

COCO CHANEL: HOW SHE CHANGED THE INTERIOR DESIGN WORLD

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ABSTRACT ART

Patterned carpets are a practical choice in areas of high footfall. They show marks and wear less readily and add interest in rooms where there's a large expanse of floor. Traditional designs inspired by oriental carpet patterns are an all-time favourite, as are regular dot designs, checks and plaids, but the new generation of abstract and geometric carpets set out to appeal to those who prefer a more contemporary look. Repeating geometrics and interlocking patterns make a bold style statement, while new designs based on classic motifs such as scroll, Greek key and herringbone patterns are distressed for a softer effect and drawn in colours that reflect current trends for refreshing cool neutrals and pastel tones.



'Oyster Atholl Gardens' carpet, 80 per cent wool, 20 per cent nylon, £89.99 per sq m, Timorous Beasties Collection, Brintons
LEFT Handmade traditional shyrdak felted wool rug, 1.5 x 2.6m, £2,200, Felt

NATURAL TONES & TEXTURES

If you want flooring that feels warm and soft to the touch, is springy underfoot yet hard-wearing and is produced with low impact on the environment, wool is the natural choice. Arguably, most natural of all is carpet made from undyed wool. 'The wool for these carpets is prepared by washing in pure Yorkshire water,' says Shaun Lewis of Brockway, a carpet maker that uses wool from a variety of sources including British rare breed sheep. 'No dyes are used and all the colour comes from the natural tones of the fleece.' Carpets dyed in neutral hues often include shades that wouldn't appear naturally. Neutral shades and textured weaves are a winning combination and carpets with a loop pile, regular motif or overall random texture exude luxury.



'Eriskay' 100 per cent undyed wool carpet, £40 per sq m, Natural Tweed collection, Brockway RIGHT 'Wilton Svelte' in 'Stone', 100 per cent wool carpet, £143 per sq m, Crucial Trading

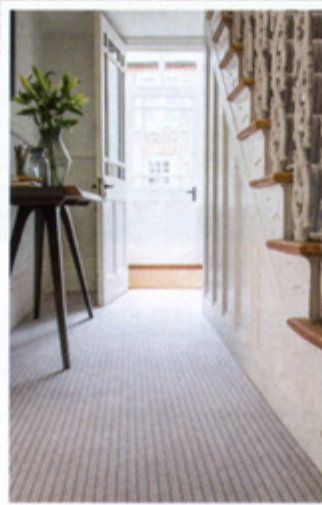


FINE LINES

Stripes have always been an interior design favourite as they offer scope to combine colours and produce interesting visual effects. 'In the context of a rug, graphic wide bands create a focal point and on the stairs, make a dramatic statement,' says Andy Guard, head designer at Roger Oates Design. 'Classic fine lines are more relaxing, adding texture and overall softness. Pick out individual colours for decorative accessories and paint shades.' Stripes can create optical illusions that have practical benefits, correcting the proportions of your living space. A long, narrow runner visually lengthens a room or hallway, while broad stripes running widthways across an area help to make it feel larger. The bolder the colour contrast between the stripes the more pronounced the effect.



'Camden Wool' carpet in 'Sienna Stripe', £34.99 per sq m, Carpetright
 BELOW 'Bouclé Neutrals' carpet in 'Sloane Steel', 50 per cent wool, 50 per cent polyester, £25 per sq m, Cormar Carpets
 RIGHT 'Westport' flatweave rug in 'Lichen', 100 per cent wool, 310 x 225cm, £2,065, Roger Oates



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