



INTERIORS
MEKEKA
DESIGNS



We offer curated yardage and custom
objects for a range of interior
design applications.

As a bespoke design studio based in the USA and
Uganda, we partner with individual craft specialists
and their studios to create innovative fabrics from
natural materials.

Pricing available on request.



Our curated collection includes exclusively designed textiles traceable to the maker and materials. Techniques range from plaiting palm leaf, patchwork barkcloth, tapestry woven banana silk, to tone on tone woven natural indigenous fibers.





BIRI BIRI

**Hand-dyed custom patterns available*

Technique:

Hand plaited palm leaf

Material:

Natural palm leaf (ekindukindu tree locally sourced in Uganda)

Standard Sizes:

Width: 80cm - 100cm (custom up to 200cm)

Length: 2.5 meter length (custom up to 4 m)

Finishes:

The following finishes are available:

- 1) UV 11 Ultraviolet Inhibitor
- 2) Flame Retardant (to pass NFPA 260 for upholstery)

**Note these come as 92cm x 2.5m standard pieces*

WHO WE WORK WITH

*Craft specialist Florence Nakachwa
and her team from Bisanje, Uganda*

Florence is a beautiful force of nature. Her mother taught her and many other women in their village this intricate and artistic craft.

Through her mat weaving work with other women in the community, Florence has created a small enterprise, and has been able to educate all 9 of her children and build her home.

As masters of their craft, they have specialized in plaited palm leaf mat making for decades and continue to work with generational techniques that use complex weaving patterns to create intricate designs.





KIBO OBUGAZI

**Custom patterns available, including full raffia weft*

Technique:

Handwoven on floor looms

Material:

Hand woven Ugandan rain fed cotton with locally sourced raffia

Standard Sizes:

Width: 112cm

Length: Can be woven in bolts up to 20 meters

Finishes:

1) Reinforce™ Wall Upholstery Backing (compatible with additional finishes)

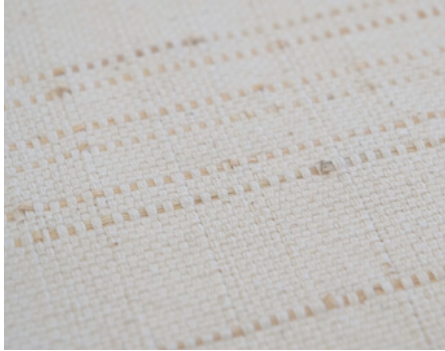
WHO WE WORK WITH

Entrepreneur Grace Kirabo of
TEXDA and her weaving and
tailoring team from Kampala,
Uganda

Grace launched TEXDA in 1999 to bring the beauty of handloomed weaving to Uganda. As a businesswoman and entrepreneur, she has made a career of working on both small and large projects using locally sourced materials for a variety of hand produced textiles.

Grace and her team of weaving specialists have worked tirelessly with us to create our bespoke fabrics. Their attention to detail on each piece has allowed us to offer unique material combinations of locally sourced indigenous fibers.





KIBO OBUTONO

**Custom patterns available, including full raffia weft*

Technique:

Handwoven on floor looms

Material:

Hand woven Ugandan rain fed cotton with locally sourced raffia

Standard Sizes:

Width: 112cm

Length: Can be woven in bolts up to 20 meters

Finishes:

1) Reinforce™ Wall Upholstery Backing (compatible with additional finishes)



LIIRI

Technique:

Handwoven on vertical tapestry looms

Material:

Retted banana silk from the banana plant

Standard Sizes:

Width: Up to 2.5 m

Length: Up to 3 m

WHO WE WORK WITH

*Textile designer and entrepreneur
Kimani Muturi and banana silk
specialists from TEXFAD*

Founder Lesli Robertson met Kimani Muturi in 2007 on a research project in Uganda. He showed her a fascinating recycled material that he had a vision for - banana silk. Back then it was a simple yarn, carefully spun to give strength and durability to the fiber from the inner layer of the banana stem.

Today, TEXFAD is an award winning studio that creates unlimited products from banana stem and silk. They designed innovative technologies to extract lustrous banana silk from agricultural waste.





OMUGUWA | OMUTI | OMUZIZI

**Custom patterns available*

Technique:

Handwoven on floor looms

Material:

A range of fibers, including barkcloth, raffia, and banana stem. All from regenerative plant sources.

Sizes:

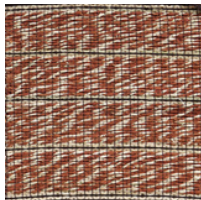
Standard Width: 68cm

Custom Width: Currently testing up to 115" widths

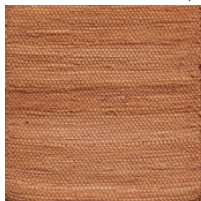
Length: Uncut yardage lengths up to approx. 15 meters

Patterns:

- 1| Omuguwa
- 2| Omuti
- 3| Omuzizi



1



2



3

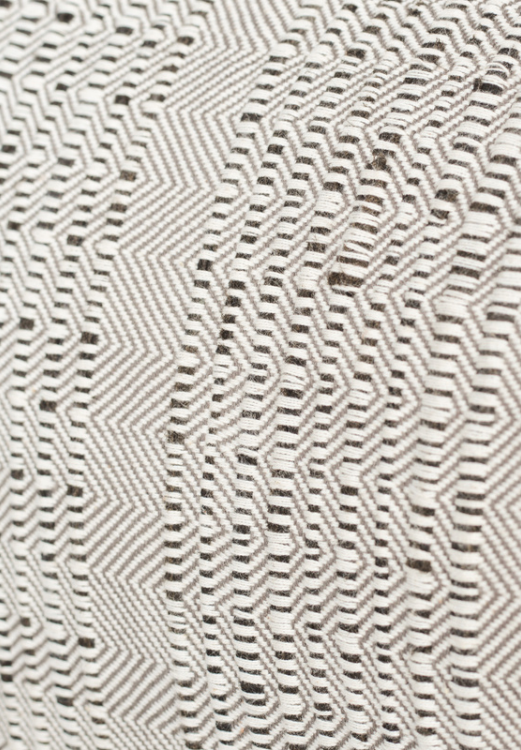
WHO WE WORK WITH

10th generation barkcloth maker Peter Katamiira and his family

Peter is a 10th generation master barkcloth maker. He was trained by his award winning father, Paul Bukenya Katamilira to continue this 700 year old tradition. Alongside his brothers, Aloyzious, Toni, and Vincent, they are a major part of the Bukomansimbi Organic Tree Farmers Association in Kibinge, Uganda.

Peter specializes in clay dyeing barkcloth, a process that involves selecting specific clay pits and burying the rust colored cloth for 3-5 days. Peter is also leading our tree adoption initiative. We are able to trace our cloth to exact trees and know the farmer, processor, tree species and geo-graphic location.





EBBUMBA

**Custom patterns available*

Technique:

Handwoven on floor looms

Material:

Hand woven barkcloth from Bukomansimbi Organic Tree Farmers Association and Ugandan rain fed cotton.

Standard Sizes:

Width: 112cm

Length: Can be woven in bolts up to 20 meters

Finishes:

1) Reinforce™ Wall Upholstery Backing (compatible with additional finishes)

WHO WE WORK WITH

*Designer, educator, and gallery owner
Josephine Mukasa of AKA Gallery*

For over 30 years, Josephine has been dedicated to the promotion of visual artists and handicrafts producers from Uganda and East Africa.

As an artist, university professor, and gallery owner, she is a creative force and advocate who sees the potential in each material, process, and artist she works with. As a researcher, Josephine brings her knowledge of the crafts of Uganda and relationship with masters craftsmen and women to our designs. We work together closely to develop new collections, explore potential patterns, textiles, and applications.





LUBUGO

** Each sheet will be sold as one piece. Total sq. foot for sheet depends on the individual tree.*

Technique:

Handpounded cloth from the mutuba tree

Material:

Bark from the mutuba tree. We will geo-located each specific piece

Standard Sizes:

Determined by the tree harvested, between 1.5mx2.5m up to 3mx4m





Dar Hamad Restaurant, Kuwait City, Kuwait
Babnimnim Studio, Architect



Private Residence, Charleston, South Carolina Mary Wutz
+ Erin Roberts Design, Interior Design (in progress)





Custom pillows available



Shadow Lumbar at the Homecare
Retreat Center, Nairobi, Kenya

We carry a small range of objects and specialty yardage, more information available upon request



Clay-dyed traceable barkcloth
XTANT 2Q23, Palma, Mallorca



Patchwork wall hanging
37"x41"
Resist technique dyed with local clay



A photograph of a woman and a younger person working together on a loom. The woman, on the left, is wearing a patterned headscarf and a colorful patterned top. The younger person, on the right, is wearing glasses, a dark blue t-shirt, and a necklace. They are both focused on their work. The background is a warm, textured wall.

Our Philosophy

Founded by Lesli Robertson, Mekeka Designs embodies her curiosity about materials, respect for Ugandan cultural arts, and drive to innovate with fascinating fabrics and traditional textile processes.

Each textile is made through the sustainable harvesting of fiber and leaves from indigenous mutuba, raffia, banana, and enkindukindu trees. We use 100% Ugandan grown and processed cotton in our weavings and finishing.

Our studio works under the guidance and leadership of our Ugandan partners with full respect for their work and deep knowledge of their cultural arts. All designs are created with their support each step of the way - from ideation, to working with master artisans, to branding each design.

Grace Birungi of Grace Cottage Weavers and Lesli Robertson working on loom woven designs



Terms and Conditions

Textile/Material Samples

To help you understand what our materials look and feel like, you may request a complimentary sample brochure.

Orders

Minimum of \$500

Lead Time

As a bespoke brand working with small groups of artisan experts, our production times vary between 8 - 16 weeks. You can request information on specific product timelines based on our current stock.

Shipping

Options for shipping directly from Uganda to your country are available per request. Uganda is a part of AGOA, all goods are duty-free to the US.

Payments

50% deposit at time of order and final balance due at time of receipt by buyer.

About your products

Each textile is crafted entirely by hand from materials from nature. Slight variations in tone, surface, and structure are to be expected. Goods vary in design 5 -7%.

Customers must be open to:

- Reasonable variations in color and differences in design
 - Mekeka Designs will communicate with customers throughout the production when products differs from samples or photos in catalog.
- Not guaranteed against natural wear, abrasion, stretch, shrinkage or fading

Telling the story of the textiles

Upon receipt of your deposit, Mekeka Designs will release approved photos as well as PR materials to help you tell the unique story of our textiles to your customers.