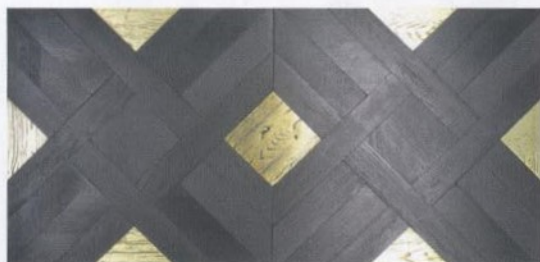




From top: fabrics from Soane; taps by Daum at Bathrooms International; 'Eastwood' carpet from Ralph Lauren Home;



flooring by Art/Deco Parket; carved stele at Westland London; table at Talisman; stainless-steel kitchen by Scholtès

network

Sophia Salaman chooses the best merchandise and events worldwide



■ Inspired by textiles from countries such as Pakistan, India, Tibet and Turkey, Ralph Lauren Home has launched its new rug collection, featuring 55 rugs in 21 different designs. Choose from Persian wool, traditional Tibetan yarns and flatweave kilims from Turkey, but also from contemporary designs, including the American cable-hook classic and sensual, hand-knotted velvet cut-pile rugs. Eco-friendly and organic hemp and jute rugs are intricately patterned in colours that enhance their natural beauty. Ralph Lauren Home, 1 New Bond St, London W1 (020 7535 4600; ralphlaurenhome.com).

■ Bathrooms International's striking and luxurious new 'Daum' collection of taps mixes the influence of the Orient with deep colour. Based in Nancy, France, and founded in 1878, Daum has used its heritage of artistic glassmaking to create five designs – 'Dragon', 'Island', 'Ginkgo', 'Vegetale' and 'Flore' – in three colours: sun, a striking orange; jade, a mixture of green and yellow; and moon, a silvery grey. Ring 020 7838 7788, or visit bathroomsint.com.

■ Art/Deco Parket merges the age-old mastery of ancient royal parqueteers with contemporary design to produce beautiful floors with an antique and rustic quality. The Franco-Belgian flooring company, which works with a sawmill that has specialised in oak for more than 50 years, also produces luxurious panels and combinations of wood and metallised wood. All products are fitted in a traditional manner by a team of experienced craftsmen. Ring 00 33 3 24 41 39 07, or visit artdecoparket.be/en/welkom.

■ Visitors to Westland, a well-established dealer in architectural elements in east London, will find 16 galleries displaying a wide range of antiques including garden statuary, furniture, mirrors and lighting as well as a variety of pieces from World War I and aeroplane propellers from the 1930s. One-off items include a towering stele carved in English alabaster and built in five sections; it depicts the evolution of the Earth's species. Westland London, St Michael's Church, Leonard St, London EC2 (020 3411 9848; westlandlondon.com).

■ Soane Britain, renowned for producing outstanding furniture, lighting and interior essentials, is to launch its eagerly anticipated line of fabrics. Eight designs feature in the collection, all created by the company's founder Lulu Lytle, who took antique fabrics, Indian palampores, Eastern weaves, European damasks and African prints as her inspiration for the range. All fabrics are handmade in Britain. Soane Britain, 50-52 Pimlico Rd, London SW1 (020 7730 6400; soane.co.uk).

■ Talisman's newly reopened showroom in Gillingham, Dorset, is based in an old brewery. It now houses an eclectic mix of 18th- and 19th-century European antiques and Mid-century Modern furniture and accessories. Visitors will also find newly landscaped formal and sculptural gardens displaying a combination of English and continental 18th- and 19th-century statuary and 20th-century sculpture. Activities at the showroom include a series of open-plan workshops for restoration and upholstery. Talisman, The Old Brewery, Wyke Rd, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 4NW (01747 824393; talismanlondon.com).

■ De Gournay has played a key role in preserving the traditional skills involved in the art of making handpainted wallpaper, and has expanded into carved furniture and fabric collections for soft furnishings to complement its wallpapers. The company also recently launched a collection of handpainted scarves at Bergdorf Goodman in New York. De Gournay, 112 Old Church St, London SW3 (020 7349 8330; degournay.com).

■ Collaborating with Spanish-born designer Patricia Urquiola, kitchen-appliance brand Scholtès is opening its Wigmore St showroom in October. The new space fuses the worlds of food, design, culture and luxury by holding demonstrations, classes and private dinners. Urquiola's layout aims to provide a relaxed and informative environment for customers, helping them to select the right appliances for a new kitchen. The design combines materials such as copper, stones and textured floor tiles to produce a showroom that is traditional and practical. Scholtès, 98 Wigmore St, London W1 (0800 158 5500; scholtes.co.uk). ▷