1.6

Tessellations

A *tessellation* is a way of covering a (flat) surface with tiles in such a manner that there are no gaps or overlaps. The idea behind building a tessellation is simple; take a pattern or tile and repeat it over the entire surface. Just like a mason tiles a floor! There are many different types of tessellations – different shapes can be used to tile a surface. The most commonly seen tiles are polygons.

Symmetry abounds in nature. In every glance our eyes notice, almost seek out, symmetry. Nature shows us symmetry in abundance. Whether we look at the shell of a tortoise, a honeycomb (beehive) or even plant tissue through a microscope we find a discernible pattern. A pattern that is repeated over and over. It is this symmetry that is reflected in almost all designs made by humans as well.