

PERIOD LIVING

CELEBRATING CLASSIC HOMES AND TIMELESS STYLE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Natural selection

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Old meets new

INSPIRING RENOVATION STORIES – FROM A RESTORED MEDIEVAL
MANOR TO A CONVERTED VICTORIAN SQUASH COURT



Arnica, Nova Akebia and Ajuga designs – that the fashion house is perhaps now best known for.

Tim Walters, managing director of British fabric designers George Spencer Designs, considers that the impact of technological evolution and innovation in production techniques democratised access to paisley patterns and enhanced the nuance in modern design. ‘The Industrial Revolution brought power looms, standardisation and mass production, making paisley widely accessible,’ he says. ‘And the mid 20th century saw the advent of screen printing, followed by digital printing, all allowing for highly detailed and customisable designs. Today, modern techniques, such as computer-aided design, advanced automated looms, and sustainable practices, enable efficient, consistent and eco-friendly production, while digital printing allows for on-demand customisation. And yet,’ Tim says, ‘paisley designs still reflect cultural influences from their Persian and Indian origins, contributing to their distinctive and timeless aesthetic.’

Today, although most paisleys are printed, de Le Cuona is one of the brands regarded for its aspirational paisley weaves. ‘I discovered artisans handmaking these exquisite textiles on antique looms while travelling in India over 30 years ago and was spellbound by the creativity of the people,’ says Bernie de Le Cuona. ‘One of our brand’s best-selling paisleys is based on an antique shawl I saw in a Kashmir archive – its details so intricate that only a few metres can be woven per loom per day.’

An enduring classic, it seems paisley is also open to endless reimagination. **PH**



FAR LEFT Giving a soft modern look, Angelique by Kate Forman features the classic teardrop motifs with stripes, for both cushions and curtains in Charcoal (shown here) or Pink, £130m

LEFT Sollander is screen-printed on a silk/cotton blend for a wood-block effect, and is ideal for curtains. Shown here in Navy, £120m, Colefax and Fowler

RIGHT Victoria Wormsley of French Brooks Interiors used a pair of woven paisley throws from Oka in this bedroom to introduce subtle texture and pattern

BELOW Serenity paisley weave in Snow by de le Cuona is handcrafted in a wool and cotton mix, and is also suitable for curtains, £260m

BELOW RIGHT Embroidered Orissa velvet in Burgundy, comes in seven colourways, £195m; the cushion is in Jayshree linen mix, £249m, both Zoffany

