



**FLAVOR PAPER**  
[www.flavorpaper.com](http://www.flavorpaper.com)

Flavor Paper has done a lot of moving around over the years. Started on the West Coast, the fledgling custom-printed wallpaper company moved to the Bywater neighborhood in the early 2000s, where head honcho Jon Sherman took the rather stodgy medium of wallpaper to a whole new level. Projects over the years included scratch-and-sniff paper, a collaboration with Lenny Kravitz and even wallpapering a street in Tremé. Nowadays, the company has expanded northward, though it still maintains a base near the train tracks in Bywater. Since moving the Flavor Paper headquarters and print studio to Brooklyn's Cobble Hill neighborhood in 2009, the old Flavor Lab in New Orleans has become a fabric print house with designer Alton Osborn at the helm. The Bywater space, shared with screen-printers Purple Monkey (who prints for indie T-shirt makers Dirty



Coast, among others) now produces a line of fabric yardage and pillows. Meanwhile, the Flavor Lab in Brooklyn features a darkroom, screen-etching equipment and an "ink room" where wallpaper artisans custom-mix colors. The Flavor artists have embraced their new home with several location-specific projects, including a "Day of the Dead-meets-Brooklyn toile" design. They're also working on a trio of custom designs for a new hotel, inspired by the history of the building. Other projects go far beyond simple paper; Flavor Paper is collaborating with designer Milton Glaser, of "I Heart NY" fame, on a 2,000-foot-long curved wall installation of its Dot Matrix pattern for a condominium development in Miami and on custom 20-foot-high racks for the Seattle W Hotel. Though Flavor Paper is now a bi-state operation, Sherman said New Orleans is often on his mind. "I'm back for Mardi Gras," he said.

— Alison Fensterstock



**MELA & ROAM**  
[www.melaandroom.com](http://www.melaandroom.com)

LSU grad Courtney Barton was about as far as she could get from her native Louisiana when she discovered Indian dohars, the super-soft, brightly colored textiles she imports for her new business, Mela & Roam. "We had moved to Malaysia," said the Baton Rouge native who cultivated a keen eye for design while working for couturier Ralph Rucci and designer Jill Stuart. Living abroad, "we got to travel a lot, and I kept finding things, and I knew at some point I would do something with all of my finds." Her finds now include a full range of beautiful, imported Indian textiles, from dohars, luxurious printed sheets, to downy soft



baby swaddles and covers for king-sized beds, including many vintage pieces. All of the textiles are one of a kind, with colorful block prints. "Mela is a Hindu term for a gathering where people would get together and sell their wares from different regions," said Barton, who is now based in Houston and launched the business at the same time she and her husband were expecting their first child. "I liked that whole concept of taking wares from different communities and introducing them to a new market." Barton plans to expand the offerings of her own online mela soon, with pieces from Indonesia, New Zealand and other regions. Though her stock isn't available yet in brick-and-mortar stores in New Orleans (you can buy them online at [www.melaandroom.com](http://www.melaandroom.com)), the Crescent City is high on her wish list. "In the South, in this climate, we love our linens and things that are soft and comfortable, but don't require a lot of care, that you can just throw in the washing machine," she said. "So these are really uniquely suited to the Southern home."

— Alison Fensterstock