



Virginia Commonwealth University
VCU Scholars Compass

Pattern Research Project

Dept. of Interior Design

2018

Pattern Research Project: An Investigation of The Pattern And Printing Process - Quatrefoil

Yoon Chae Lee

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/prp>



Part of the [Interior Design Commons](#)

© The Author

Downloaded from

<https://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/prp/25>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Dept. of Interior Design at VCU Scholars Compass. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pattern Research Project by an authorized administrator of VCU Scholars Compass. For more information, please contact libcompass@vcu.edu.



Quatrefoil

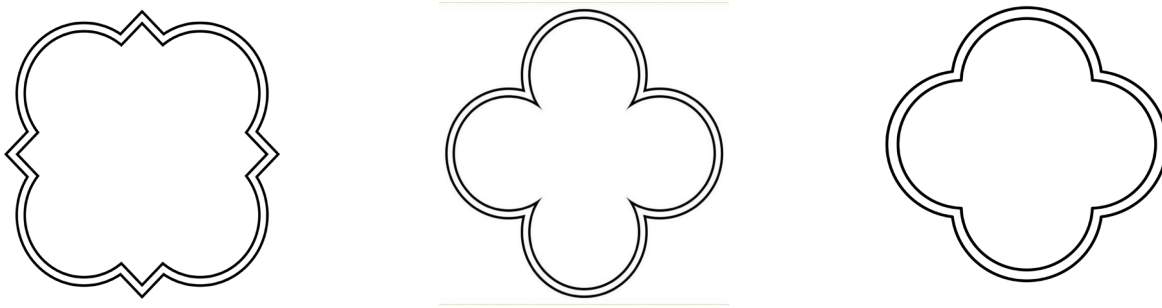


History

Quatrefoil is one of the good examples that still used in modern day for wallpaper, ornamentation, textile, bedding, and lighting, etc (Image 3 and 4). It is ambiguous about where it came from but, regardless of its murky origins, the quatrefoil was popular throughout Europe. It was considered as a symbol of good luck. Historically in architecture, the quatrefoil became a prominent design element in Gothic and Renaissance architecture (Image 2 and 5). It was mostly used in tracery and stained glass windows (Image 6) (McGowin, C. S. (n.d.).



The word, “**Quatrefoil**” is derived from Latin word meaning four leaves. It is a symmetrical shape with four lobes or foils of equal size. It has also come to symbolize harmony, symmetry, and proportion.



Culture

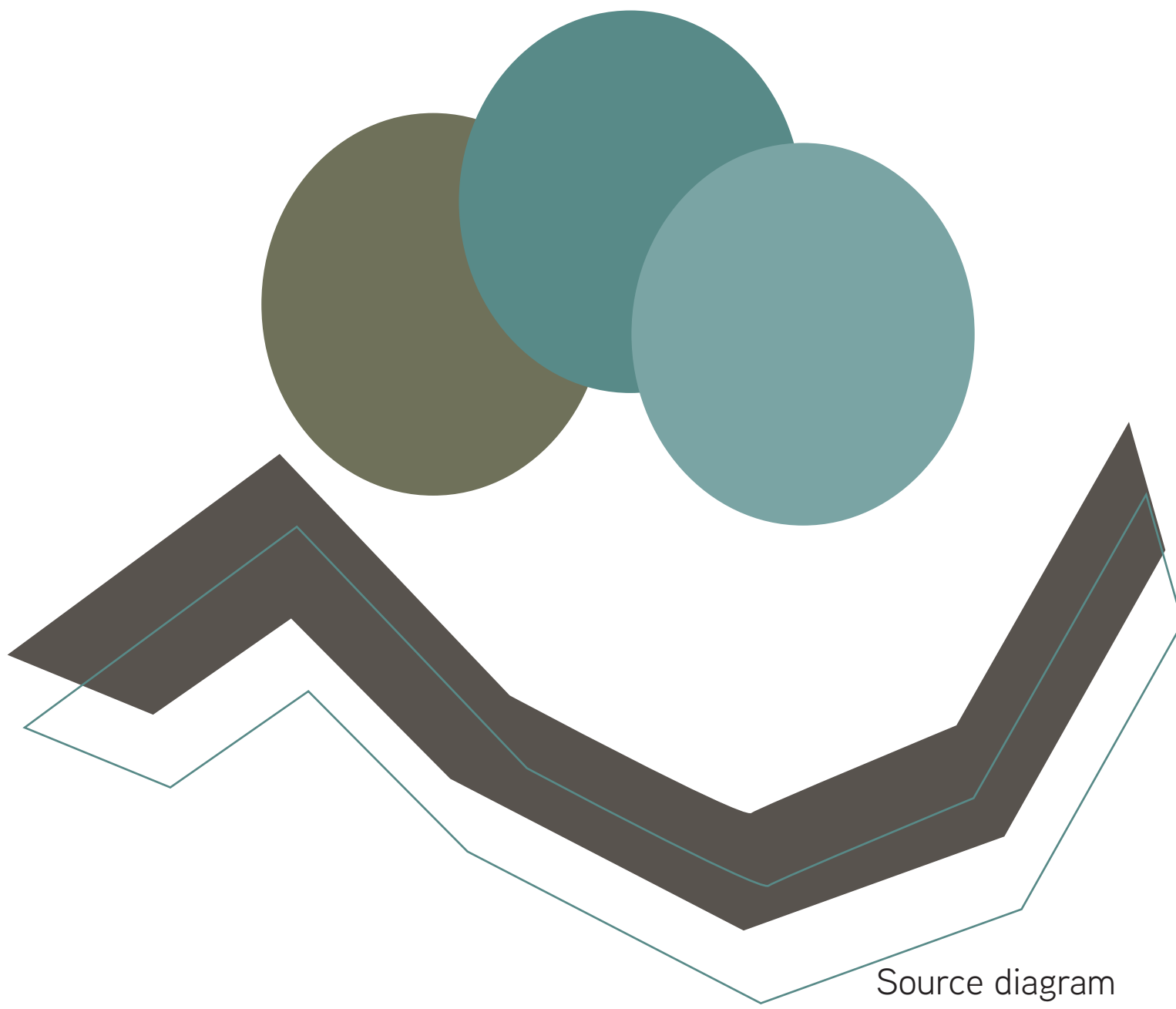
- There are several symbolic roots of Quatrefoil.
1. Ancient symbol of good luck
 2. In Christianity, the four leaves represent the four evangelists of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
 3. In Native American culture, the four leaves represent the four ends of the earth: North, South, East, and West.

Quatrefoil

Alexander Girard designed “Quatrefoil” in 1954 and it was a textile design for Herman Miller (Image 1). This design was from his inspiration when he traveled to Mexico and India as well as from his fascination with traditional folk art. With the use of vivid colors, playful forms, and bold, Quatrefoil represents these influences thoroughly (Eisenbrand 2016).



Pattern : Quatrefoil
Designer : Alexander Girard
Textile Producer : Maharam
Material Content : 75% of Cotton, 25% of Nylon
Width : 54” (137cm)
Repeat : 11 1/2” V, 13 1/2” H (29cm V, 34cm H)
Bolt Size: 30 yards (27 m)
Maintenance : S-Clean with mild, water-free dry cleaning solvent



Craft & Materials & Tools

History

Throughout history in the United States, cotton was the crop that requires extremely intensive labor to produce (diagram 1). In early 1850, the first attempts at a mechanical cotton picker or combine were patented. Over the 100 years, many machines for harvesting were patented, but none of them were successful. In 1942, the international harvester built the model called “H-10-H”, and it became the first successful harvesting machine. Development of harvesting machine improved productivity, output, and effectiveness. The use of tools for harvesting increased radicalzero to 96 percent between 1948 and the late 1960s (Glade E.H. 1996).

Tools

Around the 1950s, the adoption of new technology such as labor-saving equipment, pesticides, and improved plant varieties resulted in rising yields and lower per unit production costs. The representative examples of the tools used to crop cotton are a cotton picker (image 7) and a spinning wheel (diagram 2).

Pattern Project : QUATREFOIL

Yoon Chae Lee (Aux Next / Semi Bold / 48)

Color & Design

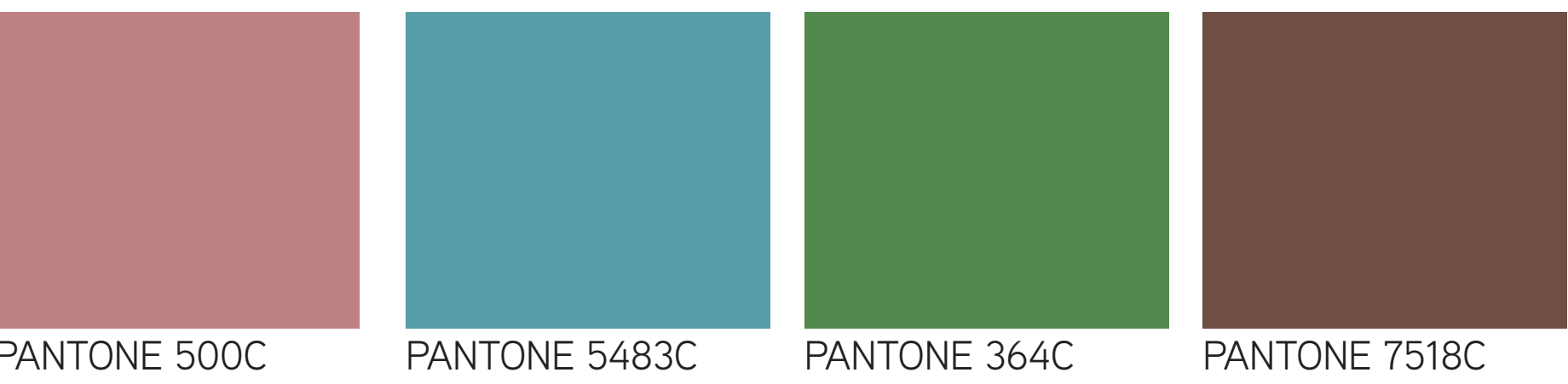


These are the color palettes that used for one of the versions of the quatrefoil pattern which is **silver (image 1)**.



Color

There are five versions of ‘Quatrefoil’ with various color palettes which are silver(1), pink(9), crimson(10), emerald(11), and violet(12) (left to right) (Maharamran.d.)

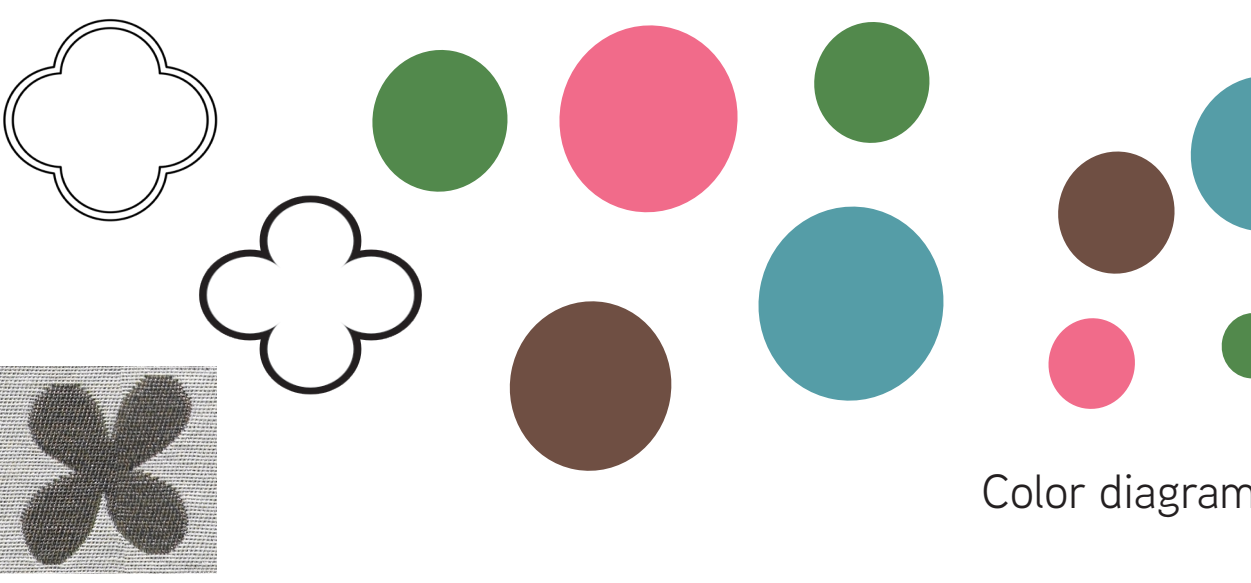


In the 1950s when he created the ‘quatrefoil’, there were four versions with a bit different color palettes. He designed this pattern to be used as the curtain in the four children’s bedrooms in the mid-century modern Miller House in Columbus, Indiana.

Motifs
It is literal because of the quatrefoil pattern itself. The pattern, quatrefoil had murky origins but was famous throughout Europe. It has been used in global art and architecture for centuries, and designers and artists still use it today. Initially, a quatrefoil is the form of the outline of four overlapping circles of the same size.

Rhythm

There is a regular repeat of a symmetrical shape with four foils of equal size which is ‘quatrefoil.’ Alexander Girard’s ‘Quatrefoil’ is transformed to be more modernized and look like a flower-shape than the old form of the quatrefoil.



Use & Purpose

Initially, the Quatrefoil textile design was created for the use of Herman Miller’s children. Alexander Girard selected his design for use as curtains in the bedrooms, and each room had a different color. For example, room 34 had color #627, room 33 had #629, room 35 had #628, and room 37 had “special colors” (Newfields n.d.).

The intended users were the four children at the Miller house in Columbus, Indiana.

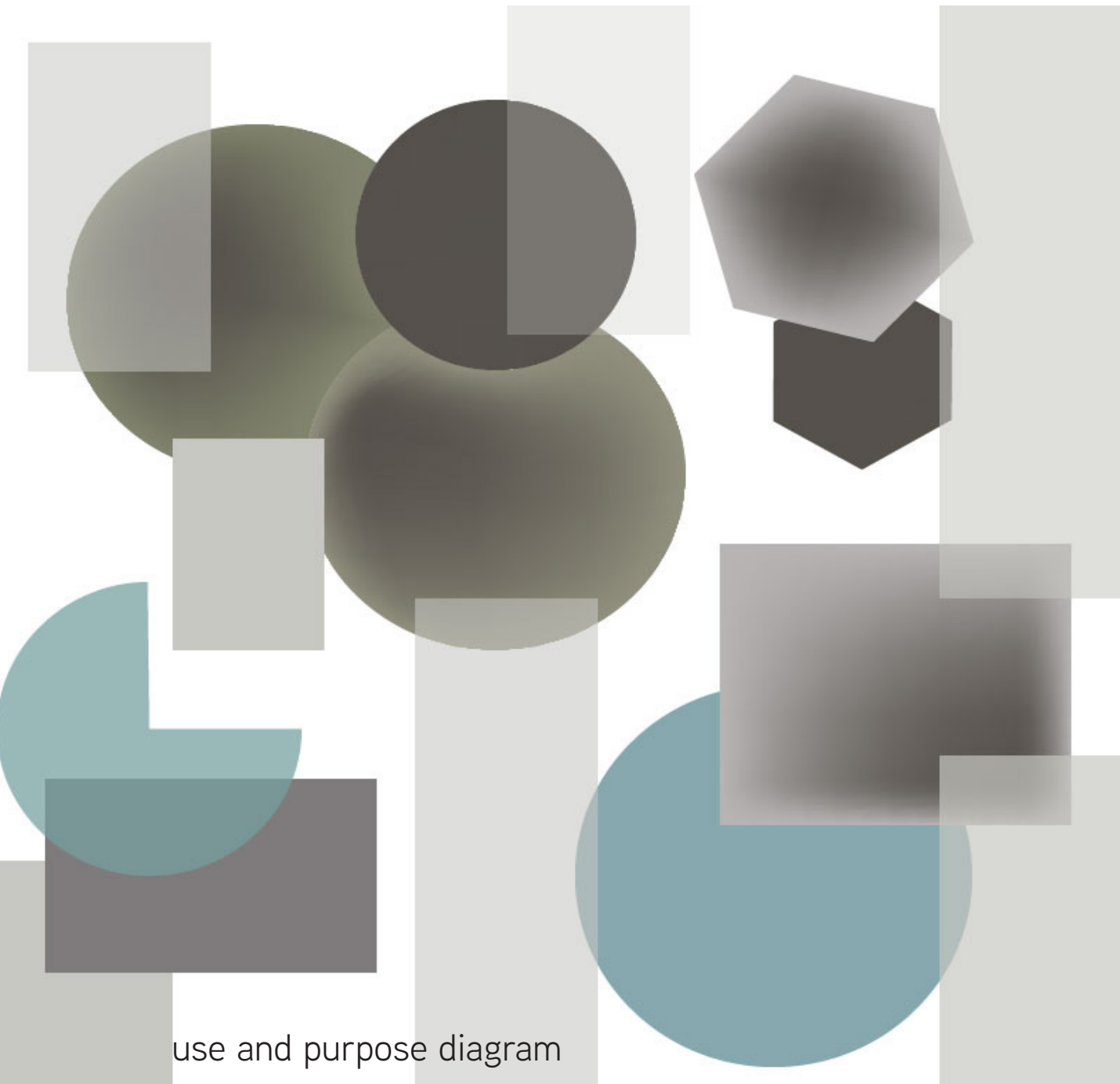


Color #627 for room 34



Color #628 for room 35

“Special colors” for room 37



The representative product that related to the Quatrefoil pattern is the pillow (image 6 and 7) which can be bought from Maharam and Herman Miller.



The Quatrefoil pattern is the textile pattern so it also can be use for furniture, carpets, towels, beds, covering for tables, bags or clothes.

References

- Images**
- 1, 9-12 : Quatrefoil pattern with different color palettes (Maharam)
 - 2-6 : Examples that shows use of quatrefoil pattern in different areas. (The Quatrefoil: Timeless Design & Quatrefoil: Definition, Design & History.)
 - 7,8 : Examples of the tools to harvest cotton in the United States (Living historyfarm)
 - 13-16 : Original version which was used for the curtain of the quatrefoil textile which was used for the curtain at the Miller House (Newfields)
 - 17-19 : Examples of the quatrefoil in modern days (Maharam)

Diagram

1. Source
2. Tool
3. Color
4. Use and Purpose

Citation

- (n.d.). Retrieved from https://livinghistoryfarm.org/farminginthe50s/machines_15.html
- Eisenbrand, J., Brown, S., Obniski, M., Kries, M., & Wirth, S. (2016). Alexander Girard: A designer's universe: Weil-am-Rhein: Vitra Design Museum GmbH.
- Girard, A., & Piña, L. A. (2002). Alexander Girard designs for Herman Miller. Atglen, PA: Schiffer.
- Glade, E. H., Meyer, L. A., & Stults, H. M. (1996). The cotton industry in the United States. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service.
- Maharam - Quatrefoil by Alexander Girard , 1954. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.maharam.com/products/quatrefoil-by-alexander-girard-1954/colors/003-crimson>
- McGowin, C. S. (n.d.). The Quatrefoil: Timeless Design (and GOOD LUCK!). Retrieved from <https://gabbyhome.com/blog/the-quatrefoil-timeless-design-and-a-symbol-of-good-luck/>
- Newfields: A Place for Nature & the Arts. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://discovernewfields.org/>
- PANTONE. (n.d.). Find a Pantone Color | Quick Online Color Tool. Retrieved from <https://www.pantone.com/color-finder>
- Przybyłek, S. (n.d.). Quatrefoil: Definition, Design & History. Retrieved from <https://study.com/academy/lesson/quatrefoil-definition-design-history.html>