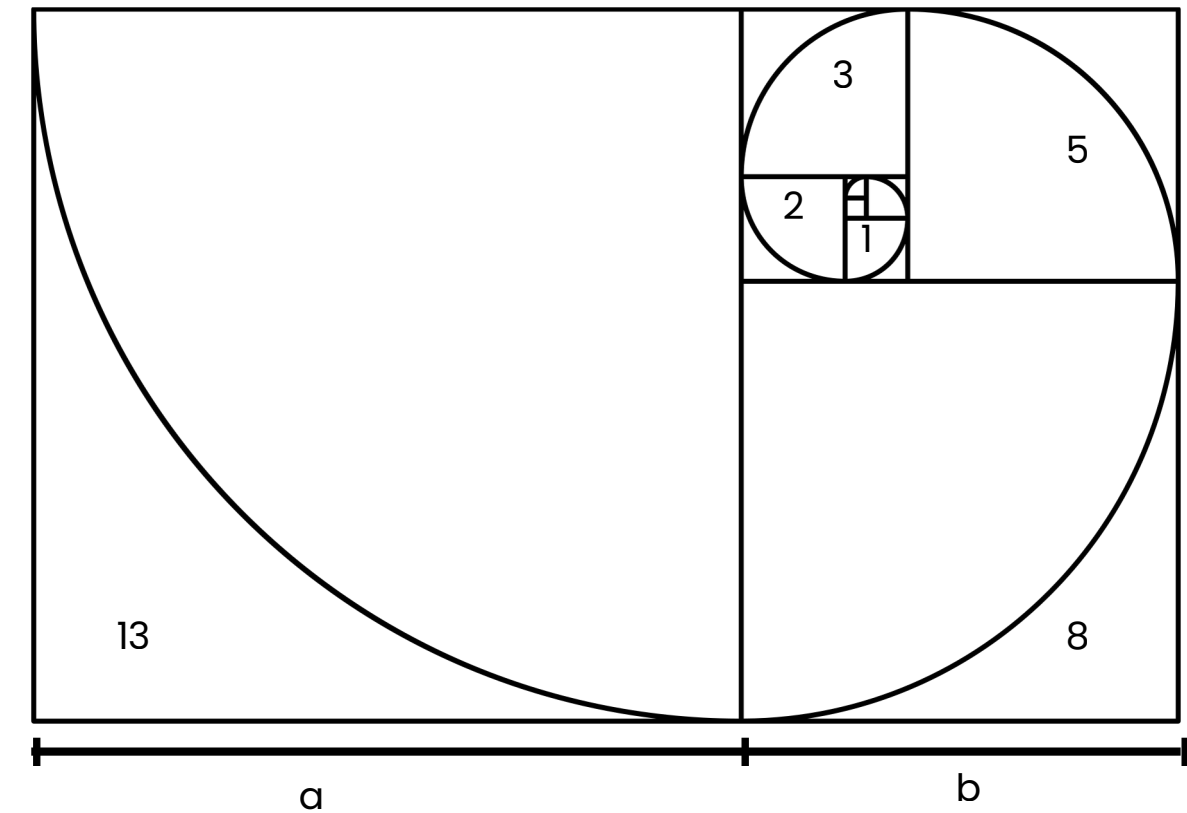
The Golden Ratio (about 1 : 1.6).

A ratio that comes straight from nature and has been used in art and architecture for centuries because our eyes find it pleasing.

A simple way to visualize it is through a Golden Rectangle: if you remove a square from a rectangle whose sides are in the Golden Ratio, the remaining smaller rectangle has exactly the same proportions as the original.

This guide is considered the most difficult of the two to pin down. It's a natural feel for balance between sizes, not a calculation. Let's explore an easier way of balancing proportion with *the Rule of Thirds*.

$$\text{GOLDEN RATIO} = \frac{a+b}{a} = 1.61803$$



The Rule of Thirds.

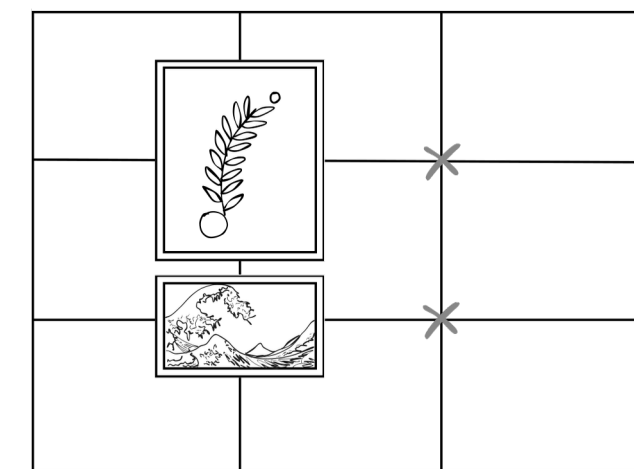
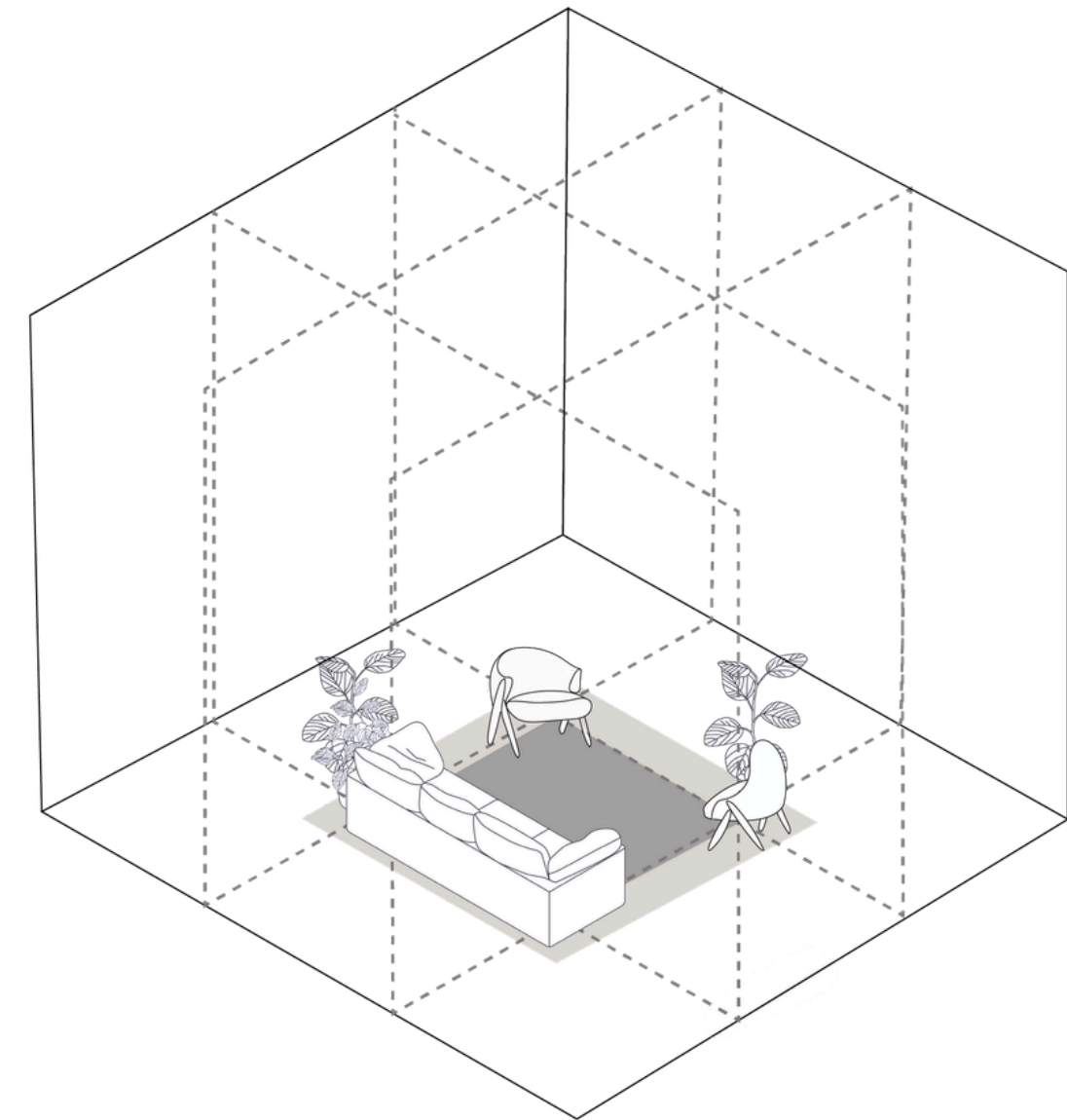
Divide your space into three equal parts, both across and up-and-down – like a noughts-and-crosses grid.

The four points where the lines cross are your "power points." Place something important on a line or at a crossing point, rather than dead-centre. Off-centre almost always feels more alive; perfectly centred can feel static, or honestly a little boring.

Dividing the room into thirds can help in arranging furniture in a playful way. For instance, a sofa might be placed along one of the lines, with other seating or tables aligning with the opposite or adjacent thirds.

When hanging artwork or placing decor on walls, designers will often divide the wall into thirds, both horizontally and vertically. Placing key (art) pieces at or near the intersections of these lines can create a more dynamic and balanced look.

And remember – these are guides, not cages. They give you structure when you're unsure, but rules are meant to be broken. Always trust your own eye too.



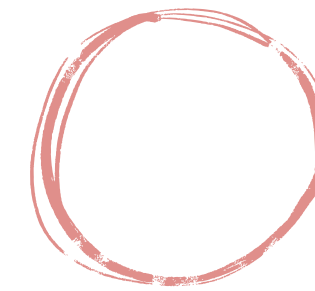
See it & apply it (with your design assistant — about 10 minutes)

Now the real work – in your room, not in the abstract.

→ **Open your design assistant and tell it you're ready to start Module 2.**

It already knows your room from your profile. Together you'll notice where your eye currently lands, choose your focal point on purpose, and make one real decision about your layout – guided, but yours. It takes about ten minutes, and you'll come away with a decision saved to your plan.

Let's find the axes in your room!

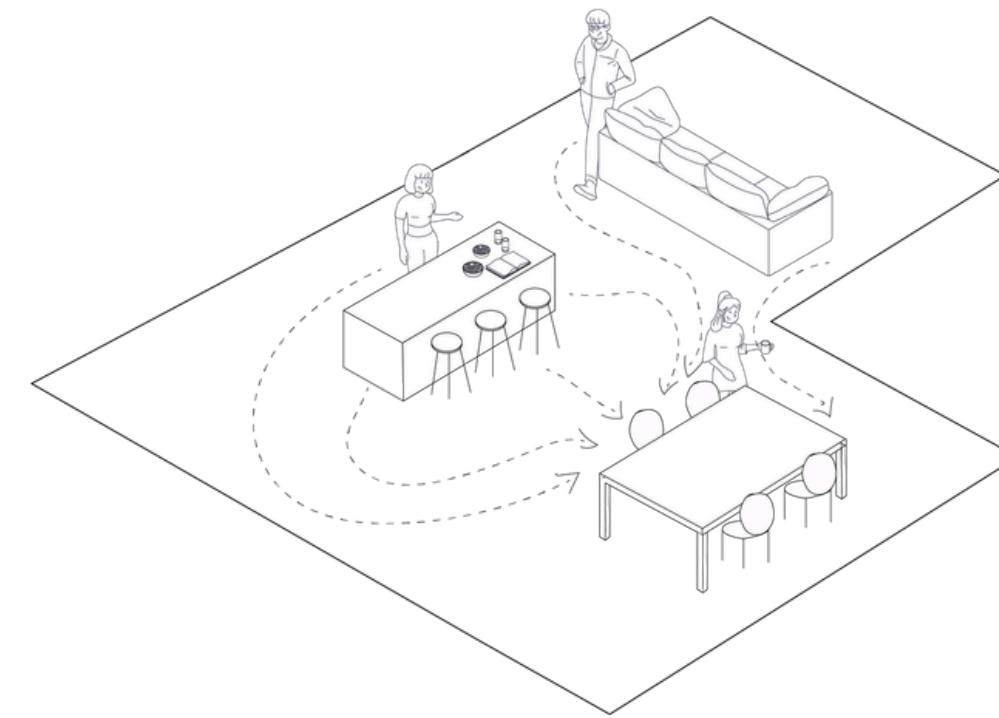


Click here to open your design assistant.

Axes & proportions – the do's and don'ts.

- Do give every room one clear focal point, and an unbroken line of sight toward it.
- Do keep your daily walking paths short and direct.
- Do try placing key pieces off-centre – on a third, not dead-centre.
- Don't let two or three things compete to be the focal point.
- Don't let furniture block the natural path through the room.
- Don't treat the Golden Ratio or Rule of Thirds as law – they're guides for when you're unsure.

*Your saved decision from this module lives in your plan.
In the next module, we'll use your focal point to get your
scale and proportions right.*



Ready? Set...



★★★★★ Done!

Up next? Module 3: **Scale,
Measurements & Visual Hierarchy**

