



## ERASED CLASSIC

MOTIFS TAKEN FROM ITALIAN WALL COVERINGS AND INDIAN SARIS FORM THE BASIS OF THIS MULTI-AWARD-WINNING COLLECTION. THE STRICTLY ORDERED ORNAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF TRADITIONAL CARPETS ARE BROKEN UP. IN SOME PLACES, THE PATTERNS, WHICH WERE ORIGINALLY REPEATED PERFECTLY, SEEM TO HAVE BEEN OBLITERATED, SOAKED WITH ACID AND CORRODED.

This is how the ERASED CLASSIC collection was born – an entirely new formal language that Jan Kath is constantly developing. Professor Volker Fischer from the Frankfurt Museum of Applied Arts writes, “Jan Kath is the poet of the past and currently the most distinguished designer of ‘memento mori’ products.” The aesthetics of mortality and decay represent a driving force to Jan Kath. In this regard, he has been inspired by his visits both to the world’s largest cities and, very significantly, by his own home, the Ruhr District. Derelict mines, weathered old storehouses, and the reclamation of space by nature are of particular interest to him, as is the tension between old

and new. The photo shoot for the current carpet catalog was set in industrial sites; the destroyed ornamental elements of the carpet are the link between the raw look of the buildings and the refined materials. “Perfection and smoothness are boring for our eyes,” says Kath. The designer explains his fascination of hand-woven carpets: “Machines don’t make mistakes. While it is true that our weavers at manufacturing sites in Kathmandu strive for perfection, irregularities still arise from the manual weaving of natural materials. These ‘programmed errors’ are what make the carpets so inspired and alive. To a large extent, they are what create the depth of the design.”

