

RIVIERE

Exquisite custom rugs, handcrafted in India and Nepal



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Caumont Bronze from the Abstract collection; Bellagio Bronze from the Geometric collection; Samarkand from the Modern Classic collection; close-up of Trevi Bronze from the Abstract collection

For the last 14 years Camilla and Leo Riviere have been designing custom rugs which are handcrafted in their own workshop in the Kathmandu valley of Nepal and also in Rajasthan. Inspired by extensive travels in Europe and Asia, and with backgrounds in art and design, the couple founded Riviere in 2005. Since the beginning, their idea has been to combine craftsmanship and creativity to produce original rugs that will last for generations.

In an increasingly mass-produced world, Riviere has positioned itself within the highly-skilled artisan tradition. Using only finest-grade, hand carded and handspun Tibetan wool with pure Chinese silk, the rugs are handwoven with a minimum of 100 knots per square inch. (The wide range of other knot counts and yarns available includes mohair, nettle, linen and botanic silk.) From the hand dyeing of the natural yarns to the highly labour-intensive weaving process, every stage is carried out by craftsmen using techniques that have been passed down through families for generations.

Today, Riviere has a collection of more than 90 designs and each one can be customised with a choice of colour, size, shape and materials. In addition, the company provides a colour matching



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service and an extensive library of more than 2000 colour tufts at their showroom on Lots Road in the heart of London's Chelsea Design Quarter. Working closely with some of the leading interior designers in the UK and worldwide, Riviere also offers a fully bespoke design service that gives the industry scope to create one-off pieces for their clients: rugs from Riviere's Modern Classic, signature Geometric and understated Element and Abstract collections have been commissioned for mansions and superyachts around the world.

Camilla and Leo's work is influenced not only by their appreciation of art, architecture and interiors, but also by a reverence for craft forms such as fabric prints, wood carvings and fretwork. Several of their designs take inspiration from artists they admire – the Moma, Rothko and Raku rugs pay homage to Mark Rothko – while the pattern on their Nam Khong rug was influenced by wood carving at the Buddhist monks' quarters at Wat Xieng Thong in Luang Prabang, Laos. The couple continually works on developing new techniques that will translate their design concepts into rug form.

Although they avoid following trends, Camilla and Leo have noted the revival in Modernist and Art Deco styling, in which soft furnishings such as rugs are experiencing a moment in the spotlight. There is also a greater emphasis in the industry on traditional patterns such as those found in ikat motifs or damask weaves, which Riviere often references to create an antique look. Their latest collection focuses on texture, and abrash (the colour variations in hand knotted and Oriental rugs), pushing the boundaries of custom dyeing and complex weaving to the limit. Like the rest of their collections, these are unique pieces of floor art, designed to become modern classics and perfect for use in both contemporary and traditional schemes.



PHOTOS: ZOFFANY AND JAMES HARE

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