



AREA RUGS

Interior Designer **Dolores Pian** shares her ideas.



DAVID NOSELLA INTERIOR DESIGN

Back in the 50s, 60s and 70s, families were very proud of their luxurious wall-to-wall carpeting, and in some cases, installed it up the wall. Slowly, wood plank flooring became the norm. In came the area rug.

Hard surface floors, whether stone, wood or laminate, can use an area rug to help define a space, mute noisy footsteps, camouflage worn or uneven floors or add warmth and cosiness to a space.

EVOLUTION OF CARPET

Carpet design is a huge industry and area rugs especially are a great way to add a bold statement, a splash of colour or a large pattern. While neutrals still dominate area rug purchases, more people are picking modern designs and brighter colours. Even traditional Persian motifs are getting a colour refresh.

Once furniture is placed on a rug, the rug pops enough to give your room some panache. Michael Pourvakil, owner of Toronto's Weavers Art, believes floors are a room's fifth wall, and another place to enjoy visual luxury.

Creative Matters, another Canadian company, designs custom area rugs for the rich and famous worldwide. Known for practical products with vibrant hues, they use as many as 50 different yarn colours for each unique rug.

Not only are carpets tufted and woven, they can be printed with the use of tiny ink jets. For example, Pantone, known for their colour matching, is using its ink-printing knowledge to produce playful and emotional colour combinations for the floor.

FLOR, a carpet-tile manufacturer, took their office products and recoloured and restyled them for the residential market. You can cut, mix or match any shape or size you need.

MATERIAL POSSIBILITIES

NATURAL FIBRE

Natural fibres singe and are naturally fire resistant, and include:

Wool: From sheep. Luxurious and durable. Fibre traits reduce visible soil. Hard wearing.

Silk: From the silk worm's cocoon. It has a sensual sheen and soft feel.

Jute / Sisal: Plant fibre. Has a strong, rough texture. Stains easily. Can turn mouldy when wet.

Cotton: Comes from a plant seed-pod. Stains easily. Not long wearing.

SYNTHETIC FIBRE

Synthetic fibres can melt or burn and include:

Nylon: A petroleum product. The hardest wearing and best looking of all the artificial fibres. Great appearance retention and wears well. Better resistance to crushing and matting. Great for high-traffic areas. Easy to clean.

Art Silk / Bamboo / Silk Viscose: Made of cellulose, which is a synonym for rayon. Crushes easily. Does not wear well. Difficult to get stains out.

Olefin / Acrylic / Polyester: Petroleum products. Resist fading. Chemical, moisture and stain resistant but crush easily. Low appearance retention.

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING

When selecting a carpet, focus on:

Appearance or newness retention.

Retention of original colour and texture.

Fibre properties, yarn characteristics, finishes and construction features.

Anticipated traffic levels.

CARPET CARE

Rotate: Balding will occur over high traffic areas, so turn rugs periodically or flip where possible.

Vacuum Regularly: Sand and dirt can act as micro blades sawing away at fibres, so vacuum regularly.

Pad: Using an under pad makes carpets soft and cushy, prevents slipping and sliding and protects the underside of the carpet, allowing sand and dirt to filter to the under pad and not scratch your floor.

Pets: Our four-legged furry friends can have accidents. Protect with a carpet sealant.

Beverages / Food: The worst offenders are red wine and blueberries. The 10-second rule does not apply. Send carpet to be cleaned, you'll be glad you did.

DESIGN TIPS

Choose your rug before you've chosen fabrics for your drapes and sofa. It's difficult and nearly impossible to find an area rug to coordinate with an existing colour scheme.

Let the carpet reveal your ideal colour scheme. Use carpet colours to pick your fabrics and paints.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CARPETS?

Look for intelligent rugs that can detect your fall and then call for help.

Net-works by Interface recycles fishing nets from the Philippines to create carpet tiles, providing work for small fishing villages and cleaning up their beaches.

Know that area rugs are now the fifth wall of your room, lying under your feet – there to make your feet and your visual senses happy! **OH**

- 1. **FLOR:** Parallel Reality Carpet Tiles
- 2. **CREATIVE MATTERS INC.:** Custom Wool and Silk Handknotted Rug
- 3 & 4. **ORIENTAL WEAVERS:** Pantone Universe Prismatic Rugs
- 5. **WEAVERS ART:** Cliffs & Clouds Rug

