“Design is a plan for arranging elements in such a way as best to accomplish a particular purpose.” (Charles Eames) When creating a house one of the most important aspects is the design, but one of the first steps taken to create a house is the building part. When an architect builds a home his job is to make sure the house is built in a way that will benefit the family that plans to live in the home. He must make sure that the house has the proper amount of rooms as well as make sure those rooms have the things they need to be a useful room. Once a house is built, it becomes the designer’s job to decorate. The opening quote by Charles Eames describes a designer’s job perfectly. The designer’s purpose is to make sure the room is appealing to the audience as well as beneficial to the user of the room. Some of the elements a designer must use when designing a room is the space, the gender, and the color of the room. Each of these elements are not only important individually when designing a room, but as a whole as well. As I created my ideal space, I became the designer of what I wanted my home to look like. As the designer I needed to arrange the elements in order to fulfill my purpose of creating a home with rooms that will benefit the users of the room.

The first element a designer must consider when creating a room is the space. Each room or area should have its own space big enough or small enough to fit the items needed in the room to make the room a functioning room. “Each room in the house should have a clearly defined role and function.” (Spain 123). If the area is a backyard then it should be outside and big enough to fit the items that will make it a functioning backyard for that particular family. If the space is a room then it should be able to have a sink and tub for a bathroom or a bed and dresser for a bedroom. The designing of a room relies heavily on the amount of space that is present because you cannot have a bedroom with a bed and dresser in a small space that was designed for a closet. The design of the space in a house is like a blue print for how each room will be designed. The designer must be able to look at the space and decide that an open room near the front door is better for a living room than a bathroom or the small room with plumping is better used as a bathroom than for a kitchen.

The second element that should be considered when designing a room is gender. Gender segregated rooms are not only present in today’s society, but in the past as well. The Mongolian Ger dwellings were characterized by separate spaces for men and women. The male half of the room was the ritual half and contained the possessions of the head of the household and honored guests, while the female half containing cooking utensils and children’s possessions (Spain 39). In today’s society gender is not as intense as the Mongolian Ger dwellings, but it is still present. The rooms in the house that are usually the most segregated are the bedrooms. If it is a little girl’s bedroom it tends to be a more girly color and have girly stuff in the room. The room may have flowers painted on the wall and stuffed animals around the room. If the bedroom is a little boy’s room it may be plain or painted a boy color and have sports stuff around the room. Rooms that tend to be shared by both sexes need to be designed with that in mind. A living room and kitchen should be plain and neutral because it is being shared by both sexes and by being neutral both parties will feel comfortable in the room

The final element that should be considered by a designer is color. Color is a perception and the brain’s response to data received by the visual system (Douma). When we see something our eyes take in what we are seeing and then our brain process the data to tell us what we are seeing as well as the color that we are seeing. Color is an important element because it is a big part of our every day lives. Everything has a color and we use color to describe things. Color is also very important when designing a room, but it relies heavily on the first two elements of space and gender. Once the space and gender of the room is decided on it makes it a lot easier to choose the color. If the space is a bedroom for a girl the color being chosen for the room should be a color that makes the person using the room comfortable since they will be in the room a lot and the color usually tends to be a more girly color. Painting a bedroom black for a little girl’s room would not be the best choice because it would be very depressing and girl’s tend to like brighter colors like pink. If the space is a living room the color that is chosen would be best a neutral color since both sexes tend to hang out in the living room. Color is very important and tends to set the mood of people, making it a very important element when designing a house.

 When given the opportunity of having “unlimited money” to create my ideal space, I chose my dream house as my inspiration. Having the opportunity of unlimited money opens up the opportunity to do many great things. With this opportunity I became the designer of my home and in order to create my dream home I needed to carefully use the three elements. To start my planning I had to decide on a location for my space. I wanted my house to be nice, but not a huge extravagant house, so I decided to choose a suburban neighborhood in Colorado (Pinterest 1). I chose Colorado because I think it is a beautiful place and I also know that it will be warm enough in the summer, so that I can have a swimming pool in my backyard (Pinterest 2), but also get cold enough in the winter to snow.

 After choosing the location of my home and a picture of what I wanted the house to look like it was time for me to become the designer and design the inside of the house. When first entering the house the space is very large and open, so I decided to fill this space with a little entrée way (Pinterest 3) and a stairway to the second story (Pinterest 4). I decided this space would be a good space for the entrée way because it makes it a great place to put a purse, backpack or shoes after coming home from a long day. This space is also a great place for the stairway because it is an open area and it gives someone the option to either stay downstairs or go to the second floor after they first enter the house. After deciding on the space, I needed to decide the gender of the space. Because this area is the first thing saw by anyone that walks in, it needed to be a neutrally gendered space. After deciding on the gender of the space I chose the colors. I made the entrée way a greenish color because it is warm and welcoming and it is a color that appeals to both males and females. I decided to leave the stairway white because it keeps it very plain, but still open and appealing to the eye.

 After creating the entrée way, I needed to decide what to do with the large space next to it. I decided to put the living room (Pinterest 5) here because it is a big space and it would be a great place for the family to congregate together. Being that it is a family room the gender of this space is also neutral. Because the space is once again neutral I chose a color that would be appealing to both sexes, so I chose orange and white. I felt that the white is very calming and makes the living room feel like a great and calming place to relax, but the pops of orange also make it feel like a fun place to just hang out. After creating the living room I decided that the space across from the living room would be a great place for a bathroom (Pinterest 6). This space is good for a bathroom because it is very convenient since it is close to the front door and the living room. This space is also another gender-neutral space because it is near the common area of the living room and will be used by both sexes in the family as well as guests. I made the color of the bathroom a dark purple because it is a very appealing color to the eye and it is not a very girly color.

 After designing the living room and bathroom, I decided to fill the remaining space with a kitchen (Pinterest 7) and a dining room (Pinterest 8). This space is a good space for a kitchen because it would be really weird and inconvenient to have a kitchen upstairs. Being that the kitchen is here makes it a great space to have a dining room next to it. Although this space would be a neutral gendered space because it is used by both genders, I made it a more female gendered space. I made it a female gendered space because I really like to cook, so I feel that I will be spending a lot of time in the kitchen and I wanted it appealing to me. After deciding that the space would be a female gendered space, but still also a neutral space I made my kitchen black and white, with a hint of a light bluish grey color with a lot of flowers decorating the room. I also made the kitchen table area yellow and pink because I think the colors are pretty together and they make the kitchen pop since the color of the kitchen is very plain. I decided the dining area would be a lime green color because it will be a place that the family and guests come together to eat, so I didn’t want it to be a very girly color.

 The final space of my house that I needed to design was the upstairs. I decided that the upstairs would be a great place for the bedrooms as well as a bathroom because it is a very private and quiet area. The first couple of rooms in the upstairs are the children’s bedrooms, the guest bedroom and their bathroom. The guest bedroom (Pinterest 9) would be a neutral gendered space because it could be used by either gender. I made this room once again very plain and simple, so that the guest would feel comfortable in the room. The color of the room is just white with a hint of turquoise. The white makes it neutral and the turquoise blue is comforting to both sexes. The first children’s room I have is for my daughter (Pinterest 10). Because the room is for my daughter it would be a female gendered space and being female I decided the paint color would be pink. Also being a female gendered room I wanted it to have a tree with flowers painted on the wall as well as ruffles. Little girls are usually associated with pink and tend to like pink, so that is why I chose that color. The next room I designed was my little son’s room (Pinterest 11). Being a boy’s room the gender of the room would be male, so I decided to have the room painted blue and be very plain. Boys tend to be associated with blue and do not like girly things like flowers and ruffles, so I made his room plainer. The final part of the upstairs space was the bathroom (Pinterest 12). Because both children and any guests would be using the bathroom it would be a neutral gendered space. Being neutral I chose colors that are appealing to both and I gave it a beach theme because it would not only appeal to both children, but any guests as well.

 The final part of the house is the master bedroom, bathroom and closet. Because the master bedroom is shared by two people and usually has its own bathroom and closet it tends to be a bigger space. The space is also a neutral gendered space because it is to be shared by both my husband and me. Being a neutrally gendered space I made sure that when designing it I did not make it too girly, but it still had a girl feel to it since I would be living in it. I decided the best color for the bedroom (Pinterest 13) would be a grey color because I really like the color grey and it is also a color that boys like as well. I also decided to have it pop with some yellow, since grey can sometimes seem like a depressing color. Yellow is a good neutral gender color and it will make the room stand out. When designing the bathroom (Pinterest 14) I made it a large bathroom since two people will share it and I decided to leave it white with maybe some flowers to add color. The closet (Pinterest 15) also needs to be big because it will have two sets of clothes in it. I would have the closet painted black because it contrasts with the white bathroom.

 As a designer each of these elements need to be considered in order to make the perfect home and rooms for a family. Although each of these elements are very important, space is the most important because it determines the other factors. Space is not only an important factor when designing a home, but also important in every day life. Space is all around us. There is public spaces like a park or an office building, private spaces like a home or hybrid spaces like a college campus, which is public to those that attend, but private to anyone not attending the college. When designing anything, space has to be the first and most important factor. If a designer wanted to design a park he would have to find a space that is appropriate for a park and then he can use the other two elements to finish designing the park. In this same way, I designed my dream home by making most of my decisions based on space. I had to make sure the space was adequate enough for what I wanted it to be used for. Once I had the space decided I could use the other elements and complete the design, but the starting point of any design is space.

Works Cited

Douma, Michael, curator. Causes of Color. 2008. Institute for Dynamic Educational Development. (2, May, 2012). <http://www.webexhibits.org/causesofcolor>

Pinterest. English 211 Ideal Space Board. Delaney Schneider. http://pinterest.com/roxygirl333/ideal-space-english-211/

Spain, Daphne. Gendered Spaces. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1992. N. pag. NMSU Library. EBSCO Host. Web. 24 Apr. 2012.