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Issue 86

The Great Indoors

May / June 2012

State

Detail is the key to unifying a sprawling court and office complex in The Hague.

the

of

Art



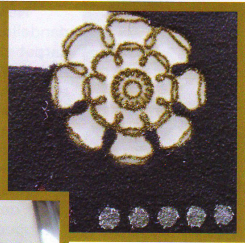
Words Jane Szita
Photos Roos Aldershoff

Carpet Magic

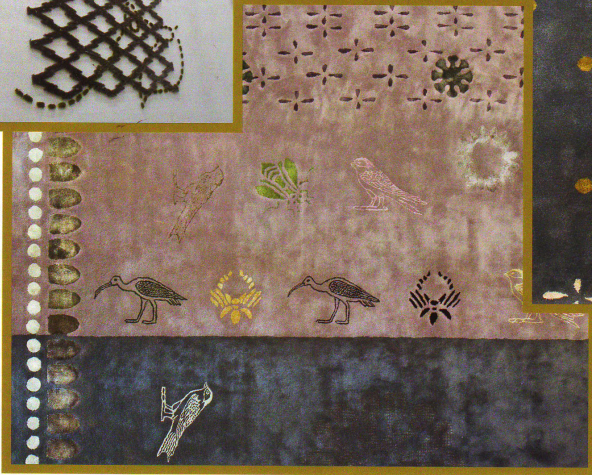
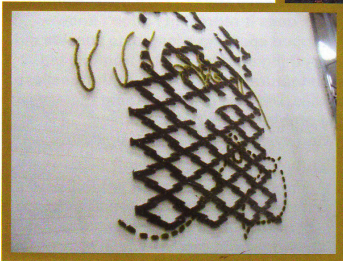
Merkx and Girod refurbished the ballroom (which had been serving as a meeting room) to be used for receptions and other formal functions. The right fixtures and fittings were essential to the creation of the desired atmosphere. Edith van Berkel designed the spectacular ballroom carpet (together with Evelyne Merkk), which she based on the White Palace's neutral, earthy colour scheme. It was hand-tufted, over many months, by German artisans who added bamboo, silk and viscose to wool for textural variety. 'The Empire motifs of the bee, urn, bird and rose were derived from a book I bought in Berlin,' says Evelyne Merkk. The finished carpet measures 6.5 x 19 m. It is complemented by curtains that were hand-woven in Lyons to designs by Merkk and Girod.



Inspiration for the carpet motifs came from a book on the Empire period.



The carpet was painstakingly hand-tufted over a period of months by German artisans.



The final piece measures 6.5 x 19 m.



The ballroom was restored to its former glory by removing awkward interventions and adding dramatic new elements like the 'dandelion' chandeliers and carpet.

**'For us detail is functional,
never just decorative'**