

## **Fashion designers aim to dress up the floor**

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You admired hip designer Nanette Lepore's peacock-patterned dresses, but they were so three years ago. Now you can resurrect the pattern for your floor.

Lepore has joined a growing list of fashion designers -- Calvin Klein and Liz Claiborne (with Nourison), Oscar de la Renta (with elson & co.), Vivienne Westwood, Paul Smith, Diane Von Furstenberg, Lulu Guinness (with The RUG Company) -- who are translating their passion for fashion design to floor coverings.

Lepore recently introduced a bold-patterned area rug with her peacock design for the Doris Leslie Blau carpet gallery in New York. The gallery also, in early March, unveiled two nautically inspired rugs designed by Tommy Hilfiger (one blue with white anchors, the other navy with a red chain-link pattern).

What do those in the world of interior design think about fashionistas stepping in?

"I believe good design is good design, and a good designer is a good designer," says Thom Filicia, best known as the design expert on the television series "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy."

Filicia, who has designed for celebrity clients including Jennifer Lopez and Marc Antony through his New York firm, Thom Filicia Inc., says the important thing in interior design is understanding people's lifestyles, something fashion designers do well.

"A good designer can transcend from the area they are focused on into other areas and do it very successfully," Filicia says.