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Links in a Chain: The Collaborative Process of Creating Textiles for the Interior Design Industry

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**Links in a Chain:
The Collaborative Process of Creating Textiles for the Interior Design Industry**

By
Krista Stack

This site seminar will take you to the Larsen Design Studio where Jack Lenor Larsen has guided his company for the past 45 years. Mr. Larsen is currently retired and acts as a consultant, but the design process continues. This presentation will show the many processes and people involved in the creation of textiles for the interior design industry today. Each fabric is a combination of available technology, personal inspiration, and market demand. We will track the story of some significant Larsen classics from the creation of the original artwork through development decisions including materials, structure, color direction, price consideration, and technical setbacks. We will also tell you if the “best designed” fabrics ever sold in the market. The roles of different individuals and how decisions are made will be examined. Creating a textile for industry is far removed from the lone artist in the garret studio. From the designer / technician at the mill informing what yarns or structures are possible, a freelance designer selling artwork, a design director creating, maintaining, and expanding on a “house style”, to the input from sales staff and end users (architects and interior designers), there are many players on the team. You will be introduced to people at many of these steps.

The Larsen Design Studio is in the same location as the Cowtan and Tout Design Studio, a fabric house with a more traditional aesthetic. Owned by the same company, the two brands appeal to different clients. In addition to the vertical explanation of the Larsen product, you will have an opportunity to examine similar decisions of a parallel company.

Krista Stack is the Director of Design at Larsen. She graduated Magna cum laude from Brown University with a degree in European History while simultaneously studying textile design at the Rhode Island School of Design. Recognition in the Amoco Trace Yarn Student Design Competition in 1993 and the Japanese Fashion Foundation’s International Textile Design Competition of 1994 prompted her to pursue a career in textiles, a lifelong interest. She began to design for Mr. Larsen in 1994, becoming Senior Designer in 1996, and Director of Design in 1997.