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

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CONTEMPORARY PATTERN: INLAY by HELLA JONGERIUS

MATERIALITY + DESIGN

Inlay is made of 80% Cotton and 20% Nylon. Inlay is made as a seating and matting pillows. It was inspired by traditional dutch woven ribbon. Traditional dutch wear is layered with different patterned ribbons on top of eachother. A closer look reveals a subtle plaid design. These gridded arrangements, highlighted by colored embellishments, reveal a subtle plaid in the ground, upon which bands of unusual color appear overlaid. This sample is a 10” x 10” sample and the repeat is 8” V, 27 1/4” H. The background reveals a subtle plaid with yield monitors and GPS to maximize efficiency”. Now the harvested cotton is converted into modules (tall rectangles of compressed cotton), which weighs around 20,000 pounds. The modules are then taken to the gin, which separates the lint from the seed. Grass and leaves are removed, and fine-toothed saws take out sticks. It is then crushed to extract the oil. The cotton lint is cleaned and enters a condenser that packs it into a 500-pound bale. Lastly, the bales are shipped to textile mills or manufacturers (“The Story of Cotton: How Cotton is Grown, Processed, and Used,” Barnhardt Natural Fibers, 2010).

HOW COTTON IS MADE

Farmers plant cottonseed in April and monitor the fields by taking out weeds, insects and any sign of disease because an entire crop can be destroyed by these things. A healthy plant flowers, turning yellow-white, then red, then dies, leaving a boll. When the boll bursts open it is dried up by the sun and gets harvested. “Mechanical picker spindles pick and twist the raw cotton fiber from the bur, and the raw fiber is captured in a basket on the back of the picker” (“The Story of Cotton”). Inlay is constructed using an end-on-end nylon warp. This means that colored cotton thread is the warp and nylon is the vertical warp. A weaving machine is used for this process. Nylon is used as a polymer. The chemicals used to make nylon are amine, hexamethylene diamine, and adipic acid. The new amide molecules are held together by hydrogen atoms. Inlay is made of mostly cotton, using nylon for stretchability.

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COLOR

Hella Jongerius is known for using colors most wouldn’t put next to eachother. She does this to surprise the eye and keep interest in the viewers. Her expert knowledge of color is shown here masterfully. Different colored cotton and nylon threads are woven together to create this pattern.

HISTORY OF COTTON

Cotton takes a long journey from seed to product. However, this process can be completed in less than a year. My fabric sample, Inlay, is produced by Maharam Fabrics. It is unclear where Maharam manufacturers get their cotton for their products, but Maharam is an American company. The United States is one of the highest cotton production countries in the world. Cotton is grown in all of the states in the bottom of the half of the U.S. geographically. Originally, in 3,000 BC cotton was being grown, spun and woven into cloth in the Indus River Valley in Pakistan and spread to Egypt’s Nile valley. In 800 AD, cotton cloth was brought to Europe. When America was discovered, cotton was found growing in the Bahamas (“The Story of Cotton”). Cotton seed was then planted all over the world including along the James River in Virginia. In 1793, Eli Whitney came up with a new ginning principle and constructed a gin that turned cotton ginning into a moneymaking enterprise. It also became much less labor intensive. A cotton gin is a mechanical device that brings the seeds from cotton.

USE

The pattern is used for a textile for seating furniture. The intended users of this pattern are those that would appreciate the detailed design and use of color.

JONGERIUS’ PROCESS WORK

Inlay was first created with woven wool. It was weaved with different bands of colors, similar to the contemporary pattern. Many Scottish people wore this pattern for dress (seen below). Tartan also became regarded as Scottish family or clan emblems. Certain colors were used as identifying features of a clan or army in battle. Today, tartan is also created on non-woven materials like plastic.

PRECEDENT PATTERN: TARTAN

CULTURE + HISTORY

There is no cultural or religious significance to Inlay, but it’s precedent pattern does. Inlay is not a direct result of the original tartan patter, but they have similar characteristics. Both are consisted of vertical and horizontal lines laid out with a grid. Tartan was first created with woven wool. It was weaved with different bands of colors, similar to the contemporary pattern. Many Scottish people wore this pattern for dress (seen below). Tartan also became regarded as Scottish family or clan emblems. Certain colors were used as identifying features of a clan or army in battle. Today, tartan is also created on non-woven materials like plastic.

REFERENCE


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