

HOME

Decor that brings the luxe outside

Kim Cook
Associated Press

Innovations in design, materials and manufacturing have had a big impact on home decor — outdoors as well as in.

Besides advances in durability, there's now an expansive range of styles that designers can tap in to.

Luxury is one of them.

Think velvet cushions. Tailored detailing. Rich, soft upholstery. Lacquered or carved artisan-made furniture. And lots of other high-end elements that bring the elegance and sophistication of a richly finished interior to a home's outdoor space.

"Think fully upholstered sofas covered in performance chenille fabric that's just as soft as traditional chenille," says Waynette Goodson, editor-in-chief of Casual Living and Exterior Design magazines. "Then there's Carrara marble tabletops, Italian volcanic rock finishes, and even natural brass, like Brown Jordan's classic Kantan collection."

Casual Living's features editor, Jennifer Bringle, says decorative accessories, too, are being elevated.

"We're not talking the tiki torches and scratchy coir rugs of yore," she says. "Innovations like solution-dyed acrylics, polypropylene weaves and water-resistant LEDs mean that outdoor accessories offer the same level of on-trend style and luxury as their indoor counterparts."

Barclay Butera, a designer in Newport Beach, California, has a collection for Castelle that would look equally at home on a city terrace as on a suburban pool deck.

"I was inspired by this magnificent geometric ceiling carving I saw in an English manor years ago," he says. "I've incorporated this pattern into the fretwork."

The collection's aluminum frames are hand-cast in sand using a process that eliminates air pockets, making the material nearly as solid as iron. Frames accented with artisan-applied brass details cradle deep tailored cushions, and the pieces are crisply done in Butera's signature navy and white.

The pieces are made using the same techniques as fine interior furniture, with carefully finished joinery, hours of hand-finishing, custom detailing and thick, high-quality cushions. Characteristics like these, including the use of marine-grade steel and



CB2 VIA AP

This photo provided by CB2 shows a French Riviera-chic Tropez sofa in bold black and white cabana stripes and a mahogany frame create.

durable tropical hardwoods like Costa Rican teak, are the hallmarks of top-end outdoor furnishings.

Prices tend to reflect the luxury features. Butera's three-seater sofa lists for around \$5,000.

At Gloster, the Cradle outdoor daybed designed by Londoner Henrik Pedersen is a framed circle of powder-coated aluminum and teak with a thick slab mattress, and retails for around \$13,000.

Vondom collaborates with international designers and architects on high-concept resin decor with an edge. That includes Ramon Esteve's geometric Vela collection, which uses LED lighting in the bases, so seating and tables seem to float slightly at night, to ethereal effect. Planes and angles create sculptural pieces of art that are also a sunchair, bench and planter.

Also at Vondom: Teresa Sapey's Adan collection of giant faceted heads has an Easter Island vibe. And ultramodern chairs by designers Eugeni Quitllet and Jorge Pensi are cloaked in gleaming gold or silver, combining avant garde with elegance.

Tropitone's Cabana Club collection blends woven, metal and upholstery elements in roomy, contemporary seating inspired by luxe resorts in Bali and the Cote d'Azur.

CB2's new outdoor collection includes Ceci Thompson's French Riviera-inspired mahogany and cabana-striped sofa. A daybed poises slim cushions on an iron frame given a rich golden glaze.

European midcentury modern looks are also finding their way outdoors. For Gloster, Petersen's chic, minimalist Blow side table perches a sliver of teak on a smoke, coffee

or emerald-hued ceramic base. And Cecile Manz's Atmosphere collection pairs a curvy, powder-coated aluminum frame with a slim teak seat, then pads the sofa and chair backs in hues like nightshade, salmon, quince and lichen.

For those seeking a more traditional look, Richard Frinier's Archipelago collection for Century features richly carved and stained teak seating and tables that evoke British and Dutch Colonial style.

The new Lilly Pulitzer collection at Pottery Barn includes the designer's signature preppy-nautical prints on outdoor soft accessories, and crisp, white, trellis-patterned planters.

Many designers' patterns dispel the notion that outdoor furniture should be printed with tropical motifs.

Brown Jordan's Suncloth fabric collection includes menswear-style houndstooth, tweed and even sweater prints. Elaine Smith, a former jewelry designer in England, now designs runway-inspired luxury outdoor pillows. On solution-dyed Sunbrella fabric that resists fade or mildew, she incorporates dressmaker details like silky fringe, hand-crafted knots and jewelry embellishments. Her patterns range from jaunty nautical motifs to animal and tribal prints to florals.

Sunbrella's Makers Collection includes weather-resistant fabrics that evoke fine wools, hand-loomed Peruvian cottons or metallic-thread linens. Other outdoor fabric houses are being inspired by antique tapestries, quilting or Japanese kimonos. And some are using specialty yarns to create sumptuous pearlescent or silken textiles that withstand the elements.

How to control common spring pests

Metro Creative

Just when winter thaws out and people are anxious to enjoy the blooming flowers and luscious lawns of spring, pesky pests can appear and impact comfort levels and safety.

Many pests resume their levels of activity as spring draws closer and temperatures warm up. The presence of these insects and rodents may cause problems in and around a home, which makes it essential to recognize them and avoid issues. The following are some of the more common spring pests and how to remedy infestations.

PAVEMENT ANTS

Pavement ants are some of the most common pests residents encounter inside and outside of their homes. These ants are light brown to black with appendages that are lighter than the rest of their bodies. Small in stature, pavement ants have parallel lines on their heads and thorax, according to pest extermination company Orkin.

Although pavement ants nest outdoors, they can enter homes through small crevices in search of food scraps. Their large colonies may not disappear until treatment is introduced. Keep foods in tightly sealed containers, clear counters and floors of crumbs, and address water sources, such as leaks. Pesticides may be needed in extreme conditions.

FLEAS

Fleas are tiny, jumping, biting pests that must find a host upon which to live. As ectoparasites, they feed on blood while living on the

PESTS, 7

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