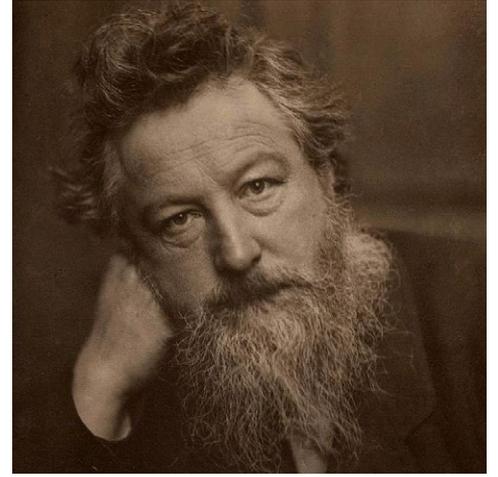
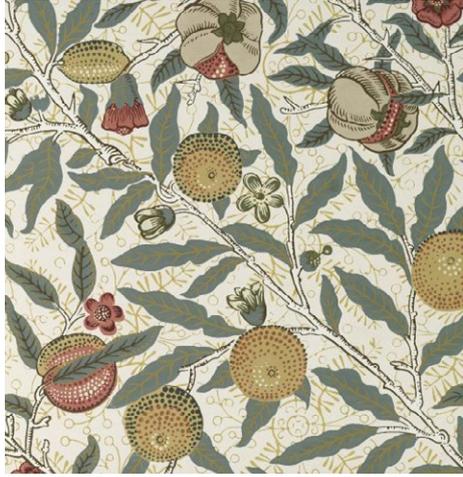


William Morris

1834 - 1896



William Morris (1834-1896) was one of the most influential designers of the 19th century. His work included wallpaper design and print, furniture, stained glass windows, tiles and tapestries. He was also a writer and campaigner for environmental and social change. Morris trained as an architect at Oxford University, although he had early, unfulfilled ambitions to be a painter.

In 1859, Morris married Jane Burden. They spent the next two years furnishing and decorating the interior of their home. Morris did much of the work himself, with help from his artist friends. Prompted by the success of their efforts, they decided to start their own company.

In April 1861, Morris, Marshall, Faulkner & Co. was established and it produced a range of original domestic furnishings including embroidery, tableware and furniture, stained glass and tiles. Wallpapers were soon added to the list because Morris was unable to find any

he liked well enough to use in his own home. Morris revived the traditions of craftsmanship as he disliked the machine processes of the industrial revolution. As an environmental campaigner, Morris endeavoured to use natural materials in his work.

By the mid 1860s, Morris worked mainly on his wallpaper designs, the first of these being Trellis, Daisy and Fruit. Curiously, Morris was unable to draw birds and his friend Philip Webb drew them for the trellis design.

In 1875, Morris started a new company called Morris & Co, meaning that he took full artistic control. This period was considered Morris' most important and creative as a pattern designer.

William Morris died on 3 October 1896, when he was 65 years old. At the time, one of his doctors is said to have remarked that Morris carried out the work of ten men in one lifetime and it was this that brought about his death.