

Our Golden Thread



### Going Baresque

#### 50 years of design, resilience and reinvention

It's 1975. The Cold War looms, Malcolm Fraser is Prime Minister, and Australia's economy is on the brink – hit with soaring inflation, stagnant investment, and a devalued dollar. Amidst this uncertainty and with no experience in interiors, Richard Blaiklock, Gay Bell (Richard's sister) and John Blaiklock (Richard's father) stumbled across an opportunity to take their first steps in business together acquiring the assets of a small bankrupt wallpaper importer in Sydney. Few could have predicted that this modest venture would grow into Baresque Group - a global leader in design-driven solutions for commercial and public spaces.

### Starting with a challenge

The early days were anything but glamorous. Operating without modernday essentials like fax machines, computers or even affordable phone calls, Baresque's team relied on a direct hotline to Sydney headquarters – where you could speak just long enough to rattle off a stock number, nothing more. Mistakes were made, importing was slow, and goods were frequently faulty. The now-iconic anecdote of Gay Bell listing her occupation on the census as a "Faulty Wallpaper Checker" tells you everything about the grit of those early years!

Logistics were complex and the metric transition had only just begun. "Just doing the simple things we do today was a big, big trial," recalls Richard Blaiklock, now Chairman. Still, even with these limitations, the company held one unwavering belief: design mattered. While interiors were still considered an afterthought to architecture, Baresque saw their potential and pursued them with intent.









"Unbeknownst to us, the catchphrase "going Beresk!" was already being exclaimed by Dorrie Evans, leading lady in the hit TV sitcom Number 96 – a coincidental but fitting malapropism for going berserk or crazy, capturing both the spirit of the business at the time and giving us a head start in brand recognition."

RICHARD BLAIKLOCK

### Chasing the best from the start

Only weeks after launching, co-founders Richard Blaiklock and Gay Bell were already traveling to the U.S., Japan, and Scandinavia to source products. From the outset, the goal was clear: find what's best in the world and bring it to Australian shores.

"It had to be good product, good logistics, and good partners," Richard says. "And that's exactly what it is today. Nothing's changed."



### Designing in the digital era

Fast forward 50 years and Baresque Group operates in a completely transformed landscape. Interior design and public space design is now a sophisticated, fast-paced industry driven by aesthetics, performance, and data. Products are expected to do more – supporting sustainability goals, meeting strict technical requirements, and delivering on durability. Thanks to the internet, Australian designers are exposed to an unprecedented breadth of global inspiration and product choice.

And yet, Baresque Group continues to lead. In an age of instant gratification, rapid lead times and increased expectations, Baresque Group still stands on the same foundations: excellence in product, seamless logistics, and strong partnerships. Whether it's acoustic solutions, wallcoverings, space division or outdoor furniture, the company continues to innovate without compromising the values that have carried it for half a century.





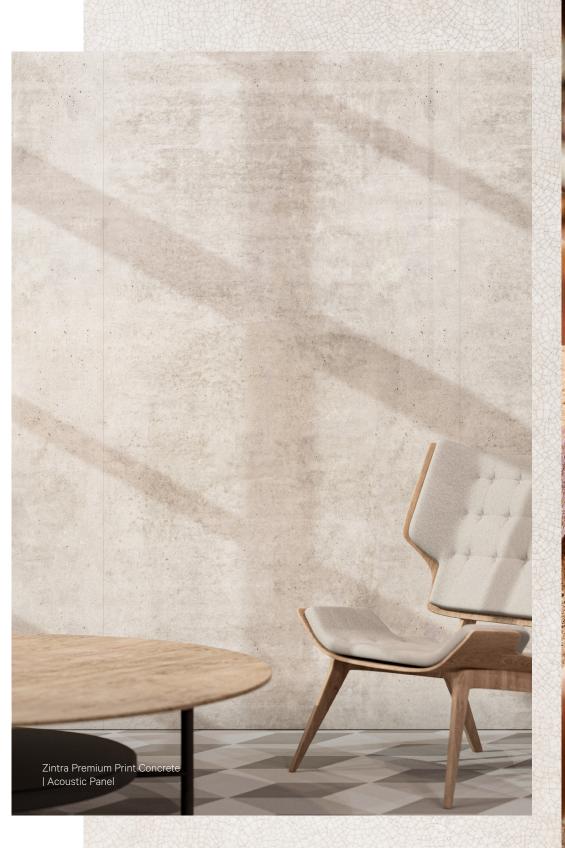


Technology will continue to evolve. Trends will come and go. But for Baresque, the real difference has always been people – those who design with purpose, manufacture with integrity, and deliver with care.

"We've changed with the times," says Richard, "but what's stayed the same is why we do it. It's always been about asking: how do we make spaces better?" RICHARD BLAIKLOCK



John Blaiklock, Vince Bell, John Hagarty (Business Development Manager 1985-2014)





### History of walls

The desire to surround ourselves with pattern, colour and texture is nothing new. It's been part of how we shape our spaces for thousands of years – from the earliest cave markings to the rich visual languages that define interiors today.

From hand-painted rice papers in ancient China to the ornate block prints of 18th-century Europe, wall treatments have always evolved with the times – driven by changing tastes, advancing technologies, and shifting ideas of style and status. What began as a luxury became a design essential by the late 1800s, thanks to industrialised production and rising demand for accessible, expressive interiors.

By the 1970s, when Baresque was founded, wallpaper was everywhere. As Richard Blaiklock recalls, "In those days, retail wallpaper shops were a normal thing, with over 100 outlets in Sydney alone." Wallpaper reflected not just decoration, but identity, culture, and creativity – just as it does today.

From wallpaper to wallcoverings, and now to wall treatments, the history of walls has evolved far beyond paper and print. Today, walls are designed not only to inspire but also to perform, offering solutions that range from acoustics and advanced protection to antimicrobial finishes, custom digital printing, and sustainable innovations. Wall treatments now play a vital role in shaping how we see, feel and experience a space.

And while styles and materials have evolved and changed, the drive to shape spaces that are meaningful, beautiful, and functional remains. At Baresque, we're proud to be part of that ongoing story – continuously redefining what wall treatments can do.





# Our defining products

Over the years, certain products have done more than sell well - they've shaped our identity, defined our market position and changed our trajectory. But it was innovation that truly set our path. Breakthroughs like **Lumicor**, **Lightblocks** and **Zintra Acoustic Solutions** each filled a gap, taught us something new and laid the foundations for decades of leadership in interior and architectural finishes.



Our story began with *Wall-O-Vin by Borden*, an eagerly awaited shipment that brought both excitement and challenges. Early standouts like *Little Grass Shack*, the newspaper-print Unrememorable Memorabilia and the quirky John's John gave us momentum, while the *Flock-and-Foil* range kept demand strong. As we grew, premium launches such as *Magic on Mylar* and *Guard Stipple* cemented our place in the market. Then came *Savoir Faire*, Australia's first fully stocked textile wallcovering range with a "smart" sample book - a breakthrough that positioned us as leaders and attracted global partners like Sweden's Kinnasand, whose *Novalin* became a favourite across hotels, offices and homes.





### **Timeline**



1975

#### Going Baresque

In a turbulent economy, Baresque begins with the purchase of a bankrupt wallpaper importer marking the start of a design legacy.



1980-82

Purchased and moved to 36 Mountain St, Ultimo, then purchased and restored historic South Melbourne building "The Record" - beginning our national expansion.



1985

After beginning as a retail-focused business selling domestic wallpaper; within 10 years, the language and mindset shifted to position wallcoverings as a hard-nosed commercial offering, where we've remained ever since.



Angus Blaiklock joined Baresque as the business moved to Artarmon. Angus set his sights on expanding Baresque beyond soft furnishings, setting up Baresque Architectural Finishes under the mantra "Innovative Materials for Architecture + Design" and securing distribution for Lumicor and Lightblocks which quickly became best sellers.



The importing of the 'Magic on Mylar' wallcovering by DuPont marked a turning point that helped Baresque begin overcoming inherited debt.



1984

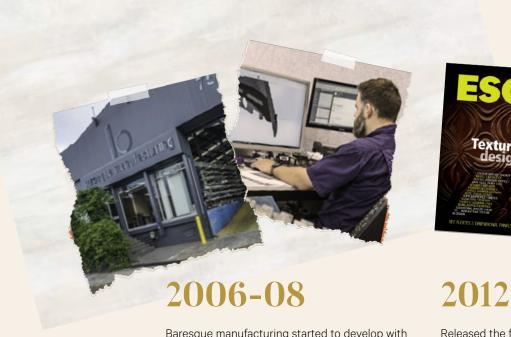
Expanded into fabrics, offering high-quality woollen upholsteries for commercial projects, along with fire-rated fabrics for upholstery, curtains, and bedspreads.



1985

Acquired the hand screen prints and printing of David and Cherie Miles which included wallcoverings and fabrics. Operations closed in 1991.







2015

2025

Baresque manufacturing started to develop with the purchase of our first CNC machine for acrylic cutting. In 2008, manufacturing expanded with the purchase of a dedicated facility growing to 3,500m² and cementing in-house fabrication and project-specific solutions as pillar of Baresque Group.

Released the first issue of 'esque' magazine our in-house magazine for inspiration and information. Zintra Acoustic Solutions expands globally. First stop, North America followed by Europe (2018) and Asia (2021).

Baresque Group now has over 100 dedicated team members across 4 continents, including our Sydney headquarters, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Dallas, Grand Rapids, Brussels and Manila. We've established a robust network of localised expertise in design, sales, manufacturing and distribution.

Over 50 years, we've remained committed to building authentic business relationships and creating spaces that inspire.

2004

JJ Blaiklock joins Baresque

2011

Acquired Jarvis, a specialist in metal fabrication, enhancing our in-house capabilities and enabling greater control over quality, lead times, and custom solutions.

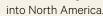
2013

Baresque Group of companies is now truly on its way to becoming a global leader in designdriven commercial interior and public space solutions. botton+gardiner was acquired, an outdoor furniture manufacturer established in 1995 by landscape architects, Mike Botton and Carol Gardiner. Baresque also launches Acoustic Solutions brand Zintra in Australia.

2020

Covid and a different way of working spear heads the launch of space division acoustics brand

- func. in North America and in 2022 botton+gardiner also expands







## Partnerships that matter

For over 50 years, Baresque Group has partnered with the world's leading manufacturers and designers to curate a portfolio of wallcoverings, fabrics, acoustic solutions, architectural finishes, space division and public space furniture that reflect innovation, performance, and aesthetic excellence.

From early relationships to today's forward-thinking collaborators, our network continues to push boundaries, introducing materials that meet evolving demands for durability, sustainability and design. From Crypton-coated fabrics to emerging bio-based technologies, innovation remains central to everything we do.

Our portfolio includes industry-renowned brands such as Burch, Carnegie, Concertex, J. Josephson, Koroseal, Omexco, Reatec, Sangetsu, Stinson, United Fabrics and Versa Wallcoverings. Baresque Group has expanded beyond Australian shores with help from our international distribution partners that include MDC Interior Solutions, Crown Surface Solutions, Tektura and Goodrich.

This broad and purposeful network enables us to deliver performance-driven solutions across sectors – from J. Josephson's P3TEC for demanding healthcare environments, Sunbrella's durable outdoor textiles to sustainability leaders like Carnegie (Xorel) and Panaz to support the shift toward healthier, more responsible spaces.

"Every partnership is intentional. Built on shared values, honesty and a commitment to reducing environmental impact. That's how lasting relationships are forged and it's what defines us." JJ BLAIKLOCK



From left: Richard Blaiklock (Baresque), Joe Abramski

and wife (Borden), Gay Bell (Baresque).

HAFENRUNDFAHRT HARBOURTRIP

VISITE DU PORT

From the outset, Richard and his sister Gay Bell set the bar high. "We asked what does the market want? And what is the best in the world, and we'll go and get it. Baresque had only been in business a couple of weeks before we were in America, Japan and Scandinavia sourcing product... It was good products, good logistics and good partners. It had to be all three. And that's exactly what it is today. Nothing's changed."

### **Shared values**

Rooted in shared family values, our decadeslong partnership with J.Josephson is unique, innovative and ever-growing. Founded in 1937 by Max Goodman, J.Josephson has become a global leader in commercial wallcoverings, now led by the third Goodman generation. Its 24/7 state-of-the-art facility delivers world-class design through brands like Bolta, Symphony and P3TEC, distributed in over 50 countries, and holds top sustainability ratings for reducing water and energy use.

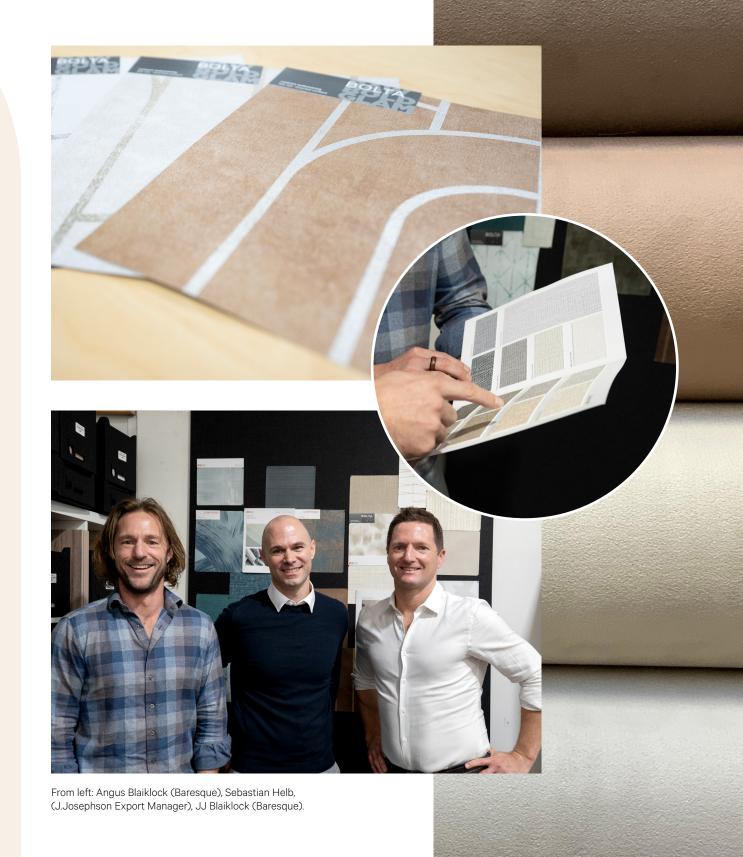
### J.Josephson

"As an 88-year-old, third-generation family company, J.Josephson proudly celebrates Baresque's 50-year milestone and their decades-long partnership with the Blaiklock family and team. Baresque has been an insightful and trusted partner, providing inspiration, technical expertise and exceptional support for J.Josephson branded products.

When J.Josephson developed its innovative P3TEC Advanced Wall Protection, Baresque offered valuable early feedback and swiftly brought the collection to customers. J.Josephson's sister company, Crown Surface Solutions, also values Baresque's early adoption of the acoustical product Zintra.

While the partnership began decades ago with Symphony distribution and deepened with J.Josephson's acquisition of Omnova in 2011, it continues to grow through commitment, communication and innovative products like Bolta and P3TEC. Rooted in shared family values, this unique partnership embraces innovation and looks forward to many more years of creative collaboration."

MARK, MILES & SEBASTIAN - J.JOSEPHSON



# Memory from JJ

Over five decades, Baresque Group has experienced many pivotal moments, but at the heart of it all lies an unrelenting drive for innovation. It's a hunger that never fades. Whether through our trusted suppliers or our own in-house development, innovation is embedded in our DNA. It's what keeps us relevant to the discerning architects and designers who choose to work with us.

One of the most rewarding parts of this journey has been watching the business and our team grow. In the early days, we sometimes lost great people because we simply couldn't offer the opportunities they sought. That no longer happens. Today, we create real career pathways, and it's incredibly fulfilling to see our top talent thrive within the company we've built.

Many memories stand out, but a few are truly unforgettable.

- Neocon 2015 just two brothers winging it in Chicago is a personal favourite.
- Fast forward to 2025, walking into our polished Baresque Group showroom in Chicago - that full-circle moment was remarkable.
   Topping it off with winning 3 prestigious Gold product innovation awards was huge recognition for the hard work our team had put in.
- Launching ESQUE magazine was another defining chapter. At the time, it felt genuinely novel, bringing together so much of what we believed in and shaping how we present ourselves to the world.





Angus (left) and JJ (right) with some of the amazing Baresque Group team at Neocon 2025

# Responsible sourcing

### A legacy of innovation, a future of responsibility

Design is a reflection of its time, and today that reflection carries a deeper responsibility – one that acknowledges the environmental, ethical, and material impact of the choices we make.

Over time, our approach at Baresque has evolved from simply reducing impact to rethinking systems: how materials are sourced, how waste is managed, how longevity is prioritised, and how our partnerships contribute to broader change.

We choose to work with those who share a long-view mindset – innovators who are developing materials that challenge conventions, support circularity, and embed resilience into the design process.

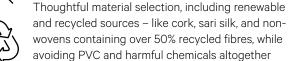




#### **Omexco**



Uses 100% renewable solar energy generated on-site





Almost all collections are eco-certified and FSC-compliant, reflecting their long-standing dedication to sustainable forestry and low-impact manufacturing



Omexco reuses rainwater and treats 50% of wastewater for reuse in production



#### **Zintra Acoustic Solutions**



Zintra's PET is made of 100% recyclable content. 60% post-consumer recycled content from PET bottles, 35% pre-consumer recycled content from PET chips and 5% PLA polylactic acid, a bio-based material.



Zintra also has low levels of volatile organic compounds, contains no formaldehyde, meets the Global Recycled Standard and is Red List Free.



### Carnegie



Carnegie Fabrics' Biobased Xorel is made from rapidly renewable sugarcane



It's the first biobased textile to achieve both Cradle to Cradle Gold and Living Product Challenge certification



Carnegie eliminated PVC from its products nearly 40 years ago – and remains the only interior finishes company that's entirely PVC-free



#### Versa



Circon - the world's first bio-sourced, carbon-neutral, and recyclable Type II vinyl wallcoverings



Designed for a circular economy, Circon closes the loop with over 70% renewable content and drastically reduced emissions



# One-click sampling

#### A 50 year leap in speed and service

Over the past five decades, our approach to sampling has evolved dramatically. In the early days, clients often waited weeks for offshore samples ordered directly by our sales reps. Today, our entire sampling process is managed in-house, delivering unmatched speed and efficiency. Clients can browse and order samples anytime through our website, with same-day dispatch and next-day delivery, allowing them to confidently select textures and colours for fast-moving projects without delay.

This evolution reflects our ongoing commitment to exceptional customer experience, responsiveness, and design agility.





### Memory from Russell

I met John Blaiklock (Richard's father) when I wanted to buy his farm. I actually followed him home one day, knocked on his back door, and told him I wanted to buy it. He said, 'Give me two hours and I'll get back to you.' True to his word, two hours later he called with a price. We shook hands – no solicitors – and that was the beginning of a long friendship.

John later found out I was a building supervisor at John Holland and asked if I'd consider working for the Blaiklock family. That was 5th March 1979. I went on to help build all the Baresque properties.

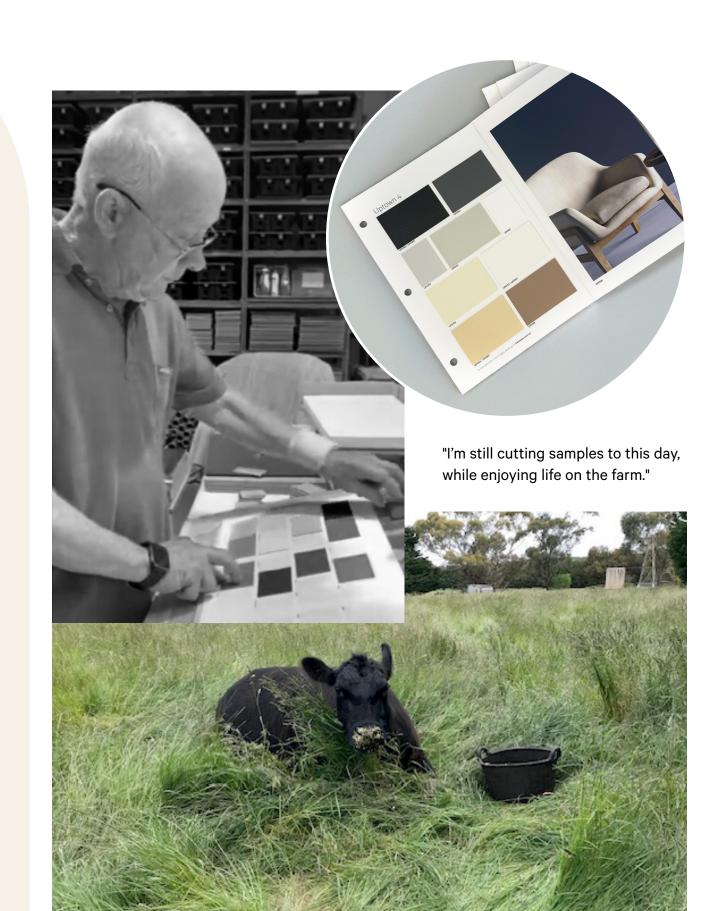
Eventually, with Richard's blessing, I moved into sampling. The sales reps were always waiting on samples to arrive from overseas, so I said, 'Why don't we just make them here?' Every week, John would stay with me and we'd perfect the process together – he'd stick, I'd cut. We had no guillotine, so we used surgical blades. And yes, I still have all my fingers!

I'm still cutting samples to this day, while enjoying life on the farm.

Seeing the business grow has been the biggest shift. I've always been inspired by the simple satisfaction of making good samples. Back then, the culture was all about one-on-one phone calls. Today, it's more emails – but the passion is the same.

Turning 50? It's a great milestone. Wonderful to see how far Baresque has come.

Russell Carlton









# Heritage and friendship

Our partnership with Versa dates back to the 1980s when Baresque began distributing their Vin L Fab products. A global leader in beautiful, technically advanced and affordable designed surfaces, the relationship has evolved into one of heritage and friendship. Known for premium quality and unique designs, and with ongoing research and development, Versa continues to innovate materials and processes to meet future needs.

"Richard Blaiklock visited our original Laminating Services Inc facility in Louisville in the 1980s, at which time Baresque became a Vin L Fab and later Versa distributor. I have always respected the work ethic and exceptional business aptitude of the entire family. While the business relationship has been successful, the personal friendship has become cherished. The Blaiklocks have become like family to me. My best wishes for many more years of personal and professional success!"

PHIL TARULLO, VERSA

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Versa Miro
Versa

## Handcraft to high-tech

From manual cuts to automated precision, virgin materials to recycled content, and flat panels to sculptural textures, our story has always been about embracing change without losing craftsmanship. Fifty years on, the machines may sound different but the heart behind them is the same.

### The digital printing revolution

Around 2010, digital printing matured enough to deliver high-definition, rapid results across multiple mediums. Initially used in wallcoverings, we quickly saw its potential for Zintra. We began with designer-supplied artwork before creating our own standard designs, expanding our range and inspiring new possibilities. Today, printed Zintra, especially our Premium Woods and Zintra Timber patterns, features in baffles and tiles, bringing beauty and acoustic performance to spaces worldwide.

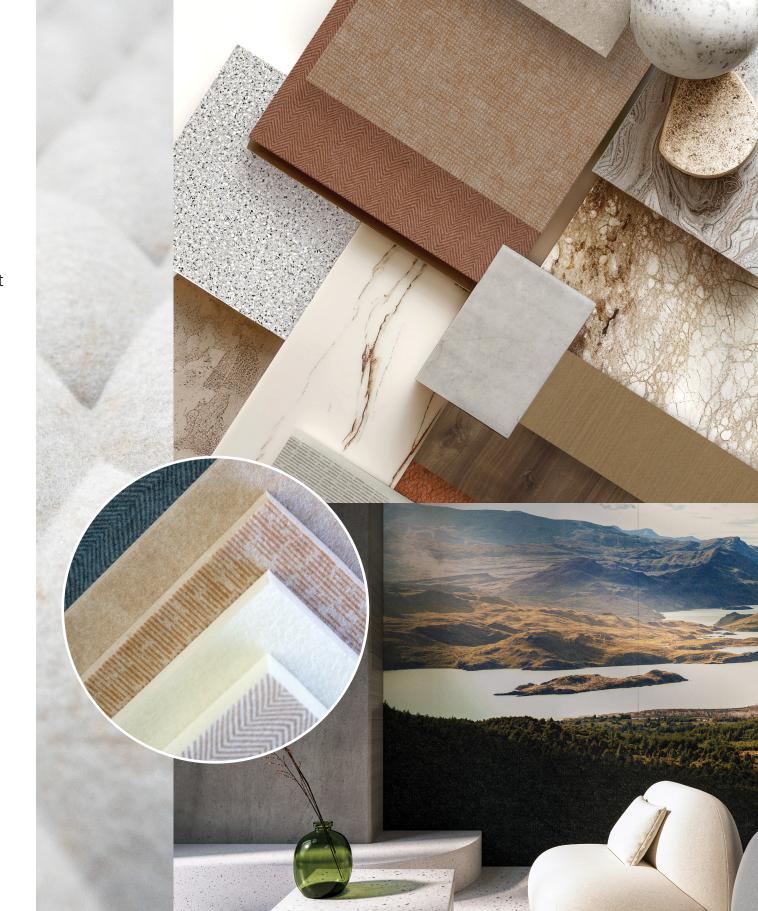
### **Cutting, forming and shaping**

CNC machines transformed our production, improving speed, consistency and reducing waste. Our biggest leap came with full-sheet embossing, a market first, which combined our wallcovering and acoustic expertise to create something truly unique. The 2024 release of Zintra Emboss used advanced 3D tooling combined with digital print, adding further sophistication and making texture as a design language in its own right.

### Material innovation with purpose

Zintra began as 100% virgin fibre to ensure colour, quality and cost consistency. By 2021, after years of research, we launched a 95% recycled content version with 5% PLA, setting a new market benchmark for sustainability.

Then came Enercee, a major innovation in aesthetic acoustic absorption. Beautiful and hard-wearing, it opened design opportunities in high-traffic environments from healthcare to public transport.



## Golden years together

#### Decoroll

Since 1980, Decoroll (formerly Decorative Coatings) has delivered the highest quality painting and decorative services in Melbourne, collaborating with Baresque for almost 45 years to bring craftsmanship, innovation, and timeless finishes to life.

"In those early days, most of our work came through the late Dario Zoureff, who regularly specified Baresque products for projects around the Caulfield area in Melbourne. Through Dario, we met the unforgettable Bill Pearce in the Dorcas Street showroom - a true old-school sales rep and quite the character.

When Bill retired, the fabulous Alexis Carter stepped in, bringing a breath of fresh air. She quickly mastered the entire product range, and together we shared many wonderful projects. One that stands out is the Presidential Suite at the Langham Hotel in Melbourne's Southbank - a high-quality installation completed just in time to welcome the American President of the day, and many other dignitaries since.

We look forward to continuing this fine relationship for many years to come. A big thank you to all the staff and management team, and especially to the Blaiklock family, for 50 years of excellence."







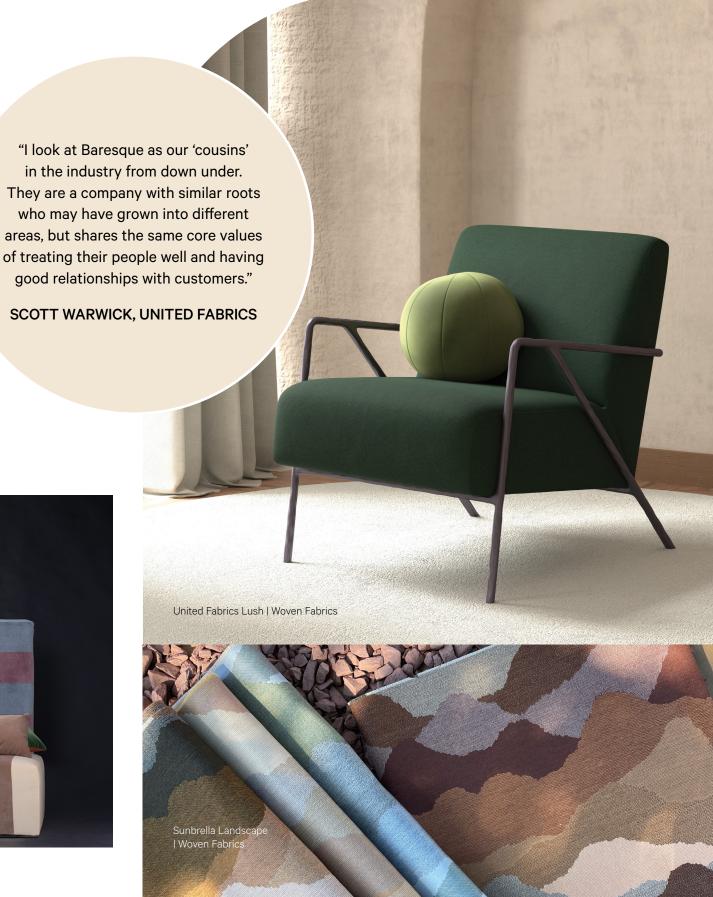
### **Built on trust**

#### **United Fabrics**

This year marks 30 years of partnership between Baresque and United Fabrics, dating back to July 21, 1995, when Baresque was in search of high quality vinyl upholsteries for demanding commercial applications. That search led to United Fabrics and the beginning of a trusted relationship.

Today, United is led by Scott Warwick and Bob Grobman, sons of the original founders - just as Baresque is now managed by the grandsons of its founder.

More than just suppliers, United Fabrics and Baresque have grown together as kindred companies, rooted in family values, built on trust and committed to doing right by their people and customers alike.





## **Embracing Acoustics**

In the late 2000s, open plan offices, collaborative classrooms and pared-back interiors were replacing carpeted and upholstered spaces. They looked great but were noisy. We saw the need for an acoustic solution that combined performance with design. The answer was Zintra, launched with a focused range of sheets, systems and desk panels in 16 colours.

Finding the right manufacturing partner took time and we upgraded our own fabrication to cut PET panels, allowing rapid turnaround. Entering as the fourth major market player we quickly stood out for being customer focused, cost effective and highly customisable.

Today Zintra is a global brand spanning baffles, tiles, sticks, digital prints and wall panelling in over 60 colourways. Our Digital Print technology delivers hyper realistic timber, concrete and more while new colours use advanced fibre construction for depth and flexibility. Made from 100% recyclable content, Zintra is a planet positive material for wellness driven spaces, earning multiple Best of NeoCon awards.

From wallcoverings to acoustics our journey has always been about listening to the market, embracing innovation and creating materials that inspire.







### Memories from Angus

In the early 2000s we were distributing architectural resin products like Lumicor, Panelite and Lightblocks. It soon became clear we needed to get into fabrication to better support the projects coming our way. At the time Brendan, JJ and my middle brother, had just started Firebrand Motorcycles next door in Artarmon. His business focused on customising sports bikes and he had a spray booth, the same one we still use today, plus an employee skilled in fabrication.

So we took a bold step and bought a CNC router, not your usual first machine and costing about \$100,000, but essential for the artisanal projects we wanted to make.

The learning curve was steep and full of memorable moments. We mastered invisibly gluing acrylic, a rare skill back then. One day I got distracted and left my laptop on the CNC bed and the router cut right through it!

Our original fabrication area is now used for sampling. After four years of managing noise, dust and fumes behind the office, we realised the need for a dedicated facility - which, fortunately, we found just across the road.

Angus Blaiklock







Design has evolved from the bold maximalism of the '70s and high-glam '80s to the calming minimalism of the '90s, the eclectic 2000s and today's balanced, thoughtful maximalism. Each era brought its own identity and for 50 years, Baresque has evolved with it, helping designers craft commercial spaces that tell stories, create experiences, and reflect culture.





## Looking into the future

As we celebrate 50 years of design, innovation and evolution, we're proud of the journey, but even more excited for what's ahead. The next 50? We're doubling down on bold ideas, integrity and a commitment to keep raising the bar.

So, what does the future hold for fabrics, wallcoverings and acoustics in commercial spaces? More than ever, it calls for a clear focus on sustainability, transparency and wellbeing.

Here's what that looks like for us:



Being upfront about our impact, because trust starts with transparency.



Designing for wellbeing, with solutions that help people feel good and work better.



Offering adaptable, customisable products that respond to changing workplace needs and emerging technologies.



Never compromising on performance or aesthetics - while embracing smart tech that adds real value.

At Baresque Group, we're listening, adapting and building what's next. Backed by a passionate team and a spirit of continuous innovation, we're ready to lead the next era of interior design solutions and sustainability across Australia and beyond.





## baresque group



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