

## **Design Lab: Exploring Pattern through the V&A and RIBA Architecture Collections**

Key Stage 3-4 Design & Technology

Key Stage 3-4 Art & Design

### **Case Studies**

Here are examples of work made by Design & Technology students who used the V&A and RIBA Exploring Pattern resource. Both projects illustrated below show designs created during an afternoon workshop at the Museum. The Exploring Pattern resource can also be used as a starting point for extended D&T projects.

### **Design brief**

Design a pattern inspired by the V&A collection and RIBA architecture collection. Use it to either decorate a tile or create a decorative scheme for a building.

### **Ideas and inspiration**

The Designing Pattern PowerPoint presentation provided students with an introduction to the use of pattern in architecture. They analysed structural and decorative uses of pattern in buildings and discussed different ways of repeating a motif to create a pattern.

Students explored architectural designs and the drawings of Owen Jones in the Prints and Drawings Study Room at the V&A. They used the Designing Pattern activity sheets to record and analyse the designs and made notes and sketches of shapes, motifs and pattern details in their sketchbooks.

Students also visited the Jameel and Nehru Galleries to research and gain inspiration from the V&A's rich collection of Islamic art and design and artefacts from South East Asia. They photographed and sketched details of patterns that they found interesting and used the activity sheets to investigate different types of repeat pattern.

Examining the models on display in the Architecture gallery and exploring the Museum building gave students a better understanding of different uses of pattern in architecture.

## Design development

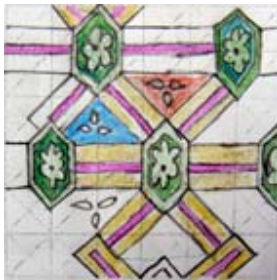
Students developed pattern motifs based on the details and shapes they had recorded in the Museum. They combined and repeated these motifs in a variety of ways to create original patterns.



## Design outcomes

### Pattern designs

These pattern designs by year 8 students were inspired by objects and designs in the Nehru and Jameel Galleries.



### Decorated tiles

Students from Erith School transferred their designs onto unglazed ceramic tiles. Vinyl and drawing materials were used to realise the designs.



## Patterns for buildings

These images were created by year 8 students. They downloaded photographs of buildings from RIBA's online collection, [www.ribapix.com](http://www.ribapix.com), and pasted their own pattern designs – inspired by a visit to the V&A - onto the photographs using computer imaging software. NB: This project could also be completed using photographs of buildings in your local area. You could find inspiration for pattern designs in the [V&A's online collections](#).

