



MENA CARPET NEWS



**NIGERIAN CARPET
MAKERS SEEK SPECIAL
GOVERNMENT GRANT
TO REVIVE INDUSTRY**

**LAST BUT NOT LEAST,
A REAL WOW UPDATE
ON THE HEIMTEXTIL
“CARPETS & RUGS
SEGMENT”**

**INNOVATION
RESHAPES THE
HANDMADE RUG
INDUSTRY: A NEW ERA
OF SUSTAINABILITY
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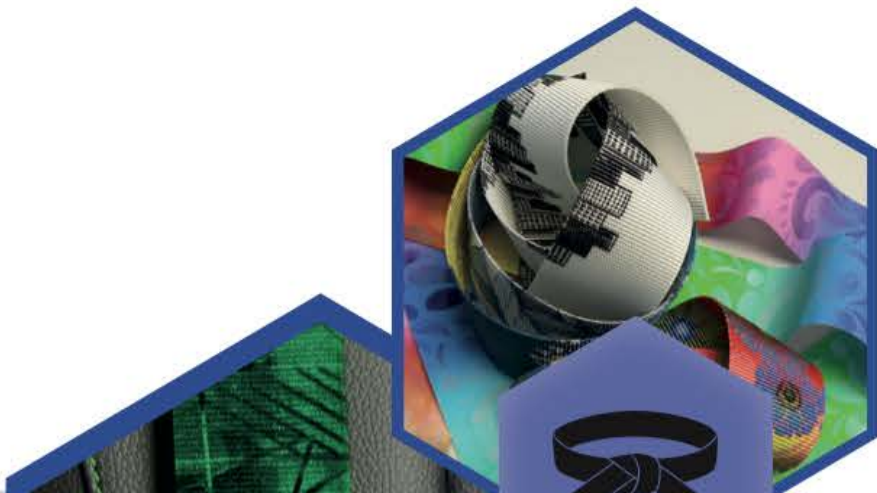


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Exploring New Horizons: Second International Symposium on Iranian Carpet Exports



The second international symposium on the export of Iranian carpets, with a particular focus on machine-made carpets, was held on October 25, 2023.

Distinguished Iranian companies and renowned brands, along with representatives from countries with substantial potential for the export of Iranian carpets, were in attendance at this symposium.

Mr. Seraj, the secretary of the symposium, shared insights with Kohan Textile Journal, saying, "This year, by inviting key individuals and economic advisors from target countries, we successfully fostered strong business connections between machine carpet manufacturers and international traders." In the initial phase, the symposium fo-

cused on the Balkan countries. Bosnia, Slovenia, and Serbia, being in proximity to the European Union but not Schengen members, offer simplified and practical business opportunities. Moreover, they are not subject to the sensitivities associated with the European Union's sanctions and visa-related matters.

The subsequent area of focus was South America, specifically Mexico and Bolivia, which have received relatively less attention. However, South America, with its substantial population and the ease of trade with the United States, should be recognized as one of the world's largest markets for machine-made carpets.

Additionally, strategic relations were established with West African nations, Nigeria and Ivory Coast, where a population

exceeding 600 million presents a significant market. Geographically, this region serves as the final port in the Caribbean for exports to American markets.

The ASEAN region also received attention, with particular emphasis on Indonesia, the Philippines, and Brunei, which collectively represent a market of 500 million people.



In pursuit of this year's objectives, the Carpet Export Acceleration Center was established, operating in two spheres: online and offline carpet sales. For offline sales, permanent offices and showrooms have been established in Iraq and Nigeria, with preparations underway to open offices in Bosnia and the Philippines in Manila shortly.

Mr. Siraj stressed the necessity for a substantial advancement in machine-made carpet exports, stating, "To this end, we engaged in negotiations with the world's two largest retail brands, boasting more than 20,000 retail branches worldwide. We are optimistic about achieving favorable outcomes. In the online domain, we are on the verge of launching a platform where companies can introduce and sell their products online."

The secretary of the second international symposium on machine-made carpet exports underlined the importance of entrusting the future of Iran's machine-made carpet industry to young managers and the second and third generations in this field. He introduced a special award named "New Ideas," dedicated to young managers and the second and third-generation leaders of the industry. He stressed the significance of education, expressing hope for positive outcomes within the symposium's five-year plan.



Iranian brands participating in this symposium included:

- Suleiman Carpet
- Beheshti Carpet
- Shahrokh Carpet
- Farshineh Carpet
- Etminan Carpet
- Mahestan Carpet
- Sorena Carpet
- Vozara Carpet
- Almas Kavir Carpet
- Mashhad Ardahal Carpet
- Shahr Farsh



Run to DOMOTEX 2024

Over 500 top exhibitors from the Carpets & Rugs segment have already confirmed their participation at DOMOTEX 2024.

After a successful comeback at the beginning of the year, there is already a promising response for the 34th edition of the world's leading trade fair for carpets and floor coverings. In addition to a large number of exhibitors who already took part in the previous event, numerous companies that were not represented in 2023 have also registered.

Well-known and long-standing top exhibitors in the field of handmade carpets such as Tisca Austria, ABC Italia, Javi Home, Jaipur Rugs, Bhadohi Carpets, Rezas, Agacan, BO tepp, Paulig and Ipek – A. Ipektchi have confirmed their participation. In the machine-made carpet segment, exhibitors such as Oriental Weavers, Merinos, Robusta, Otto Golze, Lalee, Solomon and Brink & Campman will take part.



DOMOTEX 2024 promises a diverse supporting program that will enable visitors to be even deeper involved and gain more comprehensive insights into the two worlds of “Carpets & Rugs” and “Flooring”.

THE GREEN COLLECTION – Sustainability also plays a role in the carpet industry

THE GREEN COLLECTION will return for the second time to showcase the latest developments in sustainability, circular economy and environmental protection in the carpet and flooring industry. In 2024, the special show will also offer carpet manufacturers in particular the opportunity to illustrate how environmentally friendly approaches can change the future of the industry.

Mood Spaces – Inspiring interior design

The “Mood Spaces” enable renowned international designers to present their designed room scenarios that reflect current living trends and inspirations. This is an invaluable source of inspiration for the carpet industry looking for innovative design ideas and trends.

Carpet Design Awards – Excellence in car-

pet design and craftsmanship

DOMOTEX 2024 celebrates the 19th edition of the globally recognized “Carpet Design Awards”. This prestigious competition recognizes excellent carpet design and outstanding craftsmanship. The event offers a unique opportunity to discover the best in contemporary handmade carpets and celebrate the artistic world of carpets.

Peacock Project by Lila Valadan

Another visitor magnet for the carpet industry will be the Peacock project by designer Lila Valadan. A museum-like installation of Persian carpets will be erected in Hall 3 under the title “Night Time in a Palace”. Lila Valadan will exhibit an extensive selection of her Persian artworks in the middle of the museum.

INSIGHT ITALY – A country in focus

DOMOTEX 2024 sets a new tone by introducing a country focus concept for the first time with “INSIGHT ITALY”. In 2024, Italy will take center stage. This unique special show will highlight trends, designs, colors and innovations from Italy and offer visitors an insight into the creativity and excellence of the Italian carpet and flooring industry.

For Yasmine Khamis, Chairwoman of the Oriental Group, participation in the upcoming DOMOTEX is a given: “We are looking forward to taking part in DOMOTEX again in 2024 and will be represented with our well-known stand size to present our products and innovations. The DOMOTEX is the most important trade fair for us to make business contacts and deepen existing relationships. DOMOTEX in particular is a significant milestone in our business calendar, as it allows us to

explore industry trends and present our collections to an international audience.”

Nigerian Carpet Makers Seek Special Government Grant to Revive Industry



In a bid to rejuvenate the ailing domestic textile industry, the Carpet Manufacturers Association of Nigeria has recently called upon the government to provide a special grant. The carpet industry, which has been a significant contributor to the Nigerian economy, is now on the brink of collapse, resulting in the loss of jobs and financial turmoil for thousands.

Association President Otuekong Udoh expressed the dire situation faced by the industry, noting that over 60,000 carpet industry workers have been left unemployed. Moreover, the ripple effect of the industry's decline has impacted various allied companies, suppliers, distributors, and transporters, who have had to cut jobs and suffered substantial financial losses.

Regrettably, the situation has become so severe that more than 30 domestic carpet manufacturing companies have been forced to shut their doors, leaving only two such companies still in operation. Udoh underlined the profound impact

this has had on the nation's economy, calling attention to the urgent need for government intervention.

The decline of the carpet industry in Nigeria can be attributed to a myriad of challenges, including a lack of investment, inadequate infrastructure, and stiff competition from cheaper imported products. This has made it increasingly difficult for domestic manufacturers to remain competitive in the global marketplace.

To address these pressing issues and ensure the revival of the carpet industry, the Carpet Manufacturers Association of Nigeria is now advocating for a special grant from the government. Such a grant would provide a much-needed lifeline for the struggling industry, helping to safeguard the livelihoods of thousands and prevent further economic losses.

President Udoh explained that the grant would primarily be used to modernize existing manufacturing facilities, invest in state-of-the-art equipment, and train the

workforce in advanced production techniques. This would not only improve the quality of Nigerian carpets but also enhance their competitiveness in the global market.

Moreover, the revitalization of the carpet industry would have a ripple effect across the entire supply chain. Suppliers of raw materials, transporters, and distributors who have faced significant setbacks in recent years would benefit from increased demand as the industry bounces back.

The decline of the Nigerian carpet industry is a significant concern, and its revival holds the potential to reinvigorate the nation's economy. By providing the industry with the necessary support and grants, the government can help save thousands of jobs, boost economic growth, and create a thriving domestic carpet sector that competes on the global stage. The time for action is now, as the industry and its workers await the government's response to their plea for a special grant to breathe life back into the fading carpet industry.



Antimicrobial Carpet and Flooring: A Shield Against Unwanted Infections

In an era where hygiene and cleanliness are paramount, the demand for antimicrobial solutions has grown exponentially. Antimicrobial carpet and flooring have emerged as frontline defenders against the spread of infections, with a particular emphasis on their relevance in healthcare facilities, educational institutions, hospitality settings, and more. These specialized floor coverings play a crucial role in infection prevention and control, making them indispensable in our ever-evolving world of health and safety.

Flooring, carpets, and rugs have long been potential sources of unwanted bacteria and fungi. In environments where moisture can accumulate, such as healthcare facilities, these soft surfaces can become breeding grounds for microbial growth, leading to musty odors and product degradation. Similarly, hard surfaces are not immune to bacterial and fungal colonization. Over time, wear and tear can expose these surfaces to unwanted pathogens, while adhesives used in flooring may inadvertently support fungal growth, resulting in discoloration and deterioration.

Antimicrobial flooring and carpeting offer numerous advantages. They prevent musty odors, protect against staining, and guard adhesives from bacterial and fungal growth. Additionally, they help maintain cleanliness in inaccessible areas, such as the base of carpet fibers or the backing, for an extended period. These antimicrobial solutions provide consumers with fresh and durable flooring alternatives, ensuring a safer and healthier environment.

So, how are these antimicrobial wonders crafted? To manufacture antimicrobi-

al carpet or area rugs, products like Ultra-Fresh are expertly incorporated into the fibers to prevent bacterial growth on the surface. For added control against mold and mildew, antimicrobial treatments can be introduced into the latex or secondary backing. Some products also incorporate antimicrobial protection into foam underlays.

For antimicrobial bathmats, the treatment is either applied topically to the fabric or integrated into the internal memory foam layer, ensuring long-lasting protection even in high humidity conditions.



Hard surfaces, too, can be protected by adding antimicrobial agents into the top-coat and wear layers, as well as the backing. Once applied, these treatments become an integral part of the structure, extending the useful life of the product.

What goes into creating these antimicrobial solutions? Various active ingredients are employed, depending on the material and application. For antimicrobial carpet, silver-based treatments are common when integrated directly into the fibers via extrusion. Zinc pyrithione and silane quat compounds are often used when the treatment is applied topically to the face fibers.

Carpet backing is treated with options like zinc pyrithione, thiabendazole, and isothiazolinone-based technologies, each offering unique antimicrobial and antifungal properties. Similarly, hard surface flooring, rubber or epoxy flooring, and flexible vinyl flooring are armed with antimicrobial additives that are effective against bacteria and fungi.

Testing these antimicrobial wonders is essential to ensure their efficacy. Various standardized test methods are available for evaluating antimicrobial performance, including those developed by organizations like the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and Japanese Industrial Standard (JIS). Manufacturers can assess bacterial and fungal efficacy, utilizing quantitative test methods that cater to specific materials and antimicrobial technologies.

In conclusion, antimicrobial carpet and flooring have become integral to maintaining clean and safe environments in various settings. As the world prioritizes health and hygiene, these innovative solutions offer a reliable defense against unwanted

Afghan Carpet Exports Surge by 30% in Three-Month Span

In a significant boost to Afghanistan's economy, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce reported a remarkable 30% year-on-year increase in carpet exports during the initial three months of the current Persian calendar year (March 21 to July 21). This surge in export numbers was accompanied by a notable rise in the workforce engaged in the carpet industry, according to the ministry's statement released on Monday.

Over the said period, Afghan carpets valued at approximately 5 million U.S. dollars found their way to several destinations worldwide, including Türkiye, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, and Uzbekistan, as per the ministry's data.

Recognizing the pivotal role of international exhibitions in showcasing Afghanistan's hand-woven carpets, the Carpet Producers and Exporters Union emphasized the importance of displaying these exquisite creations at such events. They

highlighted the potential of these exhibitions in directly influencing the promotion and subsequent boost of Afghanistan's carpet industry, expressing optimism about the positive impact on export figures.

The union also shed light on the significant expansion witnessed in the carpet business throughout 2022. Pakistan, Türkiye, the United States, Uzbekistan, and the United Arab Emirates emerged as key importers displaying keen interest in procuring Afghan carpets, marking a promising trend for the industry's growth and global outreach.

This surge in export figures and the growing interest from various countries underscore the resilience and potential of Afghanistan's hand-woven carpet industry, signaling positive prospects for further expansion and recognition on the global stage.



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Nepal's Iconic Carpet Industry Makes Strong Comeback with All-Time High Exports



Nepal's carpet industry, once a leading source of foreign currency earnings, is experiencing a remarkable resurgence as it records an all-time high in exports. In the first 11 months of the fiscal year, carpet exports reached an impressive Rs10.32 billion, indicating a promising revival in the sector. The resurgence is attributed to increased demand for hand-woven woollen carpets, which have been a cornerstone of Nepal's economy for decades.

The growth in Nepal's carpet exports can be attributed to various factors, including inflationary pressures and rising costs of raw materials. While these factors have certainly contributed to the increased value of exports, the surge in volume suggests that the carpet industry is indeed making a significant comeback, accord-

ing to both exporters and manufacturers. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global supply chains over the past three years, leading to a surge in demand for Nepalese carpets in overseas markets. This increased demand has boosted the carpet industry's performance and reinforced its position in the global market.

According to the Trade and Export Promotion Centre's statistics, the value of carpet shipments in the review period ending in mid-June 2023 increased by 20 percent year-on-year, reaching 444,365 square meters, marking an 11.25 percent year-on-year increase in volume.

Ram Bahadur Gurung, the president of the Nepal Carpet Manufacturer and Exporter Association, expressed optimism

about the industry's revival, emphasizing that with government support, the sector could reach annual exports worth Rs30 billion, which would significantly benefit Nepal's trade balance.

Carpets were once the backbone of Nepal's exports, peaking in the 1990s when the industry accounted for 65 percent of the country's total exports. During this "Gold Rush" period, the carpet industry provided gainful employment to 250,000 to 300,000 individuals, benefiting rural communities and drawing people from remote areas to Kathmandu.

Nepal's carpet industry had its first export boom in 1976, but it faced alternating periods of prosperity and decline. One significant setback was the revelation of child labor exploitation in carpet factories,

which tarnished the industry's reputation. Additionally, the global economic downturn resulting from the 2007-2009 financial crisis and political instability in Nepal further eroded the industry's fortunes.

However, recent indicators suggest a resurgence is underway. Carpets now account for 7.2 percent of Nepal's total exports in the first 11 months of the fiscal year. The current export price per square meter exceeds \$175, up from \$165 a few years ago, reflecting growing demand from international buyers, particularly in the US and European markets.

The quality of raw materials, including Chinese silk, pashmina, hemp, nettle, and allo, plays a vital role in the renewed demand. Manufacturers now import woollen yarn from New Zealand and China, and the use of high-quality materials has raised production costs. Nevertheless, the superior quality and craftsmanship ensure that Nepali carpets remain highly sought after.

To sustain this positive momentum, industry leaders and experts emphasize the need for government support. Infrastructure for carpet exports and access to loans at favorable interest rates are among the key factors for long-term success.

Nepali carpet exporters currently receive a 5 percent cash incentive, and the product is listed under the Nepal Trade Integrated Strategy 2016, which supports the industry's growth. With nearly 800 carpet factories operating across the country, employing 200,000 individuals, it is evident that the carpet industry has the potential to become a significant contributor to Nepal's economy.

In the face of another global economic slowdown, the rising demand for Nepali carpets underscores the industry's bright future. As Bhim Bahadur Tamang, a seasoned carpet manufacturer, explains, the emphasis on quality materials, including Chinese silk and pashmina, sets Nepali carpets apart. Despite the higher production costs, superior craftsmanship and skilled workers enable Nepali carpet manufacturers to meet the diverse design preferences of global customers.

The resurgence of Nepal's carpet industry is not only a testament to the quality and craftsmanship of its products but also a reminder of the potential for economic growth and job creation that this iconic industry can offer to the country. With the right support and policies in place, the carpet industry is poised for continued success in the international market.

Book Your Stand Before 10 November 2023 to Enjoy a 5% Discount and a Preferred Booth Location



DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR, the largest flooring tradeshow in the Asia Pacific region, will hold its 26th edition in Shanghai at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (NECC) from 28 to 30 May, 2024

If you are a manufacturer of flooring products, looking for new business opportunities in the thriving Asian markets, this is a show you cannot miss. It is an access door for your business not only to China, but also to Southeast Asia, South Korea, Japan, India, Australia and all the Asian Pacific markets.

In 2023, the show attracted 83,594 visitors from 112 different countries, consolidating its position as a leading platform in the flooring industry.

Benefiting from the co-location with other events in the construction, building materials and decoration sectors, under the umbrella of BUILD ASIA MEGA SHOW, DOMOTEX asia/CHINAFLOOR 2024 will bring to you new and highly diversified group of buyers from relevant cross-sectors and integrated industries.

Exhibiting Companies

230,000⁺	8	1,600⁺	85,000⁺
Square meters	Halls	Exhibitors	Visitors

Iran's Machine-Made Carpet Industry Poised for \$1 Billion in Exports

Machine-made carpets have long been a prominent sector in Iran's textile industry, with nearly 700 manufacturing companies engaged in their production. The industry's unique dynamics, technological advancements, and commitment to quality have positioned it for significant growth, potentially reaching an astounding \$1 billion in exports.

Iran's machine-made carpet sector is predominantly composed of small and medium-sized enterprises. Companies with over 10 weaving machines are a rarity. Despite economic challenges in recent years, the country has maintained an impressive installed production capacity of over 100 million square meters of machine-made carpets annually. Notably, many of the world's latest weaving machines are first introduced in Iran, highlighting the industry's dedication to staying at the cutting edge of technology.



An important aspect that sets Iran apart is that its machine carpet industry is entirely private, devoid of government involvement. This autonomy allows Iranian machine-made carpets to prioritize quality and elegance, often commanding higher prices in the global market.

increasing Iran's machine-made carpet exports: the removal of economic sanctions and a shift towards producing affordable carpets to meet global demand. With these changes, Iran's machine-made carpet exports could easily surpass the \$1 billion mark.

While Iran currently enjoys approximately \$300 million in machine-made carpet exports, a significant portion of these textiles caters to the bustling domestic market. In a country with a population of 83 million, the demand for carpets in homes is substantial. Urban areas, with nearly 64 million residents, along with rural areas housing over 20 million people, contribute to a massive internal market. There are approximately 26 million households nationwide, with a majority residing in urban areas, accounting for a significant potential market for machine-made carpets.

Competition among Iranian companies within the domestic market is fierce, driven by the demand for high-quality machine-made carpets. The industry's focus on elegance and innovation has positioned Iran as a significant contender in the global machine-made carpet market.

As the country navigates economic challenges and international sanctions, its machine-made carpet industry stands as a shining example of resilience and potential for significant economic growth, both domestically and on the global stage. Iran's quest for quality and excellence is driving its trajectory toward the \$1 billion export milestone.

Behnam Ghasemi, an industry expert, emphasizes two fundamental factors for





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Last but not Least, a Real WOW Update on the Heimtextil “Carpets & Rugs Segment”



And finally, we're thrilled to share an exciting update regarding our new product segment, "Carpets & Rugs."

We are delighted to reveal that our roster of exhibitors now exceeds 90, with the recent confirmation of participation from two new exhibitors: Ragolle Rugs from Belgium and Merinos Hali San from Turkey!

With the dawn of a new year, we're ushering in new business opportunities at the upcoming Heimtextil event. In just a matter of months, over 90 exhibitors have already expressed strong interest in joining the vibrant Carpets & Rugs product segment, which spans an entire hall level. Promising participation from even more exhibitors is on the horizon.

The enthusiastic response has crossed international borders, with commitments from countries including Egypt, Bangladesh, China, Greece, India, Italy, and Turkey. With the next edition, Heimtextil is set to further expand its global range of

home and household textiles.

As of now, more than 90 international manufacturers specializing in fitted, hand-woven, custom-made, or machine-woven carpets, mats, runners, and rugs are gearing up to showcase their latest collections, materials, and textures on Hall Level 5.1 at the next Heimtextil.

Expect the participation of additional manufacturers who are equally eager to take part. Heimtextil is thus enriching its already extensive product portfolio in the home and contract textiles industry, catering to the high market demand and providing added value for numerous top buyers.

"The substantial number of new exhibitors underscores the positive reception of our Carpets & Rugs product segment's launch, offering buyers the opportunity to connect with fresh suppliers. This addition elevates Heimtextil's role as a diverse and comprehensive business platform," states Bettina Bär, Director of Heimtextil for the home textiles segment.

In the brand-new Carpets & Rugs product segment, buyers and decision-makers in furniture stores, carpet trade, home improvement stores, and DIY specialty stores will be immersed in the diverse world of hand-woven rugs.

The roster of exhibitors includes renowned Indian manufacturers such as Rugs Inc, Mittal International, The Rug Republic, Sarla Handicrafts, and the new addition, Harkom Setabganj from Bangladesh. India introduces other new exhibitors like Flora International, Heritage Overseas, Rugs in Style, and Vini Decor.

Also, not to be missed are coir floor mat manufacturers with their functional and non-slip designs, including Classic Coir Factory, Floor Decor, Fibre World, and the newly joined Tufko from India.

The focus also extends to manufacturers of machine-woven carpets, known for their durable designs and precision technology usage. Exhibitors in this category feature Egypt's Oriental Weavers Group (Oriental Weavers, Mac Carpet, Egyptian Fibres Company), Merinos Hali San from Turkey, Nikotex Carpets from Greece, and Italian manufacturers Fini Cop and Royaltex.

Aditya Gupta, Founder of The Rug Republic, shares his enthusiasm: "We return to Heimtextil with high expectations – and are sure they will be exceeded with the launch of Carpets & Rugs. The opening is a great occasion to present for the first time our new sustainable handmade indoor and outdoor product collections in both high-volume and retail quantities. Thanks to the high internationality of Heimtextil and the attraction of the new area, we look forward to new global contacts with influential buyers."

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The Utilization of Jute Yarn in the Machine Carpet Industry

Jute yarn, also known as golden fibre, stands as a prominent choice in the realm of carpet weaving. Several carpet production companies incorporate jute yarn, primarily utilizing it as carpet weft. This natural fiber, derived from the jute plant, plays a crucial role in various types of machine carpets, including those with 1,200, 1,000, 500, and 700 comb machines.

Despite technological advancements and the introduction of synthetic fibers, jute yarn continues to maintain its global popularity. The quality of jute yarn becomes paramount for machine carpet manufacturers, directly influencing the carpet's overall quality as it is used in the core or weft of the carpet.

The selection of jute yarn for carpets is influenced by the model of the weaving machine, categorized into CRT, CRM, CRX,

and CB grades, each offering different thickness levels.

The Origin and Production of Jute Yarn

Jute, also known as Indian hemp, is an annual plant with long, soft, and shiny fibers. The major producers of jute yarn are Bangladesh and India. The cultivation of jute requires specific environmental conditions, including hot weather, 70-80% humidity, weekly rainfall of 5-8 cm, and temperatures between 20-40 degrees Celsius.

Jute yarn production involves meticulous processes, from retting to spinning.

The plant's fibers, composed of cellulose and lignin, contribute to its robust and versatile nature. Besides being biodegradable, jute yarn boasts insulating and anti-static properties, making it a preferred choice in various applications such as curtains, seat covers, carpets, rugs, and

the textile industry.

Apart from India and Bangladesh, other notable jute producers include China, Myanmar, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Vietnam, Egypt, and Thailand.

Diverse Types of Jute Yarn

Advancements in technology have led to the production of various types of jute yarn, each tailored for specific applications. These types include various threads, fine threads, heavier threads, 100% jute yarn, strings and ropes, fine threads with a score of 4 LBS and below, commercial threads, technical threads, mixed threads, and special threads like bulky, covering, and fancy.

Methods for Assessing Jute Yarn Quality

The assessment of jute yarn quality involves both direct and indirect methods. The direct method, established in the 15th century, measures the mass per unit length, directly correlating with the yarn



grade. The indirect method, more traditional, varies regionally and measures the yarn in units of length.

The Production Process and Basic Operations

Jute yarn production undergoes stages such as retting, environmental adaptation, spinning, and more. The basic operations involve softening, filling, carding, stretching, and spinning. The strength of jute yarn depends on fiber properties, and longer fibers contribute to a stronger yarn.

Controlling Fiber Distribution and Yarn Unevenness

Controlling the longitudinal distribution of fibers during jute yarn spinning is crucial for maintaining quality. Due to the presence of short fibers, ensuring a uniform yarn equivalent to cotton threads requires meticulous control.

Reducing yarn unevenness involves factors like applying proper tension, ensuring final tension uniformity, minimizing the distance between tension rollers, and creating optimal adhesion in the wick.

In conclusion, understanding the nuances of jute yarn and its production processes is pivotal for achieving high-quality machine carpets in the textile industry.



The Syrian Carpet Industry: A Tale of Ancient Craftsmanship and Contemporary Challenges

The Syrian carpet industry, steeped in history and tradition, has withstood the test of time, but it now faces modern challenges that threaten its very existence. For centuries, this industry has been an integral part of Syrian culture and heritage, producing exquisite carpets that are more than mere floor coverings—they are pieces of art, each bearing a unique story.

Historical Roots of the Syrian Carpet Industry

The roots of the Syrian carpet industry stretch back into the annals of history, with evidence of carpet weaving dating to centuries BC. The cradle of this craft was the Eurasian plains and Central Asia, where humans began weaving carpets as early as 500 BC. The oldest known carpet, the Pazyryk carpet, hails from this era and is a testament to the enduring artistry of carpet weaving.

Ancient Syrian civilizations, including the Kingdoms of Mary and Ebla, possessed a deep knowledge of textile production, which they passed down through generations. Evidence from archaeological excavations reveals that woven linen was used to clothe the deceased in these ancient cultures.

The city of Palmyra was renowned for its vibrant, multi-colored tapestries adorned with intricate geometric designs. Even today, the people of Badia al-Sham continue to create various daily-use textiles that carry forward this rich tradition.

One pivotal moment in the industry's history was the acquisition of the Kixeru rug from Persians around 636 AD, making it one of the earliest historically recorded carpets. The industry continued to flourish during the Ayyubid and Mamluk periods, with some



museums and private collections preserving Mamluk carpets, often referred to as Damascene carpets due to the involvement of Damascus textile workers in their production.

The Ottoman Empire further embraced this art form, fostering its growth in the Levant. Skilled weavers from Kerman, Damascus, and Cairo flocked to Ottoman territories. Even after the First World War, Armenians in Aleppo continued to contribute to the industry. Wool, cotton, and silk were the primary materials used in carpet making.

The Syrian carpet industry was handed down from generation to generation, thriving until the mid-20th century. However, in the mid-1960s, the Syrian government established “social units for the teaching of the hand-made carpet industry” in rural areas and small Syrian cities. By the end of the 20th century, there were over one hundred such units.

Despite the introduction of modern machin-

ery, the traditional hand-made industry has managed to preserve its core characteristics. Syrian carpets, described by many as works of art, continue to captivate admirers with their exquisite colors and designs.

Carpets as Works of Art

One distinctive feature of Syrian carpets is the way they are viewed—many see them as intricate paintings rather than utilitarian furniture. This artistic perspective is evident in the carpets' designs and patterns, which often feature depictions of Syria's historical landmarks, such as the Palmyra ruins, the Umayyad Mosque, and the citadels of Aleppo and Damascus. These carpets serve as a canvas for portraying the country's cultural and historical heritage.

Religious symbols and those inspired by nature are frequently incorporated into the designs, emphasizing the integral role that carpets play in Syria's cultural heritage. In Syrian homes, regardless of their size or affluence,

carpets are a ubiquitous presence, woven with stories that transcend generations. The transition from being functional floor coverings to expressive artworks further solidifies their place in the realm of creativity.

Diverse Environments, Diverse Carpets

The diversity of the Syrian landscape is mirrored in the wide array of carpets produced across the country. Variations in names, shapes, colors, and fabrics used result in a vast tapestry of carpet types.

Each type of carpet is unique in terms of design, with different names and colors. Iranian carpets are known for their simplicity, warm colors, and floral motifs. In contrast, Turkmen carpets feature consistent patterns, soft textures, and glossy finishes. Pegari carpets are distinguished by their dark colors, natural shapes, and cohesive textures.

These variations extend to the length of fur, the type of embossing, the carpet frame, and the final form. Raw materials for carpet weaving include wool, cotton, silk, or blends of these materials. The colors used have evolved over time, with traditional natural dyes derived from plants like true indigo, saffron, vine leaves, almonds, and the common madder plant being replaced by synthetic chemical dyes.

The Mamluk/Damascene carpets are recognized for their striking scarlet red, golden yellow, and navy blue colors, adorned with geometric patterns and straight branches or geometric shapes. In Damascus, carpets were typically red, while in coastal areas, they took on the hues of the sea, primarily in blue.

Different regions across Syria have their own distinctive carpet styles, reflecting local traditions and environments. Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and Lattakia are known for rectangular carpets with predominantly blue, red, and purple colors.

Challenges Faced by the Carpet Industry

Throughout its history, the Syrian carpet industry has grappled with numerous challenges, but it has managed to endure. In recent times, the most pressing challenge has been the fierce competition from cheaper industrially produced carpets. The allure of lower prices and wider variety has led many consumers to opt for mechanized carpets, potentially endangering the traditional hand-made industry.

Additionally, the mechanical carpet industry has faced its own set of challenges, including outdated machinery, limited color options, and poor planning. These difficulties have sometimes led to difficulties in marketing the products, causing excess stock and potential damage to stored carpets.

Despite these challenges, the Syrian carpet industry continued to adapt and produce exceptional carpets, maintaining the essence of its rich heritage.

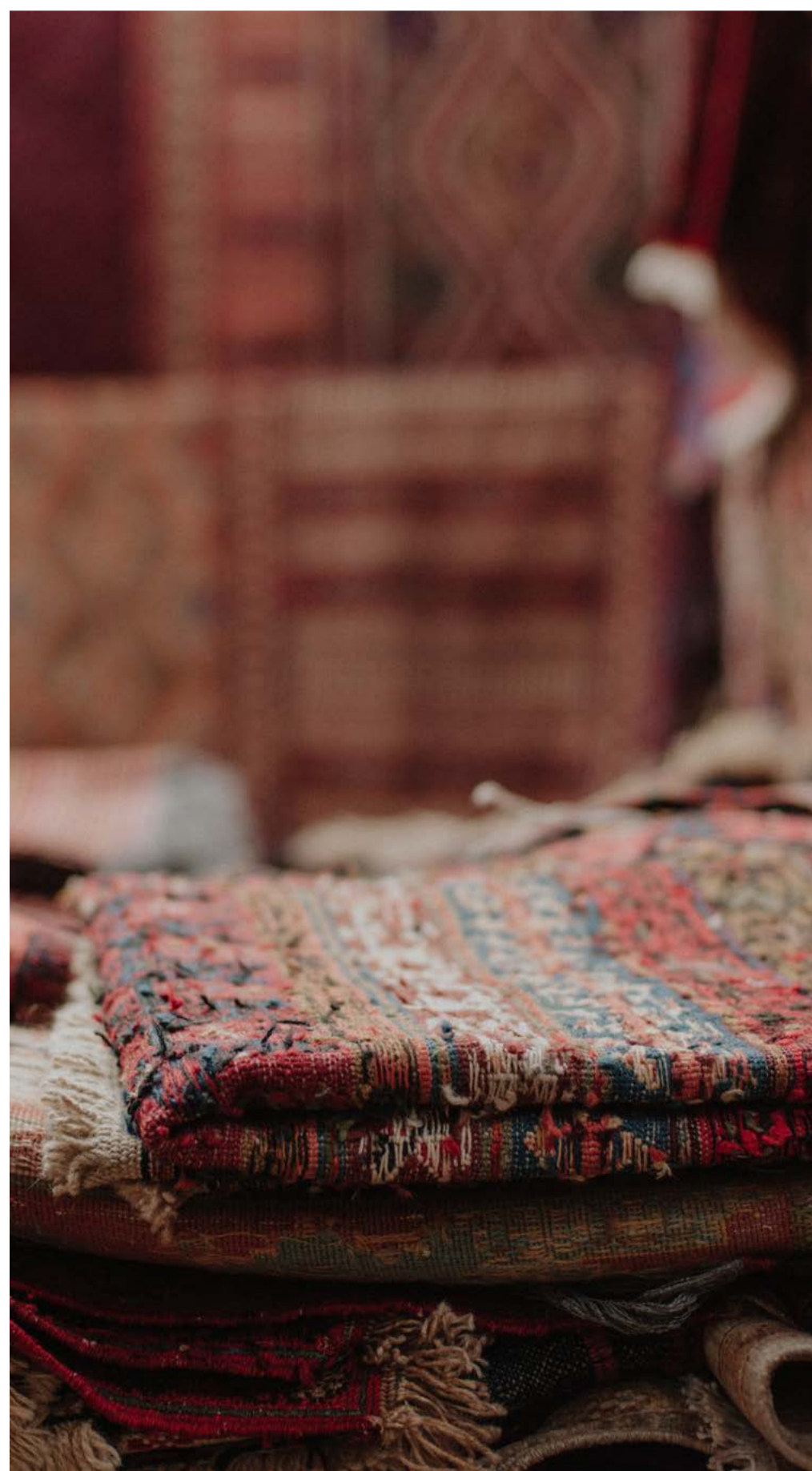
The Uncertain Future of the Syrian Carpet Industry

As we look to the future of the Syrian carpet industry, the path forward remains uncertain, marked by factors beyond easy control. The

industry has witnessed periods of prosperity and decline over the years, but today, it stands at a crossroads, facing the imminent threat of extinction.

Yet, the future holds a glimmer of hope. Craftsmen who inherited their skills from generations past still strive to preserve their traditions and the craft they hold dear. Their dedication serves as a testament to the resilience of this ancient industry.

The Syrian carpet industry remains a symbol of Syria's rich history, artistic expression, and cultural heritage. While the challenges may seem insurmountable, the hope is that this industry will persevere, as it has for centuries, ensuring that these exquisite pieces of art continue to be woven into the tapestry of Syrian culture.



Soft Flooring: Enhancing Safety and Health in Educational Environments

The impact of flooring on safety and health should not be underestimated. Contrary to what many believe, soft flooring emerges as the ultimate solution for crafting a safe and healthy environment. Join us as we delve into the benefits of soft flooring in educational settings.



Improve Indoor Air-Quality with Soft Flooring

Yes, carpet is and will always be the best option for premium indoor air-quality. The fibres of carpets act as natural filters, trapping and holding particles such as dust and allergens that might otherwise become airborne, thereby preventing potential respiratory issues. Regular cleaning and maintenance are paramount, ensuring the continued effectiveness of soft flooring in capturing and containing particles.

Soft flooring can also contribute to better temperature and humidity regulation in indoor spaces. Maintaining optimal humidity levels helps prevent the growth of mold and mildew, which can have adverse effects on indoor air-quality. Making soft flooring not only an ideal solution for people who suffer from asthma, but for all individuals.

Maintaining Comfortable Indoor Temperatures

Carpet flooring provides natural thermal insulation, helping to regulate room temperatures and reduce energy consumption. It inhibits heat conduction, provid-



ing a barrier that reduces the transfer of cold from the ground and helps maintain a warmer environment.

The other way around, carpets can trap and retain heat, preventing the loss of warmth through the floor. A more consistent and comfortable environment can contribute to the overall well-being of occupants.

Cushioning Impact and Preventing Injuries

Educational environments, especially those catering to younger students, are bustling with activity. The likelihood of slips, trips, and falls is inherent, making the choice of flooring crucial. Carpet acts as a natural cushion, providing a softer landing in case of accidental tumbles.

This is especially relevant in spaces like play areas, classrooms, and corridors, where the chances of children running and playing are high.



Also, because of its soft and supportive surface, carpet contributes to improved ergonomics. This can help reduce fatigue, especially for educators who spend long hours standing in classrooms, labs, or other teaching spaces.

Reducing Noise Pollution

The hustle and bustle of an educational institution can contribute to high noise levels, impacting both students and educators.

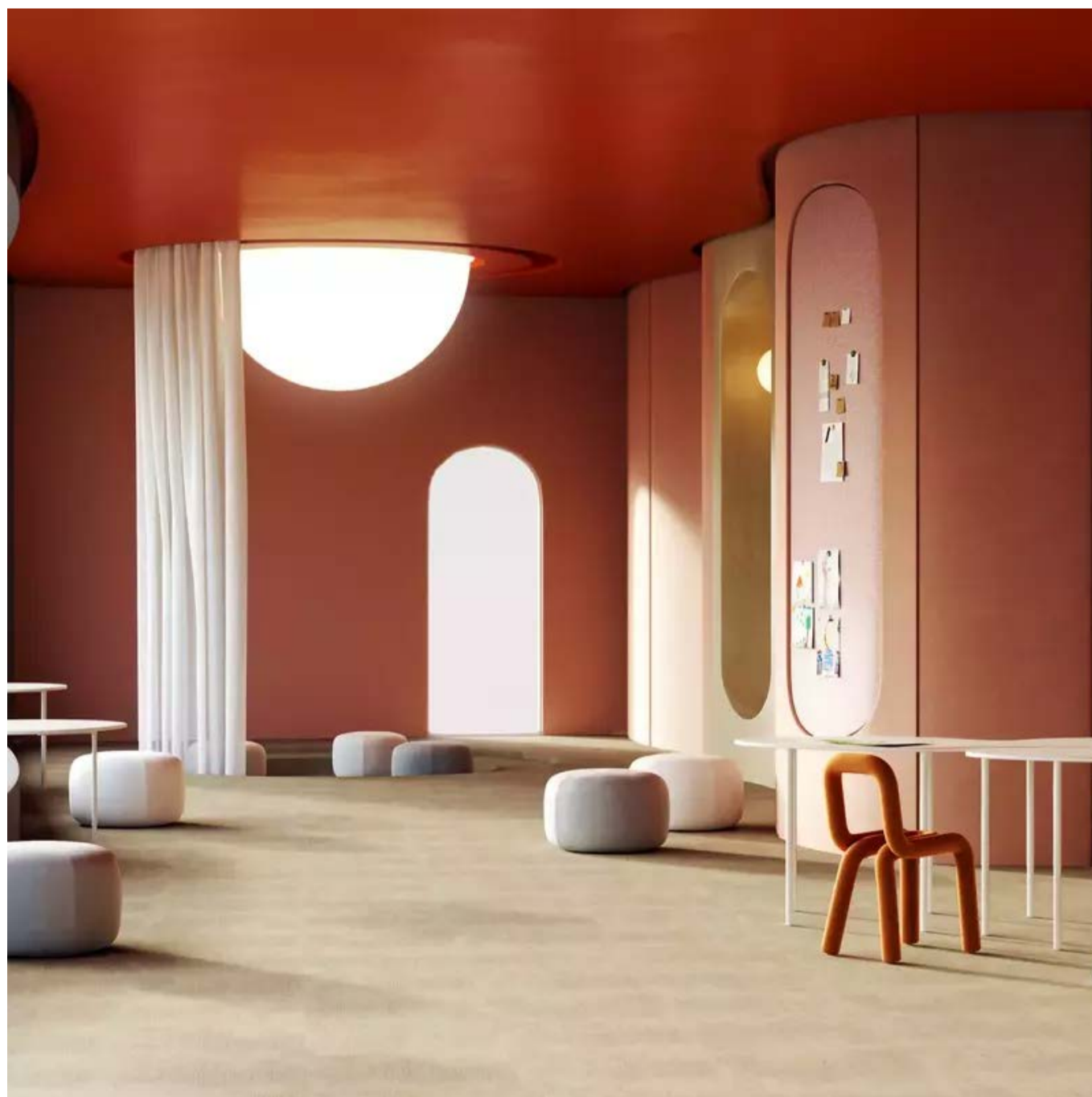
Carpet flooring, with its sound-absorbing properties, helps to minimize noise levels, creating a more conducive environment for learning and teaching. For even better sound-absorbing, choose the comfortBack-backings for carpet tiles which promises an average improvement of 65% in sound absorption and an average

improvement of 25% in absorbing noise from adjacent spaces. These backings are also available with ecological and circular benefits under the name comfortBackeco.

Crafting a Welcoming Atmosphere

Bold and vibrant aesthetics are paramount in shaping a positive learning atmosphere. Enter carpet flooring, a dynamic canvas boasting a myriad of colours and patterns that effortlessly elevate the ambience.

This isn't just about aesthetics; it's about crafting a warm and inviting space that profoundly impacts the mental well-being of both students and educators. Step into an environment where positivity is woven into every fibre, where the very



ground beneath encourages inspiration and fosters a sense of belonging.

Conclusion: The Impact of Soft Flooring

Surpassing mere aesthetics, soft flooring unveils a multitude of benefits. From expertly cushioning impacts to improving indoor air quality and crafting a space of unparalleled welcome, the advantages of soft flooring stand as pillars of well-being within educational institutions.

In our unwavering commitment to prioritize the safety and health of both students and educators, the profound impact of flooring choices takes centre stage in the meticulous design process of educational environments. It's not just flooring; it's a foundation for thriving well-being and a testament to our dedication to fostering optimal learning spaces.

Afghanistan Plans to Boost Carpet Production Amid Rising Demand, Especially from China

Afghanistan is gearing up to significantly increase its carpet production across the country in response to growing demand, particularly from China. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announced this move on Tuesday, with ambitious targets to employ 1.5 million people in the carpet sector, a pivotal step towards revitalizing the Afghan economy.

Afghan rugs have long been celebrated for their exceptional quality and craftsmanship. However, following the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the carpet industry experienced a sharp decline in demand, and the nation's economy was thrown into turmoil.

Despite the challenging circumstances, Afghanistan made remarkable progress in 2022, achieving \$20 million in carpet exports. Production was distributed across 18 provinces, providing employment for over a million individuals, according to Abdul Salam Jawad, a spokesman for the Ministry.

Jawad ministry spokesman Abdul Salam Jawad told "Last year, the export of carpets through the ports of different provinces of Afghanistan was very significant. The plan is to start carpet production throughout the country this year."

Carpets emerged as star attractions during Afghan trade exhibitions both domestically and abroad. Key markets for Afghan carpets included China, Pakistan, Turkiye, and the UAE. "During exhibitions held in India and China, carpets took the top spot," Jawad noted.

For the current year, Afghanistan aims to provide employment for 1.5 million people within the carpet industry. The nation's high unemployment rate, possibly as high as 30 percent



according to Human Concern International, highlights the urgent need for job creation.

China, in particular, is emerging as a lucrative market for Afghan carpets. Dil Jam Manan Qassimy, CEO of the carpet exports company Qassimy Brothers Carpet Co., explained that while carpet exports to China had decreased in recent years, the resumption of Chinese visas for Afghans had revitalized the industry.

"China is a good market for Afghanistan's carpets," Qassimy stated. "The Chinese are very wealthy people; they are very good customers for our carpets. The carpets we produce are of high quality and are relatively expensive. Chinese people are highly interested in our carpets and are always eager to purchase them, making China an appealing market for Afghan carpets."

Meeting international demand has required some carpet weavers to adapt traditional designs. Mohammad Walizada, director of an Afghan rug company in Kabul with 30 years of experience, described how changes to their

products have made them more marketable on the global stage.

"Afghanistan's old carpets and traditional colors have limited international appeal and are mostly sold within Afghanistan," said Walizada. "We have made necessary adjustments based on current demand, which has caught the attention of many Chinese buyers."

Participation in exhibitions in China has expanded their customer base, and they are now dispatching new carpet designs to meet Chinese demand. Approximately 15 percent of their products are now purchased by Chinese customers, reflecting the growing interest in Afghan carpets in China.

In conclusion, despite the recent challenges faced by the Afghan carpet industry, the resurgence of demand, particularly from China, is offering a glimmer of hope for this vital sector. The government's efforts to boost production and create much-needed jobs signal a positive step toward economic recovery in Afghanistan.



Handwoven Carpet Industry in Morocco

Berber tribes have been weaving and braiding carpets for more than a thousand years. The secrets of this refined art are guarded by the women, who pass on this tradition from generation to generation. With their bright colours and original designs, Moroccan carpets are the perfect luxury accessories to emphasise the uniqueness of your home.

Moroccan luxury carpets: from the Atlas Mountains to the most prestigious homes on five continents

The tradition that led to the creation of Moroccan carpets, among the most beautiful in the world, is rooted in the Atlas Mountains. It was in this area of Morocco that semi-nomadic and nomadic Berber tribes, who had come into contact with Persian traders, settled. It was there that they began to exploit the wool of the local sheep to make carpets for daily use and, later, for sale. Even today, almost all Moroccan carpets are made from dense-

ly knotted wool fibres, but there are also tribes that use dromedary or goat wool if necessary.

According to historical reconstructions, the Berber populations of Morocco began making carpets as early as the 8th century and since then production has never stopped, allowing the creation of handmade carpets of remarkable workmanship.

The weft, warp and pile are made from wool, with fibres obtained from sheep shearing. Before being used in carpets, the wool, which has a characteristic ivory white colour, is coloured with dyes obtained from plants and natural pigments. The darker shades often found in Moroccan luxury carpets are obtained from undyed black or brown wool.

What characterises Moroccan luxury carpets and distinguishes them from the traditions that have spread throughout

the Middle East and Asia are both the colours used and the designs created by Berber women. The colours are intense, vibrant and immediately catch the eye of the beholder. There are also pure wool carpets in white. The latter have a simple geometric pattern made from black wool. More often, Moroccan carpets are a riot of colour: red, blue and yellow are the dominant shades, with accents in orange and purple.

For centuries, Berber tribes have used plants and pigments found in nature in the Atlas region to dye their wool. Red and orange, for example, are obtained from the henna plant and blue from indigo. Fig, saffron, pomegranate and tea are also often used in the dyeing of wool.

What really makes Moroccan luxury carpets special is the design, which is made by Berber women without following a fixed pattern. As a result, each carpet is unique and inimitable. While Persian,

Wool Month 2023: Embrace Warmth and Sustainability



Chinese and Turkmen traditions are characterised by patterns that have been repeated for centuries and reflect the culture and customs of the place, Moroccan carpets have this aspect, but to a much lesser extent. The symbols of Berber culture and scenes of everyday life are freely represented in the carpets. This makes each piece a small part of Moroccan culture.

Over time, each tribe has developed its own distinctive style, drawing on specific symbols, colours and designs. It is not uncommon to find geometric patterns in Moroccan carpets, especially in Beni Ourain carpets. However, more often the design is colourful, abstract and characterised by inaccuracies and irregularities. What might appear to be a defect becomes an added value and a distinctive element of the Berber tradition.

Moroccan carpets are usually grouped into different genres, depending on the style to which they belong. The best known and most popular are the Beni Ourain carpets, which are made from undyed wool and have a minimalist design. The carpet is made by knotting white wool threads with a geometric diamond pattern made from black wool threads. Equally popular are the Chichaoua carpets, which are characterised by intense colours and alternating geometric patterns: stripes, lines, lozenges and zigzags.

A luxury Moroccan carpet can, with its essentiality, emphasise the elegance of a living room or bedroom. In the Moroccan tradition, carpets of all shapes and sizes are made: you can also choose a Berber carpet to decorate the entrance area or to give character to the corridor. Whatever the final choice, you are guaranteed to choose a high-quality, soft and comfortable carpet for your home.

The Campaign for Wool is uniting its supporters in a grand celebration of Wool Month 2023 throughout October. Formerly known as Wool Week until 2021, this annual event has now expanded to a month-long festivity, responding to the increasing demand for sustainable, natural fibers and the ever-growing support from enthusiasts.

A wide spectrum of industry participants, including farmers, processors, weavers, designers, manufacturers, and brands, will actively engage in a series of pop-up events, all aimed at enlightening the public about the myriad advantages of wool compared to synthetic materials.

The theme for this year, 'Keep Warm With Wool,' is particularly fitting given the recent fluctuations in energy costs. Wool's versatility extends far beyond clothing, encompassing applications such as insulation, floor coverings, interior furnishings, rugs, throws, fabrics, and, of course, apparel. Wool proves itself as an intelligent and adaptable fiber, characterized by durability and suitability for a vast array of products and end uses.



Cleaning and Perfuming 2,000 Carpets a Week: Grand Mosque's Carpet Department in Makkah

In a dedicated effort to maintain the pristine atmosphere of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, a special department has been established to clean and perfume thousands of carpets each week. Jaber Ahmed Al-Wada'ani, the assistant director general for service affairs at the General Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques, recently revealed the meticulous process behind the maintenance of the Grand Mosque's extensive carpet collection.

The Grand Mosque in Makkah is home to over 35,000 high-quality and luxurious carpets, providing an ideal environment for worshipers to perform their prayers with reverence and tranquility. These green carpets have a profound impact on the psyche of visitors, contributing to the sacred ambiance of the mosque.

Innovation Reshapes the Handmade Rug Industry: A New Era of Sustainability and Customization

The world of handmade rugs, celebrated for its rich heritage and commitment to traditional craftsmanship, is currently undergoing a remarkable transformation. A confluence of technological advancements, evolving consumer preferences, and an increasing emphasis on sustainability is propelling the rug industry into a new era. This shift promises to benefit everyone involved in the trade, from producers to consumers, in unprecedented ways.



Embracing Sustainability

One of the most prominent outcomes of this ongoing rug industry revolution is the industry's heightened commitment to sustainability. Manufacturers are increasingly turning to eco-friendly materials such as organic cotton, recycled fibers, jute, and bamboo. This shift towards sustainability is particularly appealing to environmentally-conscious consumers who appreciate the reduction of waste and the elimination of toxic chemicals and finite resources.

In addition to being environmentally sound, these sustainable rug production practices, characterized by reduced water and energy usage, also translate into cost savings for businesses, thereby promoting a more eco-friendly industry.

Customization Redefined

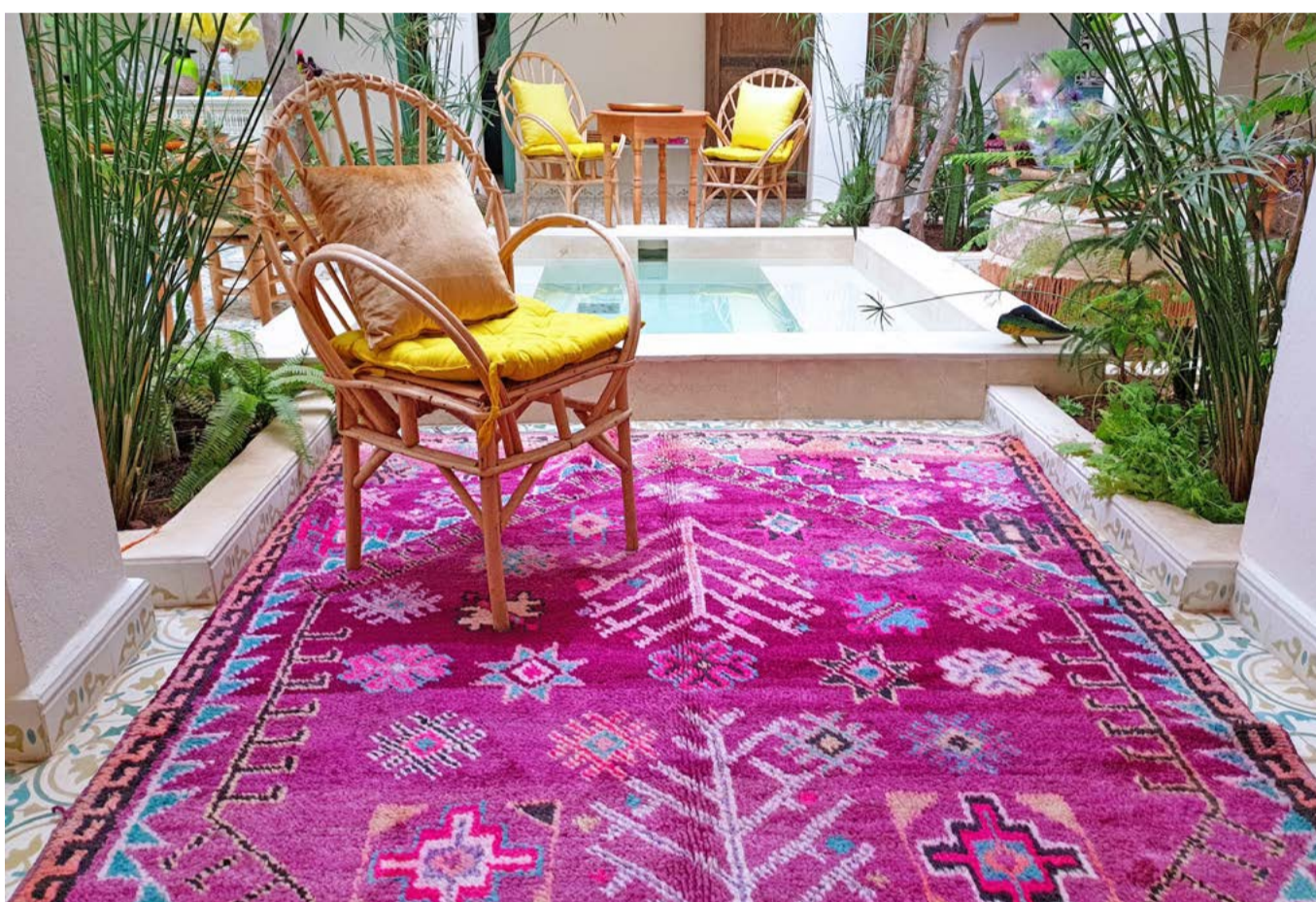
The advent of technology-driven customization has revolutionized the rug market. Customers can now specify the size, shape, color scheme, and pattern of their rugs, opening up unparalleled design possibilities for interior decorators and homeowners alike.

While traditional rug production methods often resulted in variations in product quality due to the reliance on manual labor, the introduction of advanced technology has enhanced quality assurance procedures. Automated systems and cutting-edge equipment have elevated the quality and longevity of carpets.

Enhanced Durability and Ease of Maintenance

The improved durability of rugs is a major selling point for buyers, as it translates to longer lifespans, reducing the need for frequent replacements and, consequently, saving consumers money.

Moreover, innovations in rug production have simplified maintenance. It is now



common to find rugs with stain-resistant coatings or made from easy-to-clean materials, alleviating the burden on buyers who previously grappled with regular rug maintenance.

Online Shopping and Accessibility

The digital revolution has brought about a significant transformation in the way rugs are shopped for online. The proliferation of online marketplaces and e-commerce platforms has made it possible for customers to effortlessly find the perfect rug from the comfort of their homes. This shift not only broadens the potential customer base but also lowers costs associated with maintaining physical storefronts, a win-win situation for both consumers and businesses.

Online shopping also enables buyers to read reviews, compare pricing, and explore a diverse array of options, enhancing the informed decision-making process. This transparency incentivizes producers to uphold high standards of quality and customer satisfaction.

Lower Costs without Compromising Quality

The rug industry has benefited from lower production costs resulting from technological advancements. Manufacturers have achieved cost savings through automation and efficient production scaling, which, in turn, allows consumers to access rugs at more affordable prices without compromising quality.

These budget-friendly yet high-quality rugs are a boon for cost-conscious shoppers, enabling them to enjoy fashionable and long-lasting rugs without breaking the bank.

Supporting Local Artisans and Economies

The transformation driven by technology has also created opportunities to support regional craftsmen and local economies. Many rug factories collaborate with skilled weavers who adhere to traditional production methods. These artisans can reach a broader customer base and earn fair wages through digital tools in the design, marketing, and distribution phases of rug production.

Customers who value cultural and aesthetic significance, ethical production practices, and ecological sustainability stand to benefit from these collaborations.

Reducing Environmental Impact and Promoting Sustainability

The shift towards sustainability and the use of environmentally-friendly materials in the rug industry contributes to a reduction in the sector's environmental footprint. Manufacturers are increasingly employing recycled materials and eco-conscious production methods, aligning with global efforts to combat climate change and conserve natural resources. This approach ensures that customers who prioritize sustainability can be confident that their rug purchases are

making a positive environmental impact.

Versatile and Stylish Contemporary Rugs

Modern rugs are now available in an extensive array of styles, colors, and patterns, allowing buyers to infuse their homes with unique expressions of their personalities. Rugs have assumed a pivotal role in interior design, imbuing spaces with texture, warmth, and aesthetic appeal.

The versatility of contemporary rugs enables them to be utilized in diverse settings, ranging from formal dining rooms and casual outdoor areas to contemporary workplaces. Their adaptability ensures that rugs continue to serve practical and stylish purposes across various environments.

Global Collaboration of Design and Culture

Global Collaboration of Design and CultureThe transformation of the rug industry has fostered greater international cooperation and cultural exchange. Rugs

that seamlessly merge traditional craftsmanship with modern design elements frequently result from collaborations between manufacturers and designers from different corners of the world. This cultural fusion offers customers a diverse selection of rugs that pay homage to various cultures and eras.

The ongoing metamorphosis of the rug industry has yielded benefits for a wide range of stakeholders, including rug buyers, producers, and environmental advocates. Today's rug market offers more choices, enhanced convenience, greater sustainability, higher quality, simplified maintenance, and expanded online accessibility.

The adoption of technology and sustainable practices in the industry aligns with the growing consumer demand for personalized and eco-friendly products. The rug industry serves as an intriguing convergence of history and innovation, producing goods that enhance our lives and the environments in which we reside.



A Cultural Treasure: The First Specialized Turkmen Carpet Museum in Iran

Nestled in the heart of Iran, the first specialized Turkmen carpet museum has emerged as a cultural gem, a testament to the rich heritage of Turkmen carpets. Within its walls, this museum proudly displays an array of precious and authentic Turkmen carpets, each a masterpiece showcasing the art, history, and craftsmanship of the Turkmen people.

Among the hand-woven carpets produced in Iran, Turkmen hand-woven carpets stand as champions. Their distinction lies in the use of 100% wool, a limited color palette, and a characteristic absence of dull designs. These qualities set Turkmen carpets apart, making them a unique representation of Iran's rich weaving tradition.

Turkmen Carpets: Weaving a Tapestry of Tradition

The Turkmen, originally a group of Central Asian Turks, have a longstanding presence in the region extending from the east of the Caspian Sea to the Jihun River. While Turkmenistan is their primary place of residence, some of the Yamut and Teke tribes have settled in Iran.

In the Turkmen Sahara region, where climatic and topographical conditions shaped their way of life, carpet weaving became a cherished skill among Turkmen women. Initially, this craft served the practical needs of the Turkmen people, with less emphasis on artistry. However, over time, the people of this region recognized the economic potential of carpet weaving. As a result, the craft flourished



and evolved into a highly esteemed tradition.

The oldest Turkmen hand-woven carpet discovered to date dates back to the 19th century, making it nearly two centuries old. The Yamut, Arsari, and Chedar tribes were pioneers in the art of carpet weaving within this region of Iran.

Unfortunately, due to the nomadic lifestyle of the Turkmen people, historical records are scarce, and detailed information about the history of their carpet weaving is limited. Nevertheless, the available knowledge offers insights into the roots of Turkmen carpet weaving.

A defining characteristic of Turkmen carpets is the dominant use of the color red. Notably, silk carpets are rarely woven among the Turkmen people, and when they are, they are often preserved as cherished family heirlooms, intended for their daughters' dowries.

The establishment of the first specialized Turkmen carpet museum in Iran is a testament to the enduring legacy of Turkmen carpet weaving. Each carpet on display not only showcases the artistry and craftsmanship of the Turkmen people but also serves as a link to the rich tapestry of Iranian culture and history. This museum stands as a cultural treasure, preserving and celebrating the heritage of Turkmen carpets for generations to come.

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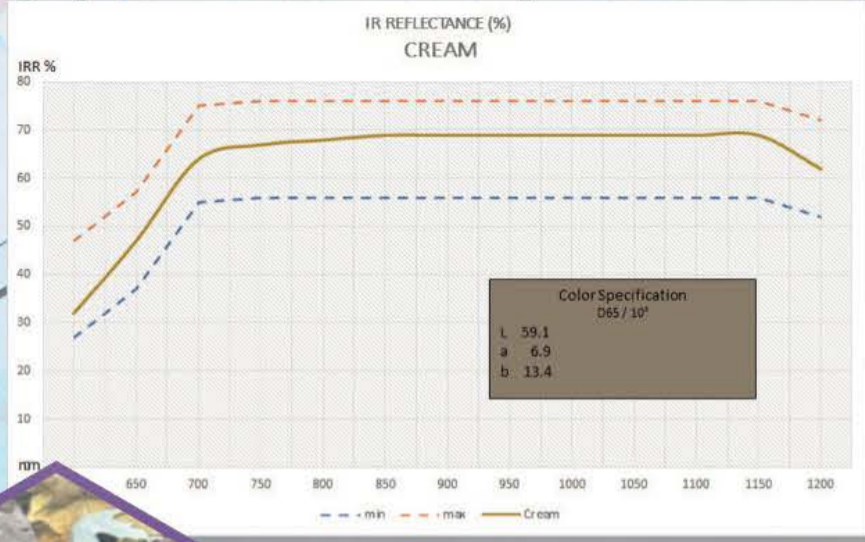
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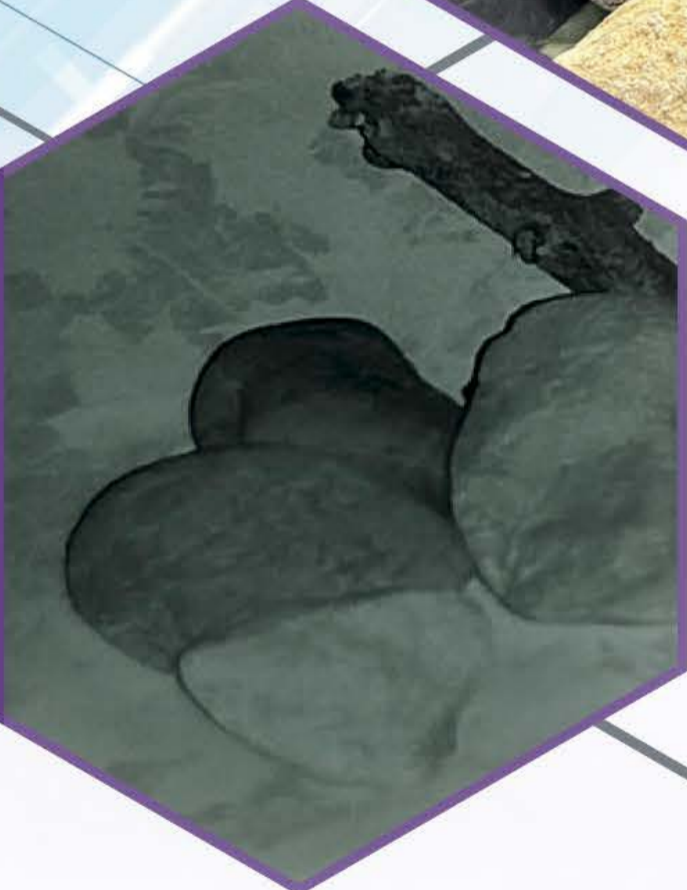
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