

cover

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STEFAN HEYER X KNOTS RUGS

AWAKEN THE SPIRITS



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SHINING EXAMPLES

The play of light and shadow is the inspiration behind a three-part collection by New York architectural firm Deborah Berke Partners and premium rug brand Warp & Weft. **LucyUpward** finds herself drawn to the light



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The designs appear clearly composed and almost straightforward, but the colouration and materiality reveals a depth and richness that becomes personal and interactive

- Kiki Dennis

Opposite page *Dawn 1*, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

01 *Midday 1*, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

02 *Dusk 2*, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

In 2020, New York's exclusive rug brand Warp & Weft and New York-based architecture practice Deborah Berke Partners released the first three rug designs from the collaborative Light & Shadow collection. Depicted in cool, neutral tones, the three hand-knotted designs *Dawn 1*, *Dawn 2* and *Dawn 3* reflect the subtleties of first light. 'Our Dawn collection was inspired by early morning light as it gently washes over a surface, revealing less of its colouration and more of its surface quality and reflectivity,' says Kiki Dennis, a partner at Deborah Berke Partners.

The second series of hand-knotted rugs from Light & Shadow—released at the end of 2020—is named Midday and has a different aesthetic. This time reflecting midday light effects, the designs have a warmer, darker palette with more defined lines and shapes. Kiki Dennis says, 'The designs appear clearly composed and almost straightforward, but the colouration and materiality reveals a depth and richness that becomes personal and interactive.' The Midday

designs are woven to give a finely woven, short, dense pile in 100% wool.

Released earlier this year, the last part of the collection, Dusk, has a neutral palette and focuses on texture with varied pile heights to create depth. The three loop-knotted carpets combine wool, silk, and hemp.

Shown together on Warp & Weft's stand at ICFF in May this year, the Light & Shadow collection won Editor's Choice Award for best Carpets and Flooring. Congratulations to the Deborah Berke team who worked on the designs: Stephen Brockman, Kiki Dennis, Deborah Berke, Terrence Schroeder, and Caroline Wharton Ewing.

Michael Mandapati, founder of Warp & Weft, was thrilled with the award and comments: 'I have long been an admirer of the talented designers at Deborah Berke Partners and of the work that they create, so the idea of a collaboration was instinctive. It has been my great pleasure to help transform the firm's sophisticated designs into the highest-quality carpets.'

www.warpandweft.com

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Our rug collection
abstracts the light,
shadows, patterns,
and reflections in
some of our most
iconic projects

- Kiki Dennis



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Q&A with Deborah Berke Partners

Kiki Dennis, Partner at Deborah Berke Partners, talks to **Lucy Upward** about the company’s award-winning rug collection with Warp & Weft

How did the collaboration with Warp & Weft begin?

We have known Michael for a long time and worked together for many years, so we were excited to collaborate, and to develop ideas that were true to our sensibility and to the quality and craft of Warp & Weft.

Did you have previous experience of designing rugs or textiles, and the parameters of the technique?

We have designed custom rugs over the years so we had a basic understanding of the process. It was a joy to collaborate with Michael, who is one of the most knowledgeable and enthusiastic people in the rug-making world. His expertise guided the materiality and techniques that would best realise our designs.

How did your architectural background shape the designs for the Light & Shadow collection?

Our collection was inspired by the values that inform our architecture and interiors. In our practice we are always attentive to how light changes over the course of the day and with the turning of the seasons. Our rug collection abstracts the light, shadows, patterns and reflections in some of our most iconic projects to create sophisticated, graphic compositions of form and colour, enriched with texture and lush materiality.

What were the considerations in terms of the colour of the rugs?

Our collection features three series, each of which has its own approach to colour and pattern. The carpets in the Dawn series were inspired by early morning light as it gently washes over a surface, revealing less of its colouration and more of its surface quality and reflectivity. For the Middyay series we were inspired by the crisp and graphic shadows and strong contrasts observed in midday. For the Dusk series we used pile height and texture to give the carpets dimension and to evoke the

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03 From left: Unknown, Terence Schroeder, Deborah Berke, Kiki Dennis, Stephen Brockman, Caroline Wharton Ewing

04 Dawn 3, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

05 Middyay 3, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

06 Dusk 1, Light & Shadow collection, Deborah Berke Partners x Warp & Weft

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shadows that come as night falls. Colours are neutral, although the hemp-and-silk rug in the Dusk series has a shot of colour evoking the last brilliant hues glimpsed as the sun disappears below the horizon.

How important was the selection of materials to the overall design?

The palette in this collection is neutral at its essence, assuring the carpets have a timeless textural appeal. The designs were realised in natural fibres: wool, silk and hemp were the ideal materials to translate our designs and to convey the timeless quality of hand-made carpets.

How have you observed people using rugs within residential spaces in the past?

For us, the carpet is often a foundational element in a space and in dialogue with the other furnishing elements. We feel these carpets have a strong presence, and flexible interpretation.

During the past few years, have there been changes to the way people want their residential spaces designed? And how does floorcovering design fit into this?

There is a renewed appreciation for craft and natural materials and a desire to invest in timeless design and quality. These carpets are about those values.

Are there more rug designs on the horizon for Deborah Berke Partners?

This collaboration has inspired us to continue to develop custom designs. We hope there will be many more carpets to come.

www.dberke.com