

# Magic Carpet

AFTER A YEAR THAT REALLY PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER US, NEW CARPET TRENDS COULD HELP US FEEL GROUNDED AGAIN  
BY SHERI RADFORD

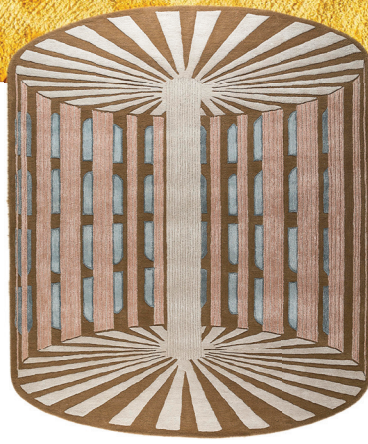


If there's one thing we've all done a lot over the past 12 months, it's stay at home. A lot. Everyone has felt the effects of the pandemic on how we work, study, entertain ourselves and connect with others. It's also affecting how we decorate our houses and condos.

According to local interior designer and stylist Jennifer Scott, "Now that we're spending all this time at home, without our travel budgets, we're reinvesting that into really enjoying our space." She says that luxurious rugs made from silk or a silk blend are especially popular these days because of their wonderful texture. "They offer that kind of elevated feel underfoot." In particular, she recommends the selection at **Pacific Rug Gallery**.

Tara Fraser of **East India Carpets** has noticed similar trends during the pandemic. She says, "Various textures and warm colours are in demand right now. I think that creating a beautiful retreat amidst all the chaos and uncertainty helps people feel optimistic and grounded."

Interesting textures are just part of the appeal of a new collection launched by **The Campaign for Wool**. This global endeavour, which raises awareness about wool's many benefits, teamed up with interior design expert Sarah Richardson and



handmade rug designers **Creative Matters Inc.** to create two rugs and one runner out of 100 per cent Canadian wool. The results look gorgeous and feel amazing underfoot—plus wool is renewable and biodegradable, and it helps to improve air quality by quickly absorbing common pollutants. Find them online at [sykes-ainley.ca](http://sykes-ainley.ca).

**Bed Bath & Beyond** is another place to find rugs that simply feel good under your feet. Bare-skin rugs, you might even call these fun pieces made from fur or faux fur.

When it comes to colours, Scott is seeing a demand for rugs in both classic neutrals and "moody" neutrals. "We're talking about the rich, woody colours, the saturated moss greens, the heavier warm browns and even the stock blacks and charcoals." She says these colours "ground the room and bring a sense of nature into the space."

A new rug launching this month at **Ikea** incorporates classic neutrals. The lightweight Rödask rug has a jacquard-woven pattern, and it's made from a blend of sustainable cottons.

The two **Pantone** colours for 2021—Ultimate Gray and Illuminating—are also influencing and reflecting colour choices this year. Pantone describes Ultimate Gray as "emblematic of solid and dependable elements which are everlasting and provide a firm foundation" and Illuminating as "a warming yellow shade imbued with solar power." Scott says that Illuminating is a muted yellow, which bolsters her assertion that 2021 is more about "small hints of colour" than anything overly bold or playful. The **Minotti** Dibbets diagonal rug at **LivingSpace** neatly epitomizes the two Pantone colours.

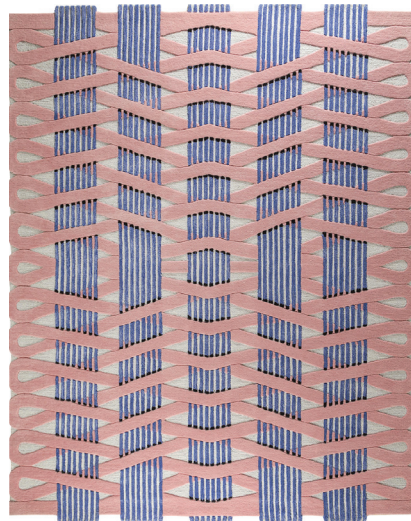
Another trend that Scott has noticed lately is an increased interest in rugs sourced from around the globe. "More than ever, we're looking for that sense of story. Since we can't travel, I'm finding a lot of clients are looking for things that have an inspiration taken from somewhere else in the world." She sums it up as the desire for a "sense of global connection at home."

Scott herself has always been drawn to vintage Moroccan and Turkish rugs, so she loves introducing her clients to the unexpected joys of these hand-woven creations: "You get the imperfections that really do let you know that those rugs have already had a lifetime of story by the time they get to you."

**EQ3** carries several eye-catching pieces from India. The Shrine rug is made from Ghazni yarn that's been knotted by hand, while the Shore and Tofino rugs are made from wool on looms.

Unique, show-stopping rugs are also in demand at **East India Carpets**, especially vibrant and contemporary transitional rugs. Fraser notes, "These carpets marry the beauty of traditional design with the rich, vivid colours of the new world, which, in turn, create a stunning art piece in any space."

Luxurious textures, rich neutral colours, eye-catching patterns—the rugs of 2021 may be exactly what you need to refresh your home décor. 🍷



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