



PROFILE

SISTERS KATHERINE AND ALI YAPHE'S LIGHTHEARTED APPROACH TO RUG DESIGN ENSURES THAT FUN IS ALWAYS AFOOT.

ABOVE: Sisters Ali (left) and Katherine Yaphe.

TOP CENTRE: Y&Co's sunny showroom, in the heart of Toronto's design district.

TOP RIGHT: From the Oliver Yaphe Kids collection: Alphabet Soup and Flower Power, 6' x 9', \$3,024 or \$56/sq. ft.; runners, 3' x 10', \$2,100 or \$70/sq.ft.

Katherine and Ali Yaphe have fond memories of playing hide-and-seek under the dangling rugs in their father's now-closed Montreal carpet store, which had been in the family for 75 years. Today, the far-flung siblings — Ali lives in Toronto, while Katherine is based in New York — are still having fun with broadloom. Catering mainly to the design community, Ali's Toronto showroom, Y&Co, specializes in upscale carpets and textiles; the newest line on offer is the Oliver Yaphe collection, designed by Katherine in the U.S. but made in Nepal. Comprised of ravishing, durable rugs and runners, part of the new collection targets the children's market with such whimsically named patterns as Alphabet Soup and Family Tree; all, however, are also urbane enough for adult tastes.

WHY IS THE LINE CALLED OLIVER YAPHE?

Oliver was the family dog when we were growing up. It's named after him.

WHAT INSPIRES THE DESIGNS? Things as simple as a stack of books or people on the street. Travel is also a muse. The first kids' designs were sketched while waiting on an airport runway in Barcelona. There's a mix of old and new — the rugs are hand-knotted, so there's old-world craftsmanship, but the look is up-to-date.

WHY COLLABORATE? We complement each other. Y&Co is about having fun with your home and Katherine's designs, full of lively colours and patterns, are natural fits. They're happy rugs.

WHAT'S NEXT? We plan to expand the line, maybe with a collection of bedding. Visit www.oliveryaphe.com. — IRIS BENAROA

HOT STUFF



Mini Series

Downsizing, it seems, isn't just for empty nesters: two modern classics — Vitra's Pantone Chair and Ligne Roset's Togo seating — are now available in pint-sized versions (and prices) for kids. Identical to designer Verner Pantone's original mid-'60s design, the Pantone Junior (right) is 25 per cent smaller and available in three additional colours ideal for nurseries: light pink, sky blue and pale lime. Like the full-sized Togo collection designed by Michel Ducaroy in 1973, the Mini Togo chairs (left) have removable quilted covers. Two versions cater to both tots and tweens: Baby Togo for two- to four-year-olds and Mini Togo for five- to 12-year-olds. Pantone Junior, \$115. Baby Togo, approx. \$768; Mini Togo, approx. \$1,047. See Source Guide for retailers. — KIMBERLEY BROWN



Photography by Michael Graydon (top)