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THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MORAG

Whether it's her colourful designs echoing our artistic and cultural heritage, or simply her clear blue eyes and soft Scottish lilt, there's something about Morag Macpherson that draws you to her — and her dazzling designs

Words Carrie St James

Recently commissioned by New York's Hyatt Union Square Hotel during her "Masculine and Feminine in Nature" show at the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, New York, to create headboards for the hotel's bedrooms, the brief to "go wild" resulted "in a complete riot", says Morag Macpherson. Each of the 178 bedrooms features her headboard creations in reversible Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter designs to fit in with the hotel's theme of the seasons.

"It would be nice to go across to see how they look," says Morag in her thoroughly modest way. "My first time in New York was in 2004, when I did the show just for fun. I dipped my toe in, so to speak. When I went back in 2010, I was more focused."

Now her textiles and wallpapers are showcased at Mondo Collection, Manhattan, where designers, architects and locals can see what's best in design from all over the world. A large-scale residential project on Venice Beach, Los Angeles, was completed this year using Morag's Rape Blossom, Spearhead, Patchwork and Orchid designs on indoor and outdoor furniture, as well as bedding.

"I headed straight to the cocktail bar for a Manhattan the day that order came through," Morag confides. Previous commissions have come from other prestigious establishments, including Liberty of London.

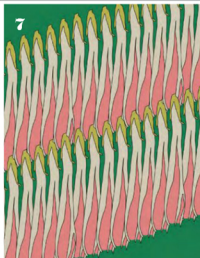
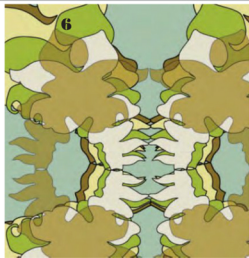
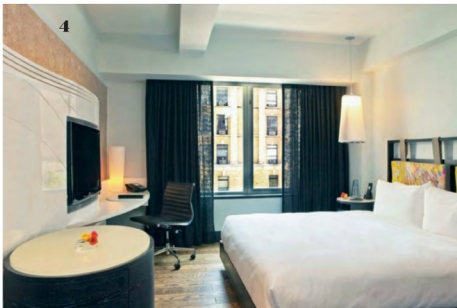
Born and bred in Glasgow, Scotland, Morag studied design in printing, graduating at age 21. "Looking back, I wish I'd done art history and anthropology," she reflects. "I am



ABOVE Morag Macpherson. Scarf, 'Crystallise'; dress, one of Morag's vintage finds

fascinated by how other cultures use art and how it all intertwines."

A succession of office-based design jobs over the years did not satisfy Morag's creative drive, although she says she gave it her best shot. "I moved around a lot but felt trapped." The urge to set up on her own was "cooking away under the surface for a long time" and finally, in 2006, she made the break and started her successful studio.



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Specialising in surface pattern creation, Morag is tuned into the growing trend of digital printing. "Designs always end up as computer film regardless of where they start," she says. "In the past, colour separation put the cost up, but now designs are produced as one film so you can use more colours and you're not restricted by the cost."

Three years ago, Morag moved from Glasgow to Kirkcudbright (kirk-koo-bree) at the mouth of the River Dee. This fishing town

was home to artists including The Glasgow Boys and the Scottish Colourists, and today its annual Summer Art Exhibition in July and August cements its reputation as an artist's colony.

It is the perfect place for Morag's cycling and outdoor pursuits, and in the summer months you'll find her out and about in her big, old campervan enjoying the countryside, taking inspiration from the beautiful, picturesque scenery. **HD**

- 1 Pattern for Union Square
- 2 Pattern for Union Square
- 3 Hyatt Union Square
- 4 Hyatt Union Square
- 5 Rape Blossom
- 6 Orchid
- 7 Spearhead
- 8 Patchwork

more info?
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