





D E C O R A T I V E A R T



photography

MARIE-PIERRE MOREL

PAPER WALLPAPER WALLPAPER WALLPAPER
VALLPAPER WALLPAPER WALLPAPER WALLPAPER

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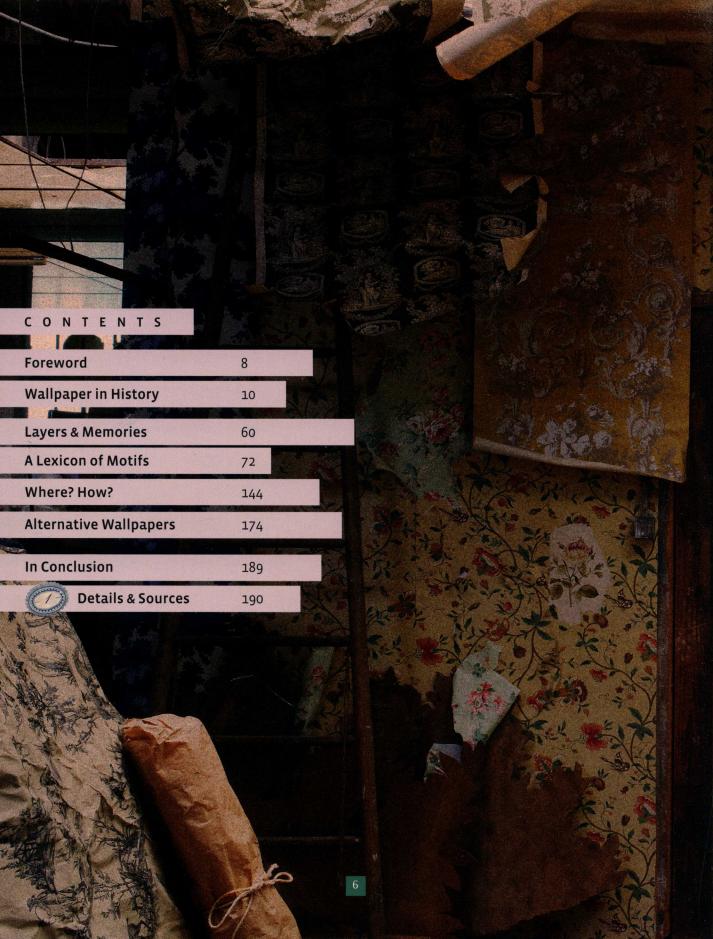
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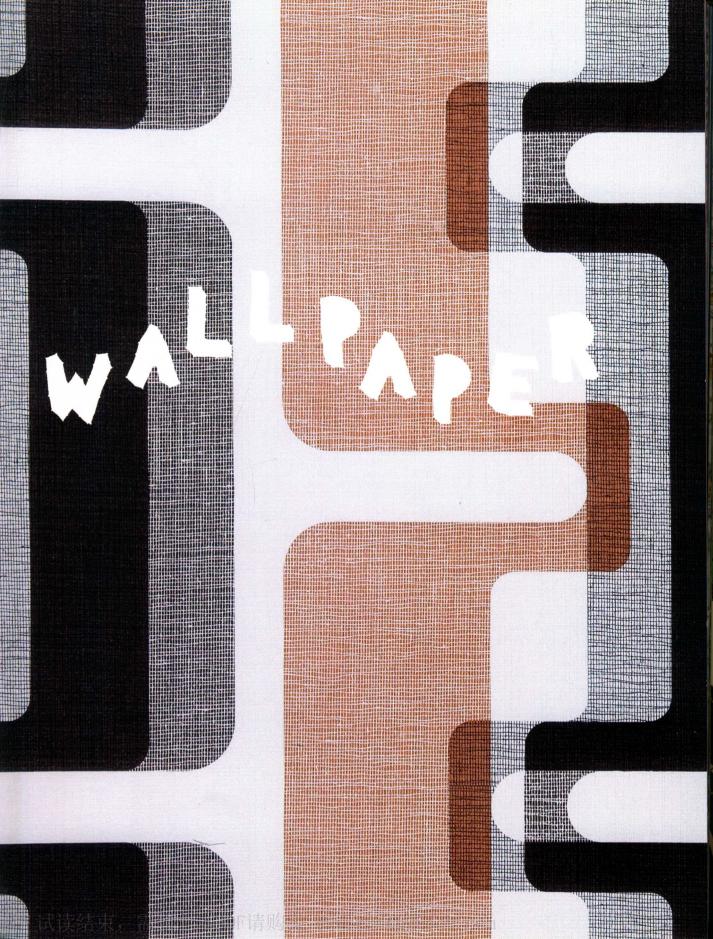
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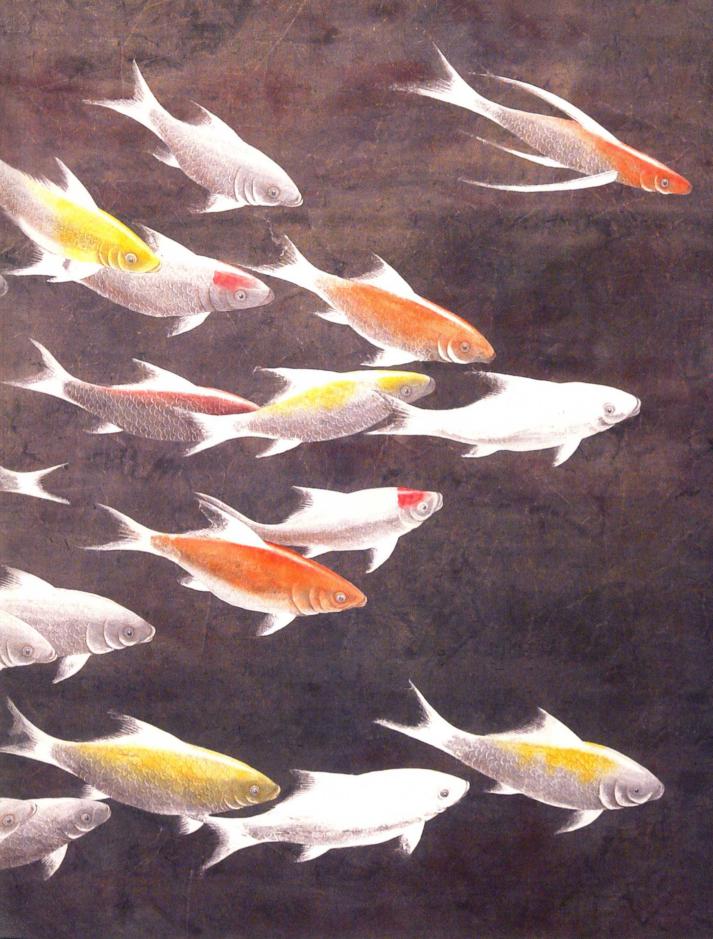
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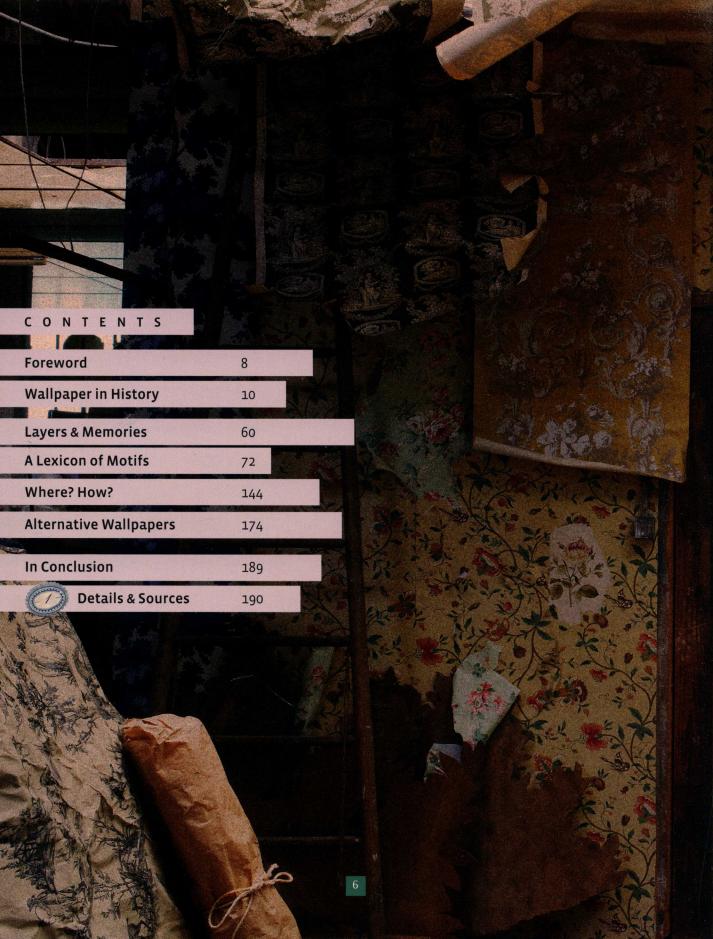
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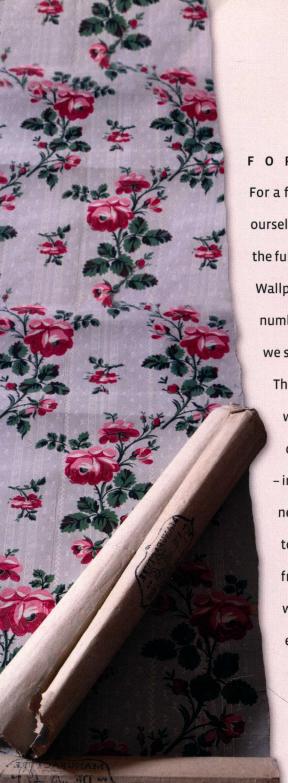
photography

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FOREWORD

For a few precious moments, let us indulge the pleasure of losing ourselves in the world of wallpaper, eyes wide open so as to savour to the full all that this world of fantasy and imagination and has to offer.

Wallpaper has always set out to amaze. Like children counting the number of different images they can find in their bedroom wallpaper, we should be ever curious, ever alert.

Then we may begin to understand the ways in which wallpapers with their ever-changing patterns offer us not only their lavish displays of colour and harmony, but also – and more importantly – infinite scope for our own dreams and visions, responding to our needs for both harmony and poetry. In these pages I have set out, to present my own vision – chronological and thematic but far from exhaustive – of the astonishing decorative potential of wallpaper, both historically and today. Last but not least, the examples in these pages will I am sure demonstrate beyond doubt that wallpaper is good for our wellbeing!

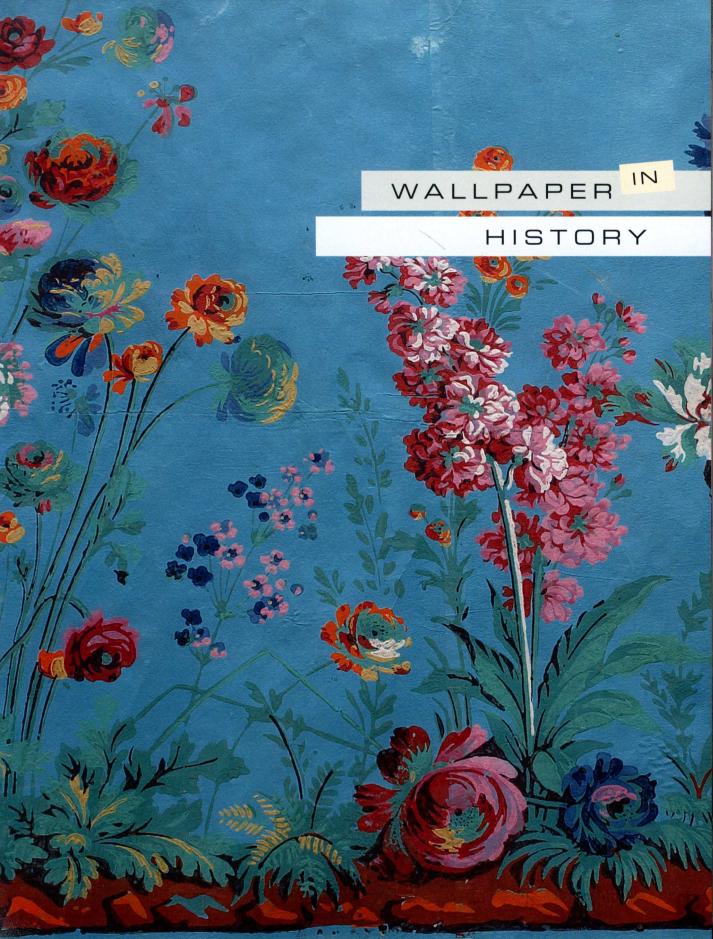
PREVIOUS PAGES
On the dominotier's shelves: wallpapers by Brunschwig,
Sandberg, Sanderson, Vinilia and Zuber.

LEFT
c.1785. Wallpaper with a repeat pattern of roses.

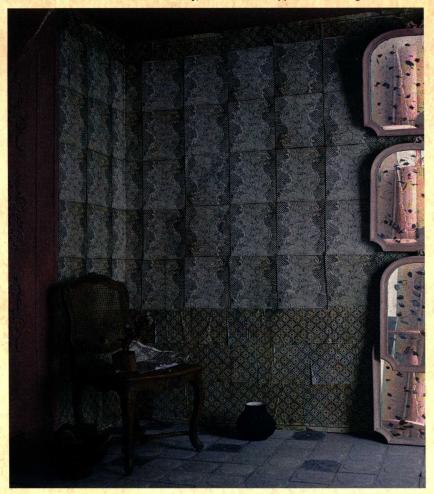
OPPOSITE
A few of the innumerable volumes in the Zuber archives.







As in the seventeenth century, the sheets are applied with fish glue



With Gutenberg and the development of the printing press in 1440, a new world opened up. Text was rapidly liberated, with images soon following in its wake. Prints and engravings were reproduced in large numbers, and someone had the idea of using woodblock engravings to print simple patterns on paper, then gluing these edge to edge to decorate alcoves, niches and bed ends. These decorative sheets were known as dominos. Once established, the technique altered little: provincial dominos from the second half of the eighteenth century barely differ from those of previous centuries. Meanwhile the appearance of new and much more sophisticated techniques paved the way for the development of wallpaper as we know it today. Dominos would now be relegated to lining drawers, chests and armoires.

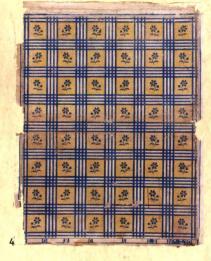
DOMINOS GLUED EDGE TO EDGE

LIKE LEATHER PANELS













1: The earliest surviving example is German and dates from 1525.
2-8: French provincial dominos from the 1760s, from the towns of Blois, Chartres, Nantes, Orléans, Rouen, Tours and Troyes.



