

RIVIERE

Exquisite rugs, custom-designed and handcrafted in Nepal



For Camilla and Leo Riviere it all started 16 years ago in Sweden. Inspired by extensive travels in Europe and Asia, and with backgrounds in art and design, this is where the couple set up their company, Riviere. Having found a partner – a workshop in the Kathmandu Valley of Nepal – they began by creating a small sample collection of hand-knotted custom rugs that sold at interior boutiques in Stockholm. Their signature look combining wool and silk in understated neutral colours was a huge success and, two years later, they launched in the UK.

In an increasingly mass produced world, Riviere is proud to be part of a highly skilled artisan tradition. From the hand dyeing of the yarns to the highly labour intensive weaving process (rugs have a minimum of 100 knots per square inch), their rugs

are produced using age-old traditional techniques passed down through the generations, with each step of the painstaking process carried out by hand. Made from only the finest sustainable materials, such as hand spun Tibetan wool from sheep reared in the nearby Himalayas, pure Chinese silk and biodegradable botanic silk, each piece has a low impact on the environment (wool is one of the most eco-friendly fibres of all). The design process is lengthy, and involves choosing the scale of the pattern and colourisation as well as multiple samplings which can take months to perfect.

Inspiration comes from everywhere – nature, architecture, old paintings, fabrics – and Riviere has a collection of more than 100 designs to suit all tastes and styles of interior. Each one can be customised with a choice of colour, size, shape and materials. In addition, the company provides a colour matching service

and an extensive library of more than 2,000 colour poms at their showroom on Lots Road in the heart of London's Chelsea Design Quarter. Working closely with leading interior design practices worldwide, the company also offers a fully bespoke design service that gives the industry the scope to create one-off pieces for their clients.

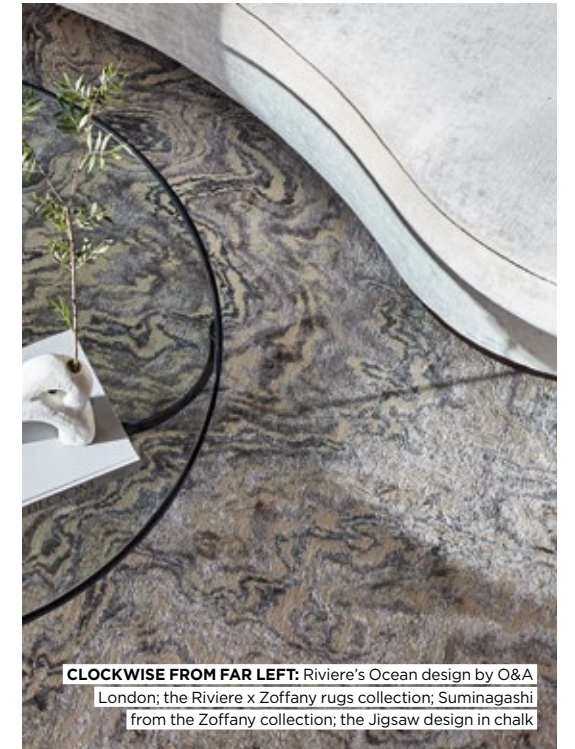
Whereas in the past all collections were developed internally, in 2019 Camilla and Leo began collaborating with select artists and interior designers on a series of exciting projects. They kicked off with the Caledonia collection of rugs designed by award-winning duo Anna Agapova and Oleg Klodt, who are behind O&A London. The five designs – Celtic, Heather, Shells, Sound of Fingal's Cave and Ocean – each reflect the natural beauty of the majestic Scottish landscape.

More recently, Riviere has developed six rugs with

Peter Gomez, head of design at Zoffany. The brand is a firm favourite of Camilla and Leo who have worked with Peter on numerous design shoots, so creating a collection together seemed like an obvious next step. The pair were given exclusive access to Zoffany's archives where they selected designs that were carefully translated from fabric or wallpaper into rugs, taking into account composition, scale and colour.

After a fantastic initial response, the Jigsaw design – which features a low loop knot and blended silk and wool base with distinctive raised cut-pile details in abstract forms – has proved to be the runaway favourite (new colourways of all the designs will be launching soon). Like the rest of its collections, these are unique pieces of floor art, designed as timeless heirlooms to be treasured for years to come.

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CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Riviere's Ocean design by O&A London; the Riviere x Zoffany rugs collection; Suminagashi from the Zoffany collection; the Jigsaw design in chalk



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