Evaluating upholstery layouts using digital imaging

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Digital imaging can be used to help evaluate various layout choices when considering using reproduction fabric with long pattern repeats in re-upholstery. The example shown here is a loom proof of a wool damask (based on a design surviving at Vyne House) woven by Context Weavers in England.

A digital camera was setup on a tripod. Without moving the sofa or the camera, a series of images was taken, moving the fabric systematically across the back after each exposure. Each pattern was photographed three times in order to cover the back of the sofa. This process was repeated five times to use all of the possible patterns in the 81 inch long, 23 ½ inch wide design repeat.

The fifteen digital images taken were spliced together in Adobe Photoshop using the standard manipulation tools (marquee, move, eraser or magic wand tools).

The entire process took about 1½ hours and the resulting composite image was very useful in discussing the layout possibilities of various reproduction fabrics with the client.