



Lars Klove for The New York Times

BOOKS

Ornamental Pictures Of Nearly Everything

The urge to apply ornament is age-old, and "The World of Ornament" (Taschen, \$200), to be published July 24, offers weighty proof. The 14½-pound tome combines two 19th-century design encyclopedias, Auguste Racinet's "L'Ornement Polychrome" and M. Dupont-Auberville's "L'Ornement des Tissus," assembling some 5,000 patterns of fabric, wallpaper and illuminated manuscripts, with a DVD of 5,000 images. According to Petra Lamers-Schütze, the art historian who edited the book, the world may be "overloaded with images," but these patterns are more than just images — they're clues to the way people lived in other centuries.

ELAINE LOUIE

