



DREAM WEAVERS

Master craftsmen at the Colombian atelier Hechizoo use exotic fibers, filaments, and metallic threads to conjure enchanting one-of-a-kind textiles

Magic is in the air at the workshop of Hechizoo, an innovative textile atelier in Bogotá, Colombia. There, spread across more than 20,000 square feet, some five dozen artisans perform Rumpelstiltskin-esque feats, weaving humble copper wire into lustrous floor coverings and crocheting aluminum thread into ethereal mesh curtains.

Founded by Jorge Lizarazo in 2000, Hechizoo (Spanish for “bewitch”) has built its name on unexpected combinations of materials—mixing metal strands with natural and synthetic fibers to fashion custom rugs, fabrics, and architectural screens. Some are rainbow hued, others muted and monochromatic, but all are wonderfully enticing to the touch and exquisitely crafted, whether by hand or on one of the firm’s traditional looms. This technical virtuosity and experimental spirit have earned the atelier a host of discerning devotees, chief among them AD100 architect and interior designer Peter Marino, who

Clockwise from left: Hechizoo founder Jorge Lizarazo and his two Chihuahuas, Diego and Frida, pose with some of the firm’s recent textiles. Copper wire and nylon thread are hand-wrapped around *fique*-plant fibers to create an iridescent carpet. Vibrant weavings fill the collective’s atelier in Bogotá, Colombia.



has commissioned pieces for Fendi’s Manhattan flagship, an estate in Palm Beach, Florida, and numerous other residential and commercial projects. In November, a selection of Hechizoo’s

latest one-off creations will be exhibited at New York’s Cristina Grajales Gallery, the firm’s exclusive U.S. dealer.

Trained as an architect, Lizarazo credits his inventive approach in large part to his stints at the European offices of Santiago Calatrava and Massimiliano Fuksas. It was while managing the latter’s materials library that Lizarazo learned to reconsider a substance’s applications. “I always see a material in terms of how I can change its use,” he says.

Today Lizarazo maintains his own arsenal of ingredients—2,000-plus in total, ranging from silk to gold-plated silver filaments to exotic Amazonian plant fibers like *cumare*. The trove continues to grow as he makes discoveries on his frequent travels, perhaps unsure of something’s ultimate function but confident in its potential. In his mind, the sky’s the limit. “There is never, ever the feeling that we can’t do something,” he says. “We always say yes.” hechizoo.com —SAMUEL COCHRAN