

MAKE YOUR DREAM HOME A REALITY

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REAL HOMES 243

IDEAS FOR YOUR DREAM CHRISTMAS AT HOME

MAKE IT MAGICAL

CHRISTMAS STYLE FOR INSTANT SPARKLE

BE OUR GUEST

EASY WAYS TO UPDATE YOUR SPACE FOR VISITORS

ISSUE 243

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FUTURE

PROJECT ADVICE

- ▷ OPEN-PLAN LIVING
- ▷ STUNNING LOFT CONVERSIONS
- ▷ WOW-FACTOR EXTENSIONS

BEFORE + AFTERS

60 PAGES OF AMAZING MAKEOVERS

LET IT GLOW

STEP INSIDE OUR PICK OF THE BEST FESTIVE HOMES



FOCUS ON

Carpets

Treat your feet – and your room – to a floor covering that feels and looks great with this round-up of stylish, easy-care carpets

BEST FOR MAKING A STATEMENT ↓

Let the floor be the fifth wall of your home by opting for a carpet with attention-grabbing stripes and warming colours. Repeating its hues in soft furnishings is all that's needed to pull the scheme together. Eighty per cent wool mix in Twickenham, Dimensions Plain Stripe range, £46 per m², Brockway Carpets



BEST FOR ← **HEAVY WEAR**

Carpet that's made to last is essential for family living spaces. This classic version is suitable for extra-heavy domestic use and has a textural twist finish. It comes in enduringly appealing neutrals. Excellon polypropylene in Cloudy Bay, Primo Grande range, around £27 per m², Cormar Carpets

BEST FOR → **CONTEMPORARY** **STYLE**

Opt for a modern take on patterned carpet. This random stripe design is hard-wearing enough to be used in halls and on stairs as well as living spaces for a continuous finish. It is made from stain-resistant and easy-to-clean artificial fibres. Admiral Wilton polypropylene in navy/grey, £24.99 per m², Carpetright



THREE TOP TIPS Pick the right carpet for every room with our guide to their fibres, styles, and textures

NATURAL OR NOT?

Wool's a sustainable material with a pleasing look and warmth. Choose from luxurious, and usually more costly, pure wool, or mixes with artificial fibres blended in for resilience and durability. Wool is dirt resistant, but artificial fibres are easier to clean so manmade carpet can be better in homes with kids and pets. Modern versions can have a silky texture, too.

UNDERFOOT FEEL

Velvet pile appears smooth, while twist looks more textural. Velvet is usually the finish of a patterned carpet. Loop pile has – no surprise – a looped finish which helps it look like a 'natural' flooring like coir or sisal. Be aware that pets' claws can snag on these loops. Shorter pile generally wears better than longer pile, but the latter feels more indulgent.

BUYING SAVVY

Carpets come in different gradings for wear: go for heavy domestic for living spaces, halls and stairs. Bedroom carpets don't get the same footfall so you can try a lower rating. Budget for underlay when buying. It improves fit and increases carpet lifespan. To get the benefit of a consumer code backed by Trading Standards, pick a Carpet Foundation retailer.



BEST FOR ← SILKINESS

This carpet's made from a fibre that's designed to feel like silk without the fragility of the natural fibre, so it's durable and easy to maintain. Choose from five other shades or this exquisite blue-green, which has been matched to walls for a cocooning scheme. Teksilk in Barcelona, the Serenade collection, £65.31 per m², Elements London

BEST FOR YOUNG ↓ FAMILIES

Choose a design that will stay looking good in the face of spills when there are little ones in the house. Made from polyester, this design is bleach-cleanable, and has a lifetime stain guarantee, but looks like velvet with a sumptuous feel. Lasting Romance in Truffle, the Love Story Collection, £32 per m², Abingdon Flooring



BEST FOR SPACE ↑ ENHANCEMENT

Stick to pale shades to make a room appear bigger. This design is easy to clean, including with bleach if necessary, so you shouldn't ever need to worry about the practicality of opting for a light-coloured carpet. Sirius polyester carpet, the Celestial range, from £24 per m², Victoria Carpets

BEST FOR → SMARTNESS

A combination of pinstripes on a herringbone ground will give any space a tailored finish. This flooring is made from flat-weave runners that can be joined to create made-to-measure carpet as well as used for a staircase. Fairfax Prussian in 100 per cent wool, 70cm wide, £129 per linear metre, Roger Oates Design



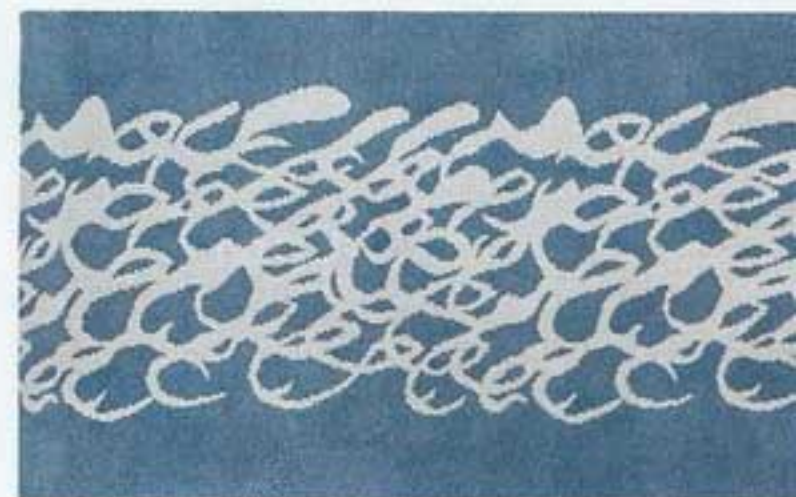
FINISHING TOUCHES

A runner can brighten up the floor in a moment, or turn a staircase into a feature. Check out three of our favourites



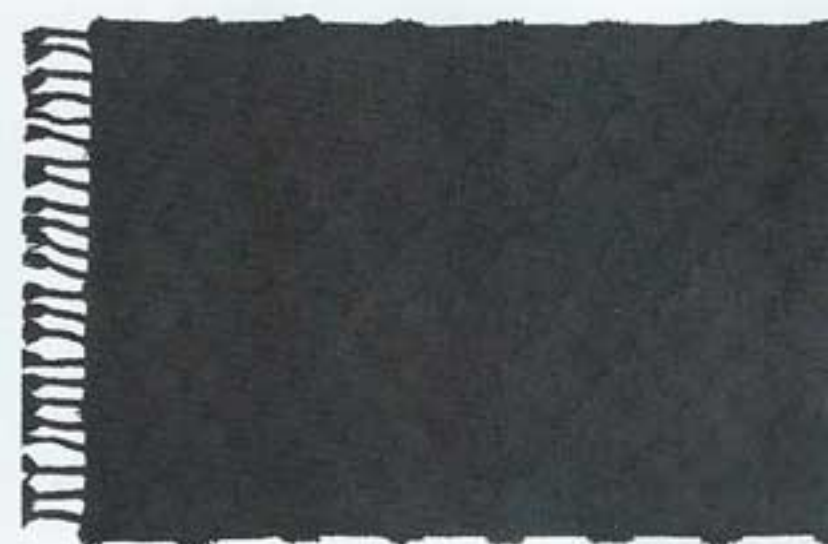
ZIG AND ZAG

Add zing to a living space or bedroom with this brilliant stripe in practical polypropylene. Spectrum Bolero runner in multi, £51.97 for 60x230cm, Woven



NATURAL STYLE

Designed by Ella Doran, this wool stair runner is a work of art in this blue/stone or a black/ecru colourway. Waterlake 69cm wide, £110 per linear metre, Alternative Flooring



SHAGGY PILE

Create contrasting texture in a room scheme with the raised pattern of this flat-weave runner. Rossio in Mondego, £79, Sofa.com