



DETAILS FOR PAINTED AND GILDED WOODWORK, TAKEN FROM 15TH-CENTURY-FURNITURE

## The World of Ornament

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DAVID BATTERHAM (TASCHEN)

The sheer size of *The World of Ornament*, which is a 528-page compendium the size of some small tabletops, never mind coffee-table books, is impressive. What lies within is spectacular: ornamental designs for jewellery, tiles, stained glass, illuminated manuscripts, textiles, and ceramics, encompassing a wide range of cultural aesthetics — from the classic Egyptian, Greek, Roman, and Etruscan to Asian and Middle Eastern, with European designs from medieval times through to the 19th century. The book is a combination of two great encyclopedic collections of decoration from the 19th century: Auguste Racinet's *L'ornement polychrome*, Volumes I and II (1869-1888) and M. Dupont-Auberville's *L'ornement des tissus* (1877). Racinet was a draughtsman who reproduced and recorded decorative images; Dupont-Auberville, a wealthy antiquities collector, amassed a vast collection of textiles and porcelain. The result is a weighty, rich reference for decorators, fashion designers, and students of style. One of the best parts of it is a DVD-ROM, filed within, containing high-resolution scans of all the motifs, which can be used without restriction. — Ciara Hunt