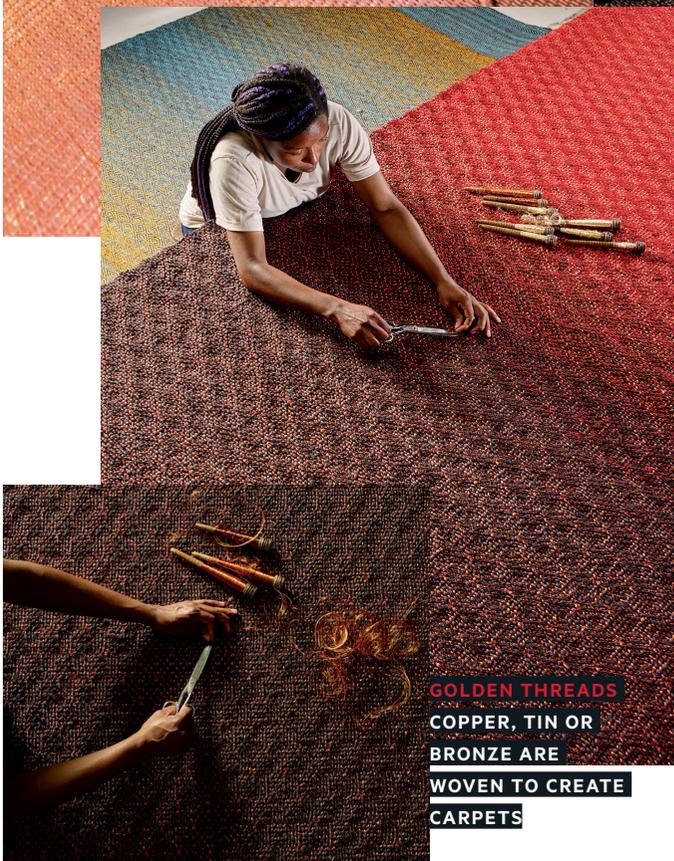
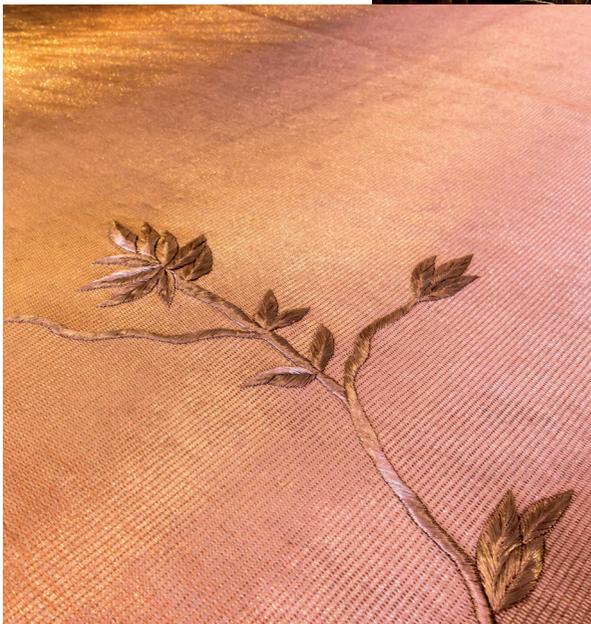


Colombian weaver
Jorge Lizarazo's
collaboration with
Iwan Maktabi has
resulted in unique
metallic rugs



**GOLDEN THREADS
COPPER, TIN OR
BRONZE ARE
WOVEN TO CREATE
CARPETS**

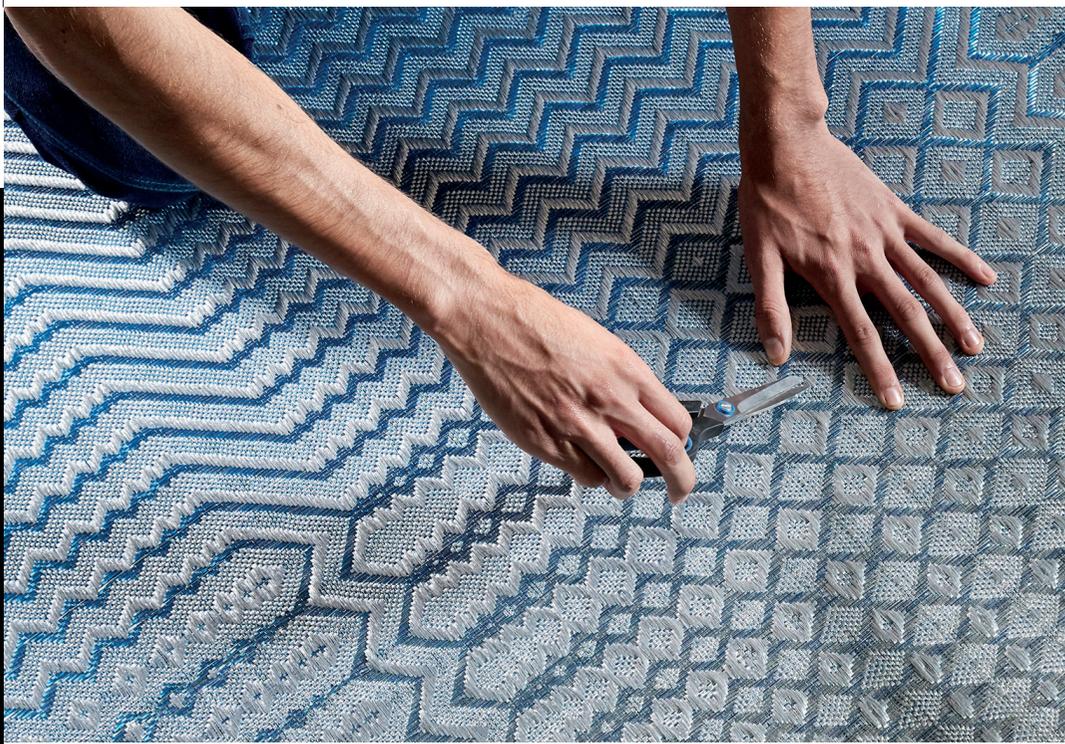
MAGIC WEAVING

Colombian weaver Jorge Lizarazo collaborates with Iwan Maktabi to produce one-of-a-kind textiles made of metallic materials

WORDS **KARINE MONIÉ**

Textiles, textures and colours are three fundamental elements for decorating any interior space, where these details can add warmth and give personality to a home. As such, rugs and carpets are key. Dubai-based textile and rug company Iwan Maktabi has, for three generations, continued to reflect the same passion its founders had for rare carpets and textile art from Iran, Turkey, the Caucasus Mountains and Central Asia. Founded by the patriarch of the Maktabi family who emigrated from Isfahan, Iran to Beirut, Lebanon in 1926, the collection not only includes antique and traditional pieces, but also contemporary creations by talented designers.

Self-taught Colombian weaver Jorge Lizarazo—who studied architecture at the University of Los Andes in Bogotá—is one of them. He began his professional career at Massimiliano Fuksas in France, an experience which had a huge impact on his path and creative vision. Lizarazo recalls one



Colour is the starting point for every Hechizoo creation, inspired by life in Bogotá

sentence the Italian master repeated constantly at that time: “Do not underestimate the materials. Everything has more potential than what we think it does, multiple uses and purposes.” After returning to Colombia, Lizarazo began to think of hand weaving rugs with materials that would stand the test of time. At that moment, he decided to explore an unusual material in the field: metal, specifically copper.

In parallel, CEO of Iwan Maktabi Mohamed Maktabi was about to happen upon Lizarazo’s craft. “I was attending a dinner party in 2007 and the person sitting next to me mentioned that he had ordered a metallic carpet for his New York City house,” he recalls. “I thought he meant that the carpet had silk metallic colours or some incursions of metal. But four years later, one of my friends told me he had seen a carpet completely made of metal thread by an artist from Colombia. That’s when I discovered Lizarazo’s work.”

After three years of conversations and a 10-day trip to Lizarazo’s Bogotá studio and workshop, Hechizoo—a new collaboration—was born. “Jorge’s pieces can be romantic, fiery or representative of the forces of nature,” comments Maktabi. “The endless possibilities that come from using copper, tin, bronze and stainless steel—in addition to vinyl, leather and natural fibres—are thrilling.”

Colour is the starting point for every new creation by Hechizoo. Production time varies widely depending on the rug’s complexity, from two days to several years. Everything is made in Colombia and inspired by daily life in Bogotá, expressing the joyful mood of the city through vivid pieces. “Our immediate environment is full of colours, textures, smiles and unexpected things,” Lizarazo explains. “This goes back to our ancestors, the Incas.” Directly drawn from the landscapes and history of the region, ‘Amazonas’ and ‘Goliath’ are two Hechizoo masterpieces. “For us, the Middle East evokes the desert and we link it to the colour of the sand paired with the blue sky and the sea that gives it earth tones,” Lizarazo points out.

With infinite geometries and a variety of fibres (over 2,500), the rugs—crafted by hand or on a traditional loom designed by Lizarazo and his 60-member team—are true works of art. “One of the convictions that gave life to Hechizoo was to make people believe that they can live from the work performed by their hands, from the knowledge they learned from their grandparents—and that it was literally possible to weave their destiny,” says Lizarazo.

