



COLOURKARMA

FABRIC ISN'T ONLY MEANT TO COVER FURNITURE  
- IT CAN ALSO BRIGHTEN UP WALLS.

PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID ROSS AND DARON CHATZ PRODUCTION ANNEMARIE MEINTJES AND KLARA VAN WYNGAARDEN WORDS MIRELLE LEYDEN

The Towns Cabernet fabric from Design Team is R466/m. The recliner was a second-hand find reupholstered in the Towns Cabernet fabric, and the red standing lamp is from Loads of Living. Plascon's Russet Floor Paint (FPT8) was used for the floor.

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Lise Butler from Design Team and Gregory Woollatt from Fabco



### Q&A WITH LISE BUTLER

**Q: WHAT IS DESIGN TEAM?**

**A:** It is a textile design company offering design and manufacturing services. We entered the fabric market with locally designed and printed ranges reflecting South African icons and imagery with a global design influence. We also undertake textile design commissions, manufacturing of finished items such as scatter cushions, aprons and bags, and exciting work on apparel goods with companies such as Big Blue. This includes garments such as T-shirts and skirts featuring our own designs.

**Q: HOW DID YOU START?**

**A:** Amanda Haupt and I came up with the idea during the final year of the B.Tech degree in Textile Design and Technology at Pretoria Technikon (now TUT). We noticed a gap in the market for scatter cushions with unique designs and, with the support of the Technikon, we displayed our first range at Decorex in 2000. The products attracted attention and we received our first order from Loads of Living, which immediately launched us into the industry. Our big break came with the launch of our first independent open fabric range at Rooms on View in 2006.

**Q: WHO ARE THE TEAM MEMBERS?**

**A:** Lise Butler, Amanda Haupt and our dedicated team of 10 permanent employees. The team consists of printers and sewers. The former had never seen a silk-screen before starting with us, but they are now meticulous free-hand printers.

**Q: WHERE DO YOU FIND THE INSPIRATION FOR YOUR DESIGNS?**

**A:** Our inspiration mostly comes from daily life, nature, social events, historical references and books. Magazines update us on global trends. We find it extremely exciting and challenging to use local content in design trends that are seen globally.

**Q: HOW DOES THE PRINTING OF THE FABRIC WORK?**

**A:** We use a basic hand silk-screen printing process with specific textile pigments.

**Q: EXPLAIN MORE ABOUT YOUR FABRIC WALLPAPER**

**A:** We have used Fabco on our stands at Rooms on View because we love the luscious effect and the wonderful display quality. When we launched our fabric ranges, Gregory Woollatt of Fabco offered us a collaborative opportunity to launch two gorgeous wall-covering sample books. Given the wallpaper revival, we believe that we offer an exciting alternative to costly imported wallpaper.

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