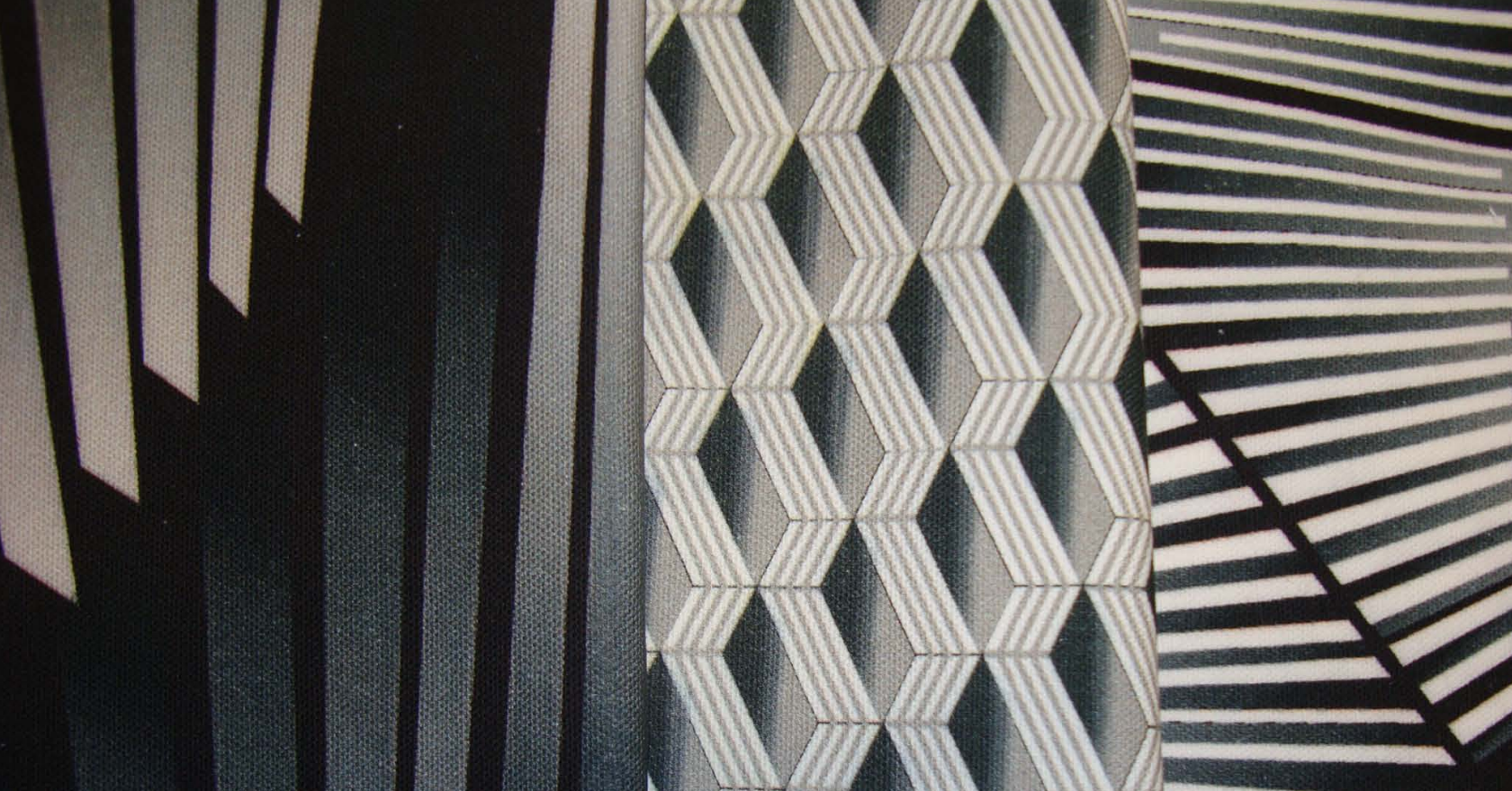


**cooperation  
collaboration:  
bremner & britt  
describe collaborative  
working and what it  
brings to the creative  
process**



Designs digitally printed onto cotton,  
Helena Britt and Elaine Bremner, 2008.

### *why elect to work collaboratively for the 'awaken' project?*

#### **elaine bremner**

We both like a similar aesthetic, and photographed very similar aspects of patterns in architecture while in Berlin. Both like Gillespie, Kidd & Coia archives and thought they had potential to inform textile designs. When the archive exhibition was first proposed I was working on producing work for another exhibition that involved digitally printing onto base fabrics that I had designed and woven. During this time I had some interesting conversations with Helena about the potential of print & weave combinations. It is not unusual for textile designers to work collaboratively in pairs or teams in industry. We were both keen to approach the project from a design point of view and liked the idea of working to a brief.

#### **helena britt**

Initially we were both interested in working from the same starting point so the idea of working collaboratively seemed to make sense. We sit next to each other in the 7th Floor office so often discuss things we work on out with our teaching practice. Also our previous design practice has involved the utilisation of digital design and printing processes so we have had discussion surrounding this in the past. To a certain extent Elaine and I have certain similar aesthetic tastes, during a trip to Berlin with 2nd Year GSA Textiles students both of us were found taking similar photographs of the same subjects.

From the outset I found the idea of the archive/awaken project quite daunting, working collaboratively offered a much needed form of support. I hadn't designed anything for a while due to other commitments requiring a lot of writing, due to this break I was nervous about returning to my design practice. Also the idea of presenting this work through a public gallery-based exhibition as opposed to a forum more akin to my usual design practice i.e. directly to clients or at trade shows was also pretty terrifying. Particularly as students I teach would see the work presented, again producing work collaboratively seemed less daunting.

