

# LIVING etc

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

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## *festive* STYLE

A sackful of ideas for  
a chic Christmas

**161**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**BUYS**  
BAUBLES,  
WREATHS,  
LIGHTS  
AND TREES

**PUNK-TASTIC!**  
THE ALTERNATIVE  
COOL YULE

*plus!*  
**ABIGAIL**  
**AHERN'S**  
**DECORATING**  
**SECRETS**

*winter*  
**WONDERLAND**  
SNOWY HOMES TO INSPIRE



RECALL: 2/15

# RUG SHOPS

*Furnish your floor with craftsmanship, cosiness and statement-making style*

## ANTHROPOLOGIE

158 Regent Street, W1 (020 7529 9800, anthropologie.eu) and Spitalfields, King's Road, Marylebone High Street and Richmond, plus a concession in Selfridges

### Best for: an inspired edit

Offering something of a capsule collection rugs-wise, this on-trend store doesn't disappoint. There's a distinctly folksy feel

to the decorative pieces it's chosen to champion, with imagery including birds and all things botanical skilfully brought to life in crewel work (that's raised embroidery to you and me). Other flat-weave patterned rugs have a tribal look. The designs would add welcome character to bare boards.

## BAZAAR VELVET

2 New King's Road, SW6 (020 7736 9693, bazaarvelvet.com)

### Best for: vintage patchwork

Utterly breathtaking rugs that have

been made using centuries-old techniques. Among the collection are both classic and *avant garde* designs made from silk and Himalayan wool. More than 700 of the beauties can be customised to suit your size, colour and texture requirements and you can also have a piece custom-made. Our favourites include the apparently seamless patchwork pieces, made from re-dyed vintage Turkish rugs.

## faq

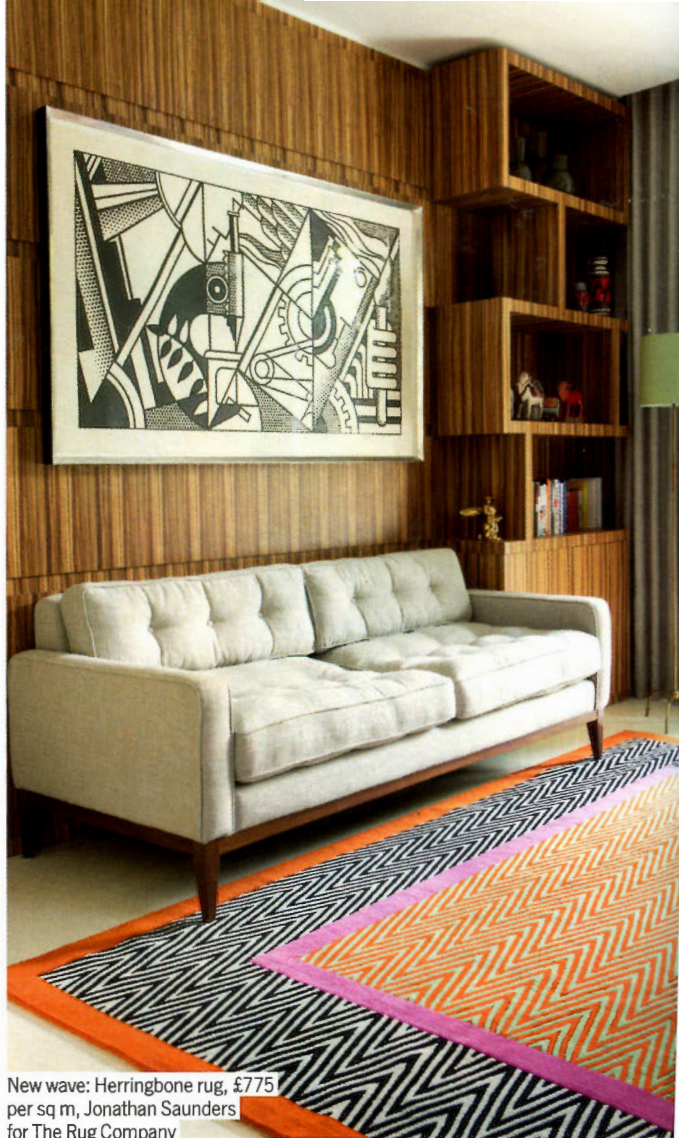
*What size rug should I choose? If it's for a small room, the bigger the better, as this will give the impression of space.*

## BELDI RUGS

Wellworth Studios, 115 Scrubs Lane, NW10 (07980 557 318, beldirugs.com), visit by appointment only

### Best for: Moroccan marvels

Those Berbers certainly know a thing or two about rugs. From monochrome Beni Ouarain designs so beloved by today's trendsetters to incredibly colourful Boujad styles, they have been creating cosy floor coverings from up in the Atlas mountains for many generations. You can get your hands on numerous vintage examples or order your own rug



New wave: Herringbone rug, £775 per sq m, Jonathan Saunders for The Rug Company

to ensure it's the perfect fit. Expect a lead time of approx eight weeks for the latter or make an appointment to check out the current stock in the northwest London showroom.

## CHRISTOPHER FARR

6 Burnshall Street, SW3 (020 7349 0888, christopherfarr.com)

### Best for: modern masterpieces

In business since 1988, Christopher Farr creates 'abstract wool canvases for the floor' using traditional techniques and a modernist eye for colour and form. He's not the only one who believes nothing's too good to walk on. Other well-known names sold here include Gary Hume, Terry Frost and Verner Panton and there's a limited edition of collectable pieces, though frankly, everything here will be cherished by its lucky owner. You can order something bespoke.

## DEIRDRE DYSON

554 King's Road, SW6 (020 7384 4464, deirdredyson.com)

### Best for: delicious colour

Each of the contemporary works of art sold here is made to order, so you can specify the size (up to 7.5 x 15m), colour

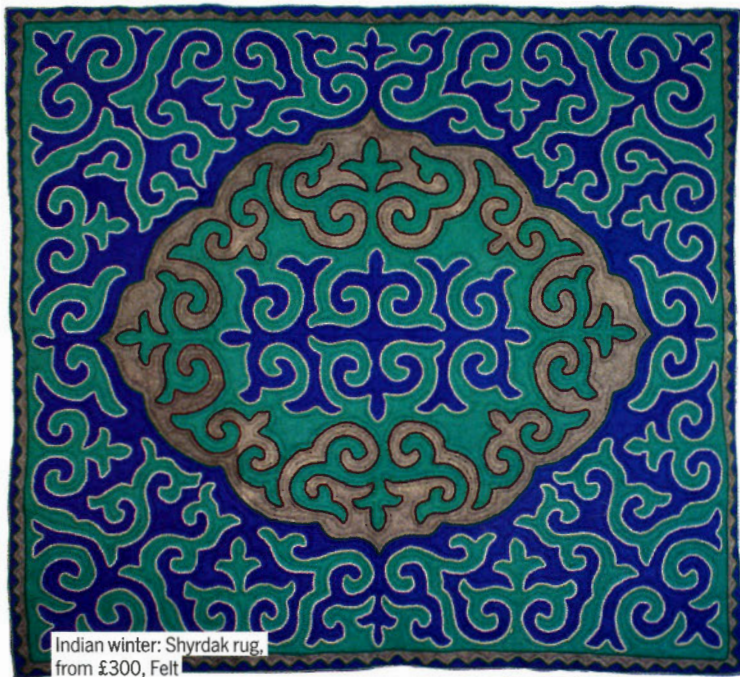
and pile height of your rug. You can even create your own original piece. A new collection is created every year adding to the available library of design – the hand-knotted rugs are created in Nepal from pure Tibetan wool, while the hand-tufted varieties are made in Britain. Check out Ruby No.94, which is sure to brighten up a winter's evening. Treat yourself to a visit to the four-store newly refurbished showroom/gallery to see the stunning colour and silk detailing for yourself.

## DESIGNERS GUILD

275-277 King's Road, SW3 (020 7351 5775, designersguild.com) and 76 Marylebone High Street, W

### Best for: attention grabbers

Legends of the fabric world, Design Guild knows what it takes to make a spectacular rug. The new Christian Lacroix collection includes wild zebra prints, ostentatious pattern and abundant displays of plant life. Bow before the royal collection, which will add instant gravitas to any room. There's also an in-house range of typically rich hues and on-trend imagery, as well as some fab cut-out rug designs for kids, including the Street and a Do-You-Think-He-Sau



Indian winter: Shyrdak rug, from £300, Felt

## ESSIE CARPETS

62 Piccadilly, W1 (020 7493 7766, [essiecarpets.com](http://essiecarpets.com))

### Best for: investment pieces

Enter an enchanting showroom where magic carpets are a speciality. With its numerous examples of exquisite Persian rugs, this is a popular destination for connoisseurs of this ancient art form. The selection includes overwhelmingly classic designs, woven on the loom in wool, cotton and silk. Choose from rich jewel-like hues or something from a more subtle palette. A cleaning and restoration service can pep up any neglected specimens you have, or keep your new rug looking lovely for longer.

## FELT

26 Glenfield Road, SW12 (020 8772 0358, [feltrugs.co.uk](http://feltrugs.co.uk)), visit by appointment only

### Best for: ancient craft

Want to add some interest and warmth to a wood floorboards? These traditionally made, felted Shyrdak rugs have been gracing the floorboards of yurts for more than 2,000 years. They're still made by hand in Kyrgyzstan by small teams of incredibly crafty women using dyes from roots and fruits. Patterns are geometric, sizes range from small to room-sized and colours are as vibrant or muted as you can imagine.

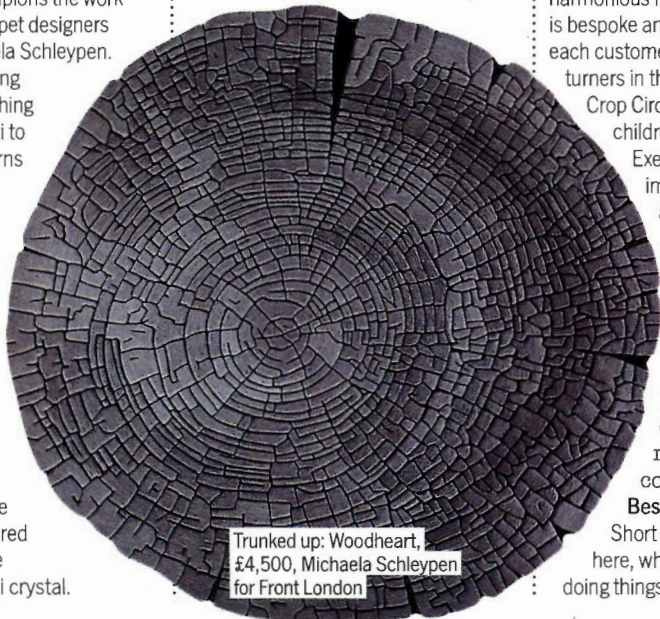
## FRONT LONDON

20 Bruton Place, W1 (020 7495 0740, [frontrugs.com](http://frontrugs.com))

### Best for: something 'sculptural'

Expect the extraordinary at this showroom that champions the work of award-winning carpet designers Jan Kath and Michaela Schleypen.

Kath's ground-breaking creations take everything from New York graffiti to classic Persian patterns as a starting point, adding distressed finishes to the luxury Nepal-woven pieces, which feature 100-450 knots per square inch. Schleypen is a leading light in rug sculpting and her *trompe l'oeil* designs include convincing wood. She also adds some inspired accents including the occasional Swarovski crystal.



Trunked up: Woodheart, £4,500, Michaela Schleypen for Front London

## HEAL'S

196 Tottenham Court Road, W1 (020 7636 1666, [heals.com](http://heals.com))

### Best for: ABC Carpet & Home

Before you book that ticket to NYC, it's worth knowing that our very own Heal's stocks the iconic American brand ABC Carpet & Home range too. It's an interesting company: it recently hosted a week-long residency in which Buddhist author Lodro Rinzler was made available for 'any New Yorkers who would like to share their story of heartbreak'. Enter to unload your emotional burdens, leave with a rug! Head to Heal's fabric department at the flagship store and swoon at the international offerings.

## JENNIFER MANNERS

55 Lonsdale Road, SW13 (020 7381 2584, [jennifermanners.co.uk](http://jennifermanners.co.uk)), plus 381 King's Road showroom, visit by appointment only

### Best for: geometry and more

Made-to-order rugs that are knotted, woven and tufted by hand from Himalayan and New Zealand wool. Repeat patterns add a classic air – think hexagons, zigzags and trellis effects – and there are plenty of styles inspired by nature. Ms Manners offers an interior design service, making her the perfect person to advise on the ideal rug for a particular room. You'll be pleased to know the company works with its manufacturers to ensure safe working conditions. Some beautifully subtle shades mean you'll be spoilt for choice.



Seriously psychedelic: Psyche, £795 per sq m, Deirdre Dyson

## LUKE IRWIN

20-22 Pimlico Road, SW1 (020 7730 6070, [lukeirwin.com](http://lukeirwin.com))

### Best for: ethereal creations

Had enough of shouty rugs that completely dominate any room they're put in? Luke Irwin's considered designs are all about bringing together the other elements of a space to create a harmonious mood. As such, every one is bespoke and personally created for each customer. There are some head-turners in the collection, including his Crop Circles and some whimsical children's designs such as Exercise, but the abstract imagery and on-trend ikats are our favourites.

## MATTHEW WAILES

Unit 0.15, Worlds End Studios, 132-134 Lots Road, SW10 (020 7349 7168, [matthewwailes.com](http://matthewwailes.com))

### Best for: pure luxury

Short cuts are not an option here, where there's a firm belief in doing things properly. Custom-made

carpets and rugs are the focus and the designs cover an extensive and impressive range. Choose from hard-to-find Arts and Crafts styles which would be great for a period scheme, bold-not-bloomy botanicals or intensely textural images – along with appealing geometric patterns and animal prints. Matthew Wailes also produces a collection of hand-loomed, 100 per cent cashmere bedspreads and throws. Yes, you are worth it.

## NODE

The Design Museum, 28 Shad Thames, SE1 (020 7940 8775, [designmuseumshop.com](http://designmuseumshop.com)), available to order

### Best for: animal magic

Eighteen artists are behind these utterly gorgeous, limited-edition fair-trade rugs. The designs include a squirrel by Donna Wilson, a folk art-style badger, the A Bit Lost Owl (of children's book fame) and other images ranging from woodland scenes to bright and beautiful tessellating shapes with a distinctly Seventies feel. Available through the Design Museum website or via its shop when the doors open early next year, there's also the option to design your own rug online and have it delivered to your door.

