



Development of motifs: Traditional to contemporary for Indian textile

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Abstract

Admittedly the creation of things for use is the basic motivating force in the practical operations of man. But amazingly his endeavours have never been merely utilitarian. An unconscious desire to beautify all that he has or does has led him to seek the elements of beauty and to integrate them with the purpose of his living. Since, the day man began to give shape to the materials provided by nature for meeting his rudimentary requirements, he has never been able to resist the inward urge to adorn and beautify his possessions and surroundings. All these efforts have led to the creation of motifs from different origins, organizing them in suitable layouts. This gave the uniqueness to the motifs used in traditional Indian textiles.

Keywords: rudimentary requirements, traditional Indian textiles, motifs

Introduction

Motif is the most basic unit with the help of which a design or a composition is made. Motifs are often inspired from nature and are also closely linked to natural, cultural, religious and socio-economic factors prevailing in any society. A motif is the most basic unit or the smallest unit of pattern. Motifs are repeated in different ways to create patterns and these patterns are repeated to create a design. Motif has a distinct identity of its own in a pattern or design. Each motif is generally developed from a geometrical shape or a combination of different geometrical shapes. The motifs or units of a textile design may be classified as

- Geometric
- Realistic or Natural
- Stylized
- Abstract

Geometrical motifs may be created during the weaving or knitting fabric construction process. If motifs are applied as prints after the fabric is constructed, ensuring that lines are straight with the yarns of the fabric is important; otherwise the finished garment will be unsightly. A distinctive geometric design may dictate the garment styling and limit the possibilities for using the fabric. Geometric designs may require additional fabric in order to match the motifs during the layout and construction.

Realistic or natural motifs: Natural motifs portray as direct replica of things as they exist in nature, such as flowers on trees, animals in jungle, human figure and other natural things. They also called novelty patterns. As these motifs lack a designer's creativity and require three-dimensional platform to copy reality, they do not find wide acceptance in apparel designing. Examples of realistic motifs are animals; animal skins, fruit, games, toys, mythological designs, vegetables, shells and jungle etc. are all form the natural or realistic designs. Stylized Motifs are simplified variations of natural or man-

made objects that are no longer recognizable. These motifs are full of creativity, as they are the result of a designer's interpretation of naturally existing things. Stylized motifs are obtained by rearranging the real objects either by simplifying or exaggerating them to achieve the purpose of the design.

Examples of stylized Motifs are flower spilling out of basket, flowerpots, vases, bouquets and all that coming out the designer's imaginary ideas form the stylized designs.

Abstract Motifs are combinations of colour, size, and shape without relationship to natural or man-made objects. They are full of colour and interest to the fabric. Abstract implies an element of impression and a greater freedom than is found in most geometric designs. This type of design is used in modern art. Examples of Abstract Motifs Realistic, stylized, and abstract motifs may be easier or more difficult to use depending on the size of the motif, the contrast between the motif and the background, and whether or not the design is multiple-direction or one-way. Smaller size motifs, softened shadings, and multiple direction designs are easier to sew and wear.

Motifs play an important role in designing. Each motif, like the fabric itself has an origin, evaluation and variety in shape and presentation. In designing, a weaver, embroider, dyer or printer creates dreams of beauty using motifs familiar through culture, religion, environment and history on textiles. Development in any field is essential and continuing process so in the field of traditional textiles. For the development of motifs twenty selected traditional motifs were developed using CAD software into contemporary form and designs were created from these motifs. Best five selected designs were transferred on fifteen bed sheets using appliqué in selected placement for each design and simulation in selected colour way. Fifteen appliqué bed sheets were embellished with hand, machine and digital embroidery.

Methodology

The methodology i.e. the methods and procedures undertaken

for the development of data with the objectives of development of motifs for appliqué bed sheets may be

described by a series of steps described as under:

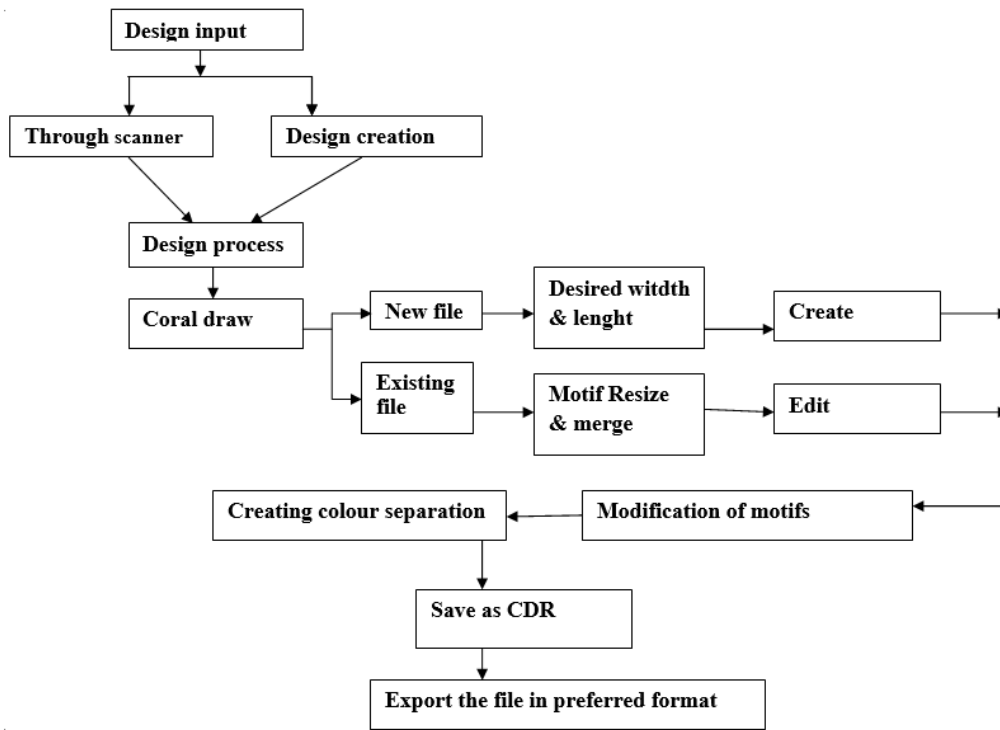


Fig 1

Collection of motifs

A total of 110 motifs were collected and critically analysed by researcher and advisor, on the basis of their suitability to appliqué work, stencil and digital printing technique for bed sheets. The 20 motifs were screened and sketched manually as

well as scanned from books; magazines etc. were again created and refined on computer using Corel Draw and Adobe Photoshop software to get the required intricacy and fineness. The created motifs are present in Figure; 1

Motif	Ranks	Developed design	Motif	Ranks	Developed design
	1			2	
	3			4	
	5			6	

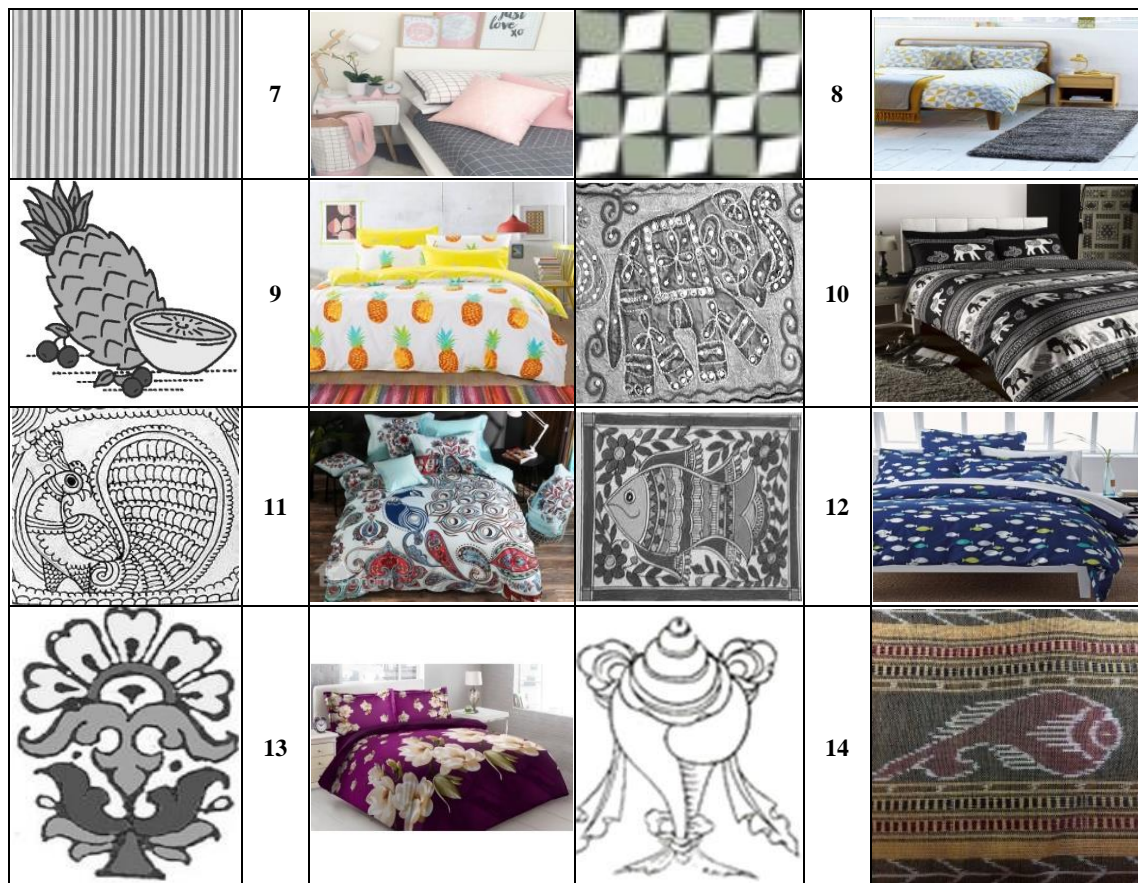


Fig 2

Results and discussion

A total of 110 were collected and screened twenty. All twenty motifs were developed into contemporary form using CorelDraw software and top five motifs were selected. Amongst Twenty developed motifs best five selected motifs may be used for creation of design and apply on bed sheet using appliqué work. Figure: 2

Conclusion

From the study it was concluded that the floral, geometrical, animal traditional motifs can be created in contemporary form. The motifs were successfully adapted by CAD for the application of surface enrichment of designing. As a logical extension the chosen and developed motifs may be used for the development of designs for bed sheets and then selected top ranked designs may use for preparation of designs placements on bed sheets. The selected design placements may be transferred on to bed sheets using appliqué in selected colour way.

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