

AD *at* LARGE

SELLDORF SELECT

I thought it was important that my furniture designs be profoundly functional," says architect **Annabelle Selldorf** (right). "They should almost serve as background elements for people's collections." Selldorf found that she would design a stereo cupboard for one client, then discover that her next client wanted one too. "So I might as well have a line," she recalls reasoning. Each piece in her collection is individually handcrafted, but there are about ten examples to choose from, and all share classic lines and attenuated shapes. "I found it very difficult to get upholstered chairs and sofas with delicate proportions, so I devised a particular size and shape that's universal but fundamentally modern." Selldorf says her



pieces work equally well whether mixed with Chinese furniture, 17th-century Flemish needle-point rugs or ultraminimalist design. She also emphasizes that she maintains a high level of

quality not found in "average produced furniture." Her chairs (above) are filled with horsehair, which is springy and resilient; an armoire (above left) is coated with an especially dense matte



paint; and a walnut console table (above) is hand-rubbed and fitted with brass knobs that are left unacquered so they will acquire a mellow patina. Selldorf Architects, 212/219-9571.



Two French rugs at Doris Leslie Blau: *Moderne*, right, ca. 1922, and *Orienta*, ca. 1930

DORIS LESLIE BLAU'S DECO

Doris Leslie Blau, the doyenne of New York's rug world and known for such sayings as "I treat the carpet as an art form," wanted to retire, but clients such as **David Easton** did not want her out of the game altogether. Enter Nader Bolour of **Y & B Bolour** (*AD*, July 1993), who was yearning to branch out on his own. The result is perfect synergy, says Blau, who is still involved in the business. "Nader has an eye as close to mine as I could have imagined, but he has a concept of modernist carpets that I didn't." He has brought in 1920s through 1940s rugs designed by Jules and Paule Leleu, Marion Dorn and Eileen Gray. Doris Leslie Blau, 724 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10019; 212/586-5511.