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Pattern Research Project

Dept. of Interior Design

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

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Koi



Culture+ History

Koi fish is a very well known motif in Chinese and Japanese culture. In Chinese culture, the dragon is a symbol of power. According to Chinese legend of a sturgeon of the Hang-Ho¹, if the koi fish successfully pass the upstream, cross the rapids of Dragon Gate, the koi fish will transform into a powerful dragon. The story symbolizes that anybody who can persevere through great trials can accomplish their highest goals to become great.

Koi Symbolism is also very prevalent in Japanese culture. It is also a symbol of energy, courage, and perseverance. A Koi swims up rivers and climbs waterfalls seem like a bravery, like a Samurai warrior² who endeavors to surmount all difficulties to attain success. However, if the Koi gets caught, it will lie still beneath the knife, facing its death bravely like a Samurai facing a sword.

Koi motif became popular in America during the late 19th century³. Westerner began amassing substantial collections of Japanese art after the opening of Japanese trade to the West in 1854. One of associated Artist's first designs for a mass-produced textile was the swimming carp pattern, which was printed on both cotton denim and silk in a variety of colorways. Koi fish was the inspiration for European American designers. However, they reinterpreted the motif for purely aesthetic purposes without regard to their original symbols.

1 Joly, H. L. (1908). Legend in Japanese art . London: John Lane The Bodley Head; New York: John Lan Co.
 2 Chawalkowski, F. (2016). Symbols in Arts, Religion and Culture: The Soul of Nature.
 3 Peck, A., & Irish, C. (2001). Candace Wheeler: The Art and Enterprise of American Design



Swimming Carp Textile
 From Candace Wheeler: The Art and Enterprise of American Design

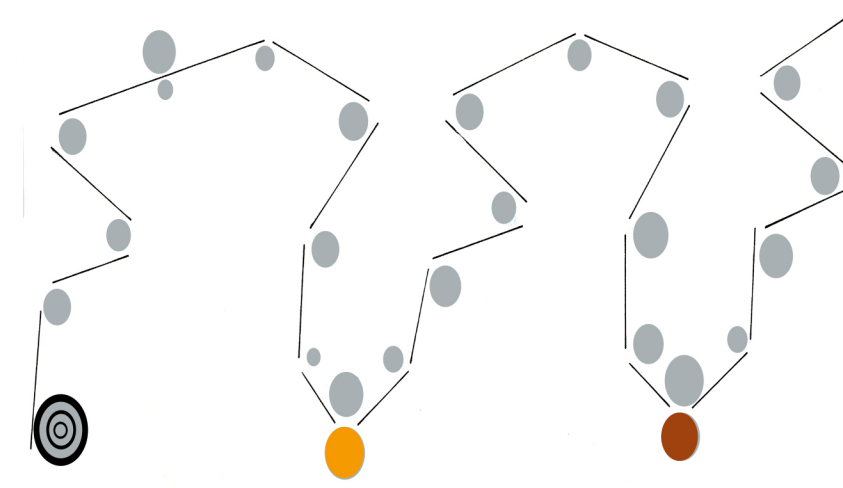


Utagawa Kunisada/Toyokuni III (1786-1865) The Seven Variations of the Iroha (Seisho Nanatsu Iroha): Onoe Kikugoro III as Rokusaburo, 1856. Oban.

Craft

The technique that used to print Koi wallpaper was gravure printing¹. To have a complete wallpaper, it has to go through many layers of applying ink from etched or engraved copper cylinders. As the cylinder turns, the excess ink is wiped off the cylinder by a flexible steel blade. The ink remains in the recessed cells forms of the image by direct transfer to the paper as it passes between the plate cylinder and the impression cylinder. A large gravure printing can hold maximum twelve cylinders that apply ink together create the whole pattern.

1 Gravure Printing. (n.d.).



Gravure Printing Process Diagram

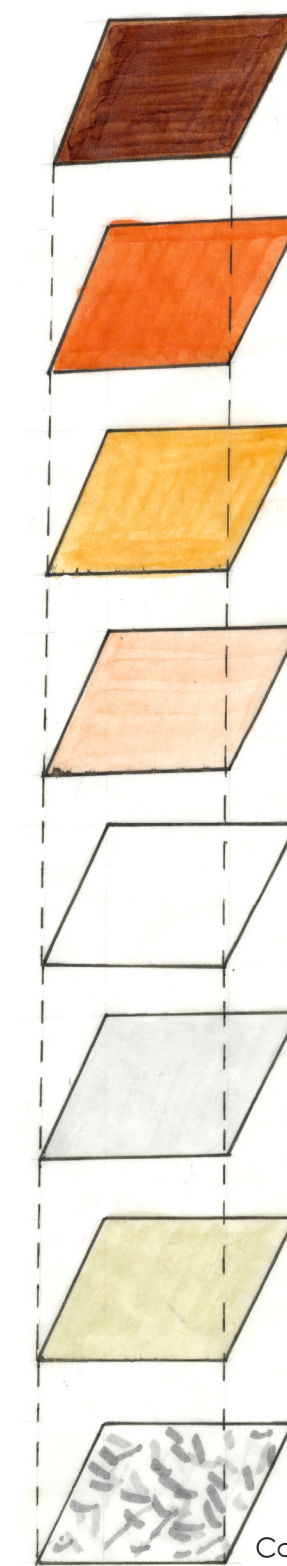
Materiality

Koi wallpaper is printed on non-woven paper¹. It is a fabric-like material that made from staple fibres(a natural fiber such as raw cotton, wool, hemp, flax) bonded by chemical, mechanical, heat and solvent treatment. It is a flat, porous sheet that made directly from separate fibers or molten plastic or plastic film. Unlike woven paper, it does not require converting the fibers to yarn. Non- woven paper contend recycled fabrics and oil-based materials which considered as ecological fabric. Its function are absorbency, liquid repellency, resilience, stretch, softness, strength, flame retardancy, washability, filtering, bacterial barrier, and sterility.

1 Nonwoven fabric. (n.d.).



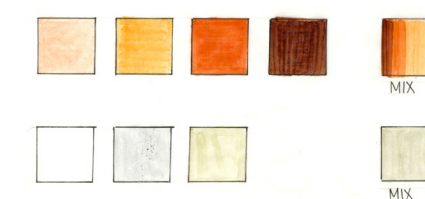
Non-woven paper diagram



Color layering diagram

Design+ Color+ Use

Although koi fish is a traditional motif, it is still inspired many designers today. Koi fish has been used in many ways such as painting, textile, tattoo, Asian silk embroidery, porcelain, and wallpaper. This Koi wallpaper is produced and designed by Harlequin Company in United Kingdom. The pattern repeats every 2 feet square. Seven layers of color were applied to complete the wallpaper. However, there is a significant contrast between the background and the motif. The background has a neutral tone color which emphasizes the pattern on each koi fish. The exciting thing is the koi fish on the wallpaper is simulated like the koi in real life which every koi fish has its unique pattern. Also, on the wallpaper, it shows that all the koi fish swims different directions which give more movement to the wallpaper.



Color Mix Diagram

Used
 Koi Paprika [Harlequin's
 Momentum 3 Wallpapers]



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 AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PATTERN AND PRINTING
 METHOD

KOI WALLPAPER