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

Material

The pinnate leaf pattern is woven into a commercial-grade synthetic carpet. The carpet itself is a Berber loop pile, meaning it have small loops that are densely packed, but form a carpet that is not very thick or plush. Due to this carpet’s synthetic material and density, it is easily cleaned, resists dirt, and is moisture durable, which is why it’s frequently used for highly trafficked areas (like offices & hallways). As this carpet actually has five prominent fiber colors that are worn together (diagram A) to create the pattern.

Color

The colors of the pinnate leaf-patterned carpet are very quiet, neutral earth tones. Secondary to green, brown reminds us of the most nature, but has the advantage of fitting into more color schemes while not overwhelming or distracting from the other colors. Brown 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 worn together (diagram A) to create the pattern.

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.

Usage: Hospice Care

History

The pinnate leaf pattern may seem like it’s pulled straight from nature, but the curvature and high momentum of the leaf fronds is actually reminiscent 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 horse shoe-shaped wreath was a frequently used symbol of glory, power, and eternity, and many were constructed of mock foliage, and flowers as a form of adornment, or from gold foil for burials. Their ancient gods and goddesses were frequently depicted wearing laurel wreaths made of specific leaves that tied into their stories. For instance, the god Apollo is usually depicted as wearing a wreath or laurel because a symphonic hall had been romantically pursuing Daphne, who was turned into a laurel tree, so as to never be able to love him again. As this imagery 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.

In ancient Rome, 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 of victory. Famous military conquerors and leaders including Julius Caesar, Caesar Augustus, Constantine, and Charlemagne all had laurel crowns worn 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 brother illustrated in paintings by wearing a laurel wreath, even on his deathbed (Tompsett).

Geometry

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” x 28” 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 located in diagram BD that two of the fronds share.

Diagram A

Diagram B

Diagram C

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The prominence of floral wreaths across 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.