

DHAKA SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2018 FALGUN 12, 1424 BS

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Motifs —decorative images used to unify an elaborate design or even an idea— have probably existed since the dawn of civilisation. They can be found in people's everyday lives and activities. In fact, if you look closely, you will notice that there are motifs in every object, starting from

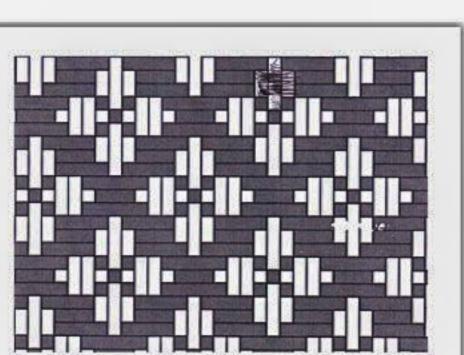
the basic clovers on your bedroom curtains to the clay planters sold on the roadside.

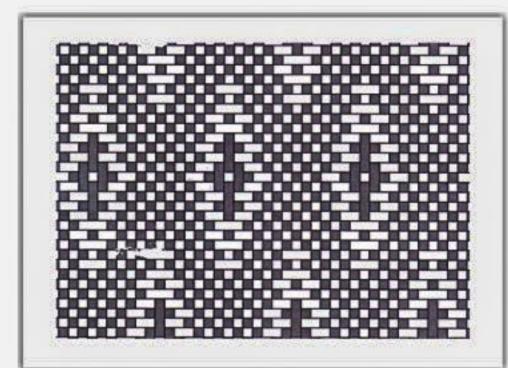
Paisleys, a common and popular form of motif in the South Asian region for instance, was inspired by the shape of a simple 'aam' or mango.

Having a vast range of

knowledge on motifs, value additions and techniques of South Asian textiles, Maheen Khan, veteran fashion insider and Managing Director of Mayasir, makes it a point to design something refreshingly stylish yet functional whenever picturing a new collection. When mapping out motifs, she likes to develop a signature style that stays at par with global trends, yet keeps a strong grip on her traditional roots.

"As a designer or an artist you can be inspired by just a single floral motif or the form of foliage and develop that into an entire collection," Khan says. She described motifs and value additions as a design formation or 'naksha' done on different objects to adorn them and make them more attractive





and interesting.

MOTIFS ON EDIBLE ARTS

"Take shondesh and pitha for instance; two incredible edible arts of Bangladesh," Khan continues eagerly. While the basic ingredients (milk and sugar for shondesh and flour, sugar and molasses for pitha) are very similar everywhere, the taste could vary in different regions.

"The core idea of drawing out such patterns on food was not just

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