Principles of Modern Quilt Design

Here is my personal list of the design principles of modern quilting. My list is based on the principles listed by The Modern Quilt Guild WITH my own interpretations and additions. You won’t see ALL of these elements in a modern quilt, but the modern quilter usually has one or two (or more) of these elements in the quilt.

- Simplicity and Minimalism
- Reinterpretations of the past (using traditional blocks in a new way, for example)
- Exaggerating/Changing/Playing With Block Scale
- Alternative grid layouts
- Infinite Edge [no binding and no borders OR making the binding and borders from the background fabric]
- Asymmetry [layout is not a traditional grid. More open space. But it is balanced]
- Open space or negative space that covers a noticeable percentage of the quilt top—usually one color or a subtle monochromatic ombre
- Double negative space [two colors used in the negative space in nearly equal amounts.]
- Experimenting with block scale/size – for example, making a quilt top that is just ONE large block floating in a lot of neutral space
- Bold, modern graphics in print fabrics
- Modern color palette
- Improvisation – being willing to experiment and play with your layout, with the fabric choices and all other aspects of your design as you go along
- Maximalism—lots of color and pattern; little or no negative space OR negative space is a highly saturated color or colors. A newly emerging trend.

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