

HOMES & CONDOS

From Persians to shags, hot off the runway

Does this rug make me look fat?" was a quip I heard as I watched a show during Toronto's Fashion Week.

The event was put on by the Korhani rug company and illustrated the evolution of rugs and then showed modern versions that were inspired by those patterns. To cap it off, they then showed clothing that was made from the rugs. Obviously the clothes were only intended for the runway and I seriously doubt that you will find them in a clothing store.

It was one of my favourite shows of Fashion Week, simply because it was a very theatrical experience. (Although there is no doubt that Toronto has some very talented clothing designers that are not nearly as well known as they ought to be.)

There is great crossover from runway fashion to home fashion and seeing the shows was informative in terms of illustrating trends in colour and fabric, as well as being inspirational in terms of shapes and



GLEN PELOSO

materials in home decor.

Area rugs are most certainly not a new element in home decor, but styles and designs have come a long way from my grandmother's area rugs in deep red with a centre medallion and decorated borders. Those rug styles are still available and have their place, but there is now much more to choose from.

Naturally, one of the jobs of our design studio is to be aware of what is available in the marketplace, but we also have the ability to have carpets custom made. The process of selecting what is appropriate for your space is as personal as selecting a piece of art for the walls, although the area rug influences the feel of the room much more dramatically than an art piece.

The history of area rugs is about as long as the history of mankind, going all the way back to animal skins on the ground, which recently have been gaining popularity with the emergence of cowhide rugs. Historically, these same skins were also made into clothing, so we already have precedence for rugs and clothes working together as one.

There is historical evidence that woven pile rugs were a part of civilization in the Middle East and Asia as far back as 2000 BC. The discovery of a carpet in Siberia from the 5th century BC featured 200 knots per square inch in a Turkish knot style.

The King of Persia in 550 BC was the owner of a 100-foot by 400-foot carpet made of wool, silk, gold and silver and semi-precious stones.

Rugs are simply part of a great history of craftsmanship



Contemporary rugs come in many patterns and colours, including geometrics like this one from Carpet One.

and the depiction of cultural imperatives and the influences of the day. They tell us a story of the people in the space and the artist in the same way that an art piece would.

There are lots of hand-knotted rugs available and, while many of them might seem costly, a good rug is one of the things that gains value the older it gets. There are also many machine-made carpets that are available at big box stores and, while they work to cover the floor, they don't have the power to really make a statement.

The designs of the carpets today are stunning and can be the inspiration for a room's design and all its details. Generally speaking, rugs fall into three categories: Traditional, transitional and contemporary; selection in all three categories is vast.

TRADITIONAL: You are probably familiar with the traditional styles; they never really go out of style. I have seen very traditional carpets paired with modern furnishings and the combination can be spectacular. The only real rule around mixing styles or time periods is that you keep them at least two time periods apart so that it doesn't appear that the room was redone but the budget didn't allow for the update of all of the elements. For instance, if you love the style of the 1960s, I would suggest that you don't mix it up with '70s style. Better to work with something from the '30s or something more contemporary.

TRANSITIONAL: The transitional styles are generally done in more muted colours and seem to blend into the room decor more than they make a statement. They seem to fall between the Persian and Oriental style rugs and the contemporary rugs and often feature a botanical or floral pattern. Sometimes we see broadloom that has been finished with a two-inch band in burlap or leather and, while it is technically an area rug, it doesn't have the story of real hand-knotted rugs.

CONTEMPORARY: These rugs seem to have an "anything goes" theme. I have seen everything from faces and flags to colour blocking and geometric patterns, as well as combinations of silks, wools, rags and more natural products like bamboo and sisal. The important thing here is to be sure that you like the image and materials. Rugs impact the room and the decor, so you want to be sure that you like the colours. Like traditional rugs, the contemporary rugs can look spectacular with a selection of antique furniture. It is a piece of art for the floor and that is the way you should think of it.

Functionally, area rugs are great to ground a room and focus an area. If you have a big open-concept space, the area rug is used to define an area or separate the living room from the kitchen space or the reading area. You imagine that the edges of the rug are the implied walls of the space and the areas left bare are the hallways

between one space and another. You don't necessarily have to have the area rugs match, or even be of the same feel as long as the colours work together. These pieces of floor art have both form and function.

My studio is happy to select product for clients and regularly make choices, have them delivered and installed in people's homes. However, rugs and art are the two things that I like to do with the client, as they truly have a highly emotional content.

You are going to live with your rug for some time, as it is easily movable, so even if you are in a rental unit and you want to add some drama to the room, an area rug can really do that.

Fortunately, area rugs will never make you look fat, so partners will never have to say things like, "I like how you look in most everything you wear honey," or other such "stretched truths."

I will be at the Markham Creative Carpet One store Saturday at 1 p.m. talking about flooring in general. If you have questions or just want to hear more, come up and join us. Find out more at www.creativecarpetonemarkham.com.

Glen Peloso is a designer who hosts HGTV's *Restaurant Makeover*, *Take This House and Sell It*, is the design editor of *Home Décor & Renovations* magazine, and appears every two weeks in *New in Homes*. You can contact him through his website www.glenpelosointeriors.com, follow him on Twitter at @peloso1 or on Facebook.



A model walks the runway wearing a Korhani carpet called "Madmen Glam."



Worth Seeing This Week



Ajax

Carruther's Creek Village H3

Alliston

Mattamy Homes H8

Mattamy Homes H9

Ballantrae

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

Bradford

Great Gulf Homes H5

Brampton

Walnut Grove H3

Mattamy Homes H8

Mattamy Homes H9

Cambridge

Mattamy Homes H8

Mattamy Homes H9

East Toronto

Port Union H3

Upper Beach H3

Jordan

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

Maple

Sorrento Village H3

Markham

Greenpark Homes H7

Mattamy Homes H8

Mattamy Homes H9

Milton

Jasper Village H3

Mattamy Homes H8

Mattamy Homes H9

Mississauga

Central Park North H3

Central Park III H3

Mono

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

Niagara Falls

Great Gulf Homes H5

North York

Oakdale Village H3

Tribute Homes H18

Oakville

Tribute Homes H18

Orangeville

Watermark H12

Port Rowan

Villages of Long Point H12

Prince Edward County

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

Richmond Hill

Dunvegan Heights H3

Seaforth

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

Stouffville

Heritage Estates H3

Toronto City

Tribute Homes H18

Woodstock

Active Adult Lifestyle H10

More great reading

- Glass tiles are becoming popular again in kitchens and bathrooms, **Vicky Sanderson** reports.
- **John D. Sewell** says wringer-washer's true value lies in its place in the history of Canadian innova-

tion and manufacturing.

- Downsizing couple have a good layout. Read **Donna Jean MacKinnon's** Best-Laid Plans for details.
- **Peggy Mackenzie** reads *Pocket Neighborhoods: Creating Small-Scale*

Community in a Large-Scale World and is impressed.

- Your bedroom should be cozy and restful. **Jennifer O'Connor** explains how to achieve the goal on a budget in *Thrifty Flair*

yourHome.ca



BUILDING A GREATER GTA
Building Industry and Land
Development Association

BILD New Home Profile

LIFE IN NIAGARA'S one of a kind COMMUNITY

The Residences of Lochness Links in Niagara region is a resort style community for healthy active adults, 50 plus. Imagine spectacular vistas of lush conservation lands, graced by a collection of forested areas and acres of the finest golf course in Niagara. Graham Cooke & Associates designed the rolling fairways of the exclusive Lochness Links golf course.

Experience a lifestyle beyond the ordinary in elegant bungalow villas and single detached homes ranging from 1,100 sq.ft. to 1,300 sq.ft. with optional lofts and finished basements, set amidst a masterfully planned landscape with all the convenience of urban living.

Each model is named after a wine which is appropriate for the region. The 1520 sq. ft. Chianti design, a detached bungalow starting at the low 300's, features a large gallery kitchen, with spacious family room, main floor master bedroom and optional loft.

Tour the five decorated model homes with spectacular views of the golf course adjacent to the Welland Canal. For an overview of the Residences of Lochness Links from Ballantrae Homes, visit www.ballantrahomes.com

