

From Atoms to Patterns

Crystal Structure Designs from the 1951 Festival of Britain

Lesley Jackson

From Atoms to Patterns tells the intriguing story of the Festival Pattern Group - a unique collaboration between scientists and designers at the Festival of Britain. Conceived by Dr Helen Megaw, a leading Cambridge crystallographer, and spearheaded by the Council of Industrial Design, the Festival Pattern Group co-opted diagrams of atomic structures for patterns on everyday products, including textiles, wallpapers, ceramics and glass. The result was a weird and wonderful collection of furnishings and accessories decorated with scientifically accurate crystal structure designs.

Featuring numerous hitherto unpublished images and drawing on extensive new research, *From Atoms to Patterns* provides a definitive account of the Festival Pattern Group and explores the science behind the designs. Written by design historian and curator Lesley Jackson, the book complements a major exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London (24th April - 10th August 2008). www.wellcomecollection.org

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