A CRASH COURSE IN COLOR THEORY PART TWO
Color Harmony & Combinations

MONOCHROMATIC
One hue with various tints and/or shades

ANALOGOUS
Hues next to each other on the color wheel

COMPLEMENTARY
Hues opposite each other on the color wheel

DOUBLE COMPLEMENTARY
Two different hues and their complementing hues

SPLIT COMPLEMENTARY
A hue plus two hues equidistanted from the first hues

TRIADIC
Three hues equidistanted from each other

ACCENTED ANALOGOUS
A hue, its complement and its analogous hues

TETRATIC
Two hues and their complements, equidistanted from each other

So...there is an equation for perfect color harmony?

\[ \text{Color Harmony} = f(\text{color}_1, \text{color}_2, \text{color}_3, \ldots, n) \times (\text{ID} + \text{CE} + \text{CX} + \text{P} + \text{T}) \]

As you can see from the above equation, the variables used to calculate the perfectly harmonic color scheme is not just based on the wheel, but also based on demographics, culture, context of the scheme itself, social trends, timing... areas of study in which designers spend years becoming experts.

While it might be easy to conclude that one doesn’t even need a designer if one just has a color wheel, this isn’t the case. The color wheel is only a reference tool for designers, it shouldn’t be used as a way to choose a color scheme.

Sources:
- http://colorschemedesigner.com/