

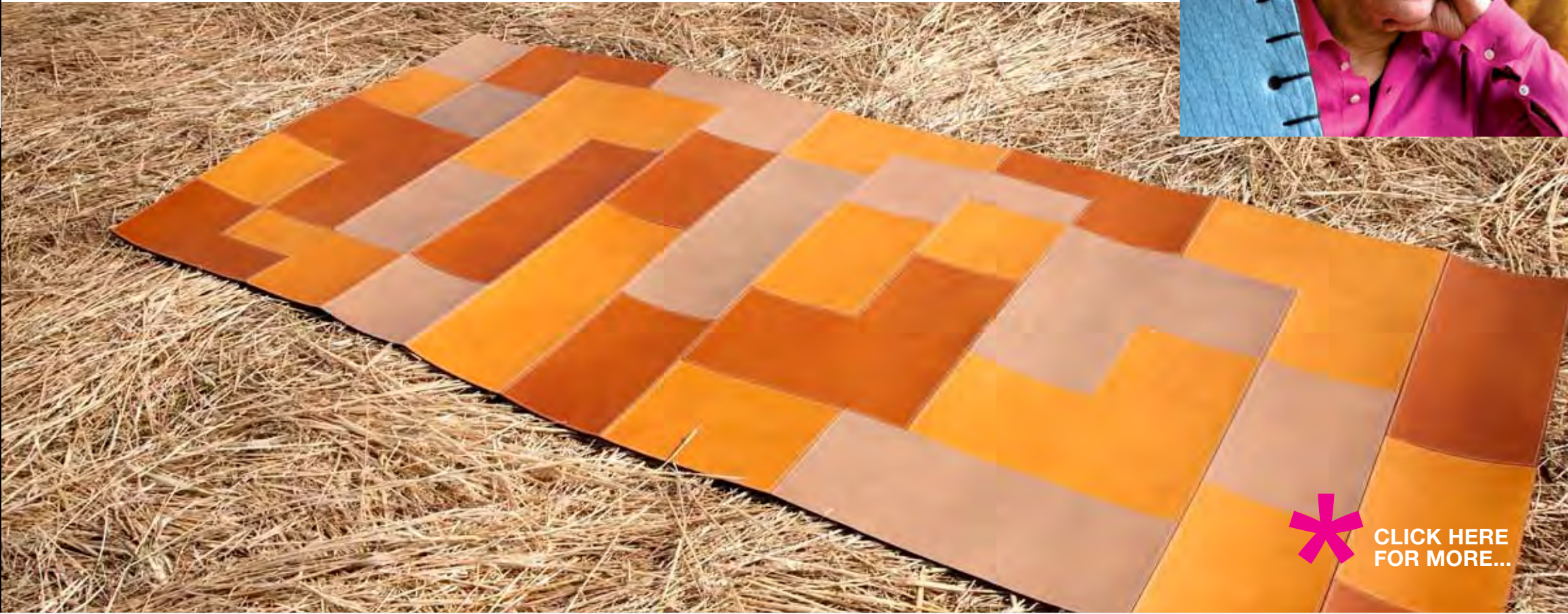


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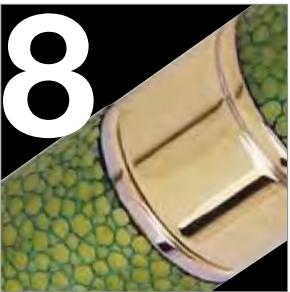
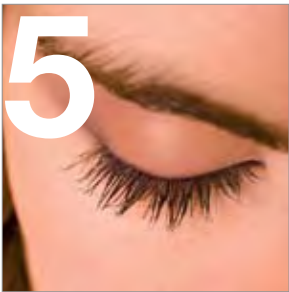
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INNER SANCTUM: HIDE AND SEEK

How fitting that Nestor Perkal is a curator by trade. His collaboration with OSCARMASCHERA leather goods is really a curation of the material's malleable uses in everyday life. It's great for jackets and boots, sure (I for one can't shake my love of an aging green Hermès wallet), but as a mirror or carpet it's so much more interesting. The patina it takes on as you use it is part of its character and story. So says Oscar Maschera himself: "Leather, robust and soft, which matures with time like brandy and cheese, is a material which lends itself to a living relationship



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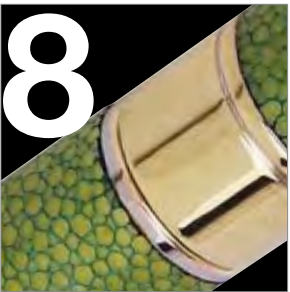
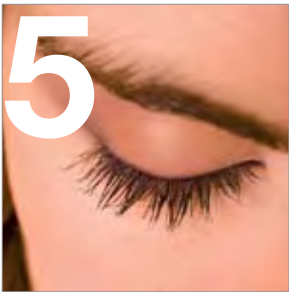


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with the individual. It absorbs their scent and yields its own. It changes shape as it retains something of the life it once had."

Take a closer look at Perkal's Miroirs et Tapis line for OSCARMASCHERA, and the craftsmanship is so evident: seams are handmade, edges are dyed. His ideas for the uses of leather are actually groundbreaking. "Mirrors have always fascinated me," says Perkal. "They envelop us, search for us, constantly question us." His seven hand mirrors are meant to be hung on the wall — a look he calls "Perfect Day," since each reflection is different, and perfect, in its own way. His patchwork carpets are stitched together to look like tapestries, or (to me, anyway), like stone mosaics. And those stools. I need one in my library, perhaps to replace the leather elephant that my son has taken to riding on. I can hardly blame him; playing with leather is just part of his everyday joy — just as it is mine.



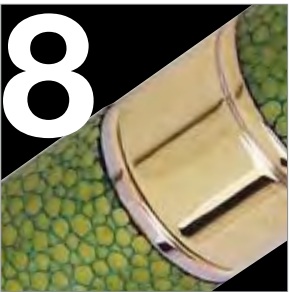


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AT HOME WITH EVA...

Now that leather is graduating out of bags and gloves, it's relevant again. In my library, I have a leather throw faced with linen — that contrast of tough and delicate is endlessly appealing. I'm obsessed with leather boxes, and pretty much every piece of furniture has some beneath it, stacked and stuffed. For parties, I often use leather trays — I don't worry about them getting trashed; a little wax and they're back to gorgeous. My latest revelation is leather as art: paneling one wall in red, making a patchwork tablecloth. The more it ages, the better story it tells.

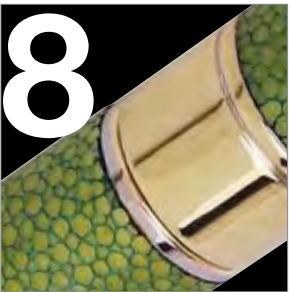
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