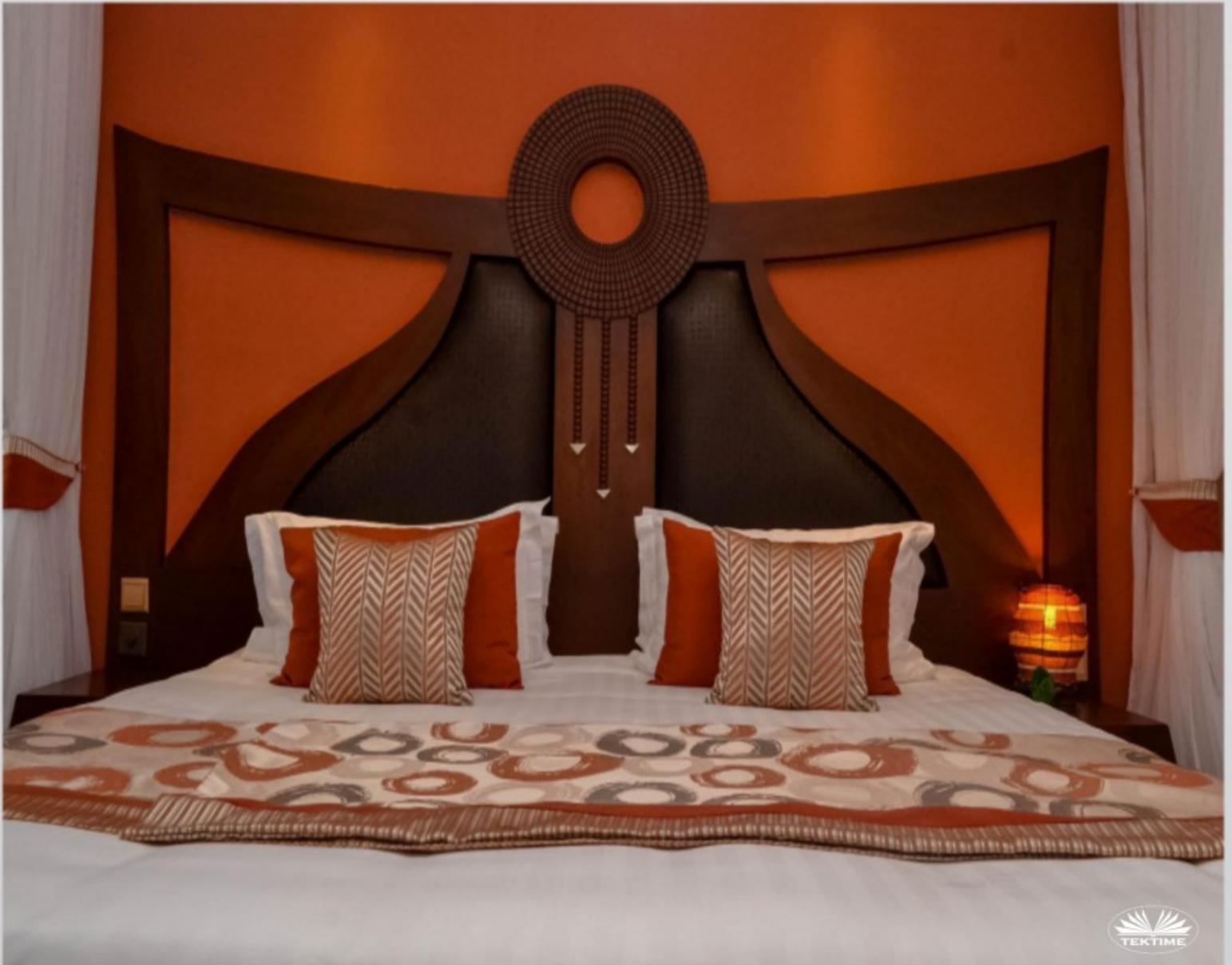


# *Blankets and Cushions*

by

Owen Jones



# BLANKETS and CUSHIONS

*The Items that comfort!*

by

**Owen Jones**

Published by Megan Publishing Services

<http://meganthemisconception.com>

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Hello and thank you for buying this ebook called ‘Blankets and Cushions’.

Blankets and cushions can be used to great effect as personalised, and personal items. People will keep a personalised baby blanket or cushion, and even leave it to their progeny. Such an item could easily become a family heirloom.

This aspect is easily ignored, but for a few hours work, or a small outlay, a God-parent or close family friend can give a present that will be treasured for generations.

It is a small price to pay for such a lasting gift.

I hope that you will find the information helpful, useful and profitable. Please be aware that I wrote the content of this ebook after a significant amount of research. You cannot buy this ebook anywhere else but from me. If you find that this is untrue, please give me the URL of the offending site, so that I can have it shut down for theft.

The information in this ebook on various aspects of blankets, cushions, bedding and related subjects is organized into 15 chapters of about 500-600 words each.

I hope that it will interest those who like the topics of bedding, throw cushions and decorative blankets of all kinds.

As an additional bonus, I am granting you permission to use the content on your own website or in your own blogs and newsletter, although

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## ***Decorative Bed Pillows***

Decorative bed pillows usually double as comfort pillows as well. A pillow is considered to be a support for the head in most of the English-speaking world, although in the USA, the words 'pillow' and 'cushion' seem to be largely interchangeable. So, to define it one way, a pillow would be the thing you sleep on, which would normally be under the duvet when the bed is made and decorative bed pillows would lie on top of the bed for show.

Bedrooms are much more open places now than they once were. In previous decades, bedrooms were secretive, almost like hide-aways and the bedrooms of people with children were probably piled high with stuff, because living space was precious and families larger. Nowadays, when you go into someone's house, you are more likely to see the bedroom doors wide open than tightly shut - it is almost as if the owner is inviting you to look into their inner sanctum.

I do not know what came first, either that people started doing their bedrooms up and then wanted to show them off or whether people decided to let more air and light into the bedroom and then had to do it up. Whichever came first, it is a welcome change to the bedrooms that I remember of my youth, which were usually cluttered and dark.

Whatever the reason, bedrooms look better now than ever before. The more widespread use of duvets has helped. I suspect that people used to keep the bedroom door shut if they had not made the bed. It took time to make a bed with sheets, blankets and a quilt, but a duvet can be just shaken and pulled back up.

Duvet covers are beautiful too and they normally co-ordinate with the pillows. However, people go further by adding extra pillows called decorative bed pillows. When the bedroom is pretty like this, people will use it as another room in the house, not just a room to sleep in.

Add to this the fact that many bedrooms contain a computer and it means that people want to make the bedroom attractive, because friends may come round to use the computer as well.

Kids often prefer to do their homework on the bed rather than at a table, so it is a good idea to provide decorative bed pillows on top of the duvet. These pillows are for lounging on and propping books up against,

not for sleeping on. Three or four decorative bed pillows on a bed can have quite an effect on the decor and ambiance of the bedroom.

Children tend to prefer bright, primary colours, so you could put three or four decorative bed pillows in yellow, blue, red and green to provide a splash of bright colour to their bedroom, while for your own bedroom, you could use a few beautifully embroidered or tapestry decorative bed pillows to add some more style.

You could turn providing ornamental bed pillows into a new hobby and embroider your own. I am sure that there will be kits or templates (patterns) to follow in handicraft shops, especially those that go in for quilting.

In fact, this approach to decorating or interior design is not new. Decorative bed pillows originated in Asia thousands of years ago when wealthy men used to lounge about on them, much the same as we think that many Arabs in tents do now and in those days everything was handmade. The idea of decorative bed pillows arrived in Egypt during the time of the Pharaohs, which we know because decorative bed pillows have been found in ancient Egyptian tombs.

So, when you lay out some decorative bed pillows for your family to lounge on, you can be proud of the fact that you are continuing a tradition that stretches back several thousand years.

## ***Chenille Throw Blankets***

The word 'chenille' has several meanings. It can mean a caterpillar, or a flower, but our meaning as in 'chenille throw blankets' is a type of fibre. Whereas wool comes from a sheep and mohair from a goat, chenille throw blankets can be made from almost anything from cotton to acrylic.

This is because chenille refers to a process, which makes a spectacularly soft fabric. This softness makes chenille throw blankets one of the most popular for babies and adults alike.

As I said above, the word 'chenille' also means 'caterpillar' (in French) and chenille yarn resembles a hairy caterpillar. It is this thick, 'hairy' yarn, which creates such wonderfully soft chenille fabric, which in turn is used in the production of chenille throw blankets.

Chenille has many uses and can be made from many materials. The most expensive is made from silk and the cheapest is made from acrylic. Some of the uses for chenille are in the manufacture of pipe cleaners, leg warmers, scarves, baby bonnets, curtains, throw blankets and quilts.

Chenille throw blankets and chenille quilts were very popular in the Seventies before people started switching to duvets for convenience. However, chenille throw blankets are much more adaptable than duvets.

A beautiful chenille throw blanket looks equally good thrown over a bed, a couch or a lawn for a picnic, whereas a duvet would look daft anywhere but on a bed.

Chenille is made by weaving short pieces of fluffy yarn between two long strands of yarn. These short pieces stick through the longer pieces giving the appearance of hairs. They are held in place by the long threads of yarn. The 'hairs' together with the padded yarn give chenille its characteristically extreme softness.

Because of the way it is woven, chenille can have different reflective properties when viewed from different angles. It can appear lustrous from one angle but dull from another.

There were no real industrial standards for the production of chenille until the 1990's although chenille had been in great demand since about the 1930's.

One of the problems with early chenille throw blankets was the fact that the short strands or hairs could work loose if the blanket was treated

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