

TEXTILES



HOPE

Hope for Afghanistan

There's no question that design brings joy. But what about hope? **Arzu**, a name that means *hope* in Dari, believes the answer is yes. This nonprofit pays impoverished Afghan women above-market wages to weave rugs the traditional way, from hand-spun, naturally dyed wool—then requires participants in the program to do two things: send their children to school and attend literacy classes.

The designs are divided into five collections. In *Traditional*, rugs interpret the floral patterns of the Silk Road, from Persia to the Orient. Among the rugs in *Tribal*, which employs the geometrics and vibrant color palette indigenous to Afghanistan's central mountains, the *Hope* pattern of elk and horsemen dates back to 500 BC. More European in inspiration, *Couture* combines intricate florals with geometrics to delightful effect. And *Modern* features collaborations with no lesser talents than Zaha Hadid and Thomas Schoos. The collection also includes unique designs woven from scraps of wool left over from other rugs. 541 North Fairbanks Court, Suite 1700, Chicago, IL 60611; 312-321-8663; arzurugs.org. **circle 323**

—Elizabeth Wine →



MEANING



SIMPLICITY



IMAGINATION



RESOURCEFULNESS