designers' notebook

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What markets do you attend?

Being only an hour away from High Point, I always attend market in the fall and spring and try to go other times too. I also shop in New York City and Atlanta. My husband and I travel to Chicago, so I have started sourcing from there as well. Even with the great resources on the internet, there is nothing better than attending the markets.

Do you have a favorite style or fiber of rug?

Antique or semi-antique rugs are beautiful, and my favorite rugs to use when the project and budget allow for it. The patterns and colors are authentic, original, and always tell a story or have meaning if you research it. Wool rugs wear the best, clean well, and overall are the best natural fiber for long-term use and

investment. I do use new rugs, because they are also well made, and there are a variety of styles and patterns. I often use new rugs for young families that need kid-friendly spaces.

What is your balance between newer rugs to old and antique rugs?

It comes down to finding the right rug for the client, their needs, the space and the budget. Balancing it all is the job and finding the perfect one is the goal.

Where do you primarily source your rugs?

Having worked eight years in New York City, I still work with many dealers in the rug district and the D&D building. A few local rug shops in Charlotte have great carpet and rug options. Many rug dealers are on ebay if you aren't in large cities like New York, Los Angeles, and Atlanta frequently and want to see good options and reasonable pricing.

Do you shop online or by catalog?

Yes, it's easy and convenient, and if you have a good relationship with a vendor it will work. I just sent three rugs to Charlotte from Los Angeles on approval, and the client kept one and we returned two. I couldn't have been happier with the service or process.

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