

GUEST DESIGN EXPERT Brett Mickan (pictured with *Belle* interior design editor Lucy McCabe) says he considers a rug as a design entity, just as if it was an artwork. "One that clashes or introduces contrasting pattern or texture can give a room energy and create an important visual focus to a space, especially in an open-plan layout. A rug that links the furniture in the seating area within an open plan can give the illusion of an intimate sitting room. As rugs are visually below eye level, you can use them to add a large amount of colour and pattern without overwhelming a space. I like my interiors to tell a story and love the inbuilt history of vintage rugs or rugs that have the depth, texture and colour variation of a vintage piece."

1. LUNAR ECLIPSE

Measuring a generous 305 by 430cm, 'New Moon' is an exquisite handknotted rug, POA, crafted in Afghanistan from vegetable-dyed pure wools. rubynascgrove.com

2. FARTY SLICKER

This contemporary 'New York' rug, \$7900, is finely handmade at 236,000 knots/sqm in New Zealand wool and Chinese silk. jennyjones.com

3. MODERN MASTER

Made in Nepal of Tibetan wool and silk, the 'Soho' floor rug, \$13,680, features deco, tribal and floral elements. designerrugs.com.au

4. RAZZLE DAZZLE

A plush pile in a diamond pattern with bursts of vibrant colour features on this one-off Moroccan rug from Loom, \$4100. kostela.com.au

5. INKY DEPTHS

An oversized floral design graces the 'Floriura' rug in Navy, \$7507, which has been handknotted in hemp and art silk. tappett.com.au

6. STELLAR PIECE

This one-off re-woven Ushak rug, \$22,500, handmade in luminous silky wool is a shining example of its kind. auctrys.com.au

Floored jewels

In sparkling colours and unique patterns, rugs can define a space and infuse it with energy.

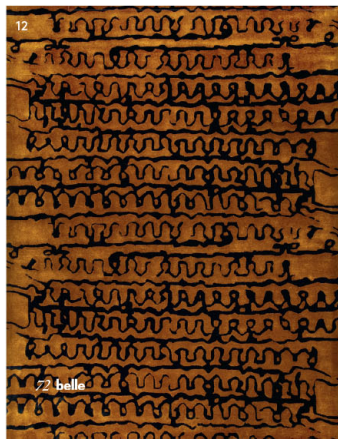
LUCY WEARS
MATICEVSKI SKIRT
FROM PARLOUR X.

7_FRINGE BENEFIT

German designer Jan Kath's generously fringed 'Ferrara Radi Rocked', POA, is woven in Nepal from Tibetan wool and Chinese silk. jan-kath.de



Prized by collectors, the long-piled Gabbeh rug (below), POA, with its mystical motifs is woven by nomads in Iran. bebruzstudio.com.au

**13_DROWNING LARGE**

From Jan Kath's Erased Heritage collection, the wool and silk 'Tabriz Canal Stomped', \$29,250, is fully customisable. cadrjy.com.au

8_BLUE BIJOU

One of the New Berber rug series, 'MRT-024', POA, is a modern design made by women from the Khemisset region of Morocco. kukbi.com

9_STRIPE FORCE

'Baneh' from Loom Rugs is a vibrant kilim, \$4800, made in pure wool that will add its pizzazz to contemporary interior schemes. loomrugs.com

10_STONE LOVER

'Marble Caribbean', POA, from Jenny Jones is a beautiful blend of the finest hand-spun Tibetan wool and silk. jennyjonesrugs.com

11_LION DANCE

'Tribal Weave 10', \$3500, features a characteristic lion symbol and was crafted in wool by the Qashqai tribe in southwest Iran. robymcsgrove.com

12_TUFT LOVE

The 'Unravel' rug, \$3480, from Designer Rugs is handcrafted in a stunning abstract design of New Zealand wool. designerrugs.com