

SHIBORI “When craftsmanship becomes art”

Autumn 2014



When it rains in Paris, it drizzles in Brussels. So you can be certain that the stunning designs on the catwalks during Paris fashion week will also be reflected in the newest interior trends.

ARTE's newest collection is clearly inspired by tie-dyeing techniques, a traditional way of colouring fabrics. The designer of this collection was fascinated by this phenomenon and decided to go in search of its origins. He soon found out that the art of tie-dyeing was centuries-old and originated in Japan where it is called *shibori*, which became the name of our autumn collection.

Shibori is an ancient dyeing technique, whereby fabrics are folded, twisted, woven, sewn or bound in a certain way and then plunged into a dye vat. Because of the different methods used – folding, twisting, sewing ... – some parts of the fabric resist the dye. When the fabric is folded open after dyeing, it is largely coloured while the uncoloured sections combine into a lovely pattern. The pattern is shaped by the so-called “resists”. As a result each piece of fabric is unique.

Nature as a source of inspiration

The Japanese are very familiar with this technique, and have centuries of experience applying it. They also came up with names that immediately conjure an image for the patterns. In *arashi shibori*, for example, the pattern is on the diagonal. The word *arashi* means storm, suggesting the movement of the rain in strong winds. *Karamatsu shibori* – which means Japanese larch – makes you feel as if you are looking down through the top and branches of this conifer.

In Europe this dyeing process became popular around the 1850s when women travelled to the Orient more frequently. Since then it has remained fashionable.

The wide range of colours of this collection is varied and bold. Full, bright or hard colours make this collection even more unique. But ARTE has upped the ante again, adding a touch of sheen as well as a high-gloss varnish grid.

Technical feat

Five different patterns were created by combining all of the above aspects in a special way. The first design – Azur – has a striking V-shaped pattern without sharp contours. The high-gloss varnish layer seems to subdivide the entire surface into boxes and lines. You can actually see and feel the varnish on the surface.

Fusion clearly refers to a tie-dye method that creates a seam between the various areas of colour.

Halo, the most traditional pattern, combines a “clouded” base layer with glossy lines and squares, which together form an ornament. This design looks especially stunning in a large space where the full visual effect becomes more apparent.

At first glance Breeze looks like the simplest design, but look again. The metal varnish used for the horizontal lines contrasts with the high-gloss varnish layer that imparts a relief for the vertical lines, creating a surprising effect.

Shibori will add something unique to every space.