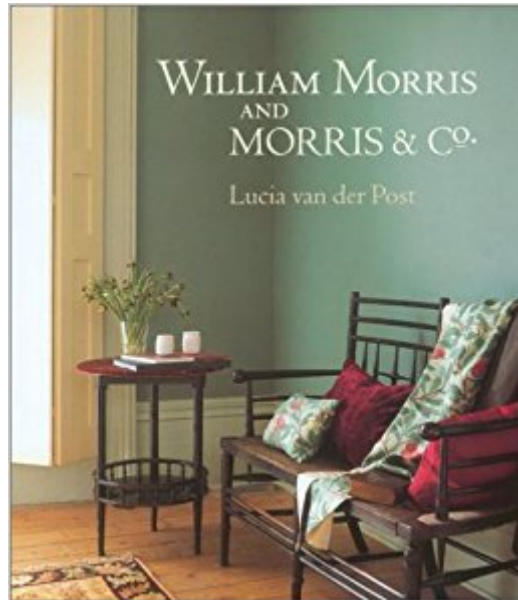




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William Morris And Morris & Co.



Synopsis

William Morris's wallpaper, carpets, and other textile designs are as popular today as they were when he created them in the late 1880s. One of the most influential figures in the history of the decorative arts, Morris (1834-1896) challenged the mass-production methods of the industrial revolution and launched the revival of handcrafted work that became known as the Arts and Crafts movement. His firm, Morris & Co, created wood furniture, hand-woven tapestries, embroideries, printed textiles, woven fabrics, stained glass, tiles, and block-printed wallpapers, many of which are still being produced--by the same methods--more than a century later. This new book shows how to incorporate Morris's designs and theories into contemporary interiors. Carefully chosen photographs show a wide variety of rooms using Morris designs, and include details of individual textile and wallpaper patterns. Inspired by nature and featuring soft, pure colors, Morris's designs are classics, still relevant and stylish in today's interiors.

Book Information

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Victoria & Albert Museum (October 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0810966123

ISBN-13: 978-0810966123

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 0.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,197,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Houseware & Dining > Rugs](#) #317 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Home Improvement & Design > Decorating & Design > Upholstery & Fabrics](#) #2027 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Decorative Arts & Design > Textile & Costume](#)

Customer Reviews

"Have nothing in your house which you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful."

Lucia van der Post is a well-known writer and editor specializing in interior design, luxury goods, and travel. She writes frequently for the Financial Times and other newspapers and magazines around the world. Linda Parry is a leading expert on Morris and the general editor of Abrams' William Morris.

William Morris was many things, and he had many roles. This short book (85 pages) focuses on just one of them: Morris as a designer in the Arts & Crafts movement. You won't find anything much about his personal life, and the references to his socialism are just-in-passing. It is, however, a beautiful visual appreciation of William Morris' skill in (to enumerate the chapters): craft, color, honesty, pattern, nature, and "legend." There's a bit of corporate background (how the company ownership changed, who owns the designs today, etc.). And a charming bit of life philosophy, every so often: "That thing which I understand by real art is the expression by man of his pleasure in labor. I do not believe he can be happy in his labor without expressing that happiness; and especially this is so when he is at work at anything in which he specially excels." The primary reason to grab this small volume is the color plate photographs, most of which are via the Victoria and Albert Museum. Some of the photos are quite detailed, and all have at least some context. For example: "It was a basic tenet held by Ruskin, Pugin, Morris and others that honesty in design demanded that you did not try to create a three-dimensional illusion in a two-dimensional design. Wallpaper should not disguise the flatness of the surface but enhance it. This GARDEN TULIP design shows very little shallow relief effects, with little shading and a limited palette, but this enhances rather than detract's from the pattern's strength." The photos have a mix of close-up design, design in context (such as a photo of Red House with design details pointed out), and contemporary homes using Morris designs (to demonstrate how relevant the designs are). There's a few people-images (e.g. a charming drawing of Morris and his daughters) and "and friends" (such as a panel by Burnes-Jones), but it's mostly fodder for Morris fans. Like me. With such books, the accompanying text is secondary, but van der Post and Parry are actively interesting. It's wholly admiring of Morris (you won't find any real criticism), but I surely will not complain.

love my new book although i browse it rather than read cover to cover. it is inspirational and offers lots of 'doodling'. Great for anyone who loves design, sketching and inspirational ideas

I did not purchase this book, but I did check it out from my library. I have to say that this is a great book displaying William Morris' textile and wallpaper designs in contemporary settings. I have seen books that use William Morris' designs and the rooms are not fresh, but look dated. You won't find that in this book. The photos are rich in detail and gives readers great decorating ideas. If you are a collector of William Morris' wallpapers or fabrics, or if you love beautiful interiors that blend contemporary with traditional, then I think you will enjoy this book.

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