

The Victorians

Learning Objective:

To explore the artwork of William Morris and the arts and crafts movement.

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This is William Morris. He was born in England in 1834. He was a textile designer, poet, socialist and writer who is particularly remembered for his wallpaper and textile designs. Morris was the founder of a new movement of art called the Arts and Crafts movement.

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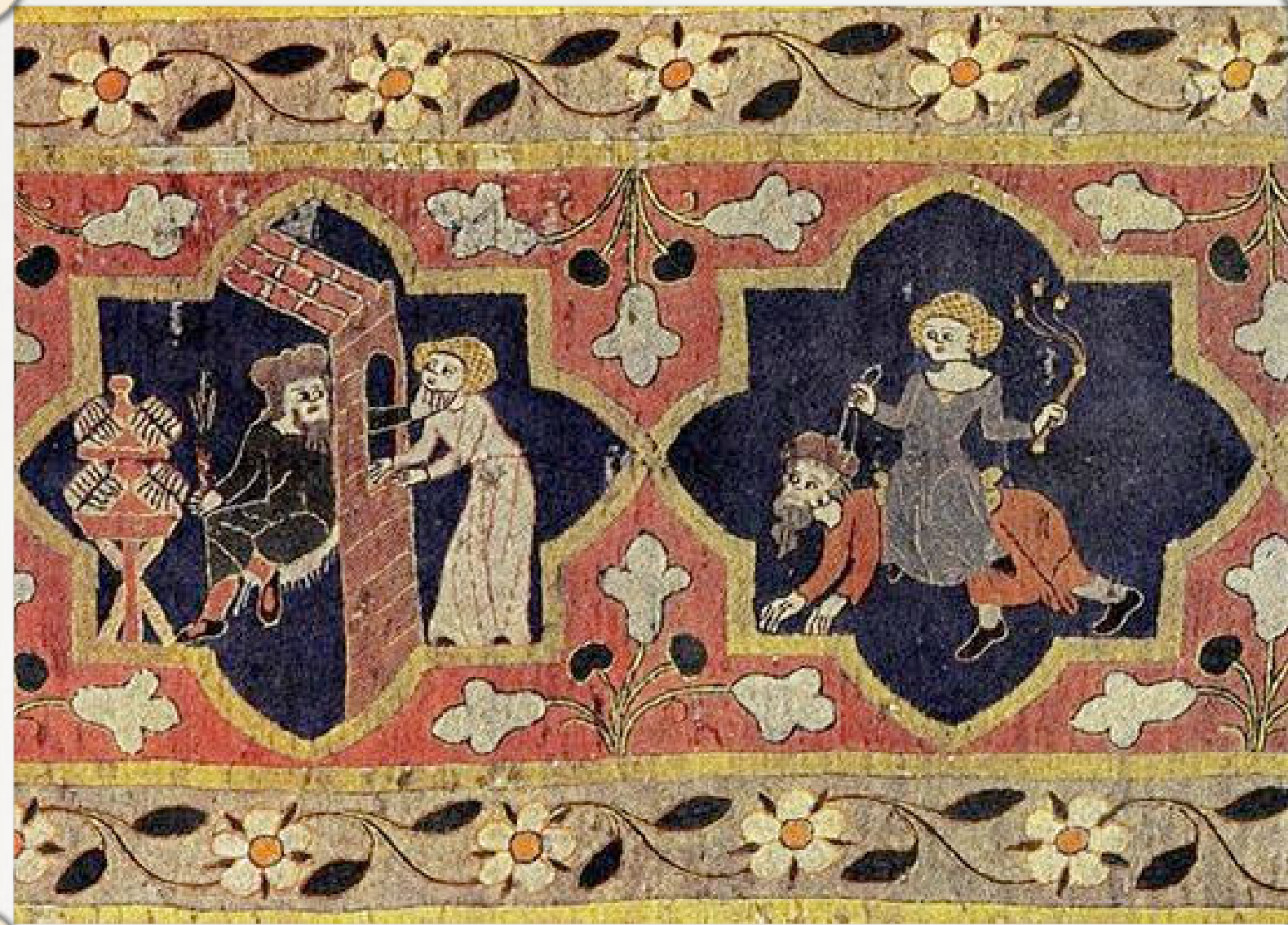
William Morris, and others like him, didn't approve of the mass produced art that was the result of the industrialised Victorian society. The Arts and Crafts movement which he founded, favoured a return to skilled workmanship and high quality goods instead of machine made items. In 1861, William Morris set up his own company along with a few other artists. They produced furniture, wallpaper, textiles (such as cushions and curtains) and jewellery. The Arts and Crafts movement became very popular although it was mainly the middle and upper classes who could afford the hand-made pieces.



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A medieval tapestry from the 14th century



The Arts and Crafts movement was heavily influenced by medieval art and architecture and featured designs based on nature.

A William Morris tapestry, 1890



What are the similarities between these two tapestries?

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Have a look at some
of my designs on the
next slides. What do
you think of them?
Do you like them?
Why? Why not?



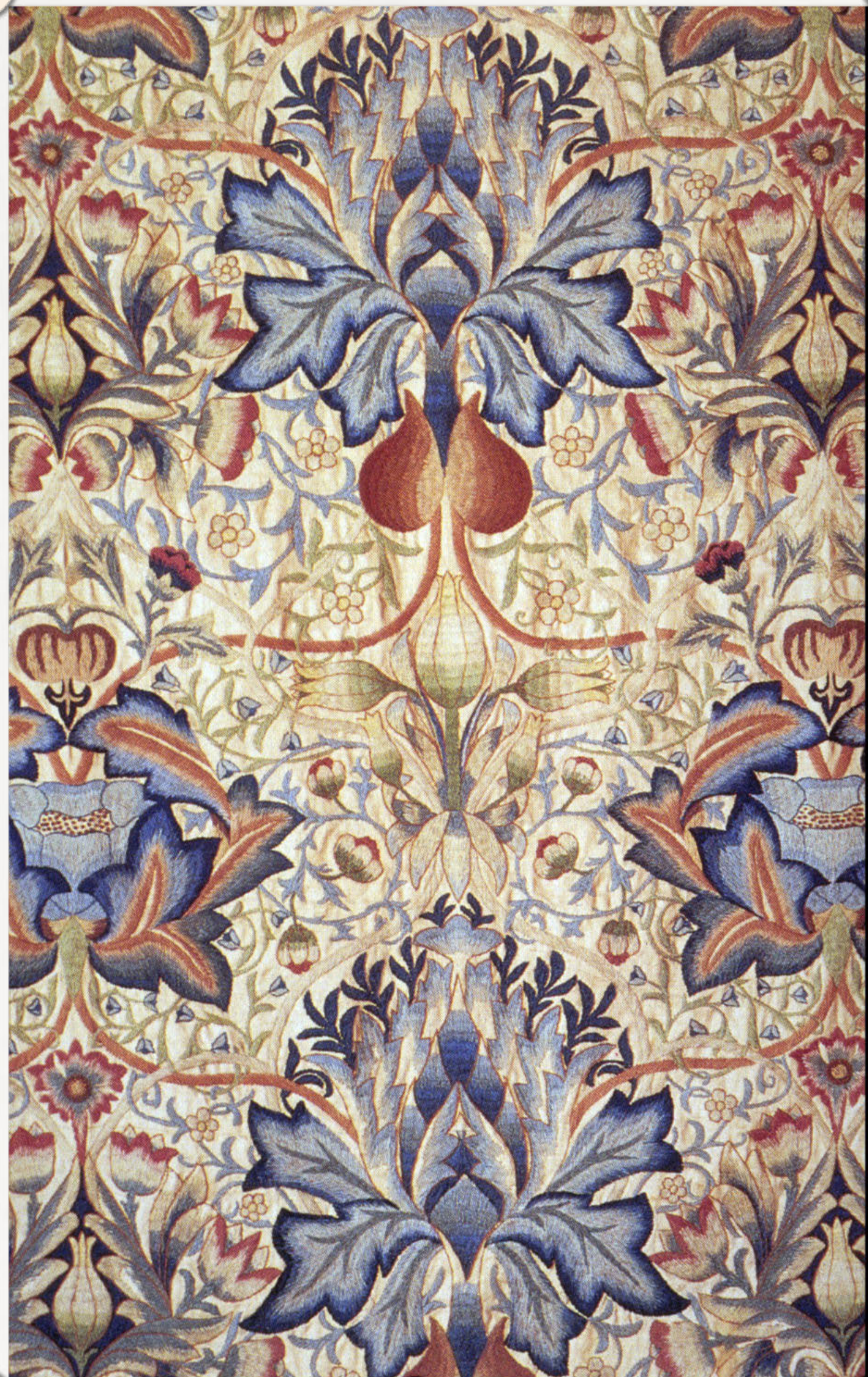
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What did all the designs you have just seen have in common?

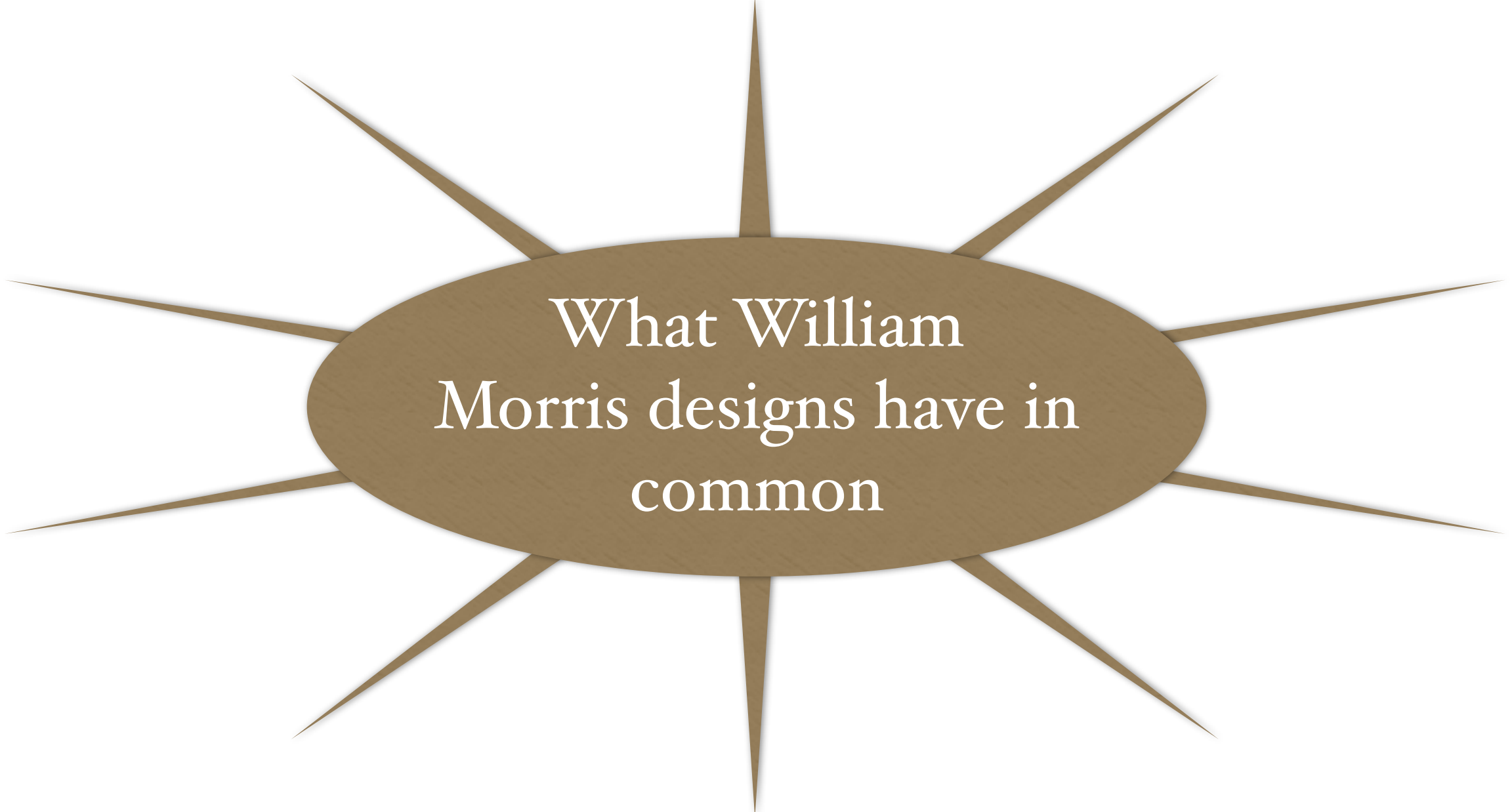
Think, pair, share your ideas.



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What ideas did you come up with?



What William
Morris designs have in
common

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