

LECTURE

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Presenter: Jo Banham

A Proliferation of Pattern: Wallpapers 1920-2000

The widespread misconception that Modernist interiors eschewed pattern and ushered in a fashion for plain walls is belied by the fact that the taste for wallpaper flourished as never before in the inter-war and post-war periods. Patterns included brightly coloured geometric Jazz-Age designs, traditional florals, and pictorial panels as well as 'Contemporary'-style and Op, Pop and Psychedelic designs. Decorators like Laura Ashley, Colefax & Fowler and Sandersons created popular new styles and the

more recent introduction of digital design and statement walls has seen a revival of wallpaper today. This talk surveys the development of wallpaper production and design across the twentieth century.

Jo Banham is an independent curator, lecturer and writer and Director of the Victorian Society Summer School. She was Head of the Adult, Students and Creative Industries programmes at the Victoria & Albert Museum between 2006 and 2016. Previously she was Head of Learning at the National Portrait Gallery, and before that Head of Public Programmes at Tate Britain. Her curatorial and research posts have included being Curator at Leighton House, Kensington, Archivist at Arthur Sanderson & Sons, and Curator of historic wallpapers at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester.

