The Pattern Social

Julie Hughes

The output is an artefact comprising a collection of surface pattern designs.

Research process

Hughes has undertaken and developed a body of visual research using files, sketchbooks and digital platforms documenting a personal investigation in wallpaper archives. The aim was to investigate how the current wallpaper manufacturers incorporate the technical and design methodologies of difference periods, 1950s, 1970s and Scandinavian design, using a specialist design software package called AVA/CAD CAM to manufacture wallpaper design today without losing the quality of the original archive.

Research insights

The research identified how 'retro' inspired design continued to make an impact within contemporary textile design. Digital design within textile design has really advanced in the last few years and is continuing to do so therefore it is crucial that textile designers are fully aware of these new digital tools. Hughes has devised a series of digital drawing exercises which allows the documentation of a variety of different and innovative responses of exploring digital drawing. Hughes' research shows the importance of textiles archives and the reinterpretation of these archives in a contemporary design style using Digital rendering. The research also led to relevant insight into how software is best utilised in the textile industry.

Dissemination

The collection was disseminated under 'The Pattern Social' at the international Textile Exhibition and Fair at the Javits Conference Centre, New York, 15-18 May 2016 and 20-23 May 2017. The designs were also exhibited at the Great Northern Events in Manchester in October 2018.