

**For this assignment you are required to specify textiles for your client's home and document their use.**

**You need to select four curtain-weight and four upholstery-weight fabrics - so eight fabrics in total.**

**Write a detailed proposal for each of the fabrics. They can be used in the master bedroom, children's bedroom, dining room, lounge and kitchen.**

**When making your choices, think about the scheme you have designed so far in assignments 4-7.**

**Select fabrics that will complement the style, colour and textures you have already chosen for the home. They can be used as curtains, bed linen, sofa upholstery, cushions, or even to cover an ottoman**

You need to demonstrate that you understand the difference between curtain and upholstery weight fabrics. We also need to see that you are able to specify the use of each fabric correctly.



Name: Black and White Damask  
Content: Wool  
Width: 140cm  
Repeat: 64cm  
Weight: Medium  
Recommended use: Upholstery/Curtain  
Rub test: 30,000

Decorative fabrics are loosely divided into two weights: upholstery weight and curtain weight.

Upholstery fabrics are made of different yarns and sometimes of different fibres than curtain fabrics.

These two different categories have different requirements so they have completely different characteristics, which include different yarns, fibres and densities.

Upholstery goods are heavier than curtaining. Upholstery-weight textiles have a completely different construction from curtain fabrics.

Upholstery fabrics need to feel good when you sit on them, as rough or very textured fabrics can feel sleazy. Style and colour are important considerations for the consumer, but durability will determine how well the fabric lasts.

Curtain goods have to fall gracefully in folds. This is called the drape of the fabric.

Whether curtain fabrics are solid or sheer or in an area specifically designed to function as blackout lining or insulation lining, they still have to hang attractively from the ceiling to the floor.

An example of upholstery weight fabric is wool. Wool is usually the preferred fibre for rugs and carpets. It can also be found in flannel and tweed fabrics used for curtains and upholstery, as well as blankets for bedding. Therefore, I have decided to use this black and white damask wool fabric for some furniture in the dining room, living room and for rugs and carpets. The fabric will go well with the grey metallic walls and white ceiling, and with the colours of other soft furnishing and curtains.

Wool has the best sound insulation properties. Wool used as a curtain or upholstery fabric can have a structural elegance that holds up well to large architecture features. In classic and in modern interiors, wool tapestries add richness and variety. They also flatten sound and make a large space feel more intimate. Although rugs may seem expensive, they are a worthwhile investment for any home, lasting for many years and often providing a colourful focal point in a room.

Coarser wool is used for carpets, and finer, softer wool is used for fabrics. Many different types of woollen yarn can be produced to create fabrics which are functional and/or decorative, from plain weaves to textural tweeds and boucles. Woollen fabrics are often used in commercial interiors on furniture and wall screens, where their sound absorption and fire retardant properties are an advantage over synthetic options.

Just a small, luxurious throw, cushion or blanket will add luxury and comfort to most interior spaces.



Name: Dahlia Cotton/Linen Blend

Content: 50% linen 50% cotton

Width: 138cm

Repeat: 17.5cm

Weight: Medium

Recommended use: Curtain/Upholstery

Rub-test: 21,000

Decorative fabrics are loosely divided into two weights: upholstery weight and curtain weight.

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An example of a fabric which may be used as upholstery fabric is cotton. I have decided to choose this Dahlia cotton/linen fabric for the living room's sofas, for the study and for some bedrooms' soft furnishing and bedspreads. The reasons I have chosen this fabric are mainly because they combine with the greyish metallic colour of walls and white ceilings, but also because the fabric combines with other furniture in the various rooms and other fabrics used.

Cotton's applications are endless. It is used for every kind of decorative textile from upholstery to curtains to bed linen.

Cotton is often combined in blends with other fibres.

You will find it used with wool, silk or with synthetic fibres such as polyester or rayon.

There are varying qualities of cotton.

In the production process of cotton, selected grades of cotton can be combed to lengthen and add strength to the fibre and to make it feel silkier.

Cotton that hasn't been combed to the same degree is often made of shorter staple cotton. Fabrics made of this staple are less expensive as they are lower quality. There are several ways to spot high quality cottons. They are silkier, they take dyes more clearly, and they are stronger. The strength of a fabric is called its tensile strength.

While high quality fabrics are usually the preferred choice, sometimes a big chunky cotton fabric accessory made of shorter staple cotton may add an interesting texture to a casual design scheme.

An example of this may be a simple, natural rustic Mexican or Greek cotton fabric used for cushions beside a pool or on beach chairs.

While all cotton is washable, the way the cotton yarn has been produced will indicate whether the cotton item will wash well.

Long staple cotton woven of high twist yarns will dry more smoothly than short staple cottons.



Name: Espresso Chenille

Content: 100% cotton chenille

Width: 127cm

Repeat: N/A

Weight: Medium

Recommended use: Upholstery  
Rub-test: 30,000

Decorative fabrics are loosely divided into two weights: upholstery weight and curtain weight.

Upholstery fabrics are made of different yarns and sometimes of different fibres than curtain fabrics.

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Upholstery goods are heavier than curtaining. Upholstery-weight textiles have a completely different construction from curtain fabrics.

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My fourth selection for the upholstery-weight fabric is the Espresso chenille. Chenille is a type of cotton which is used in upholstery and clothing. The reasons why I have chosen the Espresso chenille are mainly because the colour combines with the other furniture and decoration of the house and because chenille is a beautiful fabric. I recommend using the espresso chenille for soft furnishing, beadings, beadspreads, and sofas.

Chenille comes from the french word for caterpillar, is typically used to describe a type of fabric. Although the names of many fabrics (such as mohair and wool) are derived from the fibres with which they are made, chenille is not amongst them. It is named from the unique process by which it is made. Many chenille fabrics should be dry cleaned. If hand or machine-washed, they should be machine-dried using low heat, or as a heavy textile, dried flat to avoid stretching, never hung.



Name: Soft Leather

Content: Leather

Width: 140cm

Repeat: N/A

Weight: Heavy

Recommended use: Upholstery

Rub-test: N/A

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An example of a fabric which may be used as upholstery fabric is leather. I have chosen this brown soft leather as the fabric for sofas, chairs and other soft furnishing, because not only does the fabric combines with the other furniture in the house and with the house decoration overall; but also, because the fabric is charming, beautiful, strong and resistant.

Leather is a durable and flexible material created by the tanning of animal rawhide and skin, often cattle hide. It can be produced through manufacturing processes ranging from cottage industry to heavy industry. Leather can be decorated by a variety of methods, including pyrography and beading.



Name: Chalk Organza light-weighted

Content: Sheer Organza

Width: 298cm

Repeat: N/A

Weight: Light

Recommended use: Curtain

Rub-test: N/A

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There is a huge range of fabric types that are suitable for curtains, one of them is sheer organza. Hence I my decision to use the chalk organza fabric for curtains in some bedrooms, in the dining room, and in the living room. Not only because the fabric is good but also because the chalk coloured sheer organza can easily be combined with the metallic grey walls and the furnitures in all the rooms.



Name: Cotton Toile

Content: 100% cotton canvas

Width: 138cm

Repeat: 64cm

Weight: Light

Recommended use: Curtain

Rub-test: 16,000

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There is a huge range of fabric types that are suitable for curtains, one of them is cotton.

Therefore, I have decided to use the cotton toile for the dining room and living room curtains.

Cotton's applications are endless. It is used for every kind of decorative textile from upholstery to curtains to bed linen.

Cotton is often combined in blends with other fibres.

Cotton is used with wool, silk or with synthetic fibres such as polyester or rayon.

This cotton toile will also make a good combination with the metallic walls and other furniture such as sofas, chairs and other soft furnishing. This cotton toile will also make a good combination with the metallic silver walls and other furniture such as sofas, chairs and other soft furnishing decorated in black, the black and white damask wool fabric, and chocolate brown soft leather.



Name: Floral Silk

Content: 100% Silk

Width: 127cm

Repeat: 76cm

Weight: Light

Recommended use: Curtain

Rub test: 3,000

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There is a huge range of fabric types that are suitable for curtains, one of them is silk.

While we all think of silk as fine and fragile, did you know that silk fibre is actually the strongest natural fibre with the highest tensile strength? This means that a fine silk thread will be less likely to break than a cotton, linen or wool thread of the same gauge. Each silk fibre is also relatively longer than cotton, wool or linen fibre, so it can be spun into stronger yarn.

Silk also can be incredibly fragile or surprisingly washable. This, however, isn't always a direct relationship to quality. Some silk yarns and dyes do not respond well to water.

An important aspect to remember is that silk degrades in light. This means that silk curtains will eventually fall apart.

Also, the beautiful colours in a silk fabric will fade quickly when exposed to strong sunlight.

The contradiction of silk fabrics is they will eventually fall apart if left in bright light, but if treated carefully and kept away from direct sunlight they could last for hundreds of years

I have decided to use the brown floral silk fabric in some bedrooms and in the study room as curtain. Especially in windows where the sun does not shine directly, so that the fabric will not fall apart.

This fabric also makes a good combination with the other furniture in both bedrooms and the study. As most of the furniture in such rooms are brown, white, and the Dahlia cotton fabric mentioned below



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There is a huge range of fabric types that are suitable for curtains, one of them is cotton.

Therefore, I have decided to use the light blue floral cotton blend for bedroom curtains.

Cotton's applications are endless. It is used for every kind of decorative textile from upholstery to curtains to bed linen.

Cotton is often combined in blends with other fibres.

You will find it used with wool, silk or with synthetic fibres such as polyester or rayon.

This floral cotton blend will also make a good combination with the blue lobelia walls and other furniture.

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There is a huge range of fabric types that are suitable for curtains.

Curtain fabrics must hold up well in bright light.

While they aren't touched as much as upholstery fabrics, they can trap airborne dust and dirt, so sometimes laundering or cleaning of window treatments may also need to be considered.