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## 10 Centimetres Per Day

Posted On: Thursday, April 14th, 2016

*Designer Angela Fulton has just returned from a trip to Nepal to see the production of hand-knotted rugs (watch the video). She talks about the production process and her first impressions of Nepal.*

For anyone who is surprised when they are quoted 12-16 weeks or more for delivery of a hand-knotted rug, I urge you to take a few minutes to watch the short video that Jacaranda Carpets has recently produced. It was filmed in March during a visit by Jacaranda's Designer, Angela Fulton, to the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, and is an eye-opener.

### *Hand-knotted Rug Production Caught on Video*

The video [Hand-knotting the Himalayan Way](#) features all the key stages of production, from carding the sheared wool, through to spinning and dyeing, weaving and finishing. The artisan manufacturing process involves a large team of workers, with many of the tasks surprisingly physical as well as highly skilled. Watching a rug emerge on the loom at roughly 10 linear centimetres per day should be compulsory viewing for anyone involved in selling or promoting rugs. It is a wonderful story to share.

This was Angela's first trip to the weaving community of Kathmandu and on her return I caught up with her about her experiences:



Angela Fulton of Jacaranda Carpets & Rugs in Nepal

**Q: It is nearly a year since the terrible Nepalese earthquakes in 2015, is there still much evidence of the devastation?**

A: The piles of rubble, where once there were shops and homes, and the wooden scaffolding propping up historic buildings are noticeable. Whilst our suppliers have managed to rebuild their facilities, it is evident that there is much reconstruction still to be completed. However, seemingly a bigger problem has been the road blockages on the Nepal/India border, which has caused a dire shortage of fuel, basic supplies and food. Although the protest is officially over now, there were months when the need to queue for fuel and food prevented people from working. Many were forced to make a daily choice between queuing to obtain food or going to work and earning money to pay for supplies. Even now that the situation has improved, prices are still higher than before the blockages, which has increased the cost of living in Nepal. Despite everything the people have to put up with, I found everyone I met incredibly positive and welcoming.

**Q: You saw the whole production process of one of Jacaranda's Himalayan rugs – what impressed you the most?**

When I work with interior designers on a special rug commission, the issue of colour and quality is always an important aspect which we discuss. Jacaranda employs an inspector in Nepal and it was excellent to meet him and understand the minute level of scrutiny undertaken throughout the production process. For instance, if yarn is spun slightly too thick a gauge, this has a direct knock-on effect on the number of knots achieved per square inch; in turn, this can distort the pattern and also the dimensions of the final rug. The yarn is dyed in massive vats of hot water and then dried in the sun; each batch of yarn used is meticulously checked against our agreed strike-offs. We also choose to have our wool hand-carded, as it results in particularly strong fibres and softer rugs.



The gauge of yarn impacts the overall rug quality

**Q: There seems to be a trend to mix wool with other fibres such as bamboo, banana and silk. Why is this?**

A: Tibetan wool has naturally high lanolin content and has long, strong fibres, which is why we use it in our Jacaranda Refined Himalayan Collection. The combination of silk (from China) and other fibres adds texture and makes more interesting tone on tone designs. This is a subtle look for which Jacaranda is particularly acclaimed. The silk has a natural luminosity, which creates different effects depending on the light. We use banana silk in our Mirage rug, achieving a fabulous sheen and ultra soft result. When visiting suppliers, it was interesting to see they were experimenting with other yarns too, including hemp and nettle. However, so far we have found that our European customers prefer the warmth, softness and luxury of wool.



A hand-knotted rug takes weeks to produce at roughly 10cms per day

**Q: Jacaranda signed up to the GoodWeave certification scheme many years ago. Is it still as relevant to your business as ever?**

The labelling scheme is fundamental to the values of Jacaranda. In recent years, the [GoodWeave Standard](#) has expanded from certifying that a rug has been made without child labour to also ensuring there is no forced or bonded adult labour. This additional aspect of the GoodWeave label is very good news to all concerned and necessary if customers are to have full confidence in the rugs they purchase.

## Floor Story Starts New Chapter with Sunny Todd

Posted On: Thursday, February 25th, 2016

Sunny Todd's style is bold and BIG and translates well onto rugs. [Floor Story](#), the UK rug retailer making a name for teaming up with young, exciting designers, has just launched two exclusive rug designs by the husband and wife duo. The 'Diamond' and 'Zig Zag' rug designs have an energy and element of fun – a refreshing new take on graphic design.