

LEADING HIS FAMILY'S 160-YEAR-OLD N MILL, *RAYMOND LIBEERT* IS ON A MISSION TO G BELGIAN FLAX TO THE MODERN WORLD. WE WED HIM INTO THE FIELDS TO LEARN WHY THE PEOPLE'S FIBER IS THE FABRIC OF KINGS.

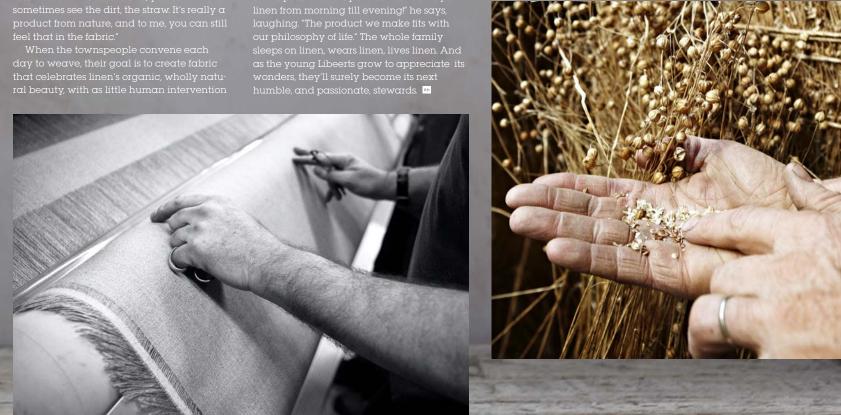
VANG WORDS BY CLAUDIA BAUER

"LINEN IS MY PASSION. MOST OF THE WORKERS AT OUR FACTORY ARE FROM THE VILLAGE, AND THEY HAVE A SISTER OR A BROTHER OR A GRANDFATHER WHO WORKED IN THE MILL. WE ALL LIVE WITH LINEN AND SHARE THE SAME PASSION."

evitage it represents Libeco bas ald arned the Masters of Linen designatic

hout Mother Nature's help. The retting

linen is immense. "There are so many ele-ments from nature that influence the fina result. Like in the raw fabric, you can still sometimes see the dirt, the straw. It's really feel t<u>hat in the fabric."</u>



"LINEN HAS SO MUCH CHARACTER. YOU HAVE TO TRY TO SHOW THE CHARACTER OF THE FIBER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN."

-Raymond Libeert

who worked in the mill. We a linen and share the sar referring to the weavers who grow the flax near tory in Meulebeke, a tow in the Belgian region of Fl For Raymond and his wife, . designs Libeco's collections, and t

have a sister or a brother or

Fifth-generation linen ma Libeert, an archetypal und if ever there was one, is zea

grandfather fo about linen every day.

Linen is my p at our factory are a

low Meulebekers, living with linen working in harmony with the land, can for the environment and supporting t community. Together they uphold a tradition

farm stewardship, natural cultivation sustainable production established of generations ago-the Me pecame a capital of lin owned linen is the moc and generous rainfall alo w the it irriac

oth fibe ional so

as possible. "For much of our production," sifying flax's innate, earthy hues. "Linen has so much character; you have to show the

haracter of the fiber as much as you can. After 30-plus years spent making the rold's finest linen_and as the purchase

