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

Tova Welenson

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Pearls
Pearls by: Tova Welenson

Designer of The Graduate:
Andrew Alford was hired to design the Graduate Hotel. He chose three patterns and combined them to create a whole new pattern.

Designer of Pattern:
The name of this pattern is Pearls Wallpaper created by Christian Lacroix. Lacroix is a French fashion designer. He has his own company. He later helped a company and was given more freedom to design things the way he wanted to.

"Large circles can create false perspective, or an overlayed on a different pattern, can create more perplexing moire effects" (Hampshire). They can form an optical illusion when staring at. When looking at this pattern in particular, it may appear to have a reptile like quality since there is a tight cluster of circles in the center as they enlarge outward.

Design:
The design was from a collection titled Belle Rives with this specific pattern named Pearls. "Pearls Wallpaper features a practical and playful design with a chainmail array of shrinking and enlarging rings" (Pearls). The pattern has a repeat of 68.5cm or about 2.25ft. The length is 1000cm which is about 33ft. Between the circles are curvilinear rhombi.

Color:
Black circles appear to be layered over a white background but upon closer investigation, the color of this pattern that was used in the graduate is Zinc. Natural zinc is bluish-white or blue-gray in color. The "discovery of zinc traces to the Romans during the time of Augustus, between 20 B.C. and 14 A.D." (What).

Material:
It is a nonwoven wallpaper and one can wash it with a soft cloth. "Non-woven also known as ‘paste the wall’ wallcoverings. This substrate is made of both natural and synthetic fibres, which means that the wallpaper is both breathable and washable. Breathable means that there's no vapor lock that can create mold" (Getting). This makes it a perfect choice to go into a hotel because it can be easily cleaned. “Synthetic fibres are manufactured using plant materials and minerals” (Synthetic).

Craft:
The pattern is still in production and can be purchased from various design websites. The pattern can be ordered by roll for about 87 euros depending on the website. It is mainly found on european websites. "The first digital printing presses came onto the market in the early 1990s. Digital printing assembles each image by using sets of numbers and math formulas. These images are captured from a matrix of dots, called pixels, and this process is called digitising. The digitised images are then used to control the deposition of ink, toner or exposure to electromagnetic energy to reproduce the data. Digital printing uses a colour management system, which keeps images looking the same despite where they are printed" (History).

Culture:
Circles have many meanings from culture to culture. Some believe that "circles are used in rituals as a source of protection and healing or as a representative of the community of believers" (Alcocer). Another source discusses how a "geometrical circle is a symbol of unity, closure, continuity, totality, infinity" (Eggers).

History:
Pearls was part of the Belle Rives collection. The collection is inspired by the French Riviera by using key colors of the coastline (Pearls). "This broad wallpaper collection is saturated with the key colours of this sparkling coastline, whether bougainvillea flowers or vibrant citrus" (Belle). This pattern is digitally printed.

Use:
This pattern is found in the cafe by the lobby, the Brookfield, located within The Graduate Hotel. Three different patterns were chosen and placed together to form a new pattern altogether (Alford). Each strip of pattern alternates across the wall with each measuring 101.5 inch long by 27 inches in width. The Pearl pattern was chosen for its doodle-like quality (Alford).