Bespoke Service
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The Cole & Son Bespoke Service offers an opportunity to create a personal and unique wallpaper. Suitable for those who wish to have their favourite current design in a particular colour or those who want to delve into the formidable Cole & Son archive to reproduce an historic design.

Depending on design style and complexity Cole & Son offers a breadth of printing techniques, employing methods relevant to each design.

Cole & Son

Cole & Son was founded in 1875 by John Perry, son of a Cambridgeshire merchant. In those days the company was situated in Islington, north London, an area famous for the 190 hand block printing companies working there in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Throughout the 19th century Cole & Son printed for all the large well-known companies of the time including Jeffrey & Co, Sanderson and Shand Kydd. In addition to high quality block printing, the company was renowned for supplying beautiful stripes and jaspes.

In the early days the company built machines that allowed the re-introduction of the process of pan coating and also revived the process of flocking, invented in Holland in 1680, imitating cut velvet.

In 1941 the company was bought by A P Cole, proprietor of the company Cole & Son (Wallpapers) Ltd, with showrooms and offices at Mortimer Street in Central London.

The Cole & Son block archive includes designs produced by J C Crace & Son to furnish many stately homes, palaces, castles and theatres throughout Britain and overseas, including the wallpaper designs of A W N Pugin for the Palace of Westminster. The amalgamation of the two businesses in 1941 meant that Cole & Son became the custodians of the most significant collection of wooden printing blocks in Britain.

In 1949, Cole’s Design Director created one of the first screen print studios in Europe in response to the revolutionary new Contemporary design movement which gave birth to the wild wallpaper designs of the 1950s and 1960s.

Today, the Cole & Son archive consists of approximately 1,800 block print designs, 350 screen print designs and a huge quantity of original drawings and wallpapers, representing all the styles from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Amongst these are some of the most important historic wallpaper designs in the world. Cole & Son has provided wallpapers for many historic houses including Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament.

Our magnificent archive is on occasion the source of new designs within our collections. Designs are carefully selected, adapted and coloured by our designers and printed by craftsmen to produce wallpapers faithful to the character of the original document, yet contemporary in feel.

Cole & Son continues to produce innovative and beautiful original designs; our current collections reflect our long and distinguished history as well as our continuing passion for new and exciting wallpapers.
Screen Printing

Cole & Son assembled one of the first screen printing studios in the late 1940s and our Bespoke Service continues to offer traditional screen printing today, giving the opportunity to re-colour some of our most famous designs including Rajapur, Orchid, Palm and Woods.

Orchid in a bespoke colour-way.

Palm in a bespoke colour-way.

Screen Printing Rajapur.

Original Woods colour-way, now discontinued, re-printed for a bespoke order.
**Block Printing**

The most artisanal of all our bespoke services, block printing is completed by hand, layering individual colours to form a complete design.

This traditional hand printed process is especially suitable for more exclusive papers. Cole & Son maintains the most significant collection of hand carved wooden blocks in Britain with designs dating back to the early 1700s.

**Flock**

Flock printing revived by Cole & Son’s founder John Perry in the 1880s is a process that replicates cut velvet. Cole & Son continue to offer flocking on bespoke orders, whereby specialist adhesive is printed and flock fibres are applied to the surface giving a luxurious textural finish.
**Digital Printing**

Cole & Son utilise the latest technology in digital printing to produce large-scale designs. Combining the latest production methods with traditional printing techniques to reproduce historic designs.

**Surface Printing**

Surface printing uses a roller to apply ink to paper. This printing method involves producing a relief engraved cylinder of the design and is suitable for bespoke commercial orders.
To discuss possibilities or request a quotation please contact:

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**Please note:**
Prices and lead times are entirely dependent on the production processes that are selected for your design. Therefore individual quotes are provided for each paper. Depending on the design and production method selected, minimum order quantities will apply; these will be detailed in your quote.

Bespoke papers are sold on a proforma basis and production only begins upon receipt of full payment.

Our bespoke wallpapers, unless specified, are supplied in rolls measuring 10m by 52cm (11 yds by 20.5 ins) and are fully trimmed. Full hanging instructions are included with every roll.