

# FABRIC OF TIME

Söktas produces the exquisite materials on which empires and walk-in wardrobes are built

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHN SHORT SET DESIGNER: ANDREW STELLITANO SEAMSTRESS: PHILIPPA HOWDEN

A handmade shirt is a beautiful thing. Referenced by F Scott Fitzgerald in *The Great Gatsby* and James Salter in *Light Years*, a handmade shirt is the perfect signal of a man who has a proper grasp of the finer things in life, who might order half a dozen formal shirts and casual chemises in various tones and textures of petrol blue, in bespoke materials that blend fine Egyptian Giza cotton with linen, cashmere and silk, expertly tailored to the body, faithful to the detail, demands and proclivities of customer, finished with keen-eyed precision, fine detailing and pearl buttons.

Nothing feels or fits quite like a handmade shirt. Which is why bespoke shirt connoisseurs turn to companies like Söktas, a family-run Turkish textile manufacturer that has become a specialist in superior fabrics stocked by Savile Row and other leading tailors. It's an impressive operation; production is vertically integrated, from yarn spinning and twisting to dyeing and finishing. Development of original yarns and new blends enables the Söktas team to offer innovations and world firsts in fabrics, such as exceptional cottons blended with fine wool, silk and linen and a new super-premium cotton yarn, called Meander 71, made from a hybrid seed that produces a strong, fine, silky cotton fibre that rivals most Egyptian Giza varieties. The company's commitment to research, development, design and archiving means it has over 300,000 fabrics at its fingertips in various collections, including Noblesse and FastForward.

With a new warehouse now established in Biella in Italy, Söktas has chosen to launch Bespoke Selection, a unique collection of exclusive designs in classic colours and textures created for shirtmakers specialising in made-to-measure and bespoke. Only the finest Egyptian Giza and Meander 71 cotton types are selected to be spun into extra-fine yarns. These are the kind of super-high-end fabrics that would have had Jay Gatsby himself calling for his tailor.  
[www.soktas.com.tr](http://www.soktas.com.tr)

The Söktas Bespoke Selection comes in books, each with a story that tells what the fabric is suitable for. There are six books (Pride, Boardroom, In Season, Opulence, Timeless and Escape). We have chosen seven fabrics, one from each book, plus an extra, to make up our fantasy shirt.

01 PRIDE  
Fabric name: Tudor  
This is the finest selection of fabrics from the extra fine 140/2 collection.

02 BOARDROOM  
Fabric name: Majesty  
Fabrics in this line are immaculate, distinctively personal and ahead of the trends.

03 IN SEASON  
Fabric name: Bruton, Meander 71  
Fabrics in this line are cotton and cotton-blended shirtings, in rich seasonal colours.

04 OPULENCE  
Fabric name: Bridge, Meander 71  
Fabrics in this line are sophisticated, elegant and rich.

05 BOARDROOM  
Fabric name: Pasha  
See previous

06 TIMELESS  
Fabric name: Graf  
Fabrics in this line have exquisite structures in utterly classic colours with a soft, silky touch.

07 ESCAPE  
Fabric name: Alta  
Weekend luxury will have new meaning with shirts custom made from these fabrics.

