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PLUS
DIANE
VON FURSTENBERG
RAF SIMONS
TOMAS MAIER

Salt Shaker, top, and Swing Landscape on a background of Hot Still Scape, all printed cotton-linen blends from the African collection.

From left, Leo, Raf, and Don, woven flax-and-silk blends from the Turtle Shell collection.

Comoe, a tussah-silk print.

GRAPHIC IMPACT

Jennifer Shorto looks to sources as varied as tribal motifs and entomology to create her vividly patterned fabrics and papers

husband. "His house had been designed by Geoffrey Bennison, and it was full of the most beautiful fabrics. I found a piece of an 18th-century suzani at the back of a cupboard, and that was it."

Throughout her studies and after getting married and having two children, Shorto collected fabrics from all over the world. "I would go to auctions and bid on things, and it wasn't expensive," she says. "I was—I still am—a bit of a fabric hoarder."

The hoarding paid off in 2008, when she impulsively told a magazine editor that she was going to start a fabric collection. "I had these wonderful fabrics from Bondoukou in the Ivory Coast, and I was inspired by them to create my own. The editor immediately said she would do a shoot, so I had to pull up my socks and find an Italian manufacturer to make them."

Shorto began with seven patterns influenced by the African cloths, and when they were immediately successful, she went on to create further collections that drew from Nigerian rough silks ("They sound like paper," she says dreamily) and Japanese, Korean, and Mexican textiles and imagery. Recently, she started a wallpaper collection; her second series, just out, celebrates her love of entomology, with bugs portrayed "like little Fabergé objects."

"My fabrics are a mixture of the extremely stark and the very luxurious, and always abstract," Shorto says. "But the wallpapers are like set design. I want you to feel like you are traveling in three dimensions, in all directions." ROSLYN SULCAS

Etolles printed linen.

Pink City wallpaper, inspired by the art of Pedro Friedeberg.

Petrol, left, and Cendre de Neige printed linens.

Meteores metallic wallpaper.



Jennifer Shorto.

A pattern of pink, mint green, blue, and white squares called Hopscotch; wavy purple and lilac-gray stripes flecked with white streaks; a pink-on-paler-pink design that looks like an echocardiogram and is poetically named Rosée du Matin—these are some of the gorgeous silk, linen, and cotton fabrics by Jennifer Shorto, a French-American textile designer who grew up in Brussels, attended boarding school in England, studied art history at the Louvre in Paris, and has lived in London, Brazil, and Mexico.

All of those influences are visible in the work of Shorto, who is petite, dark-haired, and effortlessly chic, even on an ordinary working day in her showroom in south London. Her passion for fabrics, she explains, started at just 18, after meeting her future

Shea Tree, a tussah-silk print.