inspire {home truths}

Akira Isogawas style secrets

The designer famed for ethereal, embellished garments and beautiful rugs opens the doors to his studio and shares the items he treasures most

AS TOLD TO ANNA McCLELLAND STYLING **HEIDI ALBERTIRI** PHOTOGRAPHY **NATALIE HUNFALVAY**

"When I'm designing, I sometimes work directly with the fabric, but sometimes with paper first. I made this paper dress (right) when I was working on a wedding gown and I felt it was worth keeping. It's been on that manneguin since 2007. It was a one-off dress but since then I've made a few similar versions, because it's a great style."



"My silk scarves are inspired by the obi



14 years ago and I only have one photo of her. We lived in a big house in Kyoto and last year my father sold it. Before he left, I went back, looked through the drawers and found these photos of my mother and aunt [below]."



Above: Akira Isogawa Hirameki Collection 'Batik' rug, \$4950/2m x 3m, Designer Rugs.

"Every six months or so I feel the **urge** to go back to Japan and **experience** it again"

We keep the paper shapes

of garments as a record of what we've made, and to help manufacture the garments from the sample collection. I spend a lot of time sketching designs, but I miss making them as much as I used to. A lot of my time is taken up by administrative tasks, so I can't do large pieces, just small pieces myself."





As a teen, I was into a Japanese electro newwave band called Yellow Magic Orchestra. This was in the '80s. Since then, one of the members, Rvuichi Sakamoto, has released a number of solo albums that I listen to all the time. 🛍

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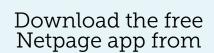


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The flea markets in Kyoto

nappen on the 21st of every month, so whenever I go back I make sure I'm there for that date. I collect vintage

kimonos and silks. They're a source of

inspiration. I used to make pieces from

vintage kimonos, but I don't any more

because they've become a bit rare."







