

American Beauty

High Point celebrates domestically made designs

BY TRACY BULLA



Finished in hand-rubbed gold leaf, a carved wooden deer head springs to life from Abigail's.

NOT ONLY DID DESIGNERS INTRODUCE classic American styles this market, but they also are returning to their roots by rolling out new products produced right at home in the United States. The key words — made in the USA — described product launches all around the show. While many vendors are experimenting with selected home-made designs this season, look for this movement to gain steam going forward in an effort to boost the economy while returning to our manufacturing roots.

Vintage American looks also abounded with an effortless nostalgia that feels just right. Denim upholstery, pillows and rugs paid tribute to classic American style, anchored by plaid, flags and stripes. Salvaged materials, distressed finishes and bright primary colors contributed to a cheerful, charming aesthetic.

Modern looks are moving to the forefront of design, highlighting organic styles and luxurious, natural materials. Faux bois and leaf patterning represent a return to nature, often rendered in delicate, ethereal sculpture form. Wall décor offerings showcase a series of botanical themes, as well as another big trend at market, animals. Animal forms are also re-created as lamps, furniture and animalist

Upcycling continues to be a major theme at market, as leftovers get served up as something new and spectacular. Old sari fabrics are reworked into gloriously hued rug designs and also twisted into multicolored braids covering chairs and ottomans. Excess marble chips are tumbled and dyed to look like real turquoise,

then used to embellish with a hint of luxe. Exquisitely crafted ethnic fabrics from around the world are reinvented as upholstery and soft goods, resulting in stunning artisan treasures.

Mid-century modern designs exerted a strong influence this market, played out in sleek, elegant forms, beautifully grained woods and supple leathers. Geometric motifs complemented this look to perfection, spotlighting diamond, octagonal and circular patterns among others. Other upcoming print/pattern stories include chevron, feathers and Mondrian-inspired colorblocking.

Deep, rich chocolate hues emerged after taking a few seasons off, often shown in combination with creamy whites. Both chocolate and gray served as an elegant foil to a French-style palette of pinks and purples — subtle and understated tones like rose, lilac, aubergine and eggplant. Looking ahead, a sweet story of candied pastels (mint, butter, lavender, grass) springs forth, injecting a fresh and invigorating sense of optimism. □

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LILY PILLOWS



Graphic diamonds traverse Port 68's Crossings lamp, finished in antiqued metal.



Made Goods introduces the luxe Lily pillows in decadent baby alpaca, offered in white, gray and aubergine.



WHAT'S HOT IN HIGH POINT

GREAT GRAINS Faux bois wood patterning makes a sophisticated statement on contemporary designs

MODERN GEOMETRY Geometric motifs — triangles, hexagons and diamonds — add a visual pop to otherwise streamlined designs

SOFT TOUCH Luxe cowhide and alpaca lend a sumptuous feel to upholstery, rugs and soft goods

SHEEN ON High-gloss lacquer finishes ratchet up the excitement on accent furniture and accessories

WILD KINGDOM Look for animal motifs to surge ahead — we love greyhounds, parrots and gazelles