

Fabulous FURNITURE 2002

Rich hues, textures among upholstery trends

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CORRESPONDENT

Fashion trends come and go with the spring and fall lines.

Upholstery trends typically don't move as fast as those of the fashion industry, but the two have something in common with each other. They both cycle back to what's old is new.

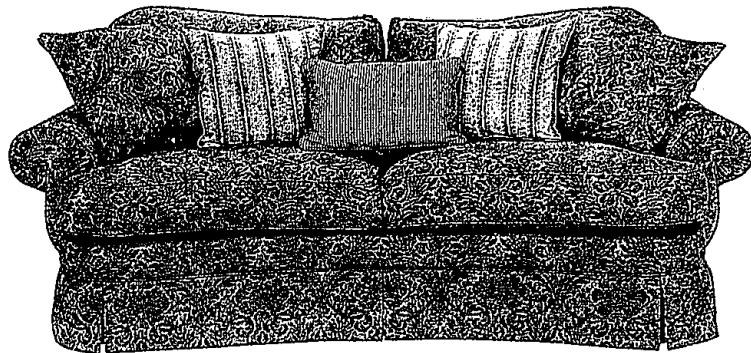
"The Old World look - a combination of French and English styles - is very popular right now," said Carol Krynski, interior designer, Ethan Allen in Birmingham. "One prominent upholstery trend is toward furniture that looks acquired, not new."

"Rich colors and textures, including damask and tapestry, that are typically conceived as very elegant, are being utilized in much more casual looks."

Chenille fabric is a definite favorite, offering comfortable elegance without sacrificing durability.

"It adds to the Old World, vintage trend in fabrics and furniture," said Dave Buzenberg, co-owner and president, Walker Buzenberg Furniture in Plymouth. "It's a look of antiquity where distressed pieces reflect people's more casual lifestyles of today."

Many of today's upholstery colors were in vogue 10 years



Rich colors and textures, like on the fabric shown here on the St. Germain sofa from Ethan Allen, are very popular. One prominent upholstery trend is toward furniture that looks acquired, not new. The loose pillow back gives this sofa a "relaxed look."

ago. Reds and greens are making a comeback.

"Green isn't avocado," said Krynski. "It's sage. Greens now have more yellow, not blue. Celadon is a nice color."

"Earth tones are peaking," said Buzenberg. "We're seeing more reds - orange and paprika all the way to burgundy. Blue is an upcoming color, but

still not prominent. Sage greens, beiges and browns are all popular earth tones."

"This fall, we're featuring a collection that consists of a mix of fabrics," said Buzenberg.

"Six fabrics - tone-on-tone damasks mixed with chenilles and florals - are featured in various patterns on the sofa, down cushions and throw pil-

lows. The pieces are fringed and trimmed differently to highlight the variations. The collection has an Old World antique look that's very comfortable."

Buzenberg says that hip, contemporary, sleeper sofas in vicker rattan with an Asian influence are becoming more prevalent. Consumers are choos-

ing an eclectic mix of pieces with off-white and black fabrics.

Stiffer, more traditional looks in shinier fabrics are in less demand. However, Krynski says that there will always be clients searching for

this more formal look.

"We're also seeing fewer customers looking for large floral patterns," Krynski said. "I use them in window treatments and accents - not in large pieces of upholstery."

Trends come and go, but classic design sticks around. Krynski advises consumers to be current. Good design is good design.

"Animal prints came and went. In most cases, I used them sparingly in pillows and accents instead of upholstering an entire piece of furniture."

Upholstery colors and fabrics are long-term decisions. Consumers are more careful in their selections than they are with the purchase of a black dress or a classic suit.

"A furniture purchase is a five- to 10-year decision," said Buzenberg.

Consumers have to like what they buy because, unlike the article of clothing they grow tired of, they simply can't put it in the back of the closet.

"You can change the jewelry, but the black dress stays," said Krynski. "Six months from now you might not want to wear the same jewelry to a party."

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