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

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Pinnate Leaf



Pinnate Leaf

Laurel and Wreath Floral Design

Miriam Gibson



Original color study, watercolor and ink



Original geometry study, ink



Diagram B

Geometry

The pinnate leaf pattern is composed of smaller leaves, each about 3 inches long, that form larger fronds, each about 16 inches long. Although at first glance, each frond looks like a mirror image of the next, there are actually four unique fronds that repeat by either curving toward or away from the ones adjacent to it. As seen in Diagram B, the yellow and green fronds curve towards each other, while the pink and blue fronds curve away. The purple leaves in Diagram B are leaves that appear to be visually shared between the pink and blue.

Through the placement of the four fronds, an elongated parallelogram tile is implied, which is then repeated in a slightly staggered pattern across the carpet, with each tile measuring 16”x28” and overlapping slightly to create the repeat (as seen in Diagram C). Because the pattern repeat is a parallelogram in shape (as opposed to a rectangle), it causes the pattern to appear diagonally striped. The pattern repeat can also be easily identified by four small leaves (colored purple in diagram B) that two of the fronds share.

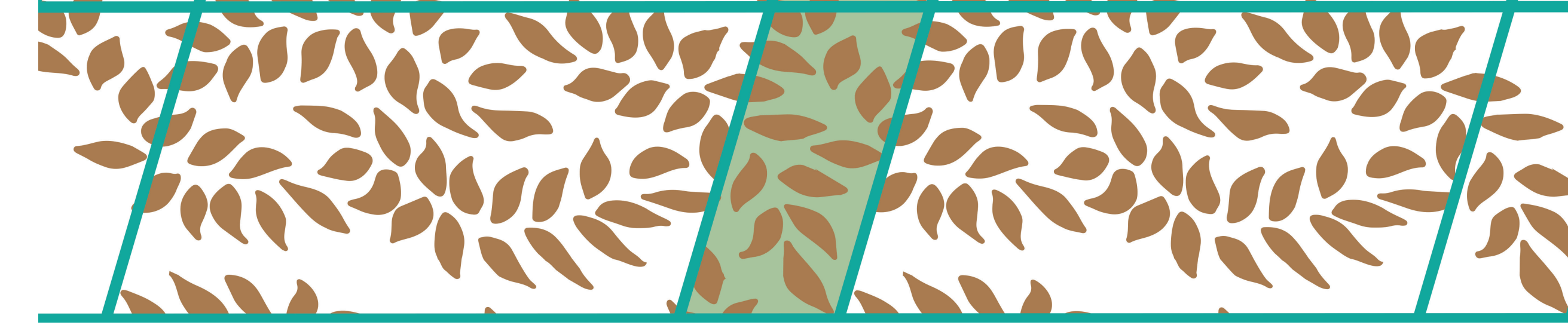


Diagram C



Detail of pinnate leaf carpet

Color

The colors of the pinnate leaf-patterned carpet are very quiet, neutral earth tones. Second to green, brown reminds us the most of nature, but has the advantage of fitting into more color schemes while not overwhelming or distracting from the other colors. Browns also tie in very well with natural materials (like wood and leather) that are frequently used in furnishing.

From a distance, the carpet has two colors: a light beige or nude and a tan, rusty brown, but the carpet actually has five prominent fiber colors that are woven together (diagram A) to create the pattern.



Diagram A

History

The pinnate leaf pattern may seem like it's pulled straight from nature, but the curvature and arrangement of the leaf fronds is actually resemblant of the shape of laurel wreaths or crowns, which have a deep history of symbolism in several mythologies and societies.

In ancient Greece and Rome especially, the horseshoe-shaped wreath was a frequently used symbol of glory, power, and eternity, and many were constructed of wool, foliage, and flowers as a form of adornment, or from gold foil for burials. Their ancient gods and goddesses were frequently depicted wearing wreaths made of specific leaves that tied into their stories. For instance, the god Apollo is usually depicted as wearing a wreath of laurel because a nymph he had been romantically pursuing, Daphne, escaped him by turning herself into a laurel tree, which Apollo cut off a branch from to form into a wreath he would wear forever as a symbol of his love for her (Carruthers).

Laurel crowns were also used by the Greeks as rewards for the winners of athletic, military, poetic, and musical contests. Olive wreaths specifically were awarded during athletic competitions because wild olive trees grew at Olympia (location of Olympic games). Romans followed suit, using floral crowns as rewards for triumph, adorning leaders and military personnel in crowns of laurel, oak, or myrtle (Carruthers). Famous military conquerors and leaders including Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Constantine, and Charlemagne all had their heads adorned with laurel wreaths on minted coinage as a way of linking themselves to the gods and illustrating their power. The emperor Napoleon also had his power illustrated in paintings by wearing a laurel wreath, even on his deathbed (Tompsett).

The prominence of floral wreaths since the time of antiquity is why the imagery of something as simple as a curved leaf can evoke such symbolism as victory, love, and eternity, and can appear anywhere from athletic competitions to carpet patterns in the present.



Greek Myrtle Wreath, Gold, 330-250 BC, MFA Houston



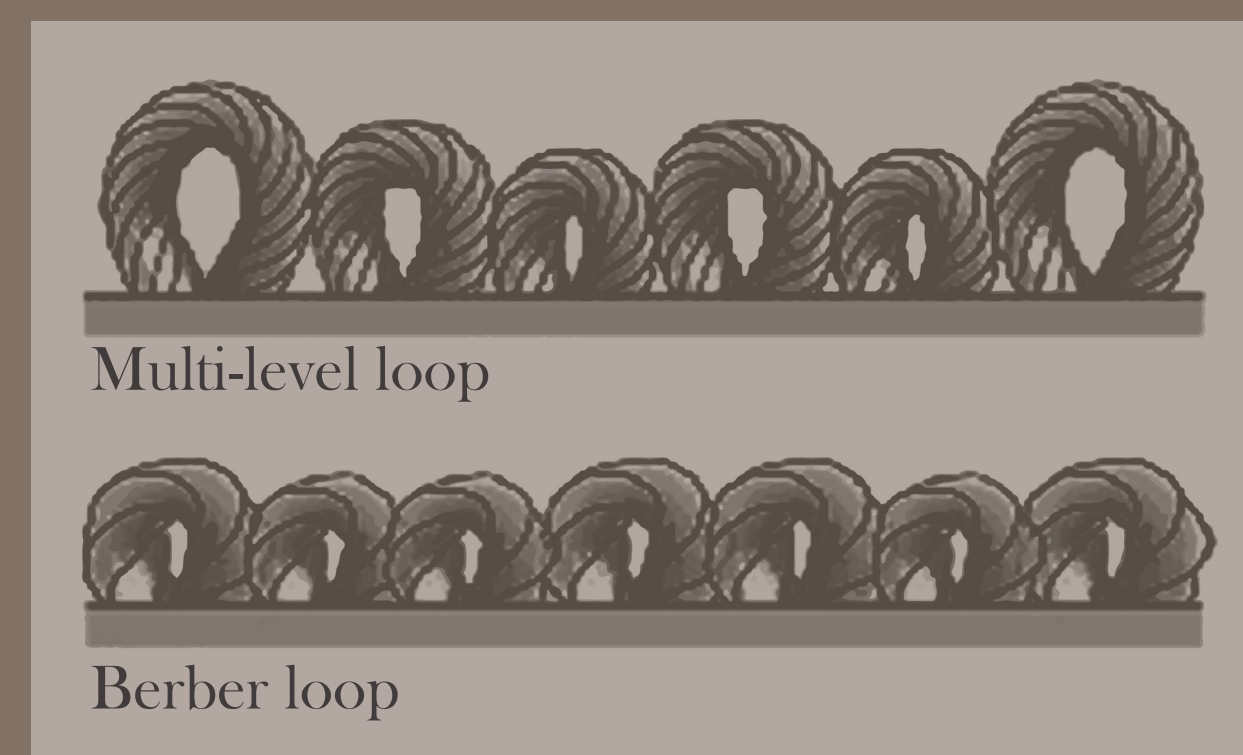
Napoleon on his deathbed, May 1821 by Horace Vernet, oil on canvas, 1825

Material

The pinnate leaf pattern is woven into a commercial-grade synthetic carpet. The carpet itself is a Berber loop pile, meaning it has small loops that are densely packed, but form a carpet that is not very thick or cushioned. Due to this carpet's synthetic material and density, it is easily cleaned, resists dirt, and is rather durable, which is why it's frequently used for highly trafficked areas (like offices & hallways). As this carpet is located in the hallways of a hospice center, the material aids in keeping the center clean as well as neutrally decorated.



Close-up of pinnate fronds



Multi-level loop

Berber loop



Close-up of pinnate leaf carpet texture

Usage: Hospice Care

The pinnate leaf-patterned carpet is located in the hallways and family room in the Adler Center for Caring in Aldie, Virginia. It is one of fourteen high-quality hospice centers owned by Capital Caring in the state of Virginia. Hospice is a “program designed to facilitate end of life care by maintaining and managing the patient’s quality of life for the terminally ill” (Leibrock 67). Although some hospice patients choose to be cared for and die in private residence, patients can also choose to be taken care of in a healthcare facility like the Adler center, which specializes in hospice inpatient care. Since hospice care is not for prolonging life, it is meant to enhance what remains of it by simplifying and taking care of all medical needs so that a patient can focus on what matters more to them in the end, which is frequently closure with family, friends, and religion.

Just as certain aspects of design can promote healing in other fields of healthcare, design for hospice can be specialized to improve life quality. Successful hospice design has details that are “flexible and easily adapted to the desire of the patient...visually pleasing and appealing to all the senses” (Leibrock 68). In addition, the design should focus on providing privacy, comfort, and nature to the patient. In fact, studies have shown that “in addition to reducing stress, views and access to nature and gardens can significantly increase patient and family satisfaction with the caregiver and the overall quality of care” (Leibrock 73). The Adler center incorporates nature into their design with foliage-patterned carpets and furniture, pictures and paintings of nature, and earth-toned colors. The pinnate leaf pattern therefore aids in providing a reminder of nature as well as a palatable color scheme for most visitors.



Entrance to Adler Center for Caring



Family Center at Adler Center for Caring