

CRAFTY NUMBERS

Knitted furniture, blanket stitching and tapestry, the New Folk Movement is the perfect antidote to techno overload. So stop tweeting and join the artisans... *Words Dee Iva*



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1 These incredible giant rugs by Patricia Urquiola for Gandia Blasco stole the show at this year's Milan furniture fair. A variety of wool knits creates a vibrant patchwork of assorted patterns, colours and textures. The collection comprises 10 designs, each of which can be wall hung individually or strung together on the floor for dramatic effect.

Mangas Rug (from £1,700 for L300xW145cm), Chaplins (020 8421 1779; chaplins.co.uk)



2 You just can't help but smile at the quirky Jumper chair by Bertjan Pot for Established & Sons. Wrapped around the comic curves of a sturdy wood and steel frame, the knitted cover is available in plain and striped grey, but for sheer Dennis the Menace attitude, the red and grey version, pictured, gets our vote every time. (H73xW80xD65cm), £2,450, Mint (020 7225 2228; mintshop.co.uk)

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3 Frédérique Morrel scours France for vintage tapestries to create an extraordinary collection that includes sofas, cushions, life-size deer and people. Landscapes, reclining nudes and mythical birds are just some of the themes that dance across these elegant pouffes and each unique piece is handmade. From €420 (approx £345) for H20xW30xD20cm pouffe (+33 6 7664 0596; frederiquemorrel.com)

4 The Sampson light by James Plumb is a handmade limited edition of 25. The inspired combination of a wooden toy dog's body, old pub lamp and wire flex tail gives this push-along light (H38xW68xD23cm) a pleasingly Heath Robinson quality. £750, Liberty (020 7734 1234; liberty.co.uk)

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5 This cheeky parrot will keep a watchful eye on your belongings. The Parrot Party, recently hatched in Lladro's new Atelier Collective, is a set of ceramic vases, coat hooks (pictured), candelabras and mirrors, which may well turn out to be the party animals of the year! Parrot Hook 1 (H17xW15cm), £225 (0800 015 2413; lladro.com)

6 The Crisis 2009 collection of plywood tables and chairs, named after the global recession, eschews unnecessary detailing, taking an honest stance that offers a refreshing dose of dependable design. Available in natural unlacquered or grey lacquered finish. Table (H78x W120xD61.5cm), from €401 (approx £329); chair, from €190 (approx £159), Piet Hein Eek at Rabih Hage (020 7823 8288; rabih-hage.com)

7 The traditional Russian babushka is given a new lease of life on this cushion – printed on luxe silk twill in muted tones, contemporary style collides perfectly with olde-worlde charm. Matryoska cushion (H55xW55cm), £70, by Thomas Paul at Supernice (020 7613 3890; supernice.co.uk)

8 Drawing on the skills of local artisans, Welsh homewares company Blodwen has created a striking range of blankets, throws, cushions and rugs. This beautiful wool blanket is a modern take on a traditional Welsh design that was originally woven on primitive hand looms. Double-sided with blanket-stitched edging, it's the perfect way to champion current Celtic style. Carthenni blanket (L236xW244cm), £375 (01239 622 828; blodwen.com)

9 Even arch modernist B&B Italia has picked up the folksy vibe with the Bend sofa system by Patricia Urquiola. Its soft angles, sinuous curves and amorphous shapes form a modular system that can be configured in a number of ways. Available in soft leather or touchy-feely felt – the defining detail is the contrast blanket stitching which is bang on trend. From £2,200 for W214xD111cm section (020 7591 8111; london.bebitalia.com) **GD**



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