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FLOOR
FILLERS

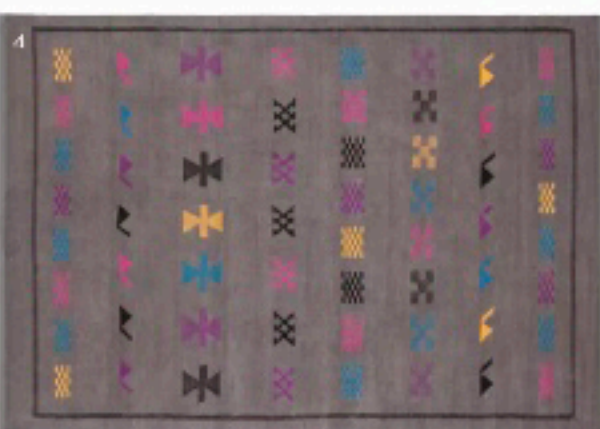
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3



1 Party animal rug, £POA, Circu 2 Graffiti 1 rug, £1,070, Mineheart 3 Schema rug, from £275 per sq.m, Rug Artisan 4 Moroccan-style chenille kilim rug, £59, Cult Furniture



Landscape red rug, from £2,809, Sonya Winner Studio

High-impact rugs

Award-winning British interior designer Matthew Williamson gives us the lowdown

WHAT'S TRENDING?

Contemporary splashes of colour and asymmetrical patterns are trending quite heavily at the moment. However, when investing in a rug, it's important to buy what you love, not just what's in fashion. The most important thing to bear in mind when making a decision is longevity in style, not current trends. A beautiful rug can give you a palette or a sounding board for the rest of the room, and can be a constant through many refurbishments. With a colourful, vibrant rug, you could pick out specific colours from the weave and take them onto the walls, into the soft furnishings and even up onto the ceiling for a dramatic look, again and again.

WHAT SIZE?

Generally speaking, it makes sense to scale up. Avoid rugs that might feel too small, as these will just float in your room with no context. Alternatively, you can double up with two different rugs to create a larger floor covering. This also presents the opportunity for some delightful colour and pattern clashing!

How to... BUILD A BUG HOTEL



Insects will soon be looking for a place to hibernate in winter. **A bug hotel provides a safe space away from predators** so they can lay their eggs. Insects keep pests away: by spring, plants will be free from aphids thanks to these bugs.

The hotel needs pockets where different insects can stay. Use wood for a simple structure; create rectangular boxes, stack them on top of one another and fill with eco-friendly materials.

Wooden pallets are great to section off, saving you time and labour. Have a different floor for each of your guests.

The aim is to make a dry and warm area to attract the insects, so collect dead grass, dry leaves, pine cones, bark, wood, bamboo sticks, soil and sand. **Different materials attract different insects** - ladybirds like dry leaves, sticks and pine cones; spiders and beetles appreciate bark; bees prefer bamboo tubes.

Most bugs need a cool and moist environment, ideally, somewhere **in the shade**. If your hotel's for bees, though, place it in the sun.

From gardenbuildingsdirect.co.uk



Glacier Rock outdoor fabric (on seat), Gypsum Rock and Delta Rock (for cushions), all from £70. Andrew Martin



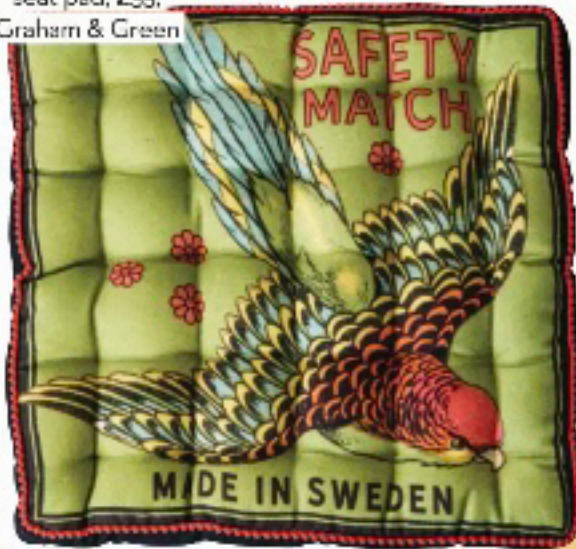
IN A KNOT

- 1 Cashmere blanket, £500, Tartan Blanket Company
- 2 Asmund Gradient blanket, £199, Catalog Interiors
- 3 Persian-style reversible outdoor rug, £58, Rockett St George
- 4 Factions outdoor rug, £POA, Rug Artisan



EXTERIORS

Parrot Matchbox
seat pad, £35,
Graham & Green



Big softies

Outdoor living in summer is a breeze. But what about the rest of the year? Fire-pits and heat lamps (infrared is less damaging in eco terms than gas) can take the sting out of cooler days and nights, but modular sofas, loungers and benches will make your space truly welcoming. If these are upholstered in fabrics specifically designed to shrug off harsh weather, so much the better – we've found gorgeous designs treated to resist water, mildew, stains, abrasions and UV rays. So what to choose? Either go for seamless uniformity with the colours and prints that are already indoors, or contrast entirely – everyone's inner artist needs space for self-expression. No fire-pit? Rugs and throws will keep things warm, and seductive lighting is all you need for ambience.

Aikana armchair, from
£1,418, and two-seater
sofa, from £1,969,
langram



Aparima lounger,
£1,495, Coco Wolf

Cushions in outdoor
fabrics (Kama Tawny,
SJA Autumn and Mezzo
Henna), LPOA, Sunbrella



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