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DOWN



still, life

Every morning, at the entrances of many homes in large parts of south India, *kolams* are drawn on the damp earth—intricate line drawings that curve, loop and double back around motifs of dots, leaves and flowers. Typically made with rice flour, *kolams* are meant to welcome people into the home, to be auspicious and symbolize harmony with other living beings. “We have lived in Bengaluru for 25 years and have experienced the joy of having a *kolam* created on our threshold every day,” says graphic designer Tania Singh Khosla. “We were intrigued by the brilliant versatility of this ancient folk-art form.”

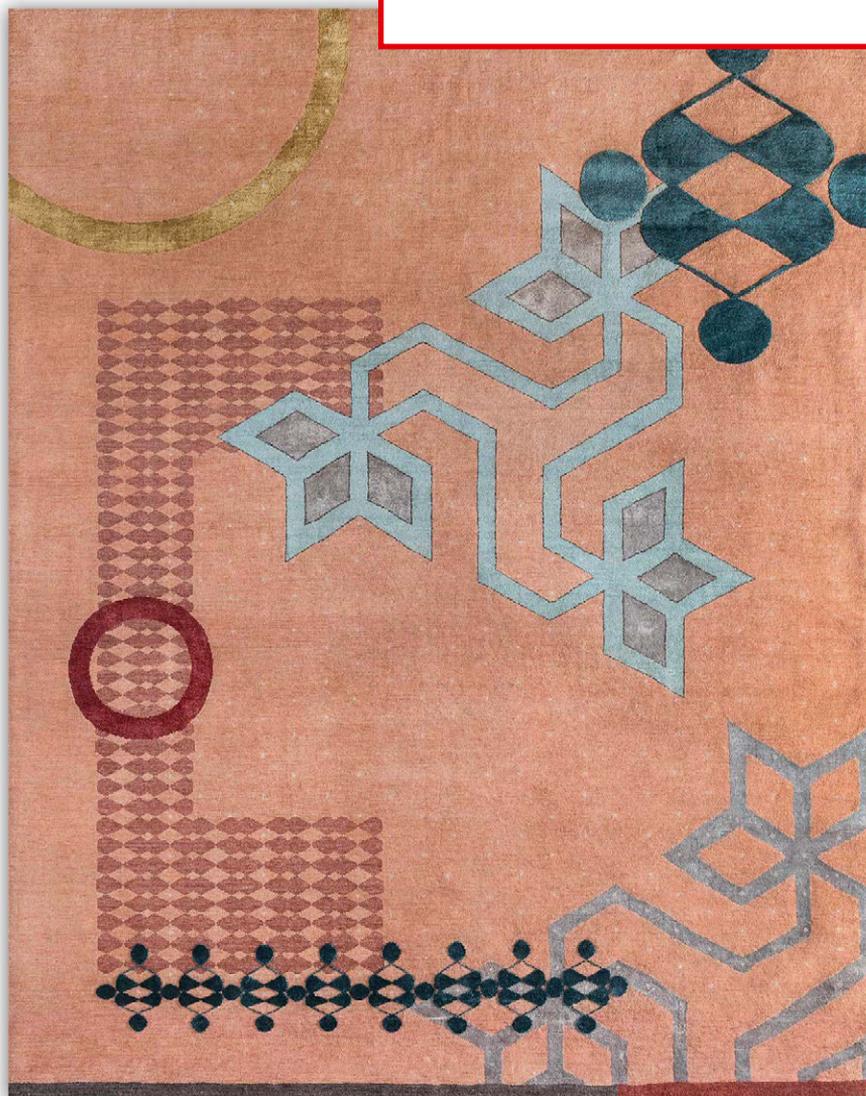
This fascination led Tania and her architect husband Sandeep Khosla to bring the essence of this art form into carpets—a clever connection to the style’s original canvas, the earth. The duo had been toying with the idea of a carpet collection for about three years when they decided to collaborate with Jaipur Rugs. “We approached Jaipur Rugs as their philosophy of supporting artisans across the country deeply resonated with us,” says Sandeep.

The couple had previously worked together on a number of design projects—furniture, tiles and interiors—where they found that instead of limiting themselves to their professional roles as architect and graphic designer, the collaborations allowed them a fluidity that helped them work more intuitively, while playing to their individual strengths. For this collection too, Tania focused on the interaction of colours, and Sandeep, on the play of scale and orientation.

The result is a collection of seven carpets in wool and bamboo silk that use traditional methods of hand-knotting to create an utterly modern rendition of an ancient folk art. ▲►

MODERN RITUAL

DESIGNERS SANDEEP AND TANIA KHOSLA COLLABORATE WITH JAIPUR RUGS ON A COLLECTION OF CARPETS INSPIRED BY THE RITUALISTIC FOLK ART OF *KOLAM*



TEXT: DIVYA MISHRA. PHOTO COURTESY OF JAIPUR RUGS.