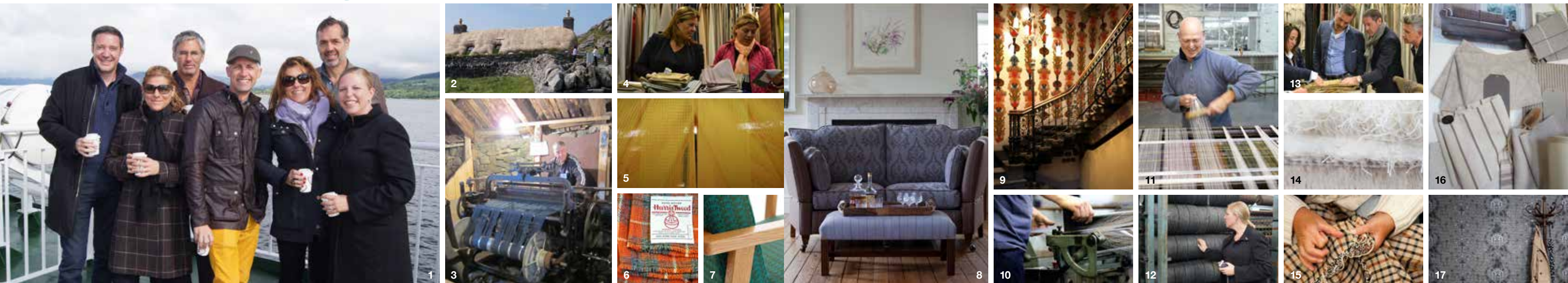


Beyond Plaid

Why “Made in Scotland” means so much more



TARTAN KILTS, TWEED JACKETS, CASHMERE SCARVES. For many, these are the sartorial embodiments of Scottish textiles, not to mention the country itself. But what the world's top fashion brands have long known—along with surprisingly few in the interiors industry—is that Scottish textiles have evolved past the stereotypical and are quite simply some of the best in the world.

What makes them so special? Whether fashioned for clothing or for the home, it's the same thing: a rare combination of heritage and artisanship merged with a modern design sensibility. Add in the mills' ability to customize and you've got a designer's dream.

deeply rooted

Scottish mills masterfully understand the technical properties of wool and cashmere and have used this expertise for over 500 years. Johnstons of Elgin, a maker of fine cashmere and wool, was founded in 1797 by the family that owns it today and still houses production in some of its original buildings. And while many know the term Harris Tweed, few realize its process is protected by an Act of Parliament, which ensures that it is woven by hand in the Outer Hebrides homes of artisan weavers as it has been for more than a century—a skill passed down from generation to generation.

the artisanal way

To meet today's demands, Scottish mills have embraced sophisticated machinery without losing the personal touch. Begg & Co, which weaves super-soft cashmere throws, employs state-of-the-art looms to weave intricate jacquards, yet continues to hand-cut the fringe with a simple pair of scissors (nothing else provides the clean slice that prevents unraveling over time). Turnberry Rug Works does the same to finish its wool rugs and carpets. Nearby in Perth, a team at The Isle Mill meticulously inspects every inch of its tartans, righting imperfections via sharp eyes, nimble fingers, and a single needle and thread.

fashion, forward

This history and human pride mean that Scottish culture is woven into every inch of cloth, carpet, lace, leather, tapestry and wallpaper. But that heritage isn't stuck in time. For example, Bute Fabrics often takes its color inspiration from the landscape of its island home, but with hues (and names) like monsoon, peppercorn, and petrol, they are as modern as they come. MYB Textiles is a lace and madras mill that has partnered with Timorous Beasties—a firm known for a style described as “William Morris on acid”—to create graphic lace wallpapers that hang in the Beasties' Glasgow store alongside neon-hued Blotch damasks, which look just as the name suggests.

anything goes

From supplying the drapes in the Oval Office to the leather seating of the first Model T Ford, Scottish mills know how to get the best out of their fabrics and keep their customers happy. And many offer interior designers the opportunity customize designs—whether tweaking a colorway or building a brand new pattern.

Find these companies and learn more at textilescotland.co.uk

So They Say...

To witness these elements in action, Traditional Home and Textiles Scotland invited 7 top interior designers on our second-annual Scottish design excursion. After visiting the country's textile mills, studios and shops—plus a few stately homes and high-style hotels—the group's consensus: Scotland offers something you can't find anywhere else.



JOE LUCAS Lucas Studio, Inc. + Harbinger L.A.
“I hadn't known Johnstons of Elgin before the trip. We're now representing their brand-new interiors collection of textiles at our showroom, Harbinger, in Los Angeles.”



STEVEN GAMBREL SR Gambrel, Inc.
“If I could have taken home just one fabric from the trip, it would be miles of that gorgeous sheer cashmere to make curtains, simply because of the luxe factor.”



AMANDA NISBET Amanda Nisbet Design
“To actually see the tradespeople take such pride in every last detail was daunting yet inspiring—and reaffirmed my great appreciation for handmade wovens.”



CAMPION PLATT Campion Platt Interiors
“As an architect, I know of Scotland's strong design history—I'm in awe of Charles Rennie Macintosh—but now I've seen things that take that heritage beyond the expected.”



BROOKE GOMEZ Gomez Associates, Inc.
“I found a gorgeous whisper-colored windowpane check, plaid, and herringbone scheme that's perfect for my own living room—at the same mill where the guys got fitted for kilts!”



SHEA SOUCIE Soucie Horner Ltd.
“I'm in awe of the weaver's craft after touring these mills. Observing true artisans at work, creating beautifully refined and luxurious fabrics—many of them customized, which was a surprise to me—was exciting and inspiring.”



DAVID SCOTT David Scott Interiors Ltd.
“I was always aware of the quality that comes from Scotland, but not the variety. Beautiful, vibrant colors and the capacity for creativity with bespoke patterns is tremendous.”

1. En route to the Isle of Bute 2. A traditional thatched-roof home 3. All Harris Tweeds must be woven in the home of artisan weavers 4. Amanda Nisbet and Brooke Gomez peruse the offerings of The Isle Mill 5. Cashmere on a jacquard loom at Begg & Co. 6. The official Harris Tweed orb 7. Colorful wool tweed from Bute Fabrics 8. New designs from Johnstons of Elgin 9. Timorous Beasties' Blotch wallpaper 10. Handwork on the loom 11. An expert craftsman at Reid & Taylor. Photo by Gerardo Jaconelli 12. Shea Soucie at Harris Tweed Hebrides 13. Traditional Home publisher Beth Brenner with Steven Gambrel, David Scott and Joe Lucas at Macnaughton 14. Turnberry Rug Works 15. Mending by hand at Begg & Co. 16. Johnstons' inspiration board 17. MYB “lace” wallpaper

textiles
Scotland