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Yolande Batteau of Callidus Guild in her studio.

Onyx wallpaper.



Stenciling in process.



Samples of the upcoming rug collection.

## SURFACE APPEAL

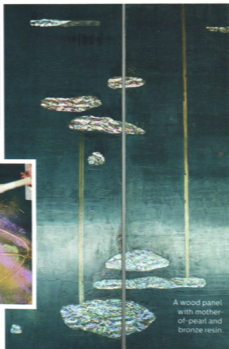
*In her Brooklyn studio, the founder of Callidus Guild conjures exquisite wallcoverings that are entrancing the world's top designers*



Callidus Guild's Linear wallpaper in a range of colorways.



ABOVE, LEFT AND RIGHT: Working with mother-of-pearl, bronze resin, and rare pigments.



A wood panel with mother-of-pearl and bronze resin.

When Yolande Batteau was studying at the Sorbonne in Paris in the early 1990s, her wardrobe was strictly vintage. "It was real starlet clothing—cashmere twinsets, cigarette pants—that was easy to find back then," says the native Californian. Her classmates, she later learned, thought she was wealthy. "I invented myself by appreciating quality," she says. "I've revered it since."

Behind the ivy-covered facade of a former Brooklyn shoe factory built in 1897, Batteau has built a life around the things she values. She is the creative director of Callidus Guild, which produces some of the world's most beautiful handmade wallpapers. With a coterie of painters, sculptors, gilders, and plasterers, she has formed a collective of like-minded makers. "I have a vision of it being like a Florentine guild," she says.

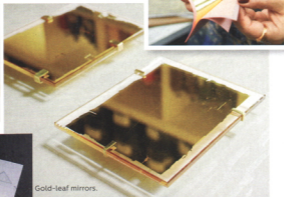
Batteau has come a long way from the unheated Williamsburg garage where she originally began making paintings. Hundreds of them, in fact, before she got her >



Papers from the Meta collection.



Artisan Brian Robles at work in the studio.

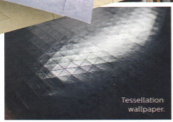


Preparing to apply gold leaf.

Gold-leaf mirrors.



Folded Origami wallpaper.



Tessellation wallpaper.

first commission from none other than interior designer and architect Peter Marino, the king of exquisite surfaces. "I interviewed for a big job there but didn't get it," she says. She left an unmistakable impression, however, not least because she carried a woven basket filled with her artwork. "I got my start designing for Chanel, one of Peter's biggest clients, creating a wallpaper that was based on my paintings," she says. She has since traveled the world for Chanel. "Working at that level was a dream," she says. Batteau's residential projects are nothing to sneeze at either; her work covers the walls of some of Manhattan's toniest addresses.

Batteau—who cites as her chief inspirations the Meiji and Art Deco periods, as well as African art—has developed thousands of unique wallcoverings, incorporating plas-



Shells that serve as inspiration.

ters, metals, and handmade paints. But it is the second of the three layers that go into her custom wallpapers that sets her work apart. Pinching, stamping, inlaying, and cross-hatching are among her preferred techniques. "On one project, I secretly incised the astrological constellations of the owners into their wallpaper," she says.

In the Meta collection, her latest, Batteau works with onyx, agate, malachite, and mother-of-pearl, pushing the materials into abstracted grids, crosshatches, and asymmetrical triangles. "I got really excited about the mother-of-pearl because I was able to use it without being garish," she says. "It's a nice way to use hot pink in an interior."

Batteau's wallpaper studios have led her to develop a new line of carpets made from hand-knotted and hand-tufted silk, wool, and cashmere, with touches of Luxure for sparkle. However, the exuberant artist is perhaps most proud of the mirrors she's created by pressing gold leaf, pounded to butterfly-wing thinness, between two pieces of glass. "Not only is the quality there," she says, "but the gold also makes everyone look fabulous." **KATHLEEN HACKETT**



Materials for Batteau's couture clients.

Batteau's library of custom surfaces.