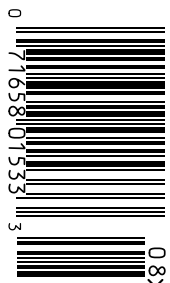


surface



AGENTS OF CHANGE

AUGUST 2011
DISPLAY UNTIL AUGUST 29



Boaz Cohen and Sayaka Yamamoto, the Israeli-Japanese duo behind the Dutch design firm BCXSY, are always interested in creating pieces that are more than just beautiful objects for the home. Case in point: their new series of rugs called Balance, which were presented for the first time at Spazio Rossana Orlandi in Milan this year, and one of which was included at the “Talking Textiles” show. The production pro-

cess for the rugs is a result of BCXSY’s collaboration with a nonprofit organization focused on improving the socio-economic status of Bedouin Arab women living in Israel’s Negev Desert. The rugs, which come in seven sizes and varying shades of beige and brown, are all hand-woven on traditional Bedouin ground looms and made from the wool of local desert sheep.



APRIL

DEEN

WHEN HUNTING FOR THE BEST DESIGN TREASURES DURING APRIL'S MILAN DESIGN WEEK, FELIX BURRICHTER FOUND IT BEST TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN. PHOTOS BY ROBERT G. BARTHOLOTT.



Since founding her studio in 1998, Paris-based designer Matali Crasset has been stirring up both the French and international design scenes with her often show-stealing statement pieces. But when the clever designer presented her first design for Nodus' Limited Edition collection, the result—a circular rug called Roots—was just as elegantly beautiful as it was witty. Rendered in shades of brown and green,

the hand-knotted wool rug's design echoes the root system of a centuries-old tree, with a central trunk branching out into a treetop, complete with twisted cotton fringes of varying lengths that represent root capillaries. At about seven feet in diameter and in four different grades of height, the expressive Roots certainly isn't the kind of rug one would want to hide under a coffee table.

Despite its remote location in Milan's Ventura Lambrate district, the Beirut-based Carwan Gallery's pop-up show was one of the most talked-about during Design Week. Among the highlights was Tapis Flechés, a series of limited-edition, hand-felted rugs by Franco-Canadian quartet Samare. Founded in 2007, Samare has made a name for itself by incorporating the work of traditional Canadian crafts-

men—such as weavers and furriers—into its thoroughly contemporary designs. The new rugs (developed in collaboration with Belgian textile designers Antonin Bachet and Linda Topic) are no exception to this approach. Their abstract graphic design evokes the arrow patterns with which 19th-century French-Canadian fur-trappers used to adorn their belts.



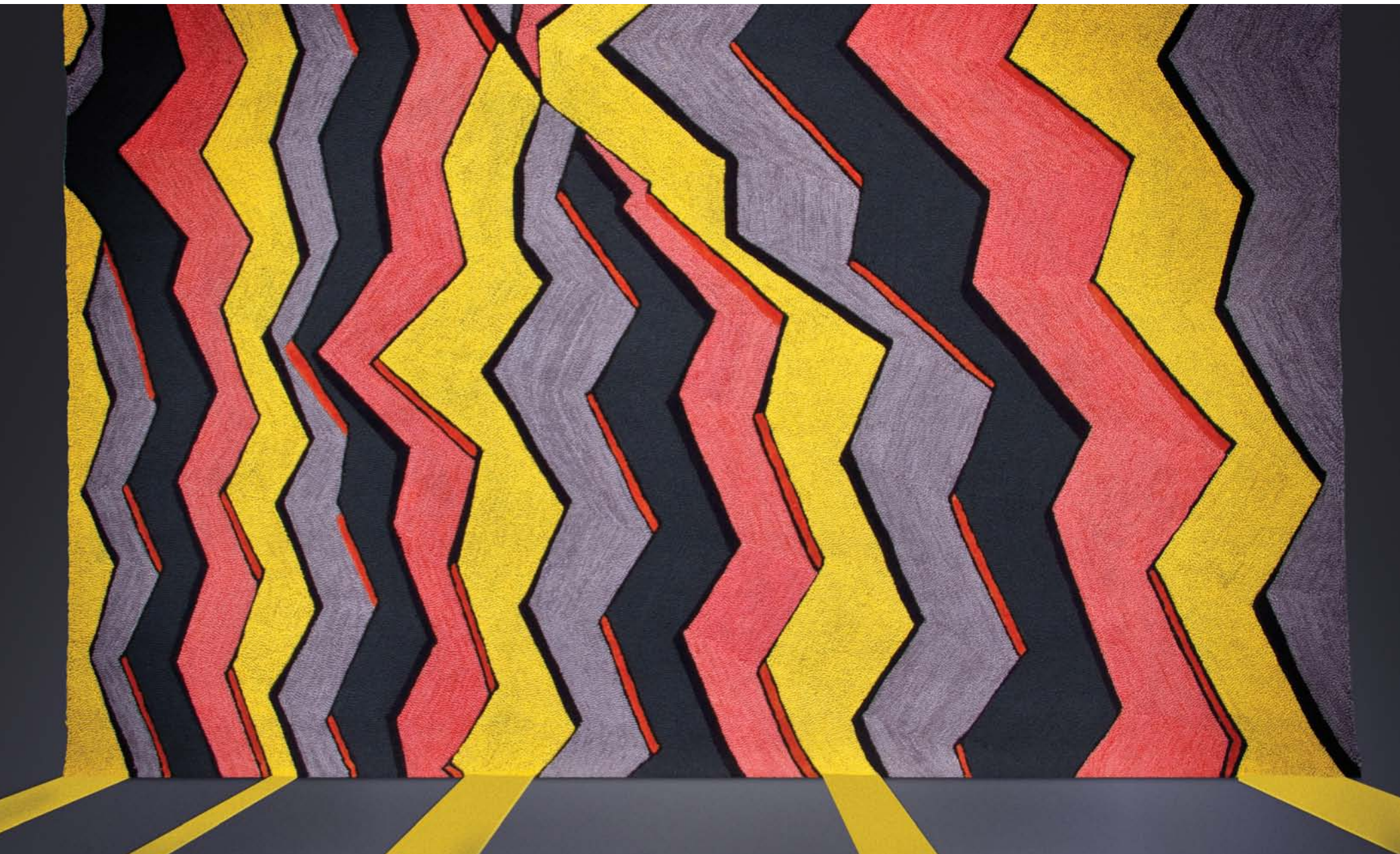


When Casper Vissers, the founder of Dutch design brand Moooi, started the boat-building company Firmship in 2010, he asked Job Smeets and Nynke Tynagel of Antwerp's famous Studio Job to come up with Firmship's first watercraft design. The collaboration proved so inspiring for both parties that Studio Job translated their fascination with all things nautical into this rug for Moooi. Called simply Firmship,

the printed, nylon-thread circular concoction is more affordable than most boats, and the inspiration for its design holds the same ocean-going allure. While the watery palette of subtle grays and whites may be comparatively tame, its collage of sea symbols (mermaids, lighthouses, and pirate flags) makes for a compelling composition to match many an adventurous captain's taste.

British design company Established & Sons upped the ante this year by moving their annual presentation to the dark and dramatic Teatro Versace, where the namesake fashion company usually holds its runway shows. One of E&S's many new outstanding pieces—all presented on circular spot-lit pedestals, like go-go dancers at a club—was the new Zig Zag rug by company co-founder Sebastian Wrong. Executed in gray,

yellow, and red, the Zig Zag's format is meant to represent, says Wrong, "a topographic map, suggesting valleys and hills on a flat surface." The rectangular rug's optical effect (with its zigzagging stripes and varying grades and densities) registers somewhere between the sketches of a gifted child and a patterned mini-dress straight off the Versace runway, circa 1993.





Last year's 15th anniversary of the German design company e15 marked the debut of a wide range of furniture, all available in kaleidoscopic colors, by new design star Stefan Diez. This year, some of the company's classics, such as the CP03 Kavir (a traditionally knotted Persian-style carpet), followed suit. Originally launched in '07 in only two shades of gray, the rug's 2011 reintroduction, as witnessed

in e15's Milan showroom in May, comes in a variety of striking hues: pale mint with a turquoise fringe, taupe with a mustard-colored fringe, ocean blue with an emerald fringe, and hunter green with an espresso-brown fringe. The Kavir isn't just a pretty rug, though. It's also produced in a socially and environmentally responsible manner by a family-owned business in Nepal. 