

**THE DESIGN  
COLLECTION**

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**A** The National Archives



## THE DESIGN COLLECTION

The Design Collection is a portfolio of rarely seen heritage designs held by The National Archives, contained within the Registers of Design submitted to the Patent Office in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The collection is an eclectic and inspirational compilation of design concepts and production samples from around the UK. These beautiful designs are now available on a subscription basis to use as an inspirational design tool for your own creations.

Our online subscription service enables you to browse over 1,000 carefully curated heritage designs, with more added to the collection regularly in line with trend predictions and forecasts for the season.

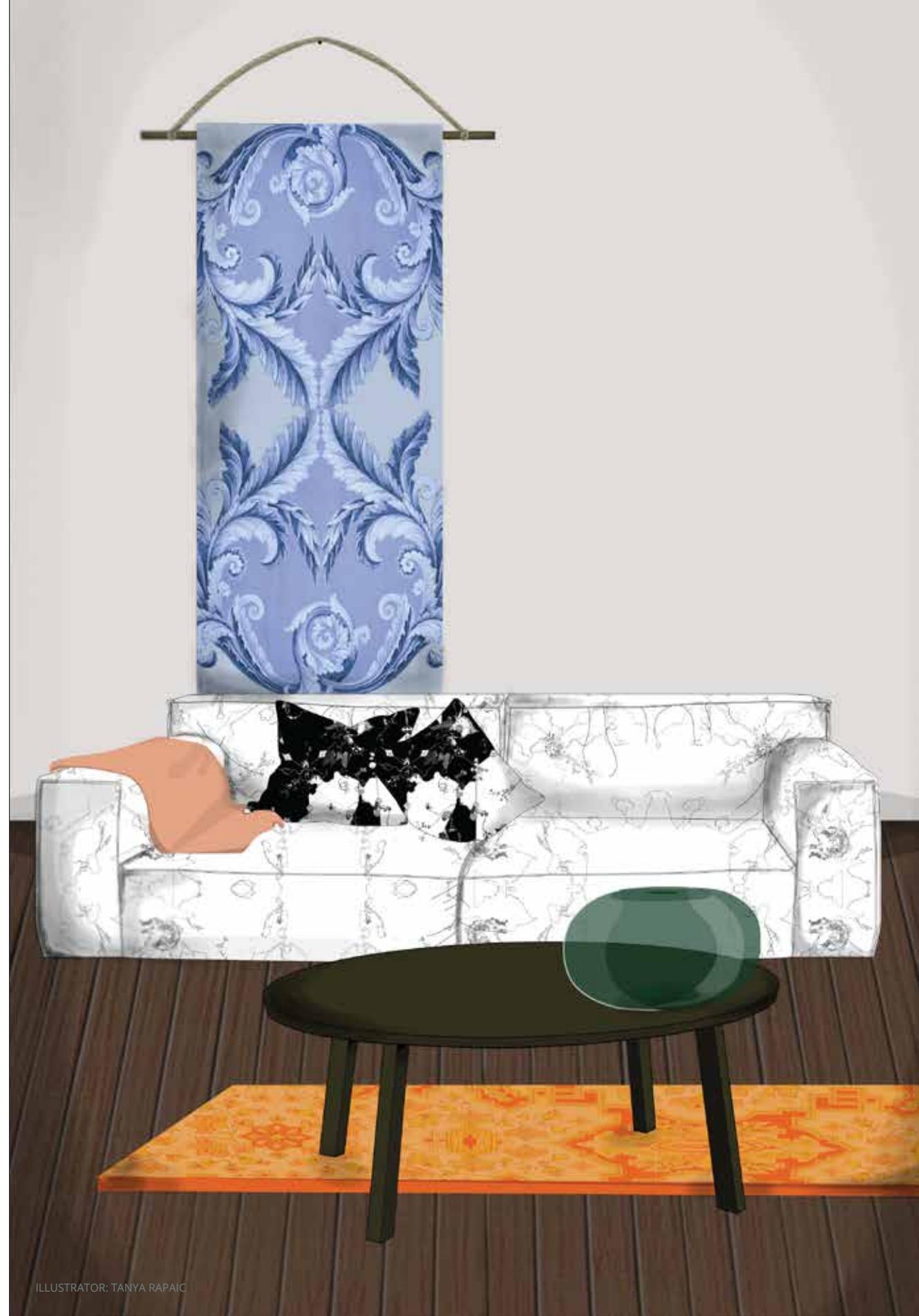
Artists can take their inspiration from colours and textures used through the ages, while fashion designers can create new ranges inspired by and rooted in design heritage. Interior designers can give original bygone styles a contemporary twist for modern homes, while art colleges can provide their students with access to an accurate record of design and manufacturing history.

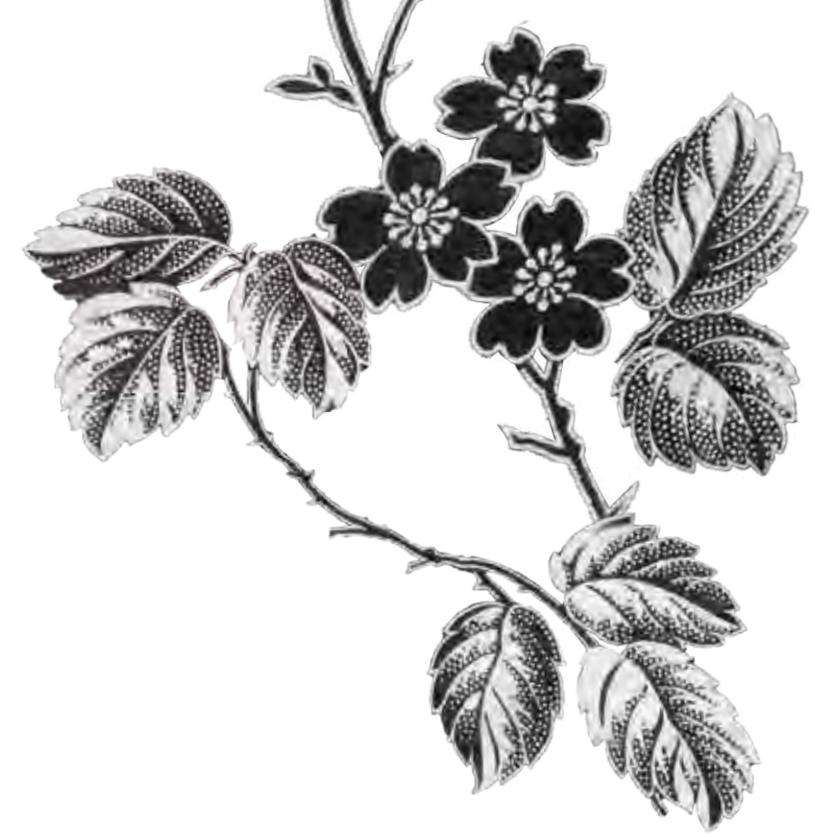
[nationalarchives.gov.uk/design](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/design)



# INTERIOR

We are opening up our rarely seen heritage designs to inspire artists and designers to produce new and exciting works.





# FASHION

You can filter the collection by pattern, theme, colour and date range to find the designs that most inspire you.



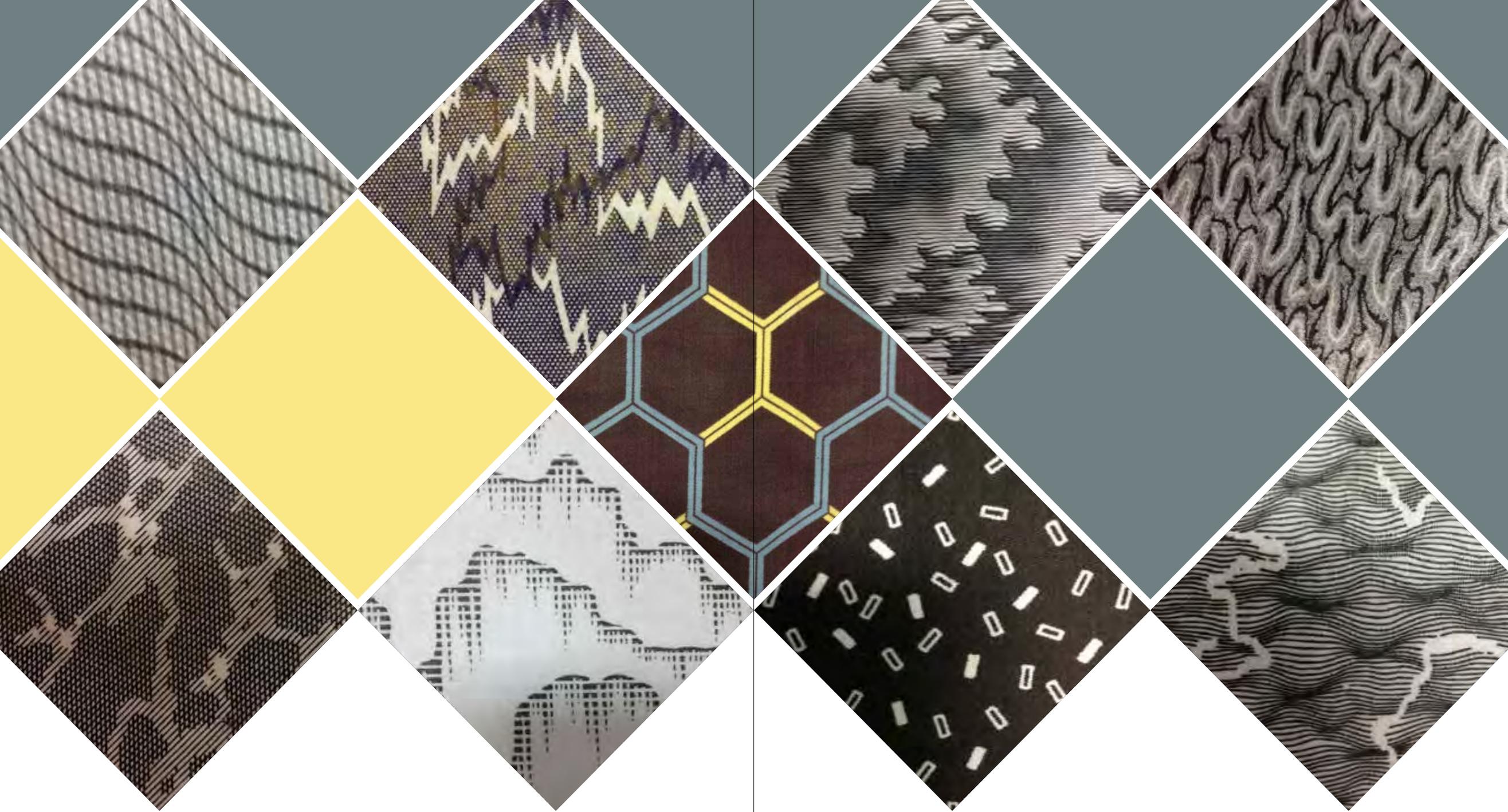
# COLOUR & MOOD

Find inspiration in our online lookbook, featuring curated prints matched to trend predictions and seasonal stories.



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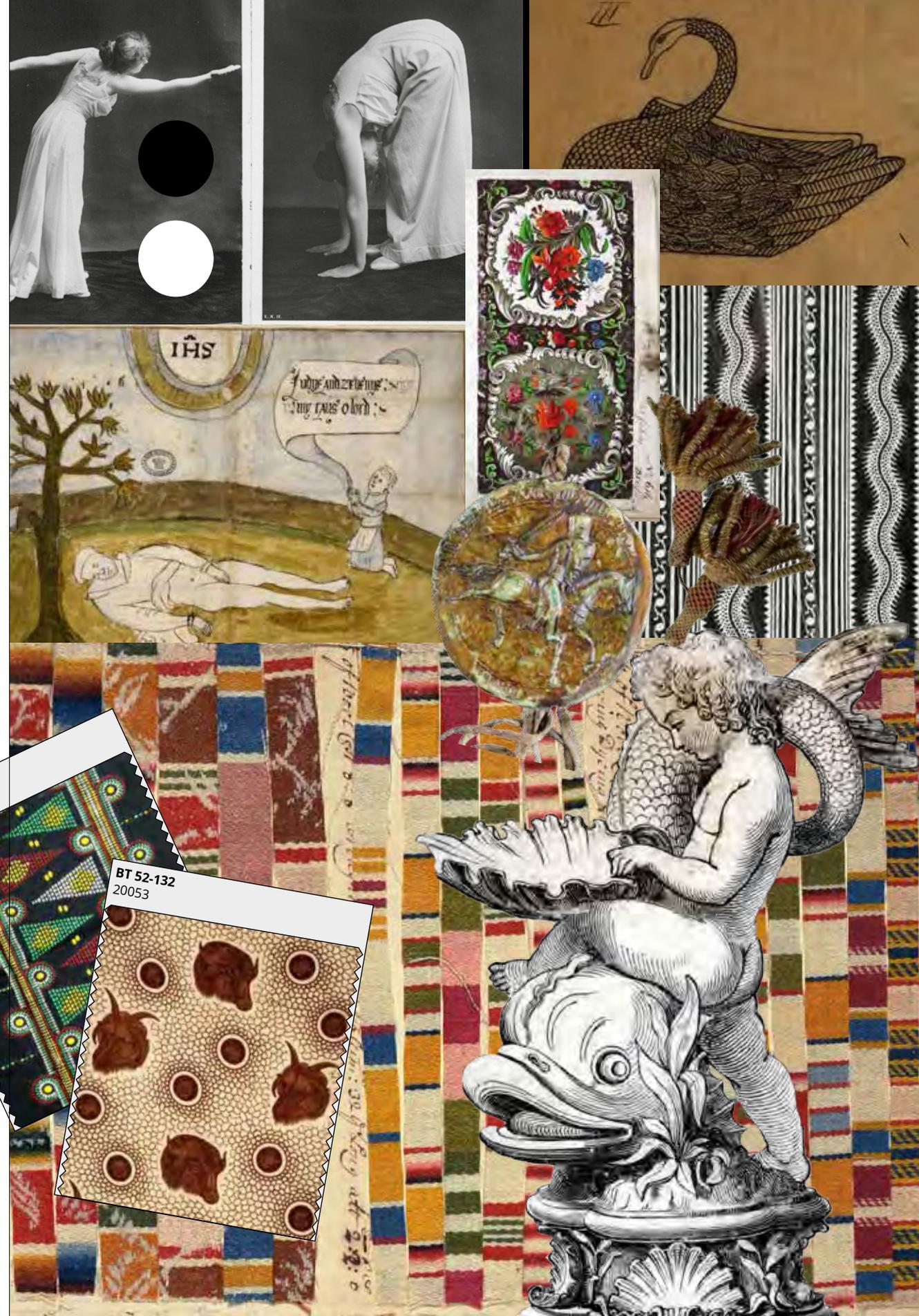


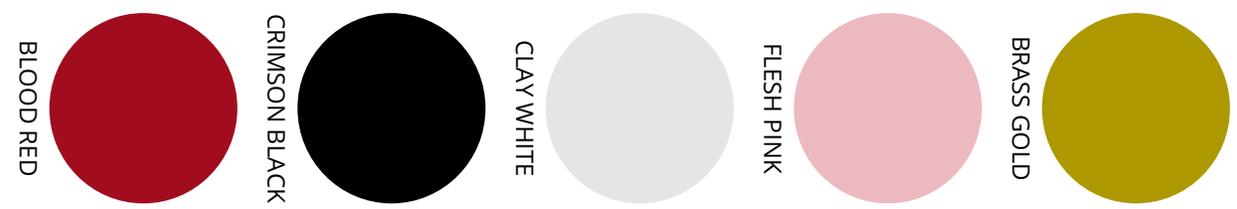
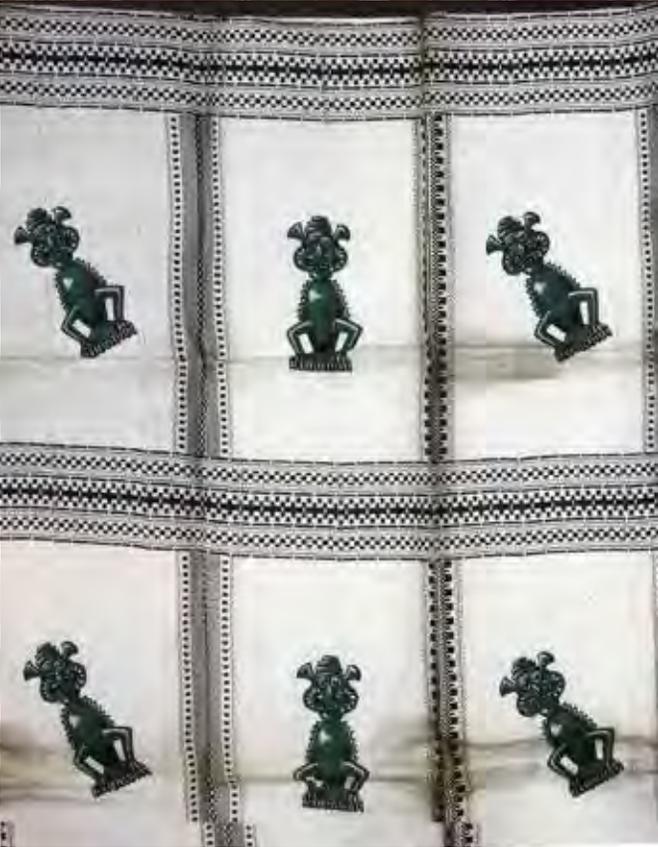
## Op Art & Linear

A unique selection of stunning 19th-century monochrome and abstract prints is now available as part of this season's release for Autumn/Winter 16-17. This selection of print designs demonstrates how modern some of the prints in our historical collection are, conveying a psychedelic ambience for the season.

## SPRING/SUMMER 16 MOOD: BRITISH FOLKLORE

This collection looks at how designers tell stories through clothing. Derived from British folk tales of mythical beings, and drawing in subtle tribal references and naïve representations of animals from around the world, these designs convey ritualistic elements and hand craftsmanship.

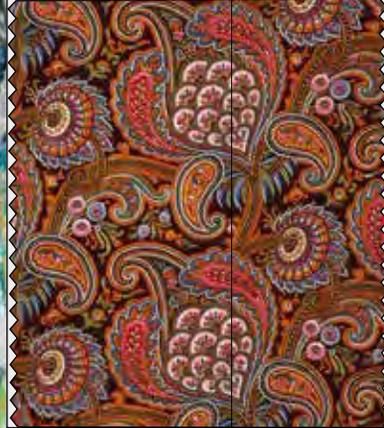




SPRING/SUMMER 16 MOOD: BRITISH FOLKLORE



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BT 43-3348  
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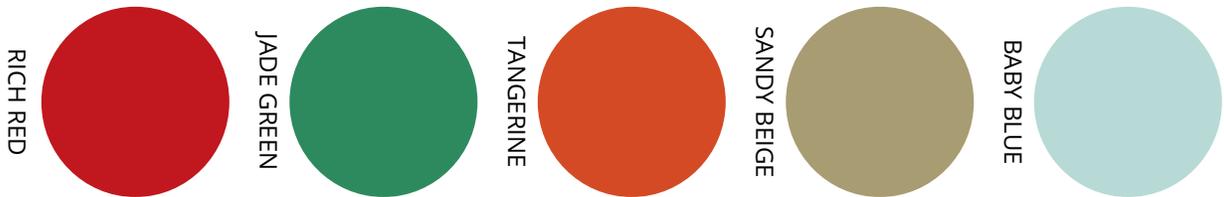
## PAISLEY

The pattern widely known as paisley has a complex history, reflecting exchanges in designs, materials and products between the UK and the Indian subcontinent.

Shawls woven with stylised plant designs are known to have been produced in Kashmir as early as the 17th century. When examples were brought back by the East India Company in the early 19th century, they became highly prized in the UK. These shawls were expensive and difficult to source, so British manufacturers started to copy and produce them more cheaply, although the yarns available in the UK seldom achieved the quality of the Kashmiri products.

The name 'paisley' refers to the Scottish town where a huge industry developed to manufacture patterned woven shawls, an essential item of fashionable female dress in 19th-century Europe. The shawls were made of fine sheep's wool, often in twill weave, with the pattern introduced via supplementary weft threads; these threads enhanced both texture and warmth.

Shawls remained popular in the UK on and off until the 1870s, and the paisley pattern has proved to be remarkably adaptable. Changes in the shape, scale, colouring, spacing and the infilling of motifs allow for a huge diversity of effects.



RICH RED

JADE GREEN

TANGERINE

SANDY BEIGE

BABY BLUE

INTRODUCING THE PAISLEY COLLECTION



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