



ap asianpaints

COLOUR NEXT

Colour & Material
Intelligence

Forecast Report 2026

*“Bricks may fall and crumble,
Neon signs will alter to the
consumer’s eye.
It’s the citizens
That are the real representation
Of the streets we walk on daily.”*

-Victoria Aquino

About ColourNext

Since 2003, Asian Paints has been at the forefront of studying colour as a cultural and material force—one that shapes lifestyles, environments, and collective imagination. Each year, our colour marketing team works alongside leading voices across architecture, art, interiors, fashion, sociology, media, and FMCG to develop ColourNext: a rigorous, future-facing forecast of emerging directions in colour, materials, textures, and finishes. Over two decades, ColourNext has evolved into South Asia’s most authoritative colour and material intelligence, offering globally relevant insights grounded in cultural depth and design foresight.

Introduction to the Report

Culture is not shaped by structures or aesthetics alone, but by the people who move through them, the emotions they carry, and the futures they imagine.

It forms in transitions, in thresholds, in what Rotterdam-based artist Kaoutar Gadir calls “the grey zone...the world in between worlds...a space of transition and not-knowing.” This in-between space is where culture is actively being made today. It is here that we observe the signals shaping how we live, create, connect, and desire.

The ColourNext 2026 report is rooted in this grey zone. It traces the social, material, and emotional shifts emerging across science labs, digital culture, architecture, craft, media, and everyday life, mapping how they translate into design languages, spatial expressions, and material futures. These are not trends as surface aesthetics, but as cultural movements: systems of thought, behaviour, and imagination that shape how the world is being rebuilt.

This year’s directions articulate four distinct yet interconnected cultural currents. **IRL** responds to the slow creep of decisions being made for us by algorithms through presence, tactility, intention and pro-human connection—prioritising attention over acceleration. **Solarpunk** expresses a post-capitalist desire for regenerative futures, where nature and technology operate in symbiosis, and optimism becomes a design strategy. **Pastoral** reclaims substance over aesthetic through lineage, locality, and inherited craft, grounding cultural capital in land, memory, and ancestral knowledge. **Daydream** offers a soft suspension of time—romantic, translucent, and quietly surreal—where the mind overlays daily reality with beauty, poetry and light.

Together, these movements reveal a deeper shift: from consumption to connection, from spectacle to meaning, from speed to presence.

The ColourNext report chronicles their origins, triggers, and manifestations across colour, material, texture, space, product, and lifestyle—offering a future-facing framework for designers, architects, creators, and brands shaping the worlds we will inhabit next.

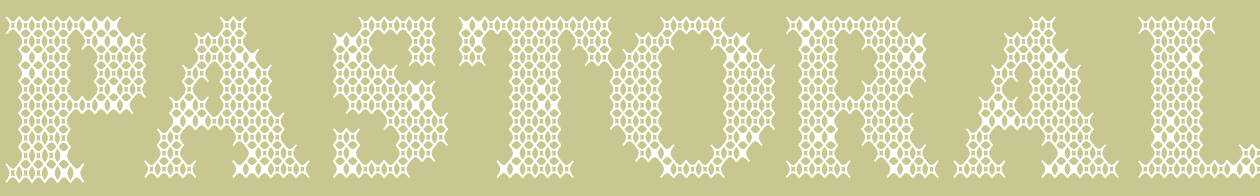
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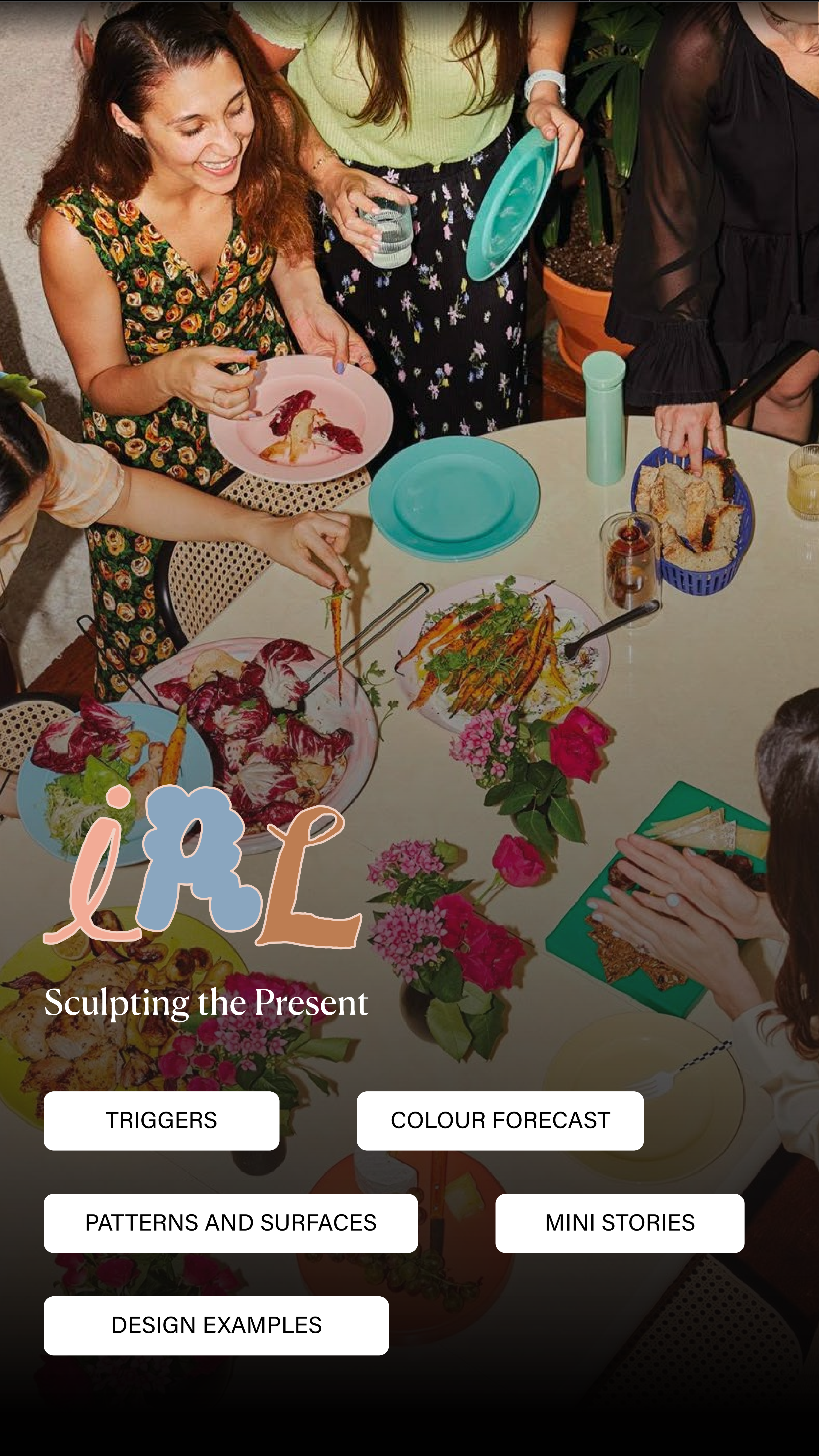
	Pick a Design Direction Go directly into a Design Direction of your interest using this arrow on the Table of Contents.
	Go Home Press the home button on the top left corner of any page to go back to Table of Contents.
IRL SOLARPUNK	Switch Design Directions Jump to any Design Direction using the tabs at the top of each page. The selected setting will turn white while the rest will remain grey.
TRIGGERS PATTERN FORECAST	Explore Sub-sections These buttons appear on the top of every page. Click to see different sub-sections each Design Direction has to offer.

Happy Reading!

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	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR



irl

Sculpting the Present

TRIGGERS

COLOUR FORECAST

PATTERNS AND SURFACES

MINI STORIES

DESIGN EXAMPLES

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

Introduction to IRL

The IRL direction reflects a resistance to the algorithmic shaping of our worldview, and a longing to be intentional with what we choose to consume. In a world defined by speed, cohorts and attention grabs, there is a shift towards presence, tactility and deliberate living - even if that means being less efficient. There is no denying that the use of personal devices and connectivity will increase, but it is also an invitation for frameworks for healthy boundaries within which one is reachable or connected. People are gravitating towards gathering in familiar homely places, travelling without posting, choosing durability over disposability and seeking contentment without over-consumption.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
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IRL Triggers

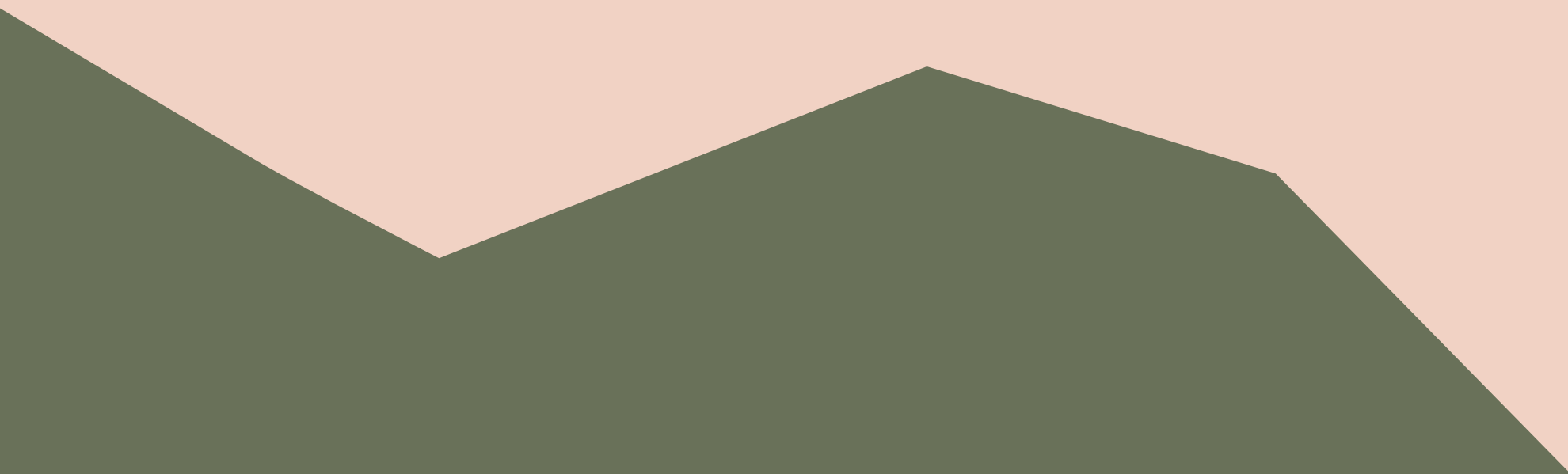
	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



1. The Paradox of Hyperconnection

As Forbes has noted, Gen Z, Gen Alpha, and younger millennials are simultaneously the most digitally connected and the most socially disconnected generations. This is not an anomaly, but a natural outcome of techno-capitalist infrastructures that promised limitless connection through platforms while quietly fostering hyper-individualism. Followers were mistaken for friendships; visibility for belonging. As Instagram’s CEO has admitted, we can now “barely distinguish between what’s authentic and what’s not,” accelerating a collective mistrust of mediated connection. There is a growing appetite for slower, sensory rituals rooted in presence.

Image: Mountain Athlete Jackson Long wrote in his Substack post, while quoting Instagram’s CEO, saying “As we enter 2026 my primary goal is to be a part of the movement protecting and prioritizing human made art and experiences. Choosing to make real stuff and not be sucked in to the pressures of what’s on trend and gains the most engagement via AI slop.”



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
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2. Isolation as a Structural Condition

Humans are inherently social. From an evolutionary perspective, cooperation and proximity were essential for survival. While the internet, mobile phones, and gaming have expanded networks, they have failed to replace emotional, embodied connection. Digital interaction, while constant, often lacks intimacy intensifying loneliness rather than alleviating it.

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3. Third Spaces

While cafés, bars, and community centres remain important, many feel commercially driven, transient, or unintentional. Younger audiences are seeking spaces that offer depth over throughput places designed for participation rather than consumption.

Image: Buland Shukla modelled his Goa bar, For The Record on the Tokyo vinyl bars he had grown to love

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4. A Renewed Need to Belong (New Generations)

Raised online, today’s youth are seeking to translate their digital identities into meaningful physical experiences. They want spaces where passions cultivated online, music, gaming, reading, craft, fashion, can be explored communally. These environments support discovery beyond the screen: of self, of others, and of shared purpose.

Image: Bandra's Records.Coffee boasts of a collection of records curated by The Revolver Club

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5. Reimagining Community for a New Age

New gathering formats are emerging that bridge online inspiration with offline experience. These spaces convert digital affinity into real-world belonging, allowing connection to form through making, listening, playing, and presence rather than passive scrolling.

Top Image: Bakers bring and exchange elaborate cakes at Cake Picnic, organized for the Legion of Honor’s 100th birthday, on the lawn of the museum on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024.



Images: New York City 500 person board games.

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IRL Colour Forecast

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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“*Sometimes I think I have felt everything I’m ever gonna feel... and from here on out, I’m never gonna feel anything new.*”

-Her (2013), film

The IRL palette channels this craving for presence through hues that feel lived-in, warm, and quietly sensory. **Earl Grey**, a soft blue-grey, echoes calm morning light; **Palace Lights**, a pastel peach, glows with gentle human warmth. **Hazel Nut** and **River Stone** bring grounded, earthy stability, while **Mangrove Green** offers a rooted sense of belonging. **Sea Dreams**, a muted blue-green, captures a softened, analog nostalgia, and **Billboard Yellow**, an ochre-like warmth, evokes handmade signs and sunworn memories. Together, these tones form a visual pause, a reminder that in a world of acceleration, it is the real, the tangible, and the present that move us most.

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	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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8753 | EARL GREY

0N17 | PALACE LIGHTS

8569 | HAZEL NUT

9888 | BILLBOARD YELLOW

8345 | SEA DREAMS

8639 | BRICK TONE

SA27 | RIVER STONE

SA24 | MANGROVE GREEN

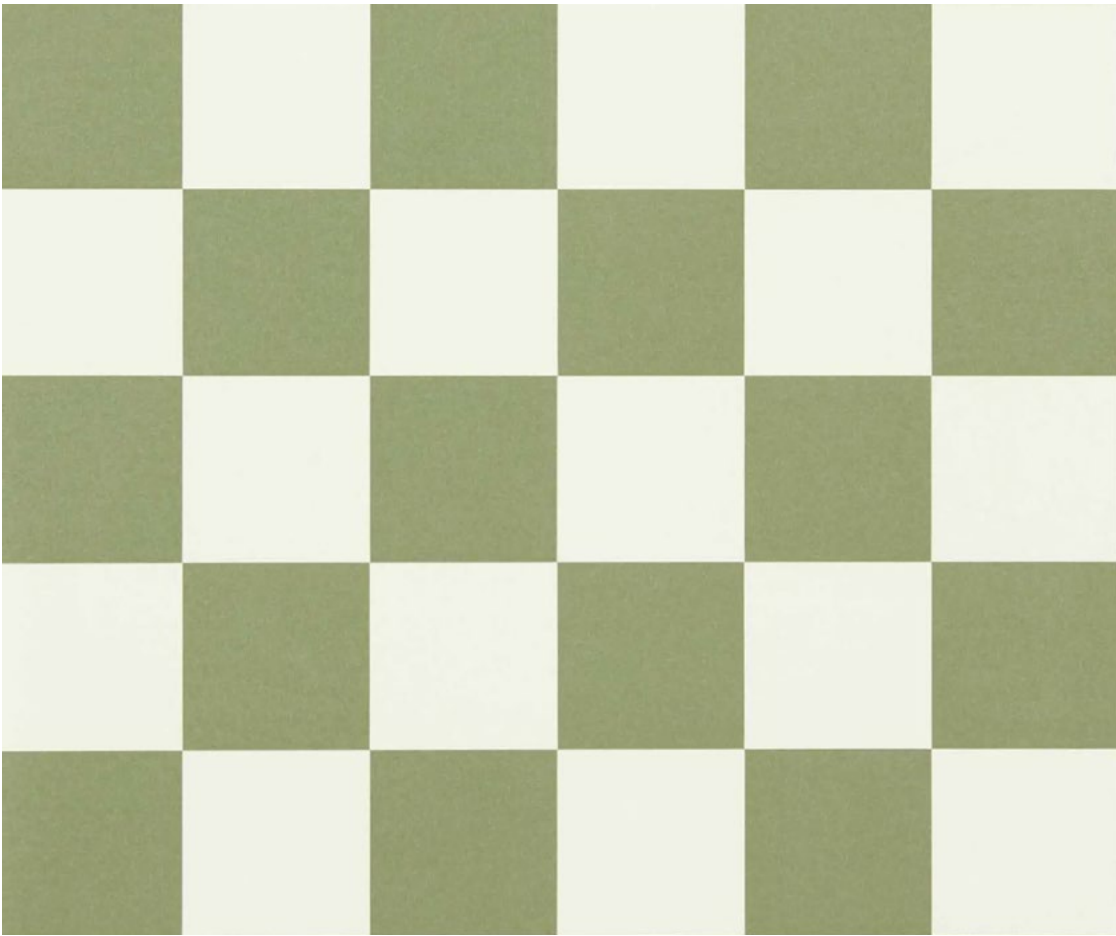
	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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IRL Patterns & Surfaces

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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The IRL wallpaper collection celebrates familiarity, tactility, and everyday rhythm. Patterns such as **Blenet Checks** and **Potato Print Jewel** draw from hand-stamped motifs, diner tiles, and domestic textiles, graphics that feel lived-in rather than designed. Checks, stripes, and playful symbols echo the comfort of board games, kitchen tables, and analogue routines.



Harlequin x Henry Holland Blenets Check Wallpaper, Matcha Colourway

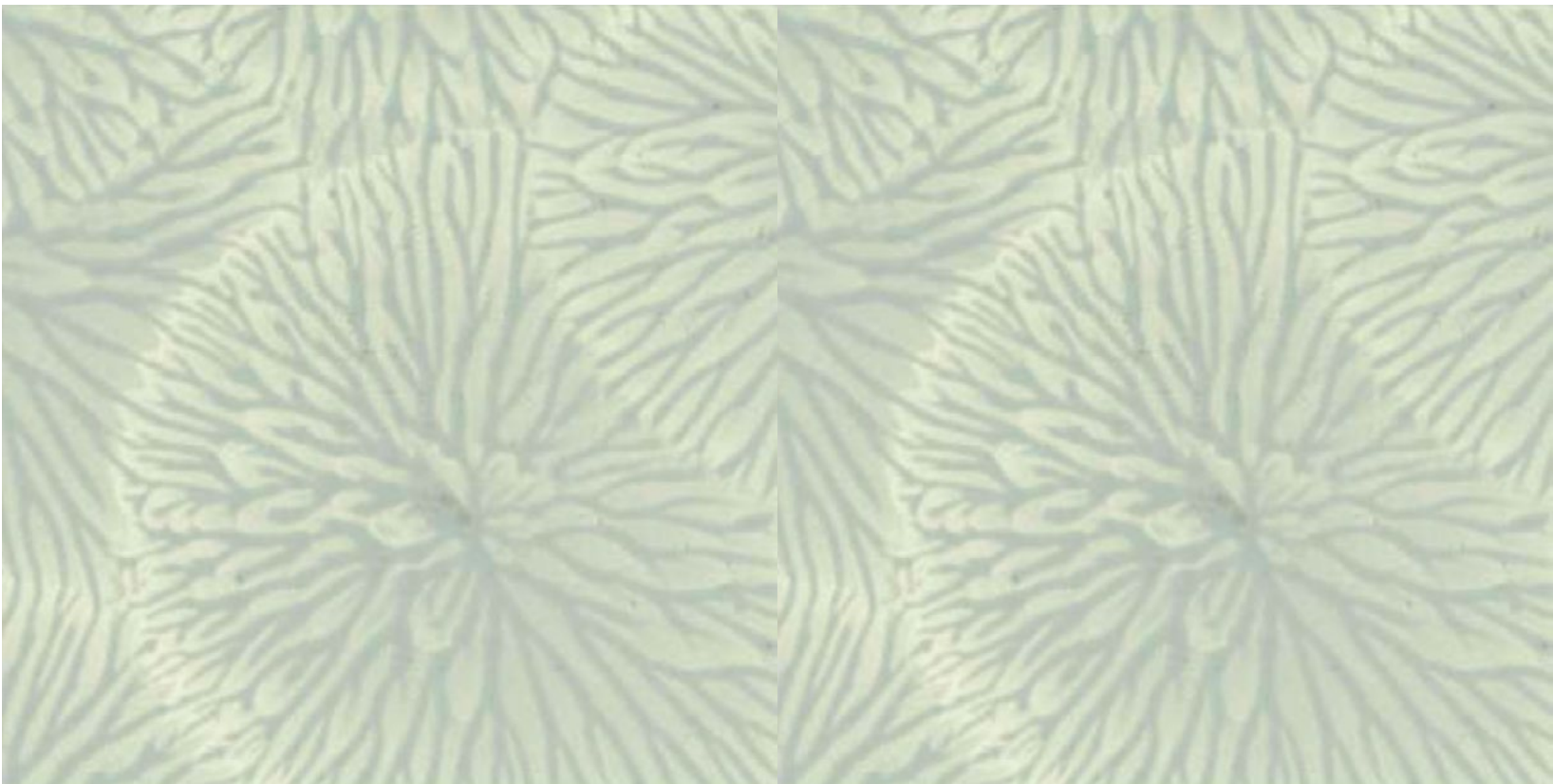


Charpai Texture



GP&J Baker x Kit Kemp Potato Print Jewel Wallpaper

The palette is warm and grounded, evoking cloth, paper, and pigment rather than screen light. These wallpapers do not seek visual drama; instead, they create a sense of quiet continuity. Rooted and contemporary, they transform walls into backdrops for presence—spaces that feel human, approachable, and gently expressive.



Pom Pom Texture

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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Soft materials in IRL are grounding and quietly comforting—corduroy, canvas fabric, faux leather, checkerboard textiles, and softened milky finishes. Robust yet gentle, they evoke analog wellness and domestic familiarity, carrying the reassurance of everyday rituals and objects that feel known, held, and unhurried.

Corduroy introduces a ribbed, grainy tactility that feels instantly familiar. Its softness carries vintage references and a sense of comfort rooted in everyday use.

Checkerboard Textiles carry a graphic rhythm rooted in the everyday. Familiar yet playful, the pattern recalls board games, kitchen floors, and communal tables. Its repetition feels grounding and analogue, offering visual structure without formality. In IRL contexts, it signals shared time, ease, and simple joy.

Soft Milky Surfaces diffuse light and blur edges, creating a calm, comforting visual field. Their gentle opacity feels soothing to the eye, reducing contrast and visual noise. These finishes evoke ceramic glazes, waxed paper, and polished stone—materials that feel touched and lived with rather than displayed.

Canvas is honest and hardworking, with a visible weave that speaks to longevity. It reinforces IRL's preference for materials that feel robust, dependable, and grounded in function.

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IRL Mini Stories

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

1. Lost in the Moment



The film *Paterson* (2016, Jim Jarmusch) embodies the IRL ethos of slow presence and tactile engagement. Focusing on a bus driver who writes poetry in quiet notebooks, the narrative elevates everyday, hands-on experiences. Jarmusch’s deliberate pacing, static framing, and attention to quotidian details reflect a cultural longing for simplicity and slow joy in a world of speed and screens. Objects, textures, and spaces become vessels of presence: the café where Paterson drinks coffee, the pages of his notebook, the soft weight of a pencil. This reverence for ordinary life aligns with IRL’s celebration of wholesome effort, tactility, and “timefullness.” In design, it manifests as a renewed desire for analog tools, upgradeable products, and communal spaces from blanket-stitched textiles to family co-working hubs. The film’s quiet rhythm and understated warmth mirror how IRL colours like Earl Grey, Palace Lights, and Mangrove Green create calm, grounded spaces that invite embodied engagement, slow discovery, and sensory connection.

Image: Film Still from *Paterson*, 2016

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2. Offline Reclamation



Before Sunrise (1995, Richard Linklater) captures the IRL longing for unmediated, in-person experience. Jesse and Celine’s single-night wander through Vienna foregrounds deliberate attention: conversation, human connection, and sensory immersion over distraction. Linklater’s long takes and real-time pacing celebrate presence itself, making the city’s textures, café tables, cobblestones, streetlights, integral to narrative meaning. This mirrors IRL’s cultural proposition: the offline world is now the site of contentment. The film exemplifies how communities seek tactile, grounded engagement: playing board games, crafting, or inhabiting familiar spaces. IRL design draws from this ethos, privileging comfort, longevity, and shared experience. Colour palettes like Hazel Nut, River Stone, and Sea Dreams evoke the analog, tangible textures central to these experiences offering warmth, quiet reflection, and sensory reassurance in a hyperconnected, overstimulated world.

Image: Film Still from Before Sunrise, 1995

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IRL Design Examples

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UNIQLO Park, Kashiwa

UNIQLO Park reframes retail as a shared civic landscape rather than a transactional endpoint. Playgrounds, open lawns, and everyday circulation coexist with commerce, allowing life to unfold organically around the brand. Shopping becomes incidental; presence becomes primary. The project reflects IRL’s core belief that relevance today is earned through generosity of space by supporting daily rituals, intergenerational exchange, and unprogrammed moments of togetherness.

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Yuri Suzuki – Sonic Playground

Sonic Playground invites the body back into listening. Visitors crouch, lean in, and play, discovering sound through movement rather than screens. The installation transforms audio into a tactile, social experience, where curiosity replaces instruction. Imperfect, playful, and collective, Suzuki’s work echoes IRL’s rejection of passive consumption, reminding us that connection is often found through shared attention and gentle experimentation.



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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Genre Listening Bar, New Delhi

Genre asks: what if music was treated with care?

Genre slows nightlife into ritual. Built around high-fidelity sound and shared seating, it prioritises listening as a communal act. Phones fade, conversations soften, and music becomes something held collectively rather than consumed individually. The space captures IRL’s shift toward depth over distraction where intimacy, focus, and shared time define value.



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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Foosball Table by SHED

Built as a one-of-one, this Foosball table carries love for games into the workshop. It’s where precision joinery meets hours of tuning where every spin, stop, and strike is accounted for. The materials do the talking, but the the details make you spend time taking notice. From the weight of the rods to the feel of the handles, nothing here is by chance.It’s not just about playing, it’s about playing on something worth making.



IRL

SOLARPUNK

PASTORAL

DAYDREAM

COLOUR OF
THE YEAR

WALLPAPER
OF THE YEAR

Solarpunk

Post-Capitalist Optimism

TRIGGERS

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Introduction to Solarpunk

Solarpunk imagines a future where hope is actionable, progress is joyful, and human ambition aligns with ecological intelligence. It is a cultural posture that insists we can desire differently: that the future need not be a landscape of collapse, but a space for repair, renewal, and symbiotic collaboration. Here, nature is not a resource, but a partner; technology amplifies rather than overrides; humans exist within resilient, regenerative systems. Forms are biomorphic and adaptive, textures deconstructed yet purposeful, materials robust yet honest, reflecting a world where imagination shapes possibility. The palette, **Salt White, Monsoon Mist, Grey Wind, Cherrapunji Green, Beach Comber, Sage Grey, Burnt Malt**, and **Chrome metallics** speaks of grounded optimism, hybrid elegance, and visible durability. Together, the colours and forms evoke a tangible, lived vision of a future where human creativity and the natural world co-evolve, offering both wonder and care, resilience and grace.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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Solarpunk Triggers

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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1. The Rise of Gorpcore and Outdoor-Led Luxury

The great outdoors has become a powerful source of inspiration in luxury fashion, particularly evident on the Autumn/Winter 2025 men’s runways. Brands such as Louis Vuitton showcased sakura-pink ski suits, Sacai presented bejewelled, gear-laden ensembles, and Kiko Kostadinov elevated raincoats into high-fashion statements. Gorpcore, an aesthetic rooted in outdoor utility and performance, is increasingly embraced by luxury, redefining what it means to be adventure-ready. These garments prioritise function, endurance, and adaptability, encouraging deeper engagement with nature rather than mere visual reference.

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2. A Cultural Shift Toward Optimistic Futures

As callout culture, cancel culture, and rigid political correctness lose cultural dominance, there is a growing desire, particularly within progressive spaces, for new ways of building together. Fragmentation and exhaustion have created an appetite for more constructive, future-facing narratives that emphasise interdependence between humans and ecosystems. Solarpunk fills this gap by offering optimism without denial, hope without naïveté.

Image: Kiko Kostadinov's AW24 showcases elevated raincoats

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3. Regenerative Design and Eco-Architecture

Interest in regenerative architecture and bioactive materials is accelerating. The Venice Architecture Biennale 2025 centred on the triangulation of human intelligence, technology, and nature. At the Biennale, Diller Scofidio + Renfro introduced *Canal Café*, an experimental espresso bar that converts Venetian lagoon water into purified drinking water—transforming conservation into a lived experience. Chinese architect Ma Yansong, recognised by *Time Magazine* as one of the most influential figures of 2025, continues to reimagine dense urban housing as tactile, nature-integrated environments. Projects like MAKHNO Studio’s Gnizdo Houses, built using hempcrete to enhance air quality and thermal comfort, alongside eco-brutalist structures such as Bangkok’s Baan Botanica—where nature overtakes interior spaces—signal a future where architecture and ecology co-evolve.

Image: The 7-story building by Heatherwick Studio will be sited at Calle 72 in central Bogotá. (Courtesy: Heatherwick Studio)

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Solarpunk Colour Forecast

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“*It is easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism.*”

-Mark Fisher,
Capitalist Realism

Solarpunk challenges this inevitability, offering a vision of futures that are repairable, joyful, and symbiotic. **Salt White** opens space for clarity and reflection, while **Monsoon Mist** and **Grey Wind** evoke the material world, weathered yet resilient. **Cherrapunji Green** and **Sage Grey** pulse with regenerative life, suggesting forests and moss-covered surfaces thriving in tandem with human creativity. **Beach Comber** and **Burnt Malt** ground the palette in earthy, tactile presence, while **Chrome metallics** shimmer with technological possibility and forward-thinking innovation. Together, these colours articulate a speculative optimism, a world where human, natural, and technological systems co-evolve. It is a palette that feels slightly strange, yet profoundly tangible, evoking the eerie potential of a future we can shape, feel, and inhabit fully.

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L163 | SALT WHITE

K131 | MONSOON MIST

K277 | GREY WIND

K167 | CHERRAPUNJI GREEN

8480 | BEACH COMBER

K146 | SAGE GREY

8229 | BURNT MALT

Woodtech Insignia LUXE Collection
Chrome Series CR 49 Asgard

Woodtech Insignia LUXE Collection
Chrome Series CR 57 Bastar Gold

Woodtech Insignia LUXE Collection
Chrome Series CR 103 Dusk Moss

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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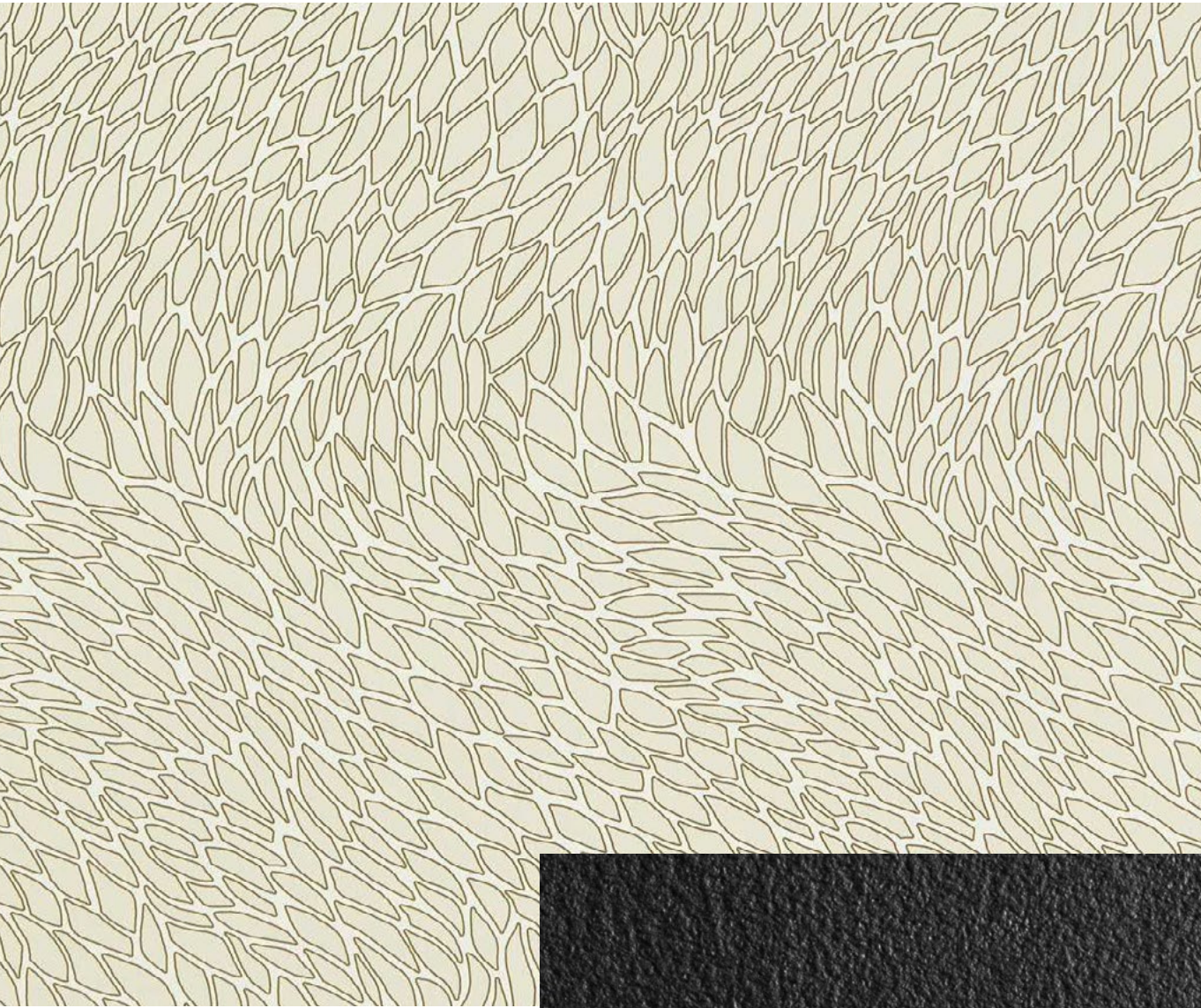
Solarpunk Patterns & Surfaces

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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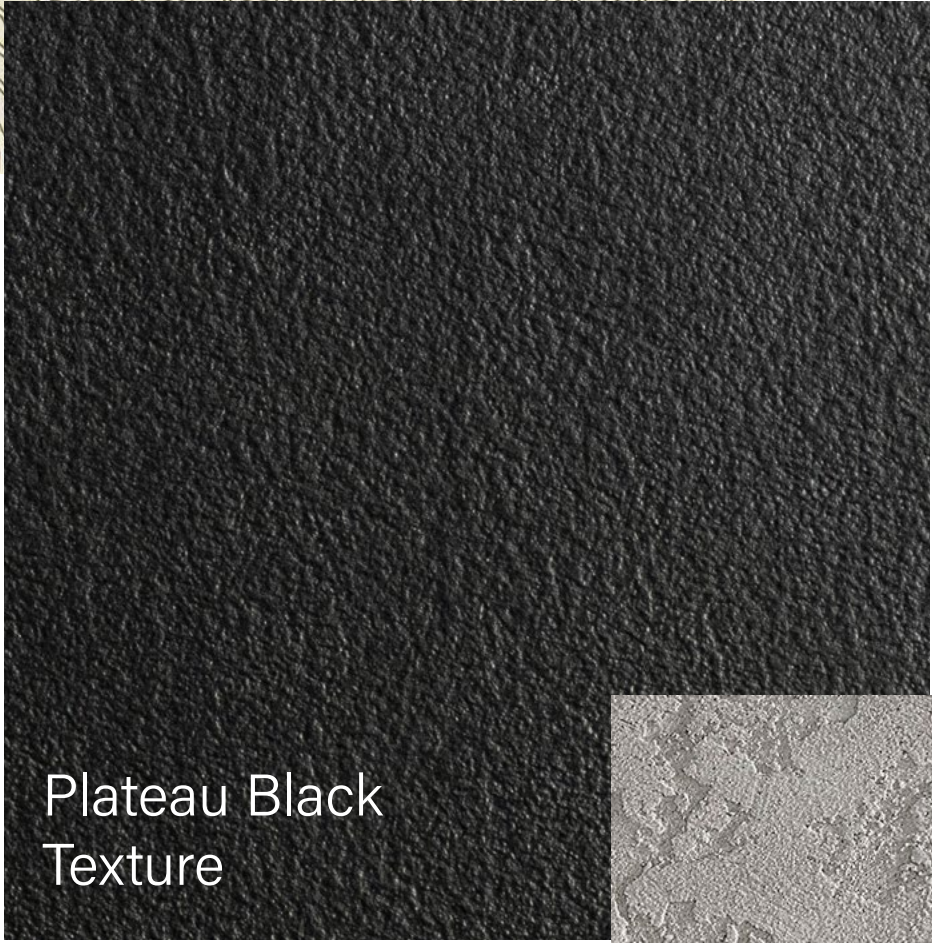
Solarpunk wallpapers express a future where nature and technology are entwined. Patterns such as Cobra and abstract biomorphic repeats evoke cellular growth, energy systems, and adaptive skins. Textures feel engineered yet organic; layered, mineral, and quietly dynamic. Muted greens, greys, and ash tones suggest regeneration rather than decay, resilience rather than ruin. These wallpapers feel infrastructural but hopeful, hinting at surfaces that respond, evolve, and endure.



Marburg Felix Diener
Eclectic Wallpaper



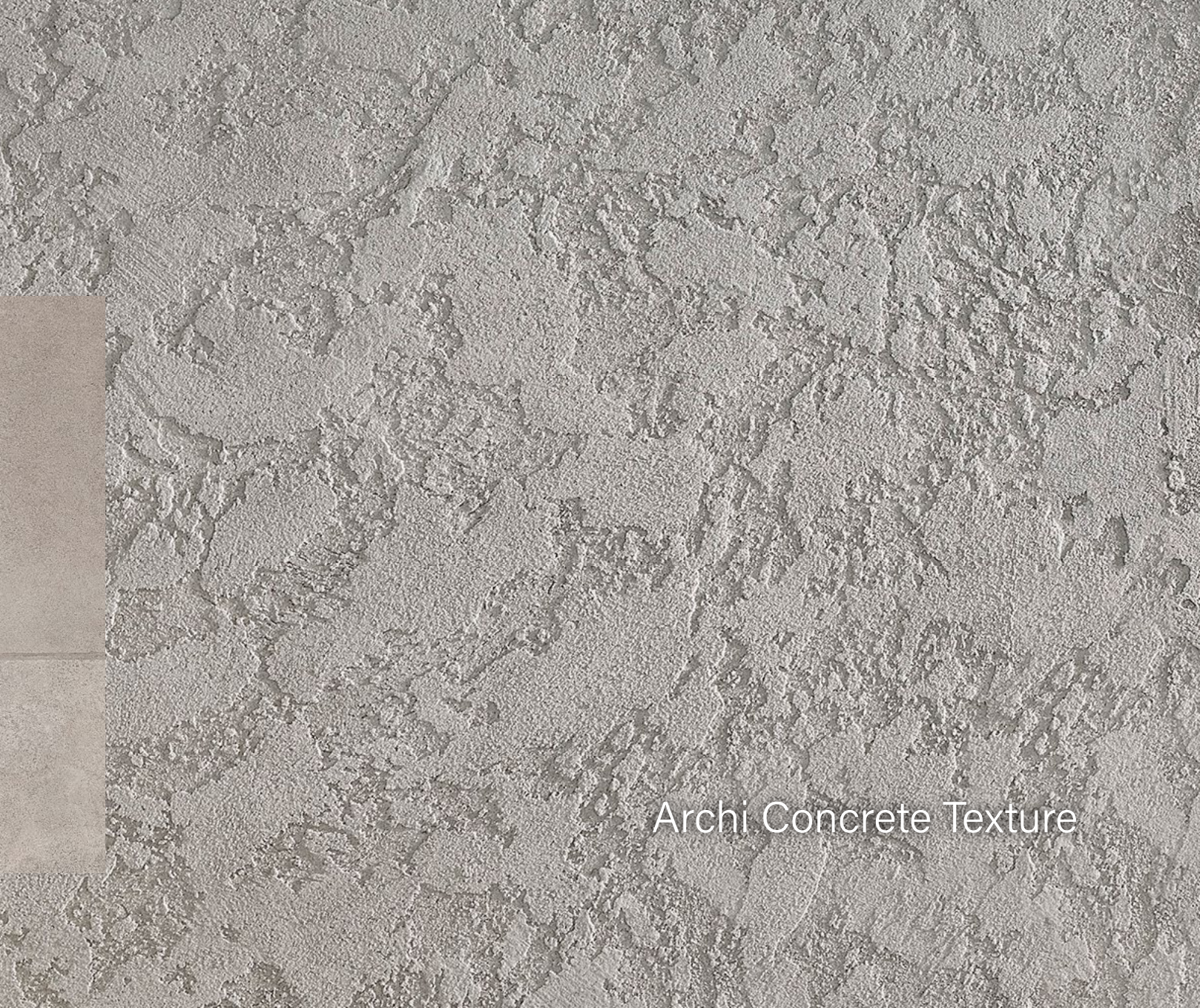
(TOP) Clarke & Clarke Lusso
Corallino Ivory
Wallpaper



Plateau Black
Texture



Archi Concrete
Fuso Texture



Archi Concrete Texture

Rather than romanticising nature, they frame it as an intelligent collaborator. Applied to interiors, they signal a future-forward mindset where sustainability, innovation, and ecological balance are designed into the everyday.

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Solarpunk hard materials foreground structure, performance, and material honesty. Concrete panels, terrazzo experiments, foamed aluminium, galvanized metal, stone, and recycled composites are left exposed—embracing roughness, clunkiness, and visible joints as evidence of process rather than flaw. These materials often emerge through retrofitting and reuse, prioritising mono-material systems that can be repaired, adapted, or recycled. Their unfinished, rough-cut character reflects a belief in deconstruction as a pathway to reconstruction, where resilience is built through transparency. It also reflects a mindset where aesthetic finishing is lower down the list of priorities. Here, strength is not hidden; it is declared.

Foamed Aluminium is lightweight yet structurally robust, defined by its porous, cellular interior. Its texture reveals performance at work—strength achieved through intelligent material engineering rather than mass. The material feels futuristic but grounded, ideal for adaptable and scalable applications.

Recycled Composites combine performance with responsibility, transforming waste into structural material. Their layered composition reflects Solarpunk’s logic of deconstruction and reconstruction—building forward from what already exists. Function and sustainability are inseparable.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES
			

Soft materials in Solarpunk sit at the intersection of ecology and engineering. Recycled acoustic felt, crochet, banana fiber paper, climbing ropes, green pinatex, and bio-hybrid surfaces merge natural fibres with high-tech processes to create materials that are flexible, durable, and regenerative. Often borrowed from outdoor, industrial, or survival contexts, these materials are designed to perform under stress while remaining responsive to human and environmental needs. Their tactility supports biophilic design, reinforcing a future where softness is not decorative but functional—absorbing sound, regulating climate, and enabling systems that evolve alongside living ecosystems.

Banana Fiber Paper is lightweight, fibrous, and bio-based, produced from agricultural waste. Its visible texture speaks to regeneration and low-impact production. The material feels alive, ephemeral, yet purposeful.

Bio-hybrid Surfaces integrate living or bio-derived systems with engineered substrates. These materials respond, evolve, and regenerate over time. They represent Solarpunk's most radical idea: that design can collaborate with life rather than dominate it.

Climbing Ropes bring survivalist intelligence into design. Engineered for strength and flexibility, they are repurposed as architectural and spatial elements. Their tactile presence signals readiness, resilience, and human-scale performance.

Recycled Acoustic Felt absorbs sound while softening hard environments. Made from post-consumer waste, it balances performance with circular design principles. Its softness is purposeful, contributing to comfort, wellbeing, and sensory regulation.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Solarpunk Mini Stories

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

1. The Future That Was Already Here



Mark Fisher often returned to *Kids Return* (Kitano, 1996) as an example of how futures can feel stalled time looping back on itself, possibilities narrowing. In his writing as K-punk, he argued that late capitalism had “cancelled the future,” trapping culture in repetition. Yet Fisher also believed in post-capitalist desire: the capacity to imagine alternatives that break from the present’s gravitational pull.

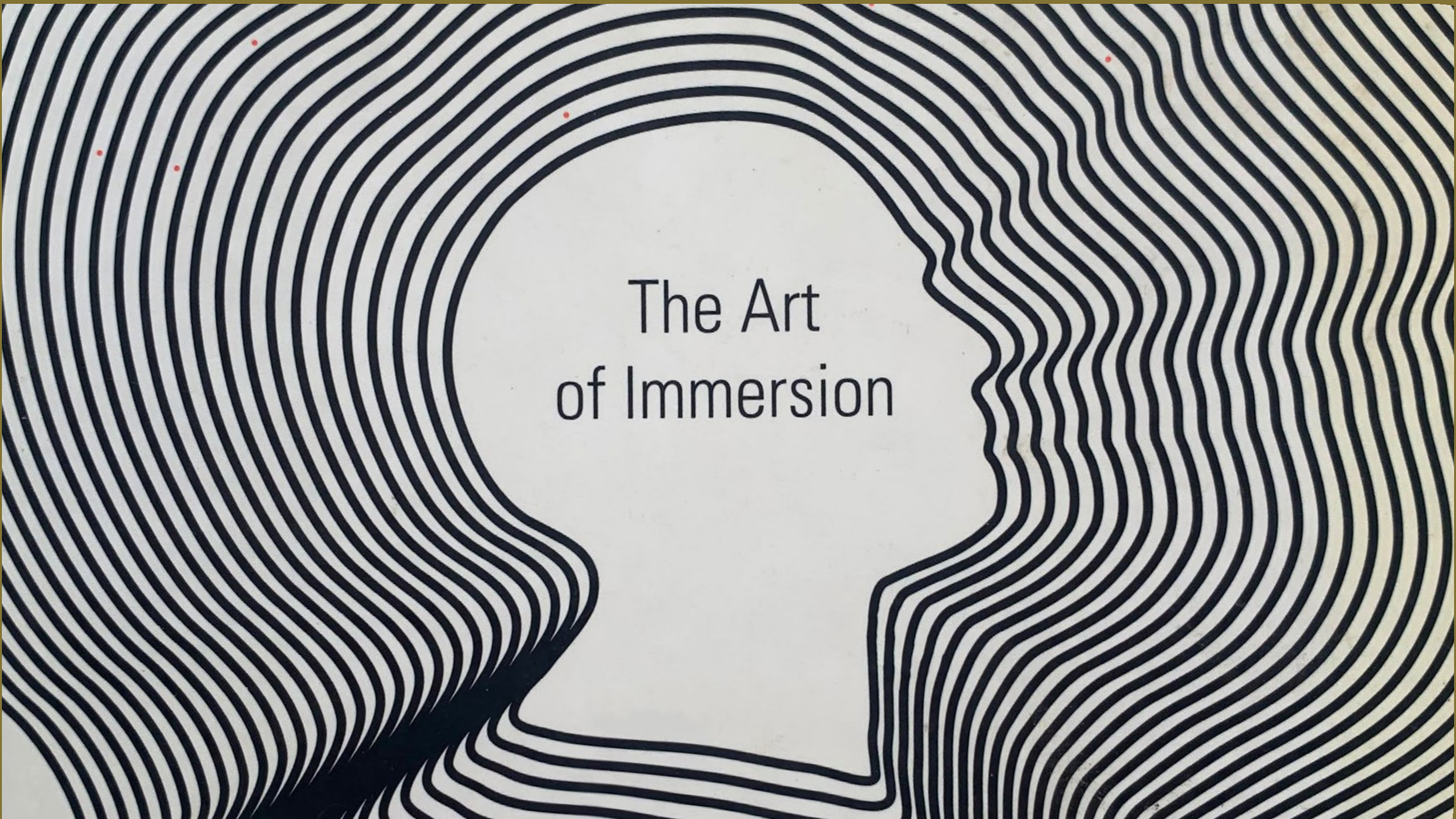
That impulse was already alive in the early days of British electronic music, when jungle erupted from pirate radio and tower-block bedrooms. It was a futurism built by the working class, immigrants, and kids who refused to inherit the world as it was given to them. Breakbeats became an insurgent narrative device fractured, sped up, impossible to smooth out signalling that the future could be cut, spliced, reassembled.

Image: Screengrab from Björk's Biophilia

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

2. Frank Rose

On The Rise of Immersive Media



In *The Art of Immersion*, Frank Rose traces how contemporary culture gradually shifted from watching stories to stepping inside them. As digital tools evolved, narratives began to spill beyond single screens into multi-sensory, participatory formats—theme parks and immersive theatre, alternate reality games, transmedia film worlds, interactive installations, gaming environments, and later virtual and augmented reality. What emerged was not just a new medium, but a new cultural desire: to be present within an experience rather than positioned outside it. Immersive formats invite the body, the senses, and decision-making into the narrative, creating emotional investment through proximity and agency. From productions like *Sleep No More* to expansive story worlds built across film, music, and online platforms, immersion became a way to restore depth in an increasingly abstract digital age. Rose argues that when people participate rather than observe, meaning feels personal and shared—rooted not in spectacle, but in lived experience.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Solarpunk Design Examples

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Vollebak – Extreme Performance Apparel

Vollebak designs for imagined futures shaped by resilience. Its garments, engineered for extreme conditions, extend the body’s capacity to endure and adapt. Here, technology does not dominate nature but works alongside it, positioning survival as empowerment rather than sacrifice. Function becomes a language of optimism.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Aguahoja I by Neri Oxman and MIT’s Mediated Matter Group

Aguahoja I, designed by Neri Oxman and MIT’s Mediated Matter Group, reimagines architecture as a living system rather than a static object. Robotically fabricated from biopolymers found in plants and crustaceans including cellulose, chitosan, and pectin, the five-metre pavilion behaves more like grown matter than built form. Its graded, water-shaped skin varies in stiffness and opacity, echoing the adaptive intelligence of trees. Here, sustainability is embedded in structure: materials can be programmed to decay and return to natural cycles. Reflecting Oxman’s belief that shelter should collaborate with wind, light, and time, Aguahoja proposes regeneration over permanence.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Six Senses Svart

Set at the foot of Norway’s Svartisen glacier, on the edge of the Arctic Circle, Six Senses Svart redefines sustainable hospitality. Designed by Snøhetta, the ring-shaped hotel hovers above the Holandsfjorden fjord on poles, minimising impact on fragile marine ecosystems. Inspired by traditional Norwegian fishing structures, its form blends local heritage with advanced engineering. Built to meet the highest energy standards and aligned with the Paris Agreement, Svart is designed to produce more energy than it consumes. At the forefront of Solarpunk thinking, it demonstrates how industrial-scale architecture can operate as a regenerative system by optimising energy, protecting biodiversity, and proving that technology can actively support, rather than compromise, the natural world.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Cambium Light – Studio LoopLoop

Cambium Light allows natural processes to shape industrial outcomes. Botanical dyes react with metal over time, producing surfaces marked by growth and change. The object feels co-authored by human intention and organic behaviour. A quiet collaboration that reflects Solarpunk’s belief in nature as partner, not resource.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Sparkly Black Chair - Studio ThusThat

Designers are rethinking industrial waste as a resource. Slag, a by-product of copper smelting, is emerging as a low-CO alternative to Portland cement due to its natural binding properties. As demand for copper rises—driven in part by renewable energy, with a single wind turbine using up to five tonnes—the volume of waste grows alongside it. Studio ThusThat transforms copper slag into furniture using geopolymerisation, a process that reduces emissions by up to 80 percent. Their Sparkly Black chair challenges assumptions about sustainable design, proving recycled materials can be structurally sound, materially innovative, and visually striking. The piece, awarded Wallpaper*’s Design of the Year 2021 for material use, now sits in the permanent collection of the Design Museum Gent.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Aluminium Carpet - Juri Roemmel / Regarding Relations

Solarpunk does not romanticise the past; it advances toward a future where technology becomes inseparable from biology. This is a shift from nature-inspired design to nature-informed and nature-grown systems. This philosophy comes to life in experimental practices that explore bio-ink, adaptive materials, and fluid forms shaped by natural forces. Juri Roemmel’s Aluminium Carpet, developed under the Berlin-based practice Regarding Relations, exemplifies this approach. The piece takes shape through the material’s own surface tension, allowing aluminium to behave almost organically. Founded in 2024 by architect Anoe Melliou, Regarding Relations explores identity, relationality, and becoming through minimal intervention and material-led processes. Here, design is not imposed but negotiated—situated between subjectivity, ecology, and future possibility.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

PASTORAL

Land-Held Luxury

TRIGGERS

COLOUR FORECAST

PATTERNS AND SURFACES

MINI STORIES

DESIGN EXAMPLES

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

Introduction to Pastoral

Pastoral reflects a new form of luxury, that is much harder to perform because it’s no longer merely visual. In an age where one can easily project a version of themselves online that is far removed from reality, the ability to step away becomes aspirational; a quiet turning towards land, lineage, and deeply rooted cultural knowledge. Here, meaning outweighs marketing, and provenance becomes a quiet kind of cultural capital, subtle, discerning, almost whispered. Pastoral is a living culture, not nostalgia: indigenous crafts, ancestral materials, and terrain-born techniques that continue to evolve through human hands. It honours the long process, the preciousness of slowness, and the integrity embedded in rare skill. Sculptural forms, rugged textures, and naturally weathered surfaces express an aesthetic that is both primal and refined. In this landscape of dry deserts and cold mountains, depth replaces drama; subtlety becomes status. The palette draws from earth, stone, sand, and sun-warmed terrain, offering an unhurried harmony that feels at once ancient and contemporary, a visual slow-down rooted in provenance, presence, and lasting value.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES	DESIGN EXAMPLES	



Pastoral Triggers

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



1. Moving Away from Western Minimalism

Design is increasingly shifting away from Western minimalism toward visual languages shaped by indigenous relationships to land. As global geopolitics evolve, there is a growing respect for cultures rooted in ancestral knowledge, memory, and place-based living. These aesthetics are not defined by restraint, but by depth. They are layered, textured, and symbolic, maximal yet refined, reflecting visual cultures formed through climate, ritual, and survival. Functioning as living archives, they feel both distant and familiar, offering rarity not through novelty, but through meaning.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



2. Nomadic Aesthetics and Changing Cultural Power

Nomadic and semi-nomadic aesthetics are gaining renewed relevance, particularly among Gen Z audiences in China, where a desire for simplicity rooted in nature intersects with cultural sophistication. This shift is reflected in the success of *To the Wonder*, a Chinese mini-series set among Kazakh nomads in the country’s remote northwest. Its popularity signals a broader rebalancing of storytelling power, where peripheral geographies and indigenous narratives are shaping contemporary cultural capital and redefining who gets to tell meaningful stories.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



3. Central Asia and the Himalayan Belt on the Global Stage

Artistic and design voices from Central Asia and the Himalayan belt are increasingly represented across international platforms. The inaugural 2025 Bukhara Biennale positioned Uzbekistan as a significant cultural force, while spaces like Pavilion Kalon foreground Silk Road heritage through curated collections. Artists such as Altynai Osmo, exhibited at Sapar Contemporary in New York, merge Kyrgyz craft traditions—felt, masks, and yak hair—with contemporary materials, creating works that explore identity, mythology, and femininity through a contemporary lens.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Pastoral Colour Forecast

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

“Desert teaches us that survival is a form of wisdom.”
-Theeb (2014), film

In this spirit, the Pastoral palette gathers hues that feel weathered by wind and carried across ancient routes. **Mariner’s Muse** brings the depth of nightfall over mountain passes, while **Cherry Bon Bon** and **Carbon Copy** echo the rugged, earthen textures of bark, stone, and hand-dyed textiles. **Chilika Lake, Vintage Pistachio,** and **Countryside** recall jade valleys, faded weaves, and nomadic dwellings softened by time. Accents of **Aalta, Baked Ochre, Basra Pearl,** and **Golden Metallic Emulsion** evoke ceremonial pigments, sun-warmed clay, and the quiet shimmer of crafted adornment. Together, these colours form a palette rooted in provenance, subtlety, and the enduring poetry of handmade worlds.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

9667 | MARINER'S MUSE

X135 | CHERRY BON BON

9745 | CHILIKA LAKE

X203 | AALTA

9913 | BAKED OCHRE

0974 | BASRA PEARL

8293 | CARBON COPY

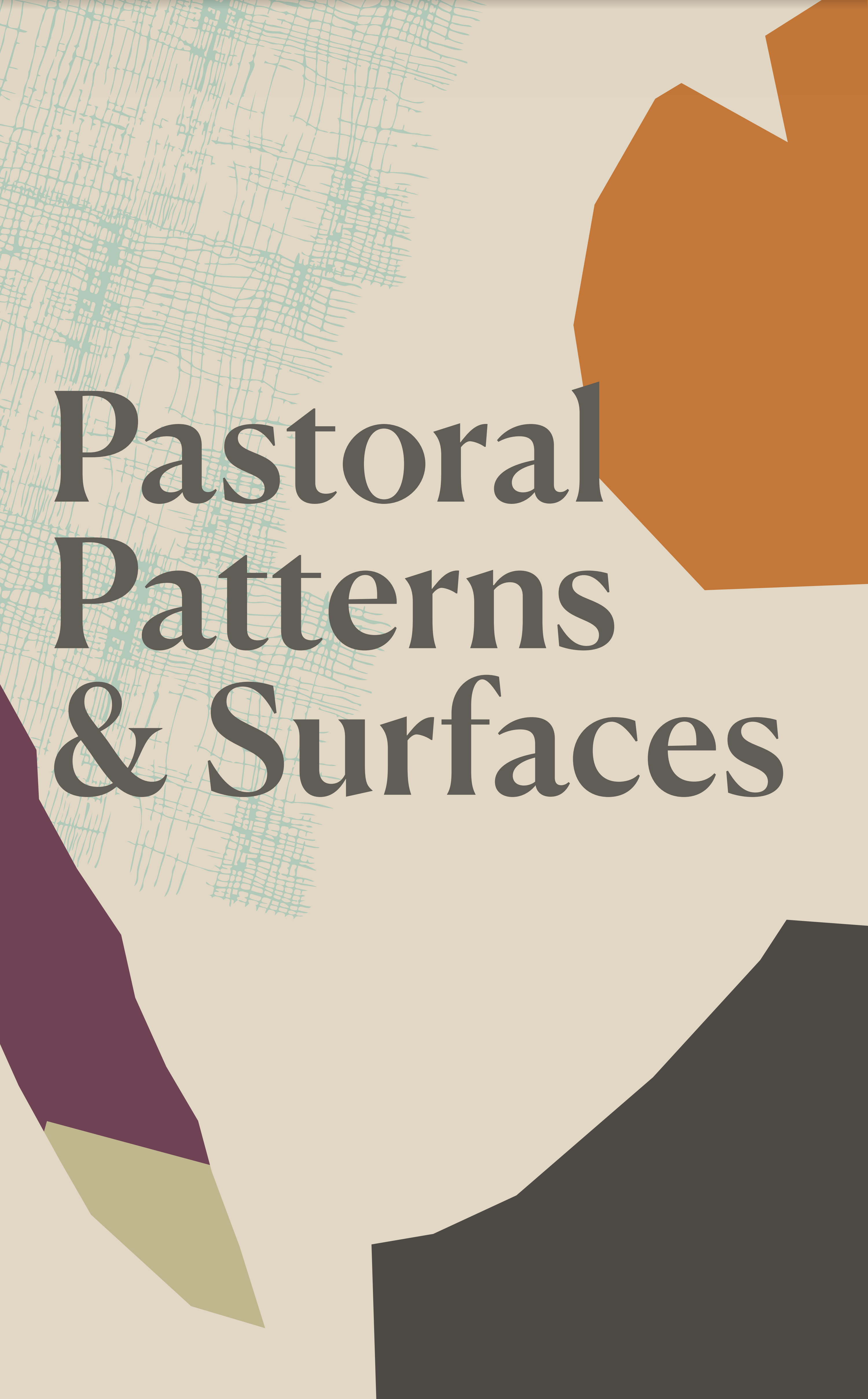
0G15 | COUNTRYSIDE

SA29 | VINTAGE PISTACHIO

SA28 | WET TURMERIC

Woodtech Insignia LUXE Collection
Chrome Series CR 103 Dusk Moss

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

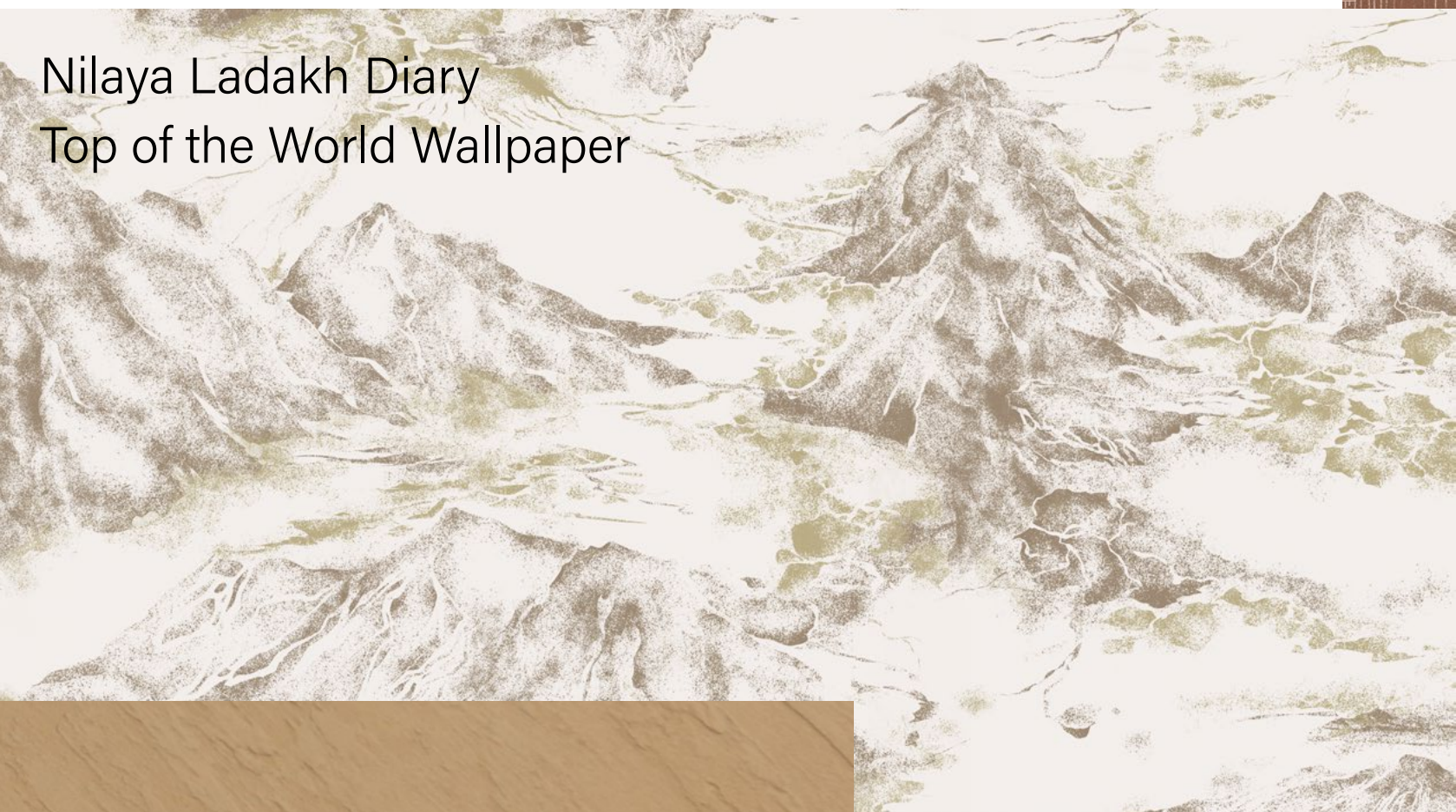


Pastoral Patterns & Surfaces

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

Pastoral wallpapers translate landscape into surface. Designs like Top of the World – Freezing Wind feel expansive and elemental, echoing cold deserts, mountain air, and weathered terrain. Subtle tonal shifts resemble erosion, frost, and mineral deposits, while architectural motifs rendered in earthy browns suggest settlements shaped by land rather than imposed upon it.

Nilaya Ladakh Diary
Top of the World Wallpaper



Nilaya Ladakh Diary
Carved City Wallpaper



Dune Beige Texture



These wallpapers feel sparse yet emotionally dense, carrying the stillness of altitude and time. They are not decorative statements but atmospheric fields—inviting contemplation, slowness, and reverence. In keeping with the Pastoral ethos, the surfaces hold memory, restraint, and a sense of cultural depth rooted in place.

Archi Argilla
Hexagon Texture



Marmorino Multitone Texture



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES
			

Soft materials in Pastoral draw from living craft traditions shaped by terrain and movement. Pashmina, yak wool, sheep wool, sabai grass, felted geometric patterns, and hand embroidery feel layered, irregular, and deeply tactile. Their textures reflect nomadic rhythms and hyperlocal knowledge, designed for portability, insulation, and endurance. These materials do not seek uniformity; instead, they celebrate variation, slowness, and the quiet sophistication of cultural continuity carried forward through the hand.

Pashmina is prized for its exceptional softness and warmth, developed in response to harsh, high-altitude climates. Lightweight yet insulating, it reflects a luxury born of survival rather than excess. The fibre carries a sense of quiet refinement shaped by land and patience.

Yak Wool is dense, textured, and naturally resilient. Sourced from high-altitude regions, it offers insulation and durability essential to nomadic life. Its tactile richness reflects an intimacy with environment and animal, rooted in mutual dependence and care.

Sheep Wool is versatile, breathable, and deeply familiar across pastoral cultures. Its natural crimp and warmth lend themselves to layering and protection. The material carries a long history of communal labour, seasonal rhythms, and functional beauty.

Felted Textiles use compression and heat rather than weaving, creating dense, sculptural surfaces. Geometric motifs often carry symbolic meaning tied to tribe, land, or belief. The material feels protective and elemental, bridging abstraction with ancestral code.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Pastoral Mini Stories

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

1. Frames of the Desert



The Song of the Silk Road (2012, Zhang Jing) captures the austere beauty of Central Asian deserts through deliberate framing and light that honors the texture of landscape and craft. Wide, static shots linger on sun-bleached adobe, windswept dunes, and handwoven textiles, echoing Pastoral’s slow, intentional luxury. Interior scenes are lit with soft, diffused sunlight filtering through carved lattices, highlighting dust motes in the air and the tactile qualities of materials, linen, clay, and wood. Uzbek patterns, tie-dye fabrics, and the careful crafting of musical instruments or daily tools illustrate ancestral skill and cultural memory, reflecting a design ethos where process and provenance matter more than spectacle. Colours like Vintage Pistachio, Aalta, and Baked Ochre evoke the muted, sun-bleached palette of desert life, creating grounded, sensory spaces. Pastoral emerges here as a cinematic lens: depth, subtlety, and lineage define value, and every detail is a quiet testament to enduring craft and human presence.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

2. Whispered Luxury



The film *Theeb* (2014, Naji Abu Nowar) is a visual meditation on desert life, indigenous knowledge, and hyperlocal experience, resonating with Pastoral’s ethos of subtle, intentional luxury. Set in early 20th-century Arabia, the narrative unfolds in arid landscapes where survival requires skill, attentiveness, and respect for the environment. Cinematography emphasizes natural textures, sand, stone, and sky and minimal dialogue allows gesture, ritual, and craft to carry meaning. This mirrors Pastoral’s celebration of ancestral knowledge, folk craft, and material integrity. Colours like Mariners Muse, Cherry Bon Bon, and Desert Dune evoke sun-warmed ochres, muted plums, and dusty sands, anchoring design in sensory and cultural memory. Pastoral, like *Theeb*, values depth over drama, privileging quiet discernment, ethical craft, and subtle, enduring beauty.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Pastoral Design Examples

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



NAMZA Couture

NAMZA’s couture is deeply rooted in Ladakhi culture, translating traditional garments, symbols, and rituals into contemporary fashion. The work honours lineage without nostalgia, allowing craft to evolve rather than fossilise. Materials, silhouettes, and detailing carry spiritual and geographic meaning, positioning fashion as a vessel for cultural memory.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Auyl Restaurant, Kazakhstan

Auyl Restaurant immerses visitors in a sensory landscape shaped by nomadic heritage. Materials, textures, sound, and scent work together to evoke land-based rituals and communal memory. The space functions as ceremony rather than spectacle, aligning with Pastoral’s emphasis on depth, reverence, and embodied cultural knowledge.



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Elvang

Elvang embodies this ethos by pairing timeless Nordic restraint with traditional Peruvian alpaca craftsmanship. Rooted in ethical relationships and fair trade principles, its textiles carry the knowledge of generations of weavers. Here, luxury lies in provenance from where fibres are sourced to how they are handled, and the time invested in each piece. Like Pastoral itself, Elvang values slowness, integrity, and enduring connection rather than trend or excess.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Hanna Kiangate: Rahbi Thar (The New Era)

Hannah Khiangte’s work embodies a contemporary Pastoral ethos where ancestral craft is preserved, yet allowed to evolve. Through Rahbi Thar (The New Era), she honours indigenous Zo weaving traditions while reshaping them for today’s fashion landscape. The collection explores transformation of identity with a sense of cultural confidence, balancing structure with fluidity and restraint with boldness. Her designs honour handwoven craft while introducing sharper silhouettes and unexpected cultural references, including music-led rebellion. Her practice centres provenance and the human hand. By supporting and spotlighting local women artisans, she ensures craft remains economically viable and culturally alive.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



SUR ANDINA

SUR ANDINA reflects a Pastoral sensibility rooted in land and living memory. Created by Madre Tierra Designers, the installation brings together woven fibres, natural materials, and immersive sound to honour Andean cosmology. Handcrafted textures and resonant vibrations echo ancestral knowledge shaped by mountain landscapes and generations of makers. Light moves gently across organic forms, creating a space that feels elemental and grounded. Rather than spectacle, it offers presence, inviting visitors to reconnect with cultural wisdom carried through craft. Here, the Andes are not backdrop, but spirit.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

DAYDREAM

Quiet Surrealism

- TRIGGERS

COLOUR FORECAST
- PATTERNS AND SURFACES

MINI STORIES
- DESIGN EXAMPLES

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

Introduction to Daydream

Daydream is a soft-focus design movement that dissolves the boundary between clarity and fantasy, reimagining present reality with an overlay of poetry, beauty and luminosity - appearing briefly and then dissolving.. Drawing from Tarkovsky’s aesthetic of time as texture — drifting mist, slow pans, and lingering light — spaces hover between memory and sensation, inviting a quiet escape for a little while. Ethereal materials, translucent surfaces, and sculptural illumination create an immersive world where objects breathe and light behaves like air. Influences from James Turrell, Bruma, Dorian, and Herbarium Radiant amplify this suspended sensory reality, where uncanny warmth and poetic calm coexist. The palette mirrors this dream-state with **Peppermint Air, Pine Nut, Pisces, Cascade, Sundrenched, Sweet Corn, Heritage Hills, Desert Dune, Chinese Tea, and Silver Escapade**, blending misty greys, warm beiges, soft sands, airy whites, delicate yellows, and subtle silvers. Hazy, radiant, and quietly transformative, these hues create a visual exhale — weightless yet grounded, gentle, and luminously evocative.



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



1. Dream Tech and the Rise of Liminal Aesthetics

Dreaming has long captivated popular culture, from The Matrix and Inception to online communities like Reddit’s r/LucidDreaming, now home to over 500,000 members. Lucid dreams that are liminal, hallucinatory, and transitional suggest boundless possibility, making them fertile ground for imagination and innovation. Today, dream technology is emerging as a serious frontier in Silicon Valley, reframing the dream state as space for exploration and creative expansion. Alongside this, liminal “in-between” spaces like empty corridors, abandoned malls, softly lit rooms have gained traction online. Their blurred edges and quiet uncertainty inspire Daydream’s aesthetic: suspended, softly uncanny, and emotionally resonant rather than literal.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



2. Desire for Sensorial and Immersive Experiences

In a world of constant stimulation, consumers are seeking experiences that feel calm, immersive, and emotionally rich. Rather than endless content, there is a desire for environments that engage the senses gently through soft light, flowing forms, and translucent materials that invite stillness. Fashion reflects this shift, with Spring/Summer 2025 collections embracing weightless layers of tulle, organza, and chiffon that move like atmosphere. Beyond visuals, storytelling is becoming multi-sensory, weaving in scent, sound, and touch through exhibitions and installations designed to be experienced in person. Presence becomes essential with experiences that cannot be streamed, only felt.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



3. Glass as a Liminal Material

Glass is experiencing a quiet resurgence, shifting from decorative surface to structural presence in contemporary design. Once defined by fragility, it is now valued for its paradoxical strength and expressive depth. Neither fully solid nor liquid, glass occupies a liminal space that's ideal for experimenting with form.

Designers are drawn to its ability to hold light, colour, and texture at once, creating surfaces that feel fluid and alive. In an age of automation, the labour of casting and shaping glass restores a sense of integrity. No longer mere ornament, it re-emerges as substance that's perfectly attuned to Daydream’s translucent, suspended sensibility.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Daydream Colour Forecast

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

“*The dream is a little hidden door in the innermost and most secret recesses of the soul.*”

-Carl Jung

Daydream is a suspended sensory world, where light drifts like mist and surfaces hold memory. **Peppermint Air** whispers cool serenity; **Pine Nut** and **Pisces** evoke warm, tactile sands beneath fingertips. **Cascade** and **Silver Escapade** shimmer like filtered morning light; **Sundrenched** and **Sweet Corn** glow softly, a sun-warmed embrace. **Heritage Hills**, **Desert Dune**, and **Chinese Tea** anchor the palette with muted, comforting earth tones. Together, these hues blur edges, sculpt space, and evoke the quiet poetry of drifting dust, reflective surfaces, and luminous softness — a tactile, emotional refuge where presence, wonder, and gentle calm linger.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

K134 | PEPPERMINT AIR

3196 | PINE NUT

8474 | PISCES

8554 | HERITAGE HILLS

8754 | DESERT DUNE

7809 | CHINESE TEA

0210 | CASCADE

7914 | SUNDRENCHED

4214 | SWEET CORN

M918 | WHITE SILVER

M604 | SILVER ESCAPADE

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Daydream Patterns & Surfaces

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

Daydream wallpapers soften boundaries and slow perception. Vertical washes such as Amaranth, along with marbled flows and diffused gradients, create surfaces that feel translucent, weightless, and gently atmospheric. Colours that are pearlescent, milky, and misted blur into one another recalling light through glass, fog, or water. These designs resist sharp patterning in favour of atmosphere, inviting the eye to drift rather than focus.



Nilaya Play W.R.A.P. Terra Flow



Waterfront Stripes Wallpaper



Wall2Floor Texture

Walls become emotional fields rather than boundaries, supporting calm, introspection, and quiet wonder. Rooted in liminality and poetic suspension, Daydream wallpapers transform interiors into spaces of softness and glow where presence feels lighter, and time gently loosens.



Velour Classique Texture

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Soft materials in Daydream embrace impermanence and touch. Paper mâché, cotton acoustic panels, wax, foam, threads, encaustic techniques, and watercolor resist finishes layer translucency, softness, and motion into surface. These materials absorb and scatter light, creating radiant skins that feel suspended rather than fixed. Forms appear to float, melt, or blur at the edges, inviting play and curiosity. Their tactility is gentle and exploratory, evoking a sense of wonder where materials feel alive—constantly becoming, never fully resolved.

Paper Mâché is lightweight, layered, and inherently fragile. Its softness and impermanence give form a provisional quality, as though it could change or disappear. The material invites play, experimentation, and tactile curiosity.

Foam introduces volume without weight. Its buoyant softness allows forms to feel inflated, floating, and slightly unreal. The material encourages touch and play, reinforcing Daydream’s sense of gentle surrealism.

Wax holds warmth, translucency, and vulnerability. It diffuses light softly and responds to temperature and touch, making the material feel alive and responsive. Its impermanence is central to its allure.

Threads create line without mass. Whether stitched, suspended, or layered, they draw space rather than fill it. The material feels provisional and poetic, tracing movement and time through repetition.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Daydream Mini Stories

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

1. Lynch's Soft Reality



David Lynch’s *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* offers a foundational vocabulary for the Daydream aesthetic, a world where softness becomes uncanny and illumination becomes emotional. Lynch once said, “*I like things that are confusing, so you’re in a kind of beautiful dream state.*” Lynch’s lighting, glowing neons swallowed by mist, pastel interiors washed with diffuse haziness, and slow-motion sequences where time thickens, mirrors Daydream’s material language. Spaces feel weightless and suspended, as though held together by atmosphere rather than architecture.

The film’s surreal domesticity, whispering drapes, and shimmering reflections anticipate modern design’s return to ethereal materials: sheer partitions, pearlescent surfaces, fabrics that behave like vapour, objects that seem lit from within. Daydream, like Lynch’s cinema, is not an escape but an altered mode of presence.

Image: Screengrab from Twin Peaks: Walk Fire With Me

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES

2. Tarkovsky’s Time as Light



Andrei Tarkovsky's *Nostalghia* is one of the purest cinematic articulations of the Daydream world, a space where time behaves like mist and light arrives with the slowness of breath. Tarkovsky described his technique as “sculpting in time,” and this sculpting is the emotional foundation of Daydream: duration as softness, atmosphere as narrative, glow as architecture.

In *Nostalghia*, long takes wander like memory. Moist air, drifting fog, candlelit corridors, and water reflecting dimly through ruins create a sense of suspended consciousness; not quite dream, not quite waking. The film’s emotional landscape, melancholy, wonder, and quiet transcendence, resonates with Daydream’s ethos: a survival mechanism for overstimulated modernity. Daydream transforms the world into a gentler frequency, where luminosity is soothing rather than clinical. As in *Nostalghia*, design becomes ambience.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Daydream Design Examples

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Thomas Jackson – Photographic Interventions

Thomas Jackson inserts moments of quiet surrealism into everyday landscapes. Floating forms disrupt the familiar, creating scenes that feel both staged and fleeting. These temporary interventions, preserved only through photographs, mirror the logic of the daydream, appearing briefly to alter our perception, then dissolving. His work captures wonder as an interruption rather than a destination.



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Gaetano Pesce’s Park Avenue Apartment

Italian industrial designer Gaetano Pesce’s design for Ruth Lande Shuman’s Park Avenue apartment embodies Daydream’s belief that interiors should feel personal, expressive, and emotionally alive. Known for his experimental use of resin, fabric, and unconventional material pairings, Pesce created a space that defied uniformity and embraced individuality. He believed a home should “look like you,” using vibrant, joyful colour to shape atmosphere and mood. The result is playful yet intentional where objects blur between art and function, structure and softness. It is an interior as personality: immersive, eccentric, and beautifully strange, where colour becomes both identity and emotional architecture.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
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Misha Kahn

Misha Kahn’s practice blurs the line between furniture and fantasy. Known for his assemblage approach, he incorporates refuse, found objects, and unexpected materials into lighting and sculptural pieces that feel alive with eccentricity. His work embodies a kind of dishevelled, spontaneous maximalism where forms appear to morph mid-gesture, as though caught in a dream. Surfaces ripple, colours collide, and silhouettes defy logic, creating objects that feel strangely familiar yet beautifully strange. Within a Daydream lens, Kahn’s designs become emotional artefacts that are unapologetically imaginative.

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TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Dale Chihuly – Glass Environments

Chihuly’s glass dissolves into atmosphere. Light, colour, and translucency transform material into something fluid and alive, inviting the eye to wander rather than fix. His installations feel less like objects and more like environments. Spaces where perception softens and time slows. They embody Daydream’s pursuit of emotional immersion over clarity.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
TRIGGERS		COLOUR FORECAST	
PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



Sympoiesis by Iris van Herpen

Iris van Herpen’s Sympoiesis collection deepens this ecological vision through couture that feels organic, weightless, and technologically poetic. The term “sympoiesis” means “making-with,” highlighting collaborative existence over autonomy. Inspired by the ocean as a living entity, the collection reflects both its fragility and power amid ecological change. Garments resemble marine organisms and flowing currents, created through 3D printing, laser cutting, and meticulous hand layering. Translucent fabrics ripple like membranes, while intricate lattice structures echo coral and cellular growth. Each piece appears to evolve around the body, dissolving boundaries between biology and technology, and proposing fashion as a co-creation with living systems.

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	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR
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PATTERNS & SURFACES	MINI STORIES		DESIGN EXAMPLES



The Beauty of Distortion Series by Dorian Renard

French designer Dorian Renard repositions plastic through the lens of traditional glassblowing, treating it not as disposable matter but as a material worthy of reverence and craft. By applying age-old blowing techniques to reclaimed or industrial plastics, he softens its image, revealing unexpected translucency and fluidity to the form. His furniture and sculptural pieces embrace irregularity, trapped air, and subtle distortions which are qualities typically celebrated in glass but rarely associated with polymer. Renard’s practice challenges hierarchies of value in material culture, questioning why certain substances are deemed noble while others are dismissed. Through controlled heat and gesture, he transforms plastic into emotionally resonant, almost ethereal forms.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2026

moonlit silk

7809



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR



Asian Paints Colour of the Year 2026



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OF THE YEAR

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COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2026

MOONLIT SILK

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

Moonlit Silk

Moonlit Silk emerges as this year’s colour of slow joy. Embodying a radiant, familiar hue that feels both off-grid and deeply grounded. In a world that often feels overstimulated and overly curated, this colour captures a quiet longing to reconnect with what is real, tactile, and memory-washed. It is the tone of unperformed moments: the soft light of home at dusk, laughter that doesn’t require an audience, comfort that arrives without spectacle. Warm without heaviness, Moonlit Silk carries the gentle glow of worn book pages, moonlit silk, and freshly churned butter melting into warm toast. It is grace stripped of grandeur, an optimism that whispers rather than shouts. A tender pause in a chaotic landscape.

This colour invites a return to what matters. Not the garnish, but the feeling. It embodies slowness without stagnation, offering a sense of quiet renewal, like a familiar countryside trail or an off-grid retreat where time stretches rather than collapses. Rooted in simplicity yet undeniably radiant, Moonlit Silk becomes a soft anchor for the year ahead.

It reminds us that beauty doesn’t need to announce itself; it can simply be present. And in its warmth, we find a renewed optimism; a comforting, grounded invitation to breathe, settle, and rediscover joy in the understated moments that hold our lives together.

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR



*In the Asian Paints Colour of the Year
2026 Moonlit Silk*



	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR 2026

ZAN SKAR

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

Asian Paints Wallpaper of the Year 2026

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

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WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR 2026

ZANSKAR

	IRL	SOLARPUNK	PASTORAL
	DAYDREAM	COLOUR OF THE YEAR	WALLPAPER OF THE YEAR

Zanskar

A Trellis of Himalayan Roses Under the Moonlit Mountain Sky

Inspired by the stark, high-altitude beauty of Zanskar, this design reflects a landscape shaped by silence and shifting light reminiscent of the slow passage of time. A trellis of Himalayan roses stretches gently across the surface, echoing traditional pastoral embroideries where every bloom, leaf, and curling stem carries the memory of generations of skilled handwork. The composition feels grounded in heritage while remaining in the present. Hand-block printed details in soft gilver catch and reflect the light like moonshine resting on jagged mountain ridges, adding a quiet metallic warmth. Here, the discipline of embroidery meets the resilience of wild mountain flora, balancing refinement with ruggedness.

This design honours patience, provenance, and the enduring relationship between craft and landscape, where each motif speaks to time and skill while invoking a deep connection to place.



IRL

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DAYDREAM

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OF THE YEAR



*In the Asian Paints Wallpaper of the Year
2026 Zanskar*

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COLOUR NEXT

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