

FLAIR FOR STAIRS

Custom staircase runners full of personality is a new interior trend. **Malin Lonnberg** finds out more about three spectacular projects across the globe

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01 Staircase runner designed by Lee Robinson Design and produced by The Rug Company for Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach in 2019 as part of Lee Robinson and Kyle Johnson's 'The Chinoiserie Garden Pavilion'

02 Staircase runner designed by Crayon Design and produced by Creative Matters for a Toronto private residence

03 Staircase runner by Deirdre Dyson for private offices in a Georgian townhouse in London restored and repurposed by Alexander Martin Architects



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For the 2018 Summer issue of COVER, we chose to put Sasha Bikoff's much-lauded stairwell for the 46th Annual Kips Bay Decorator Show House, with its stand-out custom The Rug Company runner, on the cover. Ever since, we have noticed original carpets for staircases popping up all over the place.

Deirdre Dyson, who recently completed a stair runner over four floors for an 18th-century Georgian townhouse in London, emphasises the need for practicality as stairs are high-traffic areas. 'I believe that a stair carpet should, above all, be serviceable—so colour is important. Too pale a colour would show the dirt very quickly. Too much pattern over multiple flights, such as in this project, would be rather relentless. A totally plain carpet would be safe and boring.' With these considerations in mind, Dyson opted for a look in keeping with her signature style. 'Staircases are all about movement up and down and I like to reflect this in the design. I have been working with colour grading, so thought that making the colour flow from dark to light and back again would create movement with colour, rather than motif. Although it was basically grey, I included many shades of grey to add interest. In this way, I added a bit of fun to a serious office project.'

A completely different brief was given to Creative Matters, when Cheryl Krismer from Crayon Design approached the company late last year with two hand-drawn sketches for two flights of a spiral staircase in a private Toronto residence. The design borrows motifs from fashion and costume—such as corsets, tulle and ruffles—and the pattern changes as you move up. The carpet was handtufted, and as each step was a different size, this meant creating 41 individual pieces. 'The pattern appears only on the tread, not on the riser,' explains Creative Matters' Senior Designer Sandra Ciganic-McKinney. 'Consequently each tread appears as a separate design and becomes an abstract carpet. The risers reflect a predominant colour from the tread so they too have a nice transition of colour, creating an ombre in grey and purple tones.'

Returning to where we started, earlier this year The Rug Company produced another eye-catching staircase piece, this time for the Kips Bay Decorator Show House Palm Beach. Designed by Lee Robinson, the runner in cerulean blue, navy and white stretched along the length of a corridor to then spiral down the front staircase as a prime feature of the designer's tribute to European chinoiserie.

www.creativemattersinc.com

www.deirdredyson.com

www.therugcompany.com