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Functional and Fancy Fabrics

William Morris

William Morris was a British artist, designer, poet and campaigner. He was born in 1834. He and other artists and designers started the Arts and Crafts movement in the 1860s, which encouraged craftspeople to use traditional techniques.

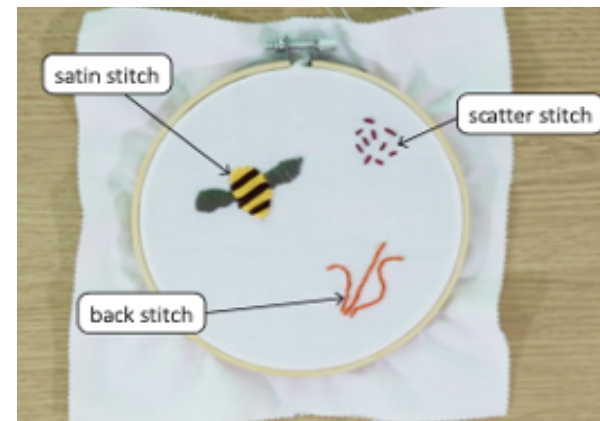
William Morris and his friends started a business called Morris & Co, producing home furnishings, including wallpaper, stained glass windows, furniture and carpets. The wallpapers and fabrics were block printed using wooden blocks and natural dyes.



Embellishments

Embellishments are things that can be added to fabric for decoration. They include sequins, appliqué and buttons. Patterns and motifs can also be printed or drawn onto fabric. Embroidery is another type of fabric embellishment that uses stitches and colourful thread to add patterns and pictures.

- **Scatter stitch** is used to make random stitches facing in different directions.
- **Satin stitch** is used to fill a shape with thread.
- **Back stitch** is used to give a continuous line of stitching.



Features of William Morris designs

William Morris designed repeating patterns with these three features:

Form

He liked to show simple forms of animals and plants.



Symmetry

His designs were often symmetrical.



Colour

He only used a few colours for each pattern.

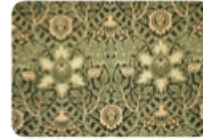


William Morris pattern structure

William Morris built his designs on a pattern structure. He used three main patterns:

Diamond

A pattern based on rhombus shapes.



Wey

A pattern based on diagonal lines.



Trellis

A pattern based on horizontal and vertical lines.



Glossary

Design - a decorative pattern

Fabric - cloth or other material produced by weaving or knitting fibres.

Hem - the edge of a piece of cloth or clothing that has been turned under and sewn.



Sew - join, fasten, or repair (something) by making stitches with a needle and thread or a sewing machine.

Stitch - a loop of thread or yarn resulting from a single pass or movement of the needle in sewing, knitting, or crocheting.



Strawberry Thief is one of William Morris' most famous designs. It was inspired by the birds in his garden that kept stealing his strawberries.



Daisy was William Morris' first wallpaper design to be sold. It shows wildflowers, daisies and other small, meadow flowers.



Willow Bough is one of William Morris' most recognisable designs. This wallpaper design is still popular in homes today.