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Photo: Galley Frank



03 Elemental Collection handloom rug, Warli

04 Redford Collection handloom rug, Bokara Rug

05 Flatwoven handloom rug for the Kimpton Saint George Hotel in Toronto, Creative Matters. Interior designer, Mason Studio

06 Nino handloom rug, cc-tapis

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handspun Tibetan wool, silk and linen are not a cheap product and differ to what is already on the market 'We have played tricks with techniques to achieve a unique aesthetic,' he explains. Battilossi first developed a series of hand-knotted designs and showed them to the Indian weavers, in Kathmandu. The R&D person then spent 7-8 months working out how to translate the designs into handloom.

Also producing handloom in Nepal is Milanese brand cc-tapis, who launched the Metroquadro collection in September 2017. As art director Daniele Lora explains, the range was developed 'with contract projects in mind, offering interior designers and architects a more manageable high-quality bespoke product'.

Wishing to keep faithful to its production in Nepal, cc-tapis imported Indian looms to the country. The same hand-spun, hand-dyed wool as in the hand-knotted rugs is used alongside linen, silk and bamboo silk.

Within the handloom production parameters cc-tapis can retain the essence of its slick design cool, with simple but well-considered geometrics created in blocks of colour or varied textures and pile heights. This can be seen in designs such as *Nino*, *Cut Out Manacroma*

while the impressive *Knit* is a more complex two-tone visual texture.

Seeing designs like the dazzling *Orizzonti* by Eligo Studio for cc-tapis at Salone del Mobile in 2018 and Tania Johnson's handloom collection at Decorex in 2017—which is fully launching this September—I understand how well-produced handloom can retain a handmade feel and offer a high-quality end product.

Johnson also started producing handloom designs—like *Textured Stripe* and *Raised Lines*—in Nepal when her factory took on the idea. For her, the loomed rugs take half the time and are around a third of the price of hand-knotted depending on the design: 'I wanted to give my customers different options, simple coordinates to work alongside the hand-knotted designs,' she says.

Due to its benefits for contract work, Canadian firm Creative Matters have specified handloom for high-end retail, residential and hotel suites, like brand's recent Kimpton Saint George Hotel project in Toronto. For company president and co-founder Carol Sebert the technique makes most sense for 'multiple pieces or large orders where the price point really makes sense'.

It is clear that handloom has its own specific niche in the market

