

EMBARGOED UNTIL 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022

Johnstons of Elgin collaborates with leading architect and interior decorator Ben Pentreath to create a capsule fabric and throw collection



Johnstons of Elgin & Ben Pentreath fabric collection Stripe, Check, Houndstooth



Ben Pentreath brings his distinctive, playful aesthetic to a lambswool fabric and throw collection, launching September 2022.

Woven at Johnstons of Elgin's mill in Scotland, the collection consists of **three fabric designs** – Stripe, Check and Houndstooth – all made from 100% lambswool to ensure durability, comfort and warmth. Bold colours play alongside each other resulting in a fun yet timeless collection. Designed to sit together for maximum impact or to work beautifully alongside fabrics from Johnstons of Elgin's existing collections, the collaboration brings a sense of joy to every interior. Six throws in a choice of either a Large Check or Block Check complement the fabric collection. Both are woven from 100% lambswool and measure 190 x 140cms.









Speaking of the collaboration, Johnstons of Elgin's Chairman Jenny Urquhart says: "To collaborate with Ben Pentreath is an exciting step in our interiors journey. We've been great admirers of his creative work for many years and his connections with and passion for Scotland made for an easy design journey. We're delighted with the fabric and throw designs which perfectly demonstrate our expertise and the capabilities of our mill, particularly poignant as we celebrate our 225th anniversary this year."

Left: Johnstons of Elgin Chairman Jenny Urguhart

Johnstons of Elgin's Head of Home, Amanda Jack, met with Ben several times over Zoom during lockdown to explore the possibilities of a collaboration. Realising the potential Amanda brought in Johnstons' Creative Team to set the wheels in motion. With 225 years' experience making fabric for some of the world's most celebrated houses and brands, Johnstons' dedicated archive room was the perfect starting point.

Right: Ben Pentreath with Louise Sullivan, Design Manager at Johnstons of Elgin, in the archive room



Looking at Johnstons' historical Standard Dyed Shades book, Ben's creative eye was immediately drawn to a palette of colours that had been used during the 1930s and 40s. Ben and the Johnstons' design team played with balance and placement of the colours to create various colour block combinations which were then reduced from 20 options in each design to nine Checks, seven Houndstooths, and five Stripes.



In terms of pattern, Ben and the design team were inspired by the traditional tartan designs found in the archives and subsequently researched which checks would work best as interior patterns. Playing with the scale their aim was to create a modern collection that could be worked into both traditional and contemporary projects. A striped collection had been discussed from the start and the team felt it would provide the perfect opportunity to have two blocks of colour sitting alongside each other for maximum impact. The third pattern, houndstooth, offers a completely different scale of design - a quieter, more conventional design to juxtapose with the playfulness of the checks and stripes.





Lambswool has always been a popular choice of fibre for Johnstons of Elgin's interiors fabrics. It provides great softness as well as being durable and sustainable. As drapery, wool provides a beautiful fall that is difficult to beat. Johnstons dye and spin their own lambswool yarn and it was important for the team that they embraced the full capabilities of the mill for the collection.

Amanda Jack says: "From the dyeing and spinning to the weaving and finishing, every member of staff took great pride in playing their role in the production of such colourful and fun fabrics. Impactful in design but not on the environment, we look forward to our clients embracing the playfulness and quality of the collection."

Ben has a natural affinity with Scotland which first developed in his childhood when his family spent three years living in Helensburgh, in the shadow of the beautiful Hill House designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. He returned to Scotland as a young student, spending four years at the University of Edinburgh studying History of Art and Architecture. More recently, in the span of his professional career, he has worked at the Prince of Wales's demonstration village at Knockroon on the edge of the Dumfries House Estate, he's also designing a substantial new extension to the village of Longniddry in East Lothian and, most significantly, his practice is town architect with Ben as the lead designer for the new town of Tornagrain, being built by Moray Estates in the Highlands. Four years ago, Ben and his husband Charlie bought their own tiny pair of bothies on the West Coast of Scotland in mid-Argyll which they have carefully restored back from dereliction – both of which were used as locations when photographing the Johnstons of Elgin & Ben Pentreath collection.



Speaking of the collaboration, Ben says, ""I remember the first tentative enquiry from Johnstons of Elgin asking if I'd consider a design collaboration. It was an incredibly exciting suggestion. At the start I had no idea where the journey would lead, but it has been a thrilling adventure working with the complexities of colour, spinning and dying, the mill processes and weaving technology, alongside a highly skilled team of designers and makers in a completely historic and traditional mill which has been in continuous production on the same site in Elgin since the late 18th century – and a business that is powerfully focussed on making a contemporary statement in the design world today. The hardest part of the entire process has been limiting our choices to just the weaves that we are presenting here - so infinite were the potential variations and possibilities. It has been a wonderful process to help Johnstons design a capsule collection that combines my love of strong pattern and colour with the absolute best of Scottish woollen weaving".



L-R: Block Check £245; Large Check £380

Johnstons of Elgin & Ben Pentreath Collection:

Check, Stripe, Houndstooth lambswool fabric, £98 per metre

Fabrics and fabric books are available to the interiors trade.

Books can also be seen at Johnstons of Elgin Bond Street,
and Liberty from September/October.

Interior designers can request books directly from
Johnstons of Elgin or via their reps.

The full collection can be viewed online: <u>Johnstons of Elgin</u>
<u>Interiors</u> from September and consumers can order via their interior designer.

Throws measure 190 x 140cms, from £245
The throws will be on sale online at Johnstons of Elgin,
Pentreath & Hall, Selfridges, and Browns.

About Johnstons of Elgin:

Johnstons of Elgin draws on their heritage which it combines with innovation to weave the finest cashmere and wool fabrics to decorate some of the finest homes and boutique hotels around the world.

Johnstons is one of the only remaining fully vertical mills in Scotland, where their highly skilled team take the raw fibres through to the finished product.

A commitment to sustainability is at the heart of the brand's values, having worked with natural, renewable, biodegradable fibres since 1797and striving to reduce their environmental footprint year after year.







About Ben Pentreath:

Ben Pentreath is one of the UK's leading architectural and interior designers. His London-based design studio has established a powerful reputation across a wide-ranging variety of disciplines.

Ben's background is in Art History, which he studied at the University of Edinburgh before attending the Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture. He worked for five years in New York and then with the Prince's Foundation, before starting his own practice in 2004.

Ben Pentreath's book English Decoration was published in 2011. A sequel interiors book, English Houses, was published in 2016, and in 2024, he will publish a monograph of the firm's work with Rizzoli.

Johnstons of Elgin photographed the collaboration with Ben Pentreath at two locations: Ben Pentreath's bothies in Argyll and at private estate Ardkinglas overlooking Loch Fyne. Both properties are steeped in character and history and are enjoyed today as modern homes.

Ben Pentreath's bothies:





For additional information and images or to arrange an interview, please contact Rawlins George PR hugoandlucinda@rawlinsgeorge.co.uk / T: 020 7352 5791









Ardkinglass, overlooking Loch Fyne













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