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Presenter of hd expo+ conference

By Matt Dougherty
Photos courtesy of respective companies

MAKING OF

Dive into the product manufacturing process, from wallcoverings and surfaces to lighting and rugs

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Calico Wallpaper

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, then-homebound husband and wife Nick and Rachel Cope founded Calico Wallpaper in Brooklyn, New York after they formed a creative partnership making wallcoverings in their free time. Their new mission: to create bespoke wallpapers combining artisanal methods from the decorative arts, such as traditional marbling and dip-dyeing techniques, with innovative digital advances. Working with designers and architects, their work has made its way into the permanent collection of the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum. Below, the couple explains the creative and physical process behind their large-scale botanical wallcovering, Paradiso.

1. Rachel and the design team draft palm leaves together in the Calico Wallpaper studio. Their designs, developed in-house, boast a painterly quality that references the handcrafted methods behind each of their collections.

2. Cofounder and creative director Rachel Cope handpaints a bold and bright banana leaf motif. Her artwork will then be translated into a bespoke, non-repeating wallcovering mural. She and her team have reintroduced the design in an expanded range of colorways as part of their 2020 collection.

3+4. The Copes review an iteration of Paradiso and then hang the mural vertically to take in its scale at their company's studio in Brooklyn's Red Hook neighborhood. Paradiso nods to the time-honored tradition of palm print wallpapers, but their large-scale, non-repeating design offers a refreshed take.