

HOMEDĚC[®]

HOME DECOR TRENDS

Cushy up with Cushions

Home Treasures

Ways with Ikat

Treat Up Your Windows

Curtains and drapes with a dash of colour add character to any room

Bamboo Beauty

A combination of materials provides a distinctive identity for a bungalow

10 *Sizzling Textile
Print Trends for 2012*

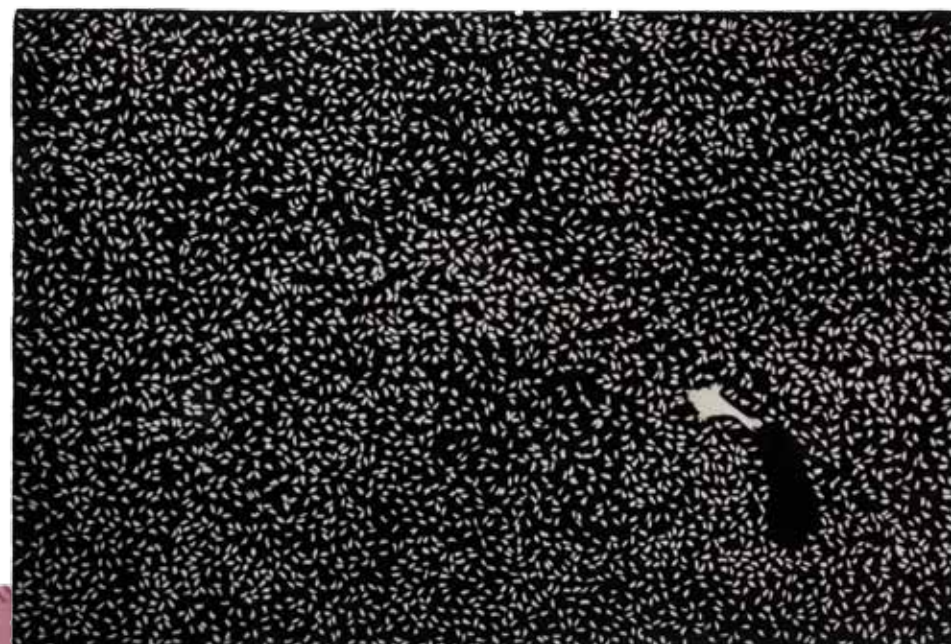


in conversation with... ...Andrea Galimberti

SHAMINI MANICKAVASAGAM caught up with Andrea Galimberti, Managing Director and owner of NODUS, for a chat



Pompon by Matali Crasset
Hand-tufted | wool | India



▲ **Looking for Seeds by Matteo Ragni**
Hand-tufted | wool | India



Patio by Liliana Ovalle
Hand-tufted | wool | India



▲ **Circus by Estudio Campana**
Hand-knotted | hemp & rag dolls | Nepal



Roots by Matali Crasset
Hand-knotted | wool | Nepal



Migration Aquila by Forma Fantasma
Needlepoint | wool | Portugal

When the ancient knowledge of carpet design chance upon the vision of the most innovative designers and architects, rest assured a blissful marriage between design and art materialises. NODUS (nodusrug.it) is a creative and cultural lab for experimentation and projects that unites the aforementioned, bringing you exquisite pieces of hand-knotted rugs.

Tell us about NODUS

NODUS is an emanation of Il Piccolo, a major name amongst custom-made furnishing brands as well as design and refurbishment of interiors in Italy. Over the last 40 years, Il Piccolo has worked with the most prestigious and innovative names of fashion ranging from Versace, Roberto Cavalli to Frank Muller and John Galliano. Il Piccolo uses only valued materials and together with selected artisans, has positioned its name to be a reference point in the world market. NODUS mirrors the same values and features. My business partner, Massimiliano Galimberti, and I run NODUS.

What is NODUS's philosophy in creating exclusive, handmade rugs?

The CEO of PPR (formerly known as Pinault-Printemps-Redoute), François-Henri Pinault once said, "Luxury is the meeting between a vision of the future which surprises and a comprehension of the past which reassures." Our philosophy is the same. We have created and conceived four collections of unique pieces. Each rug from NODUS's collections is exclusive, right from the sole hand-made graph to the final product. The result is a collection of rugs that outlines a new horizon of shapes and colours that unhinges established borders and transcends traditional patterns.

So all rules are broken?

All except for one. The rugs are hand-woven, knot-by-knot.

How does NODUS develop a project?

We decide the definition of the rug, costs and production time, all of which are in accordance with the manufacturing technique. The first step is to make a sample to check the conformity with the requested characteristics. Superior quality materials such as wool, silk, hemp, linen and banana silk, among others, are selected. As for colours, one can count on 1200 colours of wool, 700 colours of silk and viscose, plus a myriad of other samples in different techniques. Everything is meticulously planned, giving customers an 'on demand' solution. To be constantly up-to-date, the work's progress is documented in pictures.

Is there more to a rug than just aesthetic appeal?

A rug has many unexplored potential. You can unleash its potential and view them in a different perspective

by either treating them as a piece of art or cultural representation. Rugs have always been a part of a local culture, often with a message that translates through its design. Bearing this in mind, NODUS started to create rugs that mirror culture albeit in a contemporary tapestry.

As an expert and an international acclaimed authority in all things rugs, what can you share with HOMEDĚC readers when it comes to choosing rugs and/or carpets?

First ask yourself if you want to buy a hand-knotted or a hand-tufted rug. Although both are made by hand and are superior, hand-knotted rugs require more skill, labour and time. It costs more than a hand-tufted rug but it's much more durable. A hand-knotted rug clearly shows you the knots at the back of the carpet. If you see fabric, then it's hand-tufted. Also, avoid synthetic materials. They look inferior and unappealing. I personally love natural fibres, especially wool.

A durable rug to you would mean?

It can mean many things but let's start with the materials. The better the material the more durable the rugs. For hand-knotted rugs, it's the density of knots per square inch that matters. The higher the density, the better the durability. Also, most manufacturers use chemical dyes instead of vegetable dyes. I feel that the difference is purely aesthetic and in terms of durability, it's the same.

How different is NODUS compared to its contemporaries?

It's the study of the culture where the rugs have been woven and the partnership with the local people, without whom it would be impossible to create our masterpieces. I also inject the European way of thinking and working into their traditional and artisan manufacturing process.

Most home owners from the East, especially from Asia, take out their rugs for special occasions as they do not want to wear them out. Can we still preserve its look if it's perpetually on the floor?

A visual treat should be enjoyed everyday and not during occasions. And the question of wearing out a rug can be put to rest if your rug is of good quality.

A good rug can last your whole life with just a few tricks. Change its position twice a year; send it to professional rug companies for a thorough wash and repair (if necessary); never fold the rug, and do not vacuum your rugs too often. If you must vacuum your rugs, do it delicately.

What are the carpet/rug trends that will define 2012?

I have a strong hunch that we will be seeing a lot of eco-friendly and animalier designs.

Tell me something about yourself that is mirrored in your profession?

I am determined, creative and as eclectic as the NODUS collections.

In a nutshell, can you describe your job?

It's creative, amusing, intense and never ending.

As the person behind NODUS, where do you draw your inspirations from?

Art and contemporary culture from all over the world.

How do you use rugs as a decorative piece at home?

It depends on the project and the mood of the house. It's not just about the pattern but the true meaning that transcends. Does it tell a story or does it reflect your personality, culture or interest? If it does extend beyond aesthetic appeal, then it is the best rug for you – whether on the floor or hung on the wall. ■



Clockwise from left: Anna Bartoli, Massimiliano Galimberti, Carlo Bartoli, Andrea Galimberti & Paolo Bartoli on the **Annapurna rug** (a part of Himalayan Undyed). Bartoli is the design studio of the Himalayan Undyed project. The Himalayan Undyed is a project of rugs, handmade in Nepal, using only Himalayan wool, not dyed and knotted on a cotton warp.