

HOMES

Russia: An entire apartment design inspired by a beautiful carpet

In this 4,305-square-foot apartment, decorator Natela Mankaeva created an interior that meets the needs of two different generations

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Designing a family home isn't easy—children and parents often tend to have conflicting opinions. And, this is where designers come in. Natela Mankaeva, the founder of the Decorator N studio was invited on board to give new life to this apartment in Russia. While the primary clients were the parents, one of their children was soon going to settle in the

home as well. So it was important to design an interior that everyone liked. While the young dweller wanted minimalism, and the parents, as Mankaeva says, wanted “something more picturesque”.

Grounded Design

Mankaeva says architect Frank Gehry came to the rescue. “I’m a fan. I was even lucky enough to go on an excursion to his studio in Los Angeles,” she says. “And soon after the opening of Louis Vuitton Foundation, I saw a collection of his carpets at the Maison & Objet—the design was very similar to his architectural sketches. And so I too proposed such a carpet for this project. Usually designers select carpet after the interior is completed but we went the exact opposite way: the whole design was inspired by the carpet, which brought texture, colour, and geometric rigour to



the interior," she shares.





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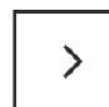
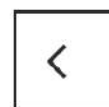


Scattered Hues

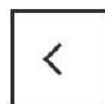
Inspired by the carpet, different shades of red disperse throughout the house—whether it is in the curtains in the living room, a painting in the dining room or in the banquet in the hallway. Along the perimeter of the rooms, Mankaeva installed black cornices and black baseboard. The walls are kept light.

“Even if I do a modern interior, it is still warm,” says the designer. The furniture in the apartment is sleek, but expressive.











Ideal Haven

The 4,305-square-foot apartment was opened up by combining two apartments, the outlines of which are visible in the current layout. On one side of the entrance there is a public area, and on the other, a more private part, which provides for a “children's” block with a separate entrance, its own living room and three bedrooms. One day the owner's children will settle in these rooms. For obvious reasons, the designer created spaces that would suit their needs without of course, having met them. But she's certain they will like it here.