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Camira

1822–2022: 200 Years of Transport Textiles by Camira

Global fabric manufacturer Camira is celebrating 200 years of creating transport textiles this year and, to mark the milestone anniversary, the company has a number of exciting launches, events and promotions set to take place over the next twelve months.

We spoke with Sarah Mallinson, Transport Designer at Camira, to find out what is coming up – as well as to discuss a few of Camira’s highlights from the past two centuries.

Q: Could you tell us a little about your 200-year anniversary? How will you be celebrating?

Sarah Mallinson: “We’re so proud of our heritage, and this year’s anniversary gives us the perfect opportunity to take a moment to pause and reflect on all that we’ve achieved in the last two centuries – from starting out as a worsted wool spinning mill in the North of England through to our current position as a global supplier with locations as far afield as Australia and North America, and expertise in an

extensive range of manufacturing capabilities, it really has been an incredible journey in more ways than one.

We have a few different projects in the pipeline to mark the occasion – one of which is a brand-new capability that will be launching in just a few weeks, and which we can’t wait to debut, as it’s something new not just for us, but for the industry as whole. Alongside this, we’ll be celebrating with customers and colleagues at an event in our London showroom in the early summer – and this will be a great occasion to look back at some of our most famous fabrics

and memorable moments, as well as catching up in person after so long spent apart.”

Q: With so many elements to the Camira story, what is your favourite part?

SM: “I think one of the most fascinating aspects of our story is how it stretches across the globe – our textiles can be found in railway interiors across the world, and they play such an integral part in the identity, not just of the operator, but of the city in which the line runs. For example, commuters who take

the Paris Metro sit on a Camira fabric, those in London know the TfL tube stations by the Camira fabric featured on each line, whilst passengers in Tel Aviv get around by taking an Israeli Railways train upholstered in a Camira fabric. Some of these relationships stretch back through the centuries, and they are so indelibly interlinked that our fabrics are almost part of the city itself – forming the background to people’s memories, as well as their current daily lives.”

Q: You’re known and loved for your moquette fabrics, could you tell us about that element of your heritage?

SM: “Holdsworth really paved the way for our renowned reputation as a moquette manufacturer – in fact, the company was so passionate and knowledgeable about this type of fabric that in 1909 they became a founding member of the Moquette Manufacturer’s Association, and we have continued to champion and perfect this iconic transport textile ever since. It is truly part of our past, present, and future and remains one of our most popular constructions to this day – and, with its wool-rich composition, incredible durability, and

irresistible tactility, we can see why customers continue to love it just as much as we do.

Alongside moquette, we also offer an extensive range of other textile constructions – such as wire and flat woven fabrics, pure leather, and high-performance vinyl – so we have really worked tirelessly to ensure that we remain at the forefront of our industry and are able to provide our customers with total upholstery solutions. And, as I mentioned earlier, we’ll be adding to our capabilities later this year with the launch of a new technology which will truly transform the way we design and manufacture transport textiles.”

Q: With so much design history held within the company, do you ever use these past creations as inspiration for new fabric developments?

SM: “Yes, definitely! As part of our connection with Holdsworth, we have an incredible back catalogue of fabric designs to refer to – the archives literally date right back to the company’s foundation in 1822, so there really is an immense number to look back on. From the original fabrics created for The Venice Simplon Orient-Express through to those featured

on the Transport for London Underground back in the 1900s, just dipping into these design books not only takes you back in time, it also never fails to spark ideas for new ranges and ways in which we can bring this heritage into a new era.

In fact, as part of our 200-year celebrations, we’ll be releasing a collection of Holdsworth designs in contemporary colourways which are perfect for today’s transport interiors; they really pay homage to a bygone period, whilst being carefully redeveloped to meet current performance standards and aesthetics. We can’t wait to share them with customers, old and new.

Learn more about
Camira’s 200-year
anniversary at
camirafabrics.com/200

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**YEARS OF
TRANSPORT
TEXTILES**

EST 1822

Woven into journeys for two hundred years, our beautifully designed, expertly made fabrics have remained a continuous presence in an ever-moving world.

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