Configurations

The four common configurations pair up to a large extent with the materials and the contexts of the artifacts.

**Circle**   Typically brooches and bosses in metalwork have survived.

**Ringed Cross**   Stone sculptures or carvings most commonly survive, but the form is appropriate to bookart as well.

**Rectangle**   Illuminated 'carpet' pages in books are many; surviving boxes made for book-shrines are few; the shape possibly is used in building design as well.

**Lineal Extension**   Narrative texts in verse are divided into sections of unequal and non-modular length, in this respect being unlike 'stanzas'.

Three of these configurations—circle, ringed cross, and rectangle—underlie two-dimensional plans laid out on a plane surface. The relative disposition of the parts of these three can be seen, making up a static visual pattern. The configuration of segmented lineal extensions is one-dimensional and cannot be grasped visually, even if the segmentation are a conspicuous visual part of the text. The configuration can be recognised nonetheless in the relations among the counts of metrical lines in the segments.

All four configurations depend for their creation on setting lines at right angles. That is obvious in the rectangular forms and the crosses (ringed and otherwise). In the circular designs and lineal extension plans, right angles may not appear in structural lines, yet they always appear in the sources of the ratios among the lengths and the distancing of the principal lines.