

RUGS

► DIE CUTTING

MASSIMO FENATI WAS ASKED TO DEVELOP A PRODUCT THAT USED ZPM'S DIE CUTTING FACILITIES. 'I'VE ALWAYS LOVED FELT FOR ITS WARMTH AND TACTILE APPEAL,' HE SAYS. 'SO I SUGGESTED WE COULD DO SOME FELT RUGS, MOVING THE DECORATION TO THE BORDERS TO REPLACE FRINGES.'  
[WWW.ISOSCOLLECTION.CO.UK](http://WWW.ISOSCOLLECTION.CO.UK)

► WEAVING

TASHI MURIK CUT OUT THE MIDDLE MAN AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE WEAVER TO COMMISSION A RUG TO YOUR OWN DESIGN. TIBETAN TASHI IS BASED IN LONDON, BUT HIS FAMILY WEAVES CARPETS OF FABULOUS QUALITY IN NEPAL USING NATURALLY DYED TIBETAN WOOL AND SILK. HIS SISTER HAS WOVEN RUGS FOR THE DALAI LAMA HIMSELF.  
[WWW.TASHIMURIK.CO.UK](http://WWW.TASHIMURIK.CO.UK)

# Whats afoot?

When the antiques market began to fall, so fell the market for handmade rugs and carpets. But thanks to the unusual marriage of contemporary designers and traditional weavers who fled from Tibet to Nepal in 1959, carpet-makers now have the world at their feet...

WORDS BY ROS WEAVER

► FELT PILE

WHY SHOULD A SHAG-PILE CARPET BE MADE OF STRAIGHT LENGTHS OF FIBRE WHEN IT COULD BE COMPOSED OF LEAVES, PETALS OR FLOWERS? TORO BOONTJE HAS DESIGNED THIS LITTLE FIELD OF FLOWERS FOR NANI MARQUINA, WHOSE SIGNATURE RUGS HAVE LENGTHS OF CUT FELT HOOKED THROUGH THE BASE TO CREATE A DENSE BED OF FOLIAGE.  
[WWW.NANIMARQUINA.COM](http://WWW.NANIMARQUINA.COM)



#### ◀ FITTED CARPETS

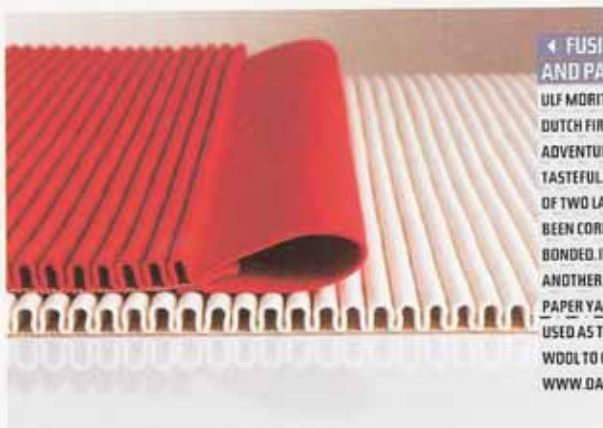
AS PART OF DESIGN-NATION'S EUREKA PROJECT AIMED AT MAKING FRUITFUL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DESIGNERS, MANUFACTURERS AND RETAILERS, OUTRAGEDUS GLASGOW DESIGN DUO TIMOROUS BEASTIES, WERE ASKED BY CARPET GIANT BRINTONS TO CREATE SOMETHING DIFFERENT. THE RESULTS PLAY WITH SCALE AND NOTION OF PATTERN AND SEEMS TO CREEP OUT FROM UNDER THE WALLS. [WWW.BRINTONS.NET](http://WWW.BRINTONS.NET)

#### ▶ RUG DESIGN SOFTWARE

EXPLORUG HAS CREATED NEW DESIGN SOFTWARE. YOU CAN EXPERIMENT WITH DIFFERENT DESIGNS FOR THE RUG YOU WANT MADE USING THEIR IDEAS – OR SUBMIT YOUR OWN. THE SOFTWARE CONVERTS THE FINALISED DESIGN TO PLAN THAT'S USED BY NEPALESE WEAVERS TO PRODUCE THE CARPET YOU WANT. [WWW.EXPLORUG.NET](http://WWW.EXPLORUG.NET)



RUGS



#### ◀ FUSION BONDING AND PAPER

ULF MORITZ'S DEVELOPMENTS FOR DUTCH FIRM DANSKINA ARE AS ADVENTUROUS AS THEY ARE TASTEFUL. DUNE IS A CARPET FORMED OF TWO LAYERS OF FELT THAT HAVE BEEN CORRUGATED AND FUSION BONDED. IT'S ALSO AVAILABLE AS TILES. ANOTHER DEPARTURE IS THE USE OF PAPER YARN, WHICH MORITZ HAS USED AS THIN STRIPS ALONGSIDE WOOL TO CREATE A SHAG PILE CARPET. [WWW.DANSKINA.COM](http://WWW.DANSKINA.COM)

Frequently containing a trove of arcane oriental mysticism and mystery, the rug has always been symbol of prestige in the West.

The ancient tradition of hand-weaving and knotting floor coverings has survived industrial advances, remaining unchanged for at least a thousand years. Oriental rug design has been impervious to change too, until recent years when the oriental rug market has seen the same decline as the antiques trade. The design world has slowly woken up to the possibilities offered by the humble floor covering whose design can determine the feel of a room.

Designers from diverse backgrounds are realising that virtually any design can be reproduced in rug form – usually hand-knotted in wool by the skilled Tibetan weavers of Nepal. Contemporary carpets made in this way, like their predecessors, can last for hundreds of years. But how many of the new designs will stand the test of time?

As we seek out ever more exciting ways to add dimension to a space, there is a drive to discover not only new iconography for the rug, but new materials and techniques with which to produce them. One might even say these carpets will be... ahem... flying out of the showrooms.



#### ◀ PERSIAN KNOTTING

STILE BK BEHROUZ KOLAH, AN ITALIANISED IRANIAN, HAS TAUGHT NEPALESE WEAVERS PERSIAN KNOTTING TECHNIQUES TO PRODUCE HIS SUMPTUOUS MADE-TO-MEASURE RUGS ON EARTHY THEMES. [WWW.STILEBK.IT](http://WWW.STILEBK.IT)