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# When decorating a room, let colorful area rugs have the floor

“Start with a great rug.”  
How many times have you heard that maxim from interior designers talking about how to decorate a room?

“OK, fine,” I think to myself, “but then what?”

“Just pull color from the rug” is the rhetorical answer.

“Oh, easy for you to say,” I think. If you’re like me, you’re left wondering which color, where, how much of it, solids or prints?

Now, those of you who already know the answers and think this is easy, kindly go smugly off to read some other section of the newspaper and leave the rest of us to muddle through.

Also, while I’m off the subject, allow me to address another peeve of mine: That mocking word “just” (as in “just pull color”) does not belong in any sentence that involves home decorating. I will leave it at that.

For me, this ability to “just pull a room together around a rug” doesn’t “just happen,” and yet, my favorite rooms are those that seem to effortlessly fall together around a fabulous area rug.

When I encounter such a room, I try to visually deconstruct it to figure out what’s working, but find no formula. I craved the secret.

So, recently, when I came across a photo of a living room inside an historic Manhattan townhome in the West Village, which had at its core a vividly patterned, room-unifying rug. Rather than speculate, I called the interior designer behind the project.

“The easiest place to put a lot of color is on the floor,” said New York designer Kathleen Walsh, owner of Kathleen Walsh Interiors. “Color on a floor has less impact than a bold pattern anywhere else in the room but will still enrich and energize the space.”



AT HOME WITH  
**Marni Jameson**

However, she added, “a patterned rug like this works best when everything else takes a step back. The minute you add something that competes, the eye gets confused.”

Walsh’s clients tend to fall into two groups, she told me: non-rug people and rug people. “For the non-rug group, looking at rugs is dizzying, while those in the other camp say, ‘I can’t decide on anything else until we have the rug figured out.’”

Either way, she adds, the choice of a rug, even if it’s solid, should come early in the design process, after creating the furniture plan but before choosing furniture and pillows.

The reason designers often advise furnishing a room around a great area rug or a lead fabric is because these textiles have built-in, curated color. This is the genius. Designers who really understand color and how colors work together

have already created a palette that gives you a running start.

However, to make sure you don’t run off in the wrong direction and make one expensive mistake after another (as I have), here are some pro tips on how to (and not to) decorate a room around a rug.

*Give the rug the floor.*

If you are building a room around a colorful, patterned rug,

let the rug be the dominant voice in the space. “It’s the main speaker,” said Dallas interior designer and author Betty Lou Phillips. “Everything else needs to play a supporting role.”

Don’t upstage it, but do turn to it to find colors to pull out for large, upholstered pieces and accessories.

SEE **MARNI, 5H**



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# Did you know?

Here are ways reclaimed wood can be incorporated into a home's interior: *Accent wall:* Transforming a wall into an accent wall with reclaimed wood is a simple project that won't affect the existing design of a home's interior. A living room or home office can be given a

whole new look with the addition of an accent wall made from reclaimed wood. *Furniture:* Reclaimed wood also can be put to use, or reuse, as furniture. A home office desk made from reclaimed wood can be both stunning and sturdy, while end tables and coffee tables made from

reclaimed wood can add some unique character to a living room. *Kitchen islands:* Homeowners who aspire to have a farmhouse kitchen can consider reclaimed wood when creating their kitchen islands. *Storage beds:* Guest rooms tend to be

smaller than other rooms in the house, and that means little room for furniture like dressers. Rather than cramming lots of furniture into a small room, homeowners can utilize reclaimed wood to create storage bed frames. The frames won't take up extra space.

# Open Houses Sunday, July 25, 2021



**115 4th Avenue, Glasgow**  
**\$139,000**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

Well maintained 3 BR, 2 full BA, one-story home in Glasgow. Large rooms, Owners suite w/full bath & double closets, open kitchen/dining rooms, & sunroom addition. Roof approx. 5yrs, HVAC approx. 7yrs. Property includes large two-story, possible 2 BR, 2 full BA apartment in the rear of the lot w/ carport. Many apartment updates including new flooring, kitchen island w/bar seating, & large open living space. Great investment opportunity!

**Ben Adkins**  
 304-415-0195

**OLD COLONY REAL ESTATE**  
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**25 Baker Drive, Hurricane**  
**\$398,750**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

This open plan has an owner's en-suite bedroom with huge walk-in closets and 2 other bedrooms on main floor. The privacy fence allows you to enjoy outdoors. The spacious bonus room leads to attic eaves floored for storage. This brick house has 2 heat pumps and updated outlets & wattage in 2 car garage.

**DIRECTIONS:** Turn right on Winfield Road (old 35), in 8/10 of a mile turn right onto Radwin Drive (right past Speedway). Turn right onto Baker Drive. House in on the left.

**R. Joseph Miller, Broker**  
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**990 N Rustling Rd, South Charleston**  
**\$311,000**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

Remodeled and updated throughout including new carpet, paint, light fixtures, landscaping, and more! Awesome home with large room throughout. House located within the GW school district.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Montrose Exit off I-64, Stay on Montrose to stop sign at the top. Veer left on Weberwood Dr. Left on Thousand Oaks.

**Peggy White**  
 304-395-0619

**OLD COLONY REAL ESTATE**  
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**708 Red Oak, Charleston**  
**\$259,900**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

Charming Brick 4 BR 2.5 BA home with lovely front porch, located on a quiet street close to downtown and all amenities! Newly renovated kitchen with granite countertops, gorgeous tile backsplash, and stainless appliances, new double oven, new dishwasher. Gorgeous patio great for entertaining or relaxing with detached 2 car garage.

**DIRECTIONS:** W Washington St to Edgewood Dr to left on Beech Ave to left on Mathews Ave to right on Red Oak St.

**Margo Teeter**  
 304-419-1919

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**10 Dapplewood Rd, South Charleston**  
**\$349,000**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

Fantastic townhome that is a must-see! Well maintained and move-in ready. Relax in a bright and airy sunroom or step out onto the back deck to unwind. Spacious rec room upstairs with two generous, oversized bedrooms. The Master bedroom is on the main level. Don't let this one get away!

**DIRECTIONS:** MacCorkle Ave in South Charleston to Jefferson Road. Cross the tracks and continue right on Jefferson Rd. Dapplewood is on the left.

**Cody Carver**  
 304-533-6927  
 Listed by Team Di Filippo

**Better Homes and Gardens CENTRAL REAL ESTATE**  
 Josh McGarth - Broker



**501 Thomas Street, Hurricane**  
**\$299,000**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

Beautiful family home in the heart of Hurricane! Situated on a flat corner lot, glistening hardwoods, solid 6 panel doors. Hardwoods flow to the upstairs hall and additional bedroom. Large master suite with vaulted ceilings. Family room opens to the kitchen. Large 4th bedroom could be rec room. Formal living and dining room. Newer roof. Oversized side load 2-car garage. Gas fireplace. Rear deck and so much more. A must-see!

**Drue Smith**  
 304-546-0662  
 www.DrueSmith.com

**FAMILY FIRST REALTY NET**  
 Family First • 2 Chase Drive, Hurricane, WV  
 Mark Madore, Broker • 304-562-2893



**211 Sheridan Circle, Charleston**  
**\$229,900**  
 2:00-4:00 PM

South Hills area, front of the hill with beautiful views of the city in the much-desired GW school district. New kitchen cabinets, granite countertops, SS appliances, washer & dryer, HVAC unit, hot water tank, & a 12-15-year-old roof. Updated baths & beautiful hardwood floors. 5 bedrooms & 2 1/2 baths, plus a finished basement. Must see!

**DIRECTIONS:** Corridor G / 119-S to right on Cantley Drive, quick right on Fort Hill Drive, continue to T - then left on McKenley, quick right on Sheridan to house on left.

**Marlein Habash**  
 304-610-4523

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**1064 Green Meadow Rd, Charleston**  
\$177,000

This beautiful 4 bedroom home is ready for your cosmetic updates to make it your own. Skylight & gleaming hardwood floors greet you at the door. Decorative wood accents wall in the family room offers a comfy place to relax and cozy up in front of your wood-burning stove. Private wrap-around deck for entertaining Perfect two-level fenced area for your fur babies. New offering price \$177,000 call me 304-541-7336 today to schedule your personal tour or Sarah Wright 304-542-1261.

SCAN FOR WALK-THROUGH VIDEO



**Mara Ellis**  
Realtor®, GRI, ABR, SRS • 304-541-7336  
oldcolony.com R. Joseph Miller, Broker



**25 Marie Dr, Hurricane**  
\$172,000

Exceptional condition in this gorgeous 2 bedroom(one on main), 2 bath townhouse. Professionally painted throughout! Upgrades to kitchen and baths Low maintenance living and low HOA fee \$300 annually. Asking \$172,000.

Call today for your personal tour!  
304-541-7336 or Sarah Wright 304-542-1261

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# MARNI

FROM PAGE 2H

## Don't amplify the dominant color.

"When taking cues from an area rug or fabric, I like to pull the least expected hue," Phillips said.

In the room I liked, for example, the rug's main background color was a deep pinkish orange. However, the rug also had teal blue in the border, which Walsh drew from for the upholstered sofa, and a sandy taupe, which she picked up in a pair of upholstered chairs.

"The goal is for the furniture to sit on the rug and look separate from it," Walsh said, not blend into it.

Echoes of the rug's background color can show up in smaller touches, such as pillows or other accessories.

## Go solid on sofas.

"Generally, I like for the sofa to be a solid so as not to distract from the speaker (the rug)," Phillips said. A contrasting welt, again picked up from a color in the area rug, can add energy.

## Avoid an exact match.

When pulling a color from the rug, don't try to hit it exactly, Walsh said. "Matched colors look boring. You want colors to be in the same family, but slightly off. That variation in hue makes color feel dynamic."

## Keep other patterns at bay.

If the area rug has a large-scale pattern, don't use another large-scale pattern on, say, the drapes. Choose a small-to-medium pattern for other fabrics, Walsh said. "But do use other patterns. Falling back on solids is a little lazy."

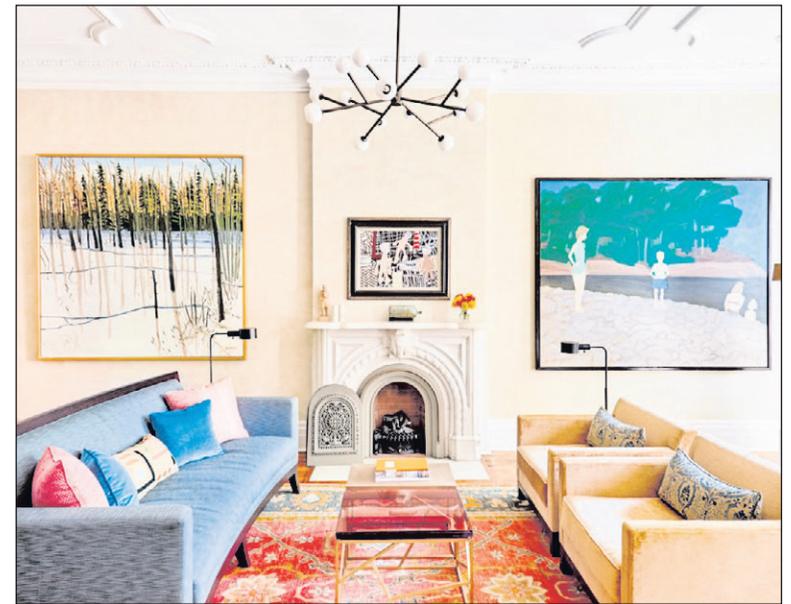
## Color the whole room.

To balance pattern and color on the floor, bring color up into the room onto the walls with art, wallpaper or window treatments, and, perhaps, onto the ceiling with an interesting fixture. Then further distribute the selected accents colors throughout the room with pillows, throws and accessories.

"In a well-done room, there's a reason for everything," Walsh said.

So, see, it doesn't "just" happen. Join me next week to learn how to get the look of a high-end rug for one-tenth the price when you buy a good knockoff.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Save, What to Let Go," and "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want." She can be contacted at [www.marnijameson.com](http://www.marnijameson.com).



Color has the floor — For this circa 1900 West Village townhome in New York, interior designer Kathleen Walsh designed the living room around a vibrant area rug. The blue-green upholstered sofa and apricot-taupe chairs draw from secondary colors in the rug. The wall art also relates to the blues and tans in the rug. Photo courtesy Rikki Snyder for Kathleen Walsh Interiors.

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**4524 SPRING HILL AVE., SOUTH CHARLESTON**  
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 1.04+/- Acres on Dead End Road  
 Call Taylor Ramsey (304) 552-5201



**Commercial Building with Fenced Lot**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 3RD @ 5:00PM**  
**LEVI HARDWARE, 4941 MIDLAND DRIVE, RAND**  
 SUBJECT 1: 4941 Midland Dr.  
 5,149+/- sqft Commercial Building  
 SUBJECT 2: 5005 Midland Dr. Commercial Lot  
 Call Todd Short (681) 205-3044



**Commercial Office Space with Upstairs Apartment in Prime Location**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 5TH @ NOON**  
**142 MACGORKLE AVE, SAINT ALBANS**  
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**6664 FRAME ROAD, ELKVIEW**  
**ONLINE AUCTION**  
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- Tue. August 3rd – Huntington – Two Building Lots in Desirable Stamford Park – VIRTUAL AUCTION
- Thu. August 5th – South Charleston – Charming 4 Bedroom Stone Cape Cod
- Thu. August 5th – Saint Albans – Commercial Office Space with Upstairs Apartment Unit in a Prime Location
- Tue. August 10th – Charleston – Historic Charleston Duplex Near Capitol
- Sat. August 14th – Scotttown, OH – 4-Bedroom Home, Warehouse, Barn, & more on 71 Acres
- Wed. August 18th – Glenville – 125.25+/- Acres with 2 Homes
- Thu. August 19th – Poca – 3 Bedroom Brick Home in Established Neighborhood
- Tue. August 24th – Charleston – Gorgeous 4 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Thu. August 26th – Harts – Two 3-Bedroom Homes Near Big Ugly
- Thu. August 26th – Harts – Move-in Ready 3-Bedroom Home

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- Mon. July 26th – Dunbar – 2-Unit Apartment Building Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Tue. July 27th – Huntington – Four Huntington Properties Sold to the Highest Bidder
- Thu. July 29th – Charleston – 100x40 Barn on 2 Flat Acres
- Mon. August 2nd – Scott Depot – 4 Bedroom in Scott Depot Being Sold to the Highest Bidder
- Wed. August 4th – Huntington – 2 Bedroom Project Home Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Thu. August 5th – Elkview – 3 Bedroom on 1.44+/- Acres
- Mon. August 9th – Boone County – Multiple Parcels of Land in Boone County Selling to the Highest Bidders
- Tue. August 10th – Beckley – 32 Acres Selling to the Highest Bidder
- Tue. August 10th – Saint Albans – 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle
- Wed. August 11th – Crawley – 54.9+/- Acres with Home Site & Barns
- Thu. August 12th – South Charleston – 3-Bedroom on 2 Lots
- Wed. August 25th – Falls View – 19 Apartment Units Plus Garage Selling to the Highest Bidder



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