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DECEMBER 2022

Best of British



Network

Busola Evans chooses the best merchandise and events worldwide



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1 Guo Pei and the Rug Company have pooled their talents for 'Opulent Nature', rugs and cushions inspired by Chinese history. 'Empress Gold', for example, is handcrafted entirely in silk. It's an adaptation of the now-famous dress designed by Pei and worn by Rihanna at the 2015 Met Gala. *The Rug Company*, 124 Holland Park Ave, London W11 (020 3369 3915; therugcompany.com)

2 Brillig & Borogove has unveiled its newest pieces, including this 19th-century scarlet-painted octagonal tea canister, one of a near-matched pair, each of which is decorated with a gilt chinoiserie figure flanked by Chinese characters. *Brillig & Borogove*, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (viewings are by appointment via the website only: brilligandborogove.com)

3 Paul Smith's hallmarks run through 'Everyday Life', his collaboration with De Padova, focused on upholstered pieces with intriguing twists such as functional pockets attached to armrests. Contrasting stitching, such a feature of his catwalk collections, is present, alongside rich hues such as ecru, brick red and lime green. *De Padova*, 72-74 Sloane Ave, London SW3 (020 7590 8910; depadova.com)

4 Known for linens in all shades of neutral, De Le Cuona has ripped up its rulebook for 'Terra Firma', four fabrics woven in flax and wool, with a rich palette that nods to founder Bernie de Le Cuona's South African roots. The contemporary velvets are a highlight, with merino wool making them soft and durable. *De Le Cuona*, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (020 7584 7677; delecuona.com) ®