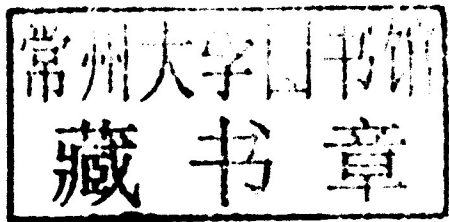


# Print & Pattern

Bowie Style

J511 / w4





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Contents

01	Absolute Zero Degrees	8
02	Alice Burrows	12
03	Allison Cole	16
04	Amanda Dilworth	18
05	Amanda Luke Designs	20
06	Amy Cartwright	22
07	Amy Schimler	24
08	Amy Wilde	26
09	Ana Ventura	28
10	Andrew Pavitt	30
11	Ann Kelle Designs	32
12	Anna Campbell	36
13	Anne Jochum	38
14	Anne Wendlandt	40
15	Ayako Akazawa	44
16	Ayelet Iontef	46
17	Bam Pop!	48
18	Beth Gunnell	52
19	Caroline Gardner	56
20	Caroline Pratt	60
21	Carolyn Gavin	62
22	Cath Kidston	64
23	Chyanne Ganzel	66
24	Claire Ebby	68
25	Clare Nicolson	70
26	Ella Doran	74
27	Erin McMorris	76
28	Fifi Mandirac	78
29	FlipFlopDesign	82
30	freckleface	86
31	Fred the Dog	88
32	Galia Bernstein	90
33	Galison	92
34	Gemma Correll	94
35	Gemma Robinson	96
36	Géraldine Cosneau	98
37	Hang Tight Studio	100
38	Happy Kimono	102
39	Heather Moore	104
40	Helen Dardik	106
41	Inkjet Designs	110



42	James Brown	112	83	Nicola Jane	212
43	Jannie Ho	114	84	Olive and Moss	214
44	Jessica Gonacha	116	85	Olli & Lime	216
45	Jill Bliss	120	86	Orla Kiely	218
46	Jillian Phillips	122	87	Paperchase	224
47	Jinjerup	124	88	PataPri	226
48	Johnny Yanok	128	89	Pattern People	228
49	Judit Gueth	130	90	Pavilion Tone	230
50	Julia Rothman	132	91	Peagreen	232
51	Kate Seaward	134	92	People Will Always Need Plates	236
52	Kate Sutton	136	93	Petra Boase	238
53	Kathleen Habbly	138	94	Present & Correct	242
54	Katie Kirk	140	95	Quyen Do	244
55	Khristian A Howell	142	96	Rachael Taylor	246
56	Lara Cameron	144	97	Rachel Harper	248
57	Lark	146	98	Rock Scissor Paper	250
58	Lilidoll	148	99	Rubbergob	252
59	Linda Solovic	150	100	Samantha Hahn	254
60	Liz and Pip	152	101	Sandra Isaksson	256
61	Lotta Bruhn	154	102	Sanna Annukka	258
62	Lotta K�hlhorn	158	103	Scott Rhodes	262
63	Lov Li	162	104	Sean Sims	264
64	Lovelylovely	166	105	Sei	268
65	Lucy Joy Oldfield	168	106	Showler and Showler	270
66	Lynda Lye	170	107	Silkie Lloyd	274
67	Macrina Busato	172	108	Sophie Dupasquier	276
68	Mademoiselle Dimanche	174	109	Studio MIKMIK	278
69	Magnolia Moonlight	176	110	Sukie	280
70	Marie Bushbaum	178	111	Susan Benarcik	282
71	Marilyn Patrizio	182	112	Susie Ghahremani	284
72	Marion Billet	186	113	TamTam Design Studio	286
73	Mel Smith	188	114	TC Design	288
74	Melvyn Evans	190	115	Ted & Rose	290
75	Michelle Romo	192	116	The Strawberry Card Company	292
76	Mike Lowery	196	117	Tinee Kleinschroth	294
77	Monaluna	198	118	We Are Family	296
78	MOZI	200	119	Xenia Taler	300
79	Nadia Flower	202	120	Yuyu	302
80	Natalie Tong	204			
81	Nathalie Lete	206			
82	Nicky Linzey	210			

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## Introduction

*Marie Perkins*

a.k.a. Bowie Style

[www.printpattern.blogspot.com](http://www.printpattern.blogspot.com)

Mention to someone that you are a surface pattern designer and you will probably receive a blank look of confusion. Perhaps they will hear the word 'pattern' and think you design patterns for clothing, or that by 'surface' you are referring to the different types of finish used in building and decorating trades. Either way, they won't realize you are a graphic designer, illustrator, textile designer and more, all rolled into one. Pretty much anything you see in the marketplace that has a printed design on it will have been through the hands of a surface designer. The plates you eat from, the fabric of your tablecloth, the design on your rug, your curtains, wallpaper, cushions, handbags, wrapping paper, birthday card, and so much more, any product with a surface print or pattern on it is part of this often overlooked form of design.

When I first began to use the internet as a research tool for my job as a designer, I could find no website or blog dedicated solely to surface design, instead they seemed always to include furniture, fashion and three-dimensional design in between the bits that interested me. So I decided to create my own site, called Print & Pattern, in my spare time, and started to share my research with readers. Not many at first, but gradually word got out and eventually hits were counted in millions. Graduates and designers asked to appear on the site to showcase themselves to the many companies that were using it to recruit fresh talent, while I scoured the shops with my trusty spy camera and exposed the exciting design that could be found in London, Paris and New York. Designs are now placed up on the site to be admired and celebrated, as well as to help keep an eye on trends.

When I signed up to the blog software I decided to use a pseudonym, to remain anonymous, and glanced around the room for an idea. I had a new book at the time, about my hero David Bowie, called *Bowie Style*, and thought that would do nicely. Little did I know several years later that the name Bowie would stick.

Soon the love and enthusiasm I have for pattern design was spotted by Laurence King Publishing, who asked if I would like to compile a book on the subject. As a collector of design books, naturally I jumped at the chance to curate my own. And so, here is a selection of works by fabulous designers from all over the world, united by a love of the printed pattern.





## Absolute Zero Degrees

[www.absolutezerodegrees.com](http://www.absolutezerodegrees.com)

[www.minimoderns.com](http://www.minimoderns.com)

[keith@absolutezerodegrees.com](mailto:keith@absolutezerodegrees.com)

or // Absolute Zero Degrees is a London-based design and branding agency created by graphic designers Keith Stephenson and Mark Hampshire. They also have their own collection of designer products, and have produced wallpaper, ceramics and fabrics. In 2006 they launched the new brand 'Mini Moderns', for their collection of contemporary designs for children.



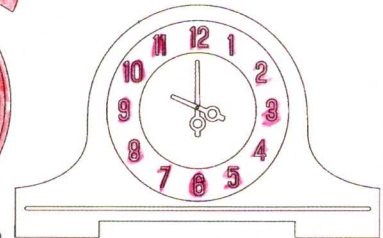
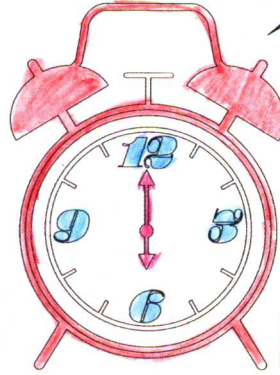
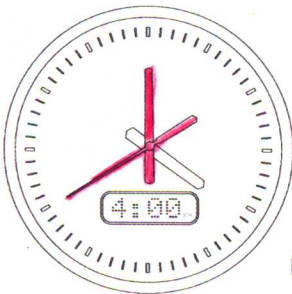
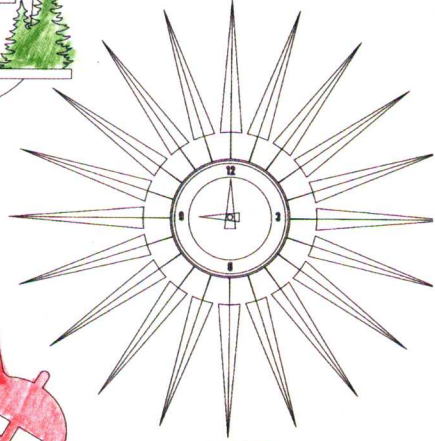
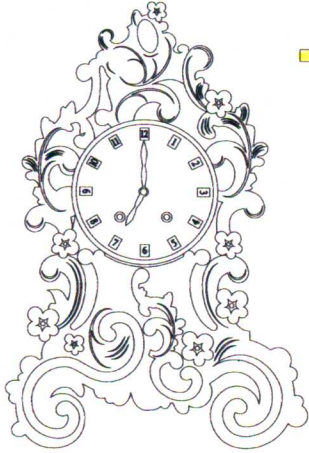
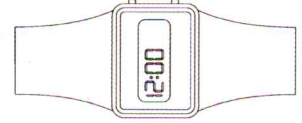
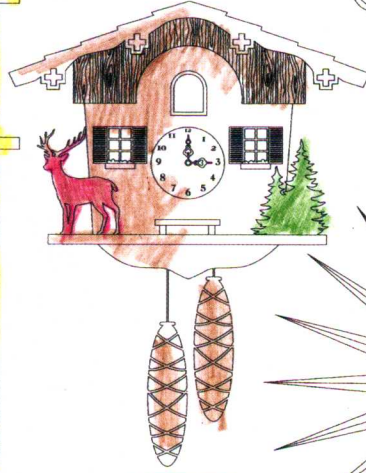
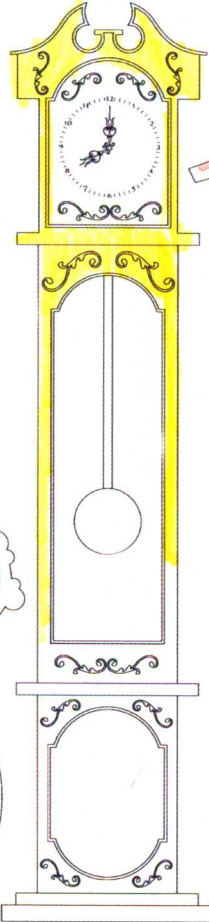
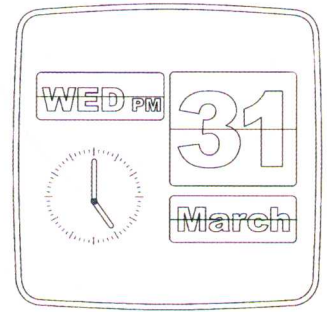
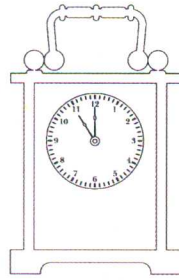
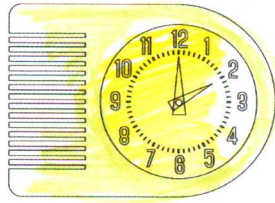
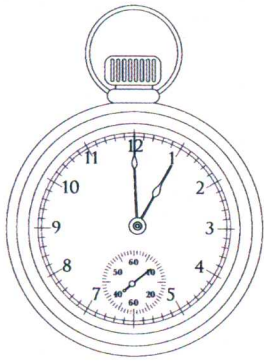
### Top / Net and Ball

The Southbank Centre asked Keith and Mark to redraw the classic design by Peter Moro and Leslie Martin, the architects of the Royal Festival Hall. They changed the proportions to a much more workable and commercial scale for wallpaper, and introduced a new collection of colours to create a soft, modernist palette.

### Below / Town Square

A fabric designed for a 'Mini Moderns' floor cushion. Architectural drawings of buildings and trees populate the pattern which uses a grid layout.





*Above / Tick-Tock*  
Tick-Tock is one of Absolute Zero Degrees' 'Colour-Me' wallpapers, designed to be coloured in, once on the wall. Twelve clocks of varying styles, all set at different times, help children to learn to tell the time in a relaxed and fun way.





*Above / Bees*

This wallpaper, created for 'Places and Spaces', features a central honeycomb structure that morphs into bees and butterflies. The designers wanted the print to feel like a cameo brooch or a rococo mirror, so used the oval shape as a negative space.





*Top / Dandelions*  
Created for 'Places and Spaces', the large dandelion clock on this wallpaper explodes to form dragonflies.

*Far left / Sitting Comfortably?*  
A cushion from the 'Mini Moderns' collection. "Are you sitting comfortably?" is a phrase that usually precludes a great story.

*Left / Tick-Tock Cushion*  
The 'Mini Moderns' floor cushion has crossover appeal to both children and adults.





## Alice Burrows

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02 // Alice Burrows, also known as Alice Apple, is based in the south Devon coastal town of Teignmouth. Alice's main influences include fabrics from the '60s, vintage Scandinavian textiles and retro fabrics from Japan. Alice enjoys sewing and makes toys and accessories with vintage and retro fabrics, and her designs are also featured on various homewares.

### Top / Birds and Flowers

The flower and fruit shapes are inspired by the strong imagery of Scandinavian textiles of the 1960s. The birds add a sense of playfulness.

### Bottom / Coffee Pot

This motif was inspired by Alice's own collection of vintage coffee pots.

### Opposite / Swedish Flower Mix

Alice had stationery in mind when she created this fun floral image, influenced by Orla Kiely. She has since applied the design in her own shop to mugs, coasters, posters and more.

