

# GHISLAINE VIÑAS

The New York-based interior designer speaks to **Judith Glass** about her use of carpets and textiles in her work

**B**orn in the Netherlands, Ghislaine Viñas lives and works from a vast Tribeca loft with her husband and two children. The Viñas studio delivers the authentic flexibility of this gritty urban live/work sensibility to an essentially downtown American clientele.

### How do you use textiles and carpets?

Designing lofts without traditional rooms I use rugs to define areas and to create intimate spaces. If a space is very architectural I will use a lot of white walls and rely on furniture to bring in the colour. I use area rugs to create layers on a uniform floor. Rugs are a great way of connecting elements.

### How do you choose your materials?

The first thing that I think of is the colour – then the texture. I go for visual impact and then comfort. I like using ecologically sound materials and as a mother I am very conscious of the Rugmark program.

### Do you have favourite suppliers?

I seem to return to the same companies that do my colours: Création Baumann, Castel, and Osbourne & Little. I sometimes use China Seas. I designed an apartment for Randy and Craig Rubin who own Crypton Super Fabrics, who I now use all the time.

### Define your textile style?

I design in the real world and like durable fabrics. I use tons of super slick patent vinyls. Kid-friendly surfaces are a must so I might coat delicate pieces like linen with a thin layer of vinyl. I like simple geometrics and solid colours. I seldom like any prints, but Maharam or anything from Paul Smith usually works.

### What is your signature?

I like clean surfaces. I am not a big fabric kind of person – we use it to get softness, and for its graphic properties. I use Tretford carpeting wherever possible. I never use anything older than mid-century and we always re-upholster vintage furniture with contemporary fabrics. For rugs I am a European as I use Danskina, Nani Marquina, Ruckstuhl and Van Besouw.

### A favourite colour?

Orange and green. Green is fresh and clean.

**Right:** New York Pied-a-Terre, NYC

**Below right:** Greenwich Village townhouse, NYC

**Below:** Ghislaine Viñas



### Who or what has inspired you?

I admire the way that Kelly Wearstler has modernised Dorothy Draper with Hollywood Regency style. She is not scared of colour. I am in awe of designers who can mix a patterned rug with a floral print. People like Shamir Shah who use beige without being boring. Contemporary artists such as Leah Tinari. My biggest inspiration is the Dutch aesthetic; they do not shy away from colour.

### Where do you shop?

New York is easy – B&B Italia, The Conran Shop, Moss and Dune.

### Which projects were most challenging?

My collaboration with the Mixed Greens Gallery in Chelsea; using ornate sari fabrics



in an interior for Chris Anderson, the founder of TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design), and being stretched to produce a more traditional townhouse in the Village.

### And the future?

At some point I would like to experiment by using texture and form with very minimal colour or no colour, and to enlarge my vocabulary of furniture.

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