

A photograph of a red sail on a wooden dock by a lake, framed by green foliage. The sail is made of a textured fabric and is attached to a wooden frame. The dock is made of weathered wooden planks. The lake is calm and reflects the surrounding greenery. The background is a dense forest of trees. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

SOANE
BRITAIN

OLD FLAX



SOANE

BRITAIN

Over a decade ago, whilst rifling through piles of richly patterned textiles, I came across a small bolt of plain cloth, the colour of the palest primrose. The translucency of the slubby eighteenth century silk and flax weave was particularly magical when held up against the light, exposing subtly shaded yarns which gave the cloth extraordinary depth and sheen.

The desire to reproduce this beautiful cloth led me to Sudbury in Suffolk, where all 24 colours of Soane's Old Flax are now woven. Its development saw trial after trial as we attempted to balance the depth of colour, lustre and density of weave to ensure the requisite strength for upholstery. Whilst Old Flax is intended to be a 'plain', the weave structure maintains the inherent variation and interest of that wonderful primrose original. To learn more about Old Flax visit:

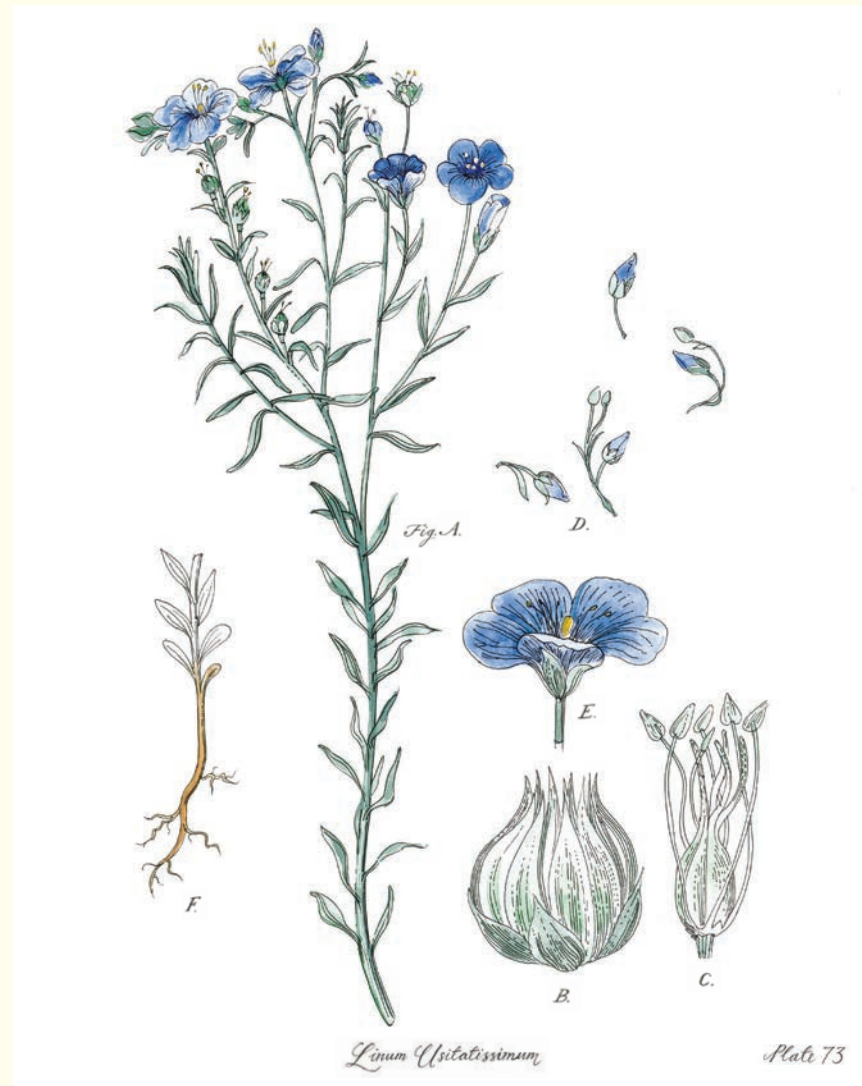
www.soane.co.uk/old-flax-weave

Lulu Lytle

Lulu Lytle

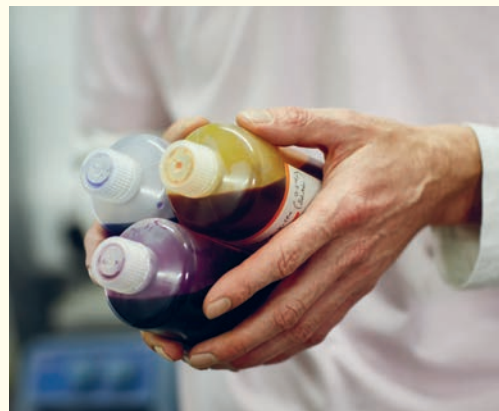
THE FLAX HARVEST

The flax plant with its delicate blue flower, has been cultivated for thousands of years for its fibres that run from root to tip and are used to make linen. Growing to about a metre high, its stalks are pulled and gathered in bundles and either stacked or hung to dry. The fibres are detached from the rest of the plant by retting (laying flax on grass in rows and allowing dew to decompose the woody matter surrounding the fibres) or by the modern method of using vats of water under controlled temperatures. After this, the flax is dried then broken, scutched and hackled – traditional processes that remove the straw from the fibres. Long fibres are spun to make fine yarns, while short fibres produce coarser yarns; each creating a different look and feel when woven.



CRAFTSMANSHIP

Old Flax is made by a Suffolk weavers that combines their knowledge of old textiles with the latest loom technology, to create fabrics of an exceptional quality. Production starts with the selection of the best yarns for the warp and weft – a considered blend of flax, cotton and viscose that results in a strong and eminently practical cloth. Yarns are then dyed in specialist British dye houses, ready for weaving. Each Old Flax fabric uses two or three colours, some very similarly shaded for a muted look, others more contrasting for greater depth. The fine threads and superb weaving techniques produce a tightly woven fabric that is wonderfully textural, soft to the touch and drapes beautifully.



Old Flax is woven using two or three differently shaded yarns, each dyed in specialist British dye houses.



THE COLLECTION

The natural, imperfect texture, subtle lustre and glorious colours found in the collection, have led to Old Flax establishing itself as a versatile staple for interior decorators. The ever-growing collection of colourways – from muted neutrals to rich jewels – complements the distinct Soane colour palette found in the fabric and wallpaper collections.









OLD FLAX IS A WOVEN, SUBTLY TEXTURED FABRIC THAT COMBINES A NUMBER OF SIMILARLY SHADED YARNS TO PRODUCE A RICH DEPTH OF COLOUR.

HARD-WEARING YET SOFT TO TOUCH, OLD FLAX WORKS WELL ON UPHOLSTERY AS WELL AS CURTAINS AND IS AVAILABLE IN 24 COLOURS:



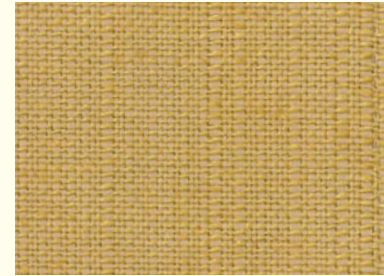
Ivory



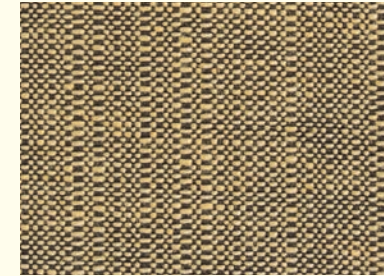
Portland



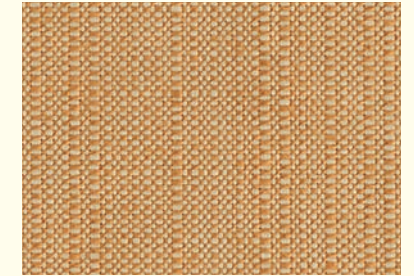
Sepia



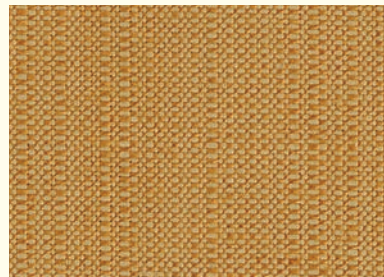
Old Gold



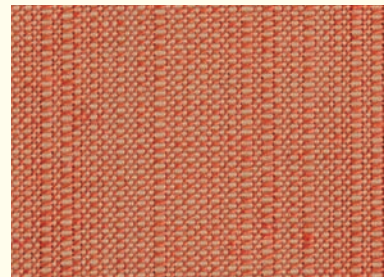
Bumblebee



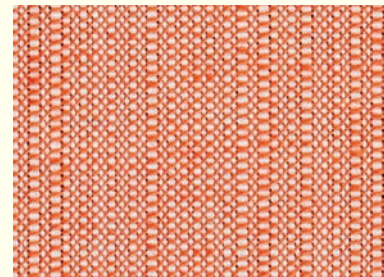
Ginger



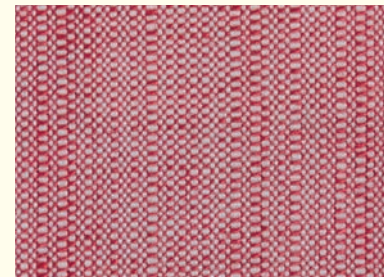
Turmeric



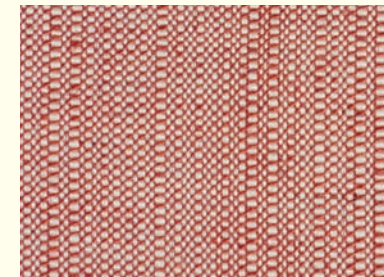
Sienna



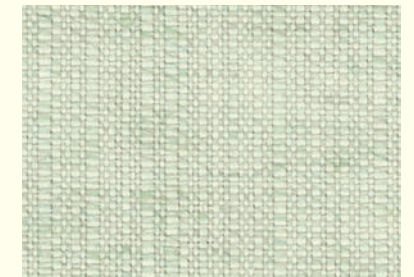
Coral



Watermelon



Russet



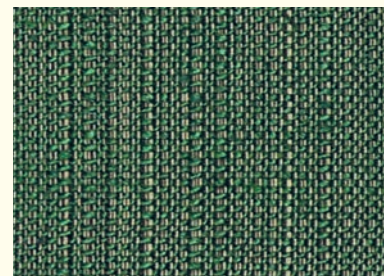
Duck Egg Blue



Catalpa Green



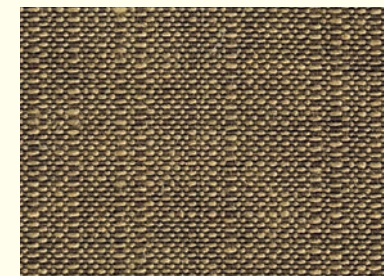
Moss



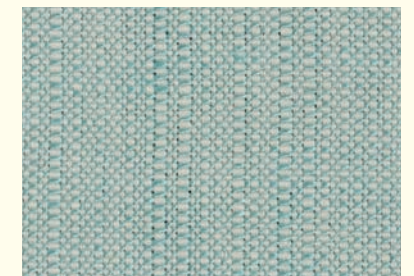
Bayleaf



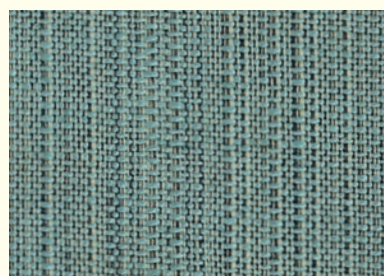
Kiwi



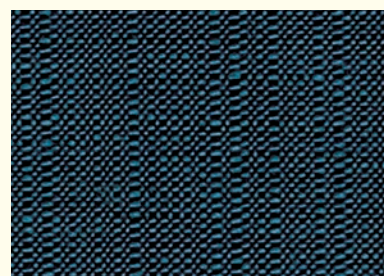
Porcupine



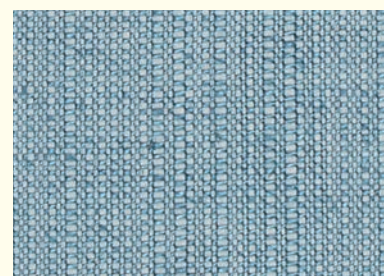
Sky Blue



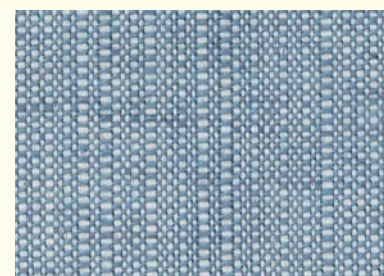
Lagoon



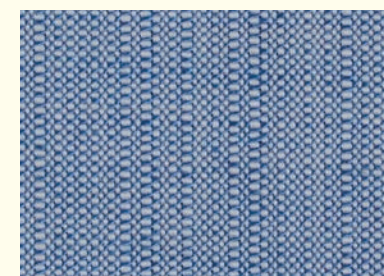
Teal



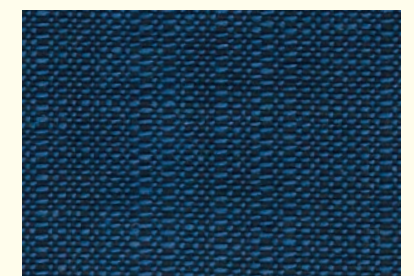
Azure



Flax Flower



Patmos Blue



Indigo



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