



Examples of Joann Nelsen's renderings for wallpaper and fabric, from a recent donation to the New York School of Interior Design.

Joann Nelsen, New York School of Interior Design

## Wallpaper Archive

The archives of wallpaper and fabric designers can be fragile; manufacturers and designers often pay little attention to old renderings, which historians appreciate as documentation of popular tastes. Boxes of sketches and swatches from Joann Nelsen, a textile and wall coverings designer on Staten Island, who died in 2013 at age 76, have been rescued as a donation to the [library](#) of the New York School of Interior Design.

Ms. Nelsen's friends retrieved them from her home, an 18th-century fieldstone farmhouse that she bequeathed to the [Preservation League of Staten Island](#). (It has been sold to benefit that nonprofit group.) She designed bed linens, upholstery and wallpaper for companies including Schumacher and First Editions, patterning them with bouquets, acrobats and Constructivist and Navajo zigzag designs. Nora Reilly, the archivist at the New York School of Interior Design, described the work as "really joyful."