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REAL ESTATE | DESIGN

## Design Books You'll Want to Cut Up and Frame

Three new encyclopedic design volumes—full of images and facsimiles you'll be tempted to cut out for your walls—invite you to read less, dream more



PHOTO: F. MARTIN RAMIN/THE WALL STREET JOURNA

By **LUCY FELDMAN**

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**THREE ADVANCED EYE-CANDY** books out this month respectively bind together collections of Victorian wallpaper, textile and print patterns, and whimsical illustrations—with little reliance on unsensual text. Richly printed on thick papers,

these inspiring volumes are just as immersive for the design-minded as any best-seller. Pages of brocade fabrics can trigger love-seat fantasies. A strawberry print can induce you to kitsch-up the kitchen. Snap a few favorites to boost your Instagram feed (we did). Leave the books open on your coffee table and flip a page a day for visual sustenance. Or commit the ultimate art-book sin: Slice out the pages and brazenly frame them for your walls.

## 1. Plates That Inspired Plates

An ink-drawn witch, a study of jewel-tone insects and a 19th-century German playing card. These are images you'll find side-by-side in “**John Derian Picture Book**” and probably nowhere else—except perhaps in one of the artisan's stores. For those who haven't browsed Mr. Derian's decoupage home-décor pieces, his 6-pound book may suffice. Thick, satisfying folios bear nearly 300 gloriously oversize full-bleed vintage prints, paintings and visual miscellanea that have become part of his work. A treasure trove of inspiration, the artist's first book is an object to covet—like the plates that started it all. (*Artisan*, \$75)

## 2. Poison Papers

In the mid-1800s, manufacturers produced wallpaper with newly vibrant and long-lasting colors thanks to a novel ingredient: arsenic. Art historian Lucinda Hawksley's “**Bitten by Witch Fever: Wallpaper & Arsenic in the Victorian Home**” offers replicas of 275 wallpapers originally made with the toxic element. By the turn of the century, European countries began to outlaw arsenic in home products, acknowledging the illness and fatalities it caused. Ms. Hawksley replicates the papers' hues and texture, with meticulous color-matching and heavyweight stock, interspersing color-themed sections with booklets that relate the history and uses of the poison. (*Thames & Hudson*, \$45)

## 3. Volumes of Patterns

In New York state's Hudson Valley sits the Design Library, which houses over seven million fabrics, paintings, wallpapers and embroideries. Peter Koepke's visual ode to the repository features an illustrated A-Z index of the archive's most striking patterns: A is for “Abstract,” J for “Jazzy,” etc. One could spend hours imagining uses for the 413 patterns splashed across glossy spreads. The final chapter of “**Patterns: Inside the Design Library**,” on uncoated pages, details contemporary case studies, such as Colefax and Fowler's reimagining of a 19th-century fabric, Casimir, for its fall 2016 textile and wallpaper collection. (*Phaidon*, \$80)