



MEET THE DESIGNER



Paola Lenti

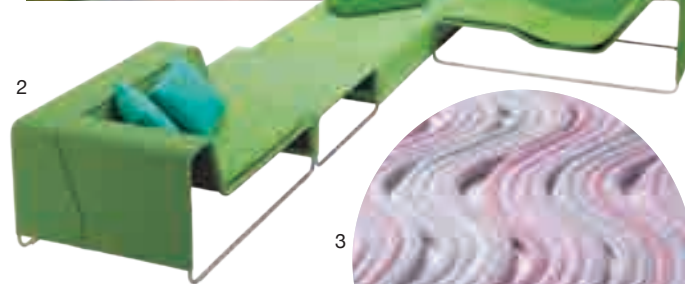
Italian designer Paola Lenti is known for devising unique high-tech, weather-resistant yarns and cords that are woven and shaped into colorful carpets and furniture, balancing industrial processes and handcraft to elevate the comfort and design of outdoor furniture.—*Sharon King Hoge*



Since her childhood, color has had an impact on Paola Lenti, who recalls receiving a book of colored collage paper at age five: “The first pieces I cut and combined were dark orange and turquoise, colors I still like today. I don’t remember a time when I viewed the world and thought in black and white.” After working as a graphic designer for events and fashion companies, she began creating collections of glass and ceramic items until felt rugs lured her into textile research. Established in the early 2000s, her firm develops and features materials that artisans transform into rugs, upholstery and furniture with a strong woven textile character that is versatile, resilient and comfortable. “Our furniture is conceived to serve people,” says Lenti. “Never the protagonist—it never shouts but rather blends with the environment, indoors or out, and creates a very serene balance that makes people feel good.” paolalenti.it.



1. Your work is developed with an architectural approach. What is a building you admire? Philip Johnson’s Glass House offers an absolutely innovative approach. Within the transparent walls, you are immersed in nature yet you’re still in the open air—fantastic.



2. What item illustrates how your work has changed over time? Material: Rope has evolved radically through the years from simple yarns with cords and braids into a true outdoor fabric. The Aqua collection illustrates how it changes the scale of classical weaving with endurance, reliability, a balance between performance and a true respect for the environment.



3. Why is Rio a favorite rug? My rugs and fabrics have a graphic soul, and I try to give two dimensions a three-dimensionality.

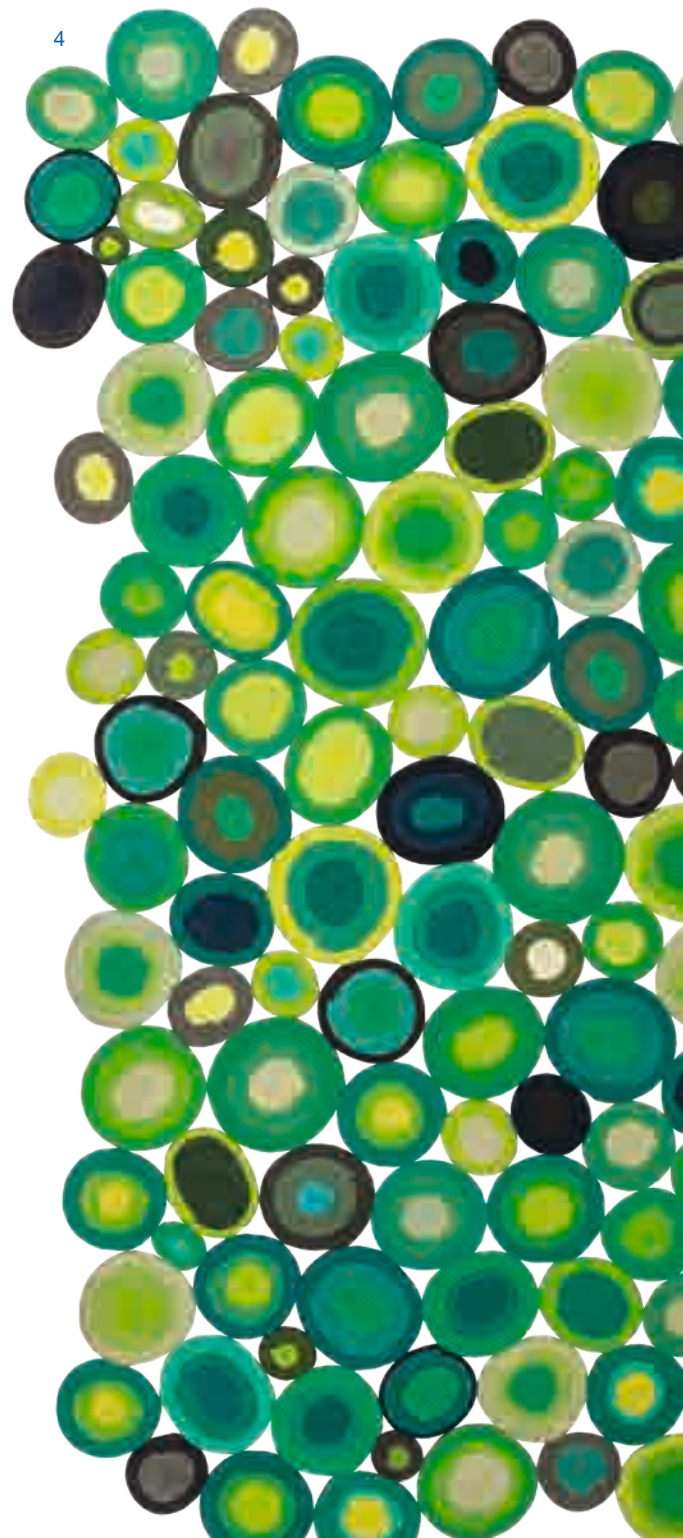


4. What’s an example of your company’s teamwork in product development? We started developing the molded Diade material four years ago, then the R&D department experimented with molding the yarn into a rigid material that designer Francesco Rota could translate into the Lido collection.

5. What’s your favorite color combination? Blue and white. An elegant and classic combination that’s beyond fashion and trends. I used it in some of my early glass and porcelain collections.

6. What do you treasure about the paintings by your father, Piero Lenti? The subject is the countryside where we lived and reminds me of my family and the colors, flowers and landscapes of my youth.

GLASS HOUSE: MICHAEL BIONDO



MOD SQUAD

1. Each one-of-a-kind Prism rug from **ABC Carpet & Home** is hand-woven in Nepal in shades of blue silk. NYC, abcchome.com.
2. Based on a Swedish design, the Bond rug by **FJ Hakimian** is woven in wool on cotton and can be customized in size and color. NYC, fjhakimian.com. **3.** The Fjord wool rug by **Nordic Knots** was inspired by an aerial view of the Norwegian coastline and its many fjords. nordicknots.com. **4.** **Paola Lenti**'s unique patterns are produced with polyolefin rope cording, shaped and sewn by hand to form round and oval decorating modules. Available through ddcnyc.com, NYC, ddcnyc.com, paolalenti.com. **5.** Parisian designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec experiment with repetitive lines and rhombuses in their Blur series kilims, shown here in green, from **Nanimarquina**. NYC, nanimarquina.com.