

High-end upholstery vendors share insights on category's future

Velvets, textures and patterns to dominate

With its inherent ability for customizing goods to meet consumer preferences with an abundance of fabric color and texture, and flexibility in details such as trim and welting, upholstery is the fashion-leading category for home furnishings. While sharing their take on trends they're seeing in the coming year and where they get inspiration for new products, upholstery vendors share that one area they address is what to watch for with fabric covers. The industry has seen a lot of neutrals complemented by more vibrant accent colours on pillows of late in that regard. Will that continue, or do manufacturers expect more use of colour and patterns on covers?

Fabrics are trending more luxurious - plush velvets, lofty chenille and a big push for performance fabrics - at all price points, one of them said and added that neutral sofas will continue to be dominant, but the use of more pattern is evolving. She looks to more patterns on accent chairs and companion pieces and more pronounced use of pattern in wallpapers, rugs and drapery to complement neutral covered sofas. "Patterns tend to add personality to any room," she said, adding, "the hand of a fabric is most important, luxurious to the touch." She also sees performance fabrics being used in all applications from dining, to living spaces and bedroom.

Improved performance fabrics will play a key role. "We continue to see more patrons challenging their designers to find better (but still luxurious) performance fabrics," another vendor said. Performance fabrics can be acrylic, and although it's come very far it is still not so breathable. Neutrals will remain best sellers said another. A sofa is a big investment so it's hard to commit to a trendy colour. However, the world of neutrals is growing and now includes all forms of blues. Patterns and colour work well on accents and chairs.



Some are believers in colour and see a return to colour and pattern in both printed and woven textiles. They say, "prints are becoming more important, and there is definitely a return to more classic drawings in fresh colours. Performance fabrics for body cloths continue to be important in all parts of the market. Neutrals will always sell

the best as they are safe and have longevity, but we are thrilled to see colour and pattern playing a more important role." Many vendors are seeing people gravitating to more livable scale silhouettes. For some, their cues come from antiques and vintage products. For some, scale is about the consumers' idea of comfort. They are seeing, and have offered for some time, a trend toward optional seat depths on the same frame. People are either going large or downsizing

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What should we watch for regarding trends in details such as welts, nailhead, trim fabrics? Some vendors noted that trims and tailoring details set high-end custom upholstery apart from the more commercial product. "On more modern silhouettes we are showing quite a bit of welt-less, top-stitched seams or different types of modern flanges," one said and

added, "on more classic product, we love micro welts and beautiful French piping. Trimming is becoming more important again. However, we think it's important that tapes and trims remain sophisticated." Many expect a gradual increase in embellishments, trims, nails and contrast fabrics. On the other hand, some see less detail, particularly in certain broad style ranges.

"In more transitional applications, we are seeing less nail heads and less welting - lean, simple lines that showcase the silhouette," said another. **Upholstery frames with shape (and) curve and the use of show wood are important. Show wood adds another layer to the creative process.** Simplicity also is key. While vendors still allow cords, braids

and multiple fabrics on one frame, they are now seeing less and less of it.

One size (doesn't fit all). Overall, the furniture industry has witnessed considerable moderation in scale the past few years. Upholstery resources contacted for this article had varying responses when asked about upholstery silhouettes in terms of scale. Many vendors are seeing people gravitating to more livable scale silhouettes. For some, their cues come from antiques and vintage product. For some, scale is about the consumers' idea of comfort. They are seeing, and have offered for some time, a trend toward optional seat depths on the same frame. People are either going large or downsizing. ■

Source: Furniture Today

Proposal for delisting of Sheesham Wood submitted to CITES

EPCH's consistent efforts and follow-ups with concerned Govt. departments resulted in submission of the proposal

Dalbergia spp has been enlisted in the Appendix II of the CITES in 2016 resulting in the issuance of CITES permit by Wild Life Crime Control Bureau or comparable document in lieu of CITES permit entitled Vriksh Shipment Certificate by EPCH for exports of wooden handicrafts made from Dalbergia sissoo and Dalbergia latifolia.

In order to get the Dalbergia sissoo delisted from Appendix II of CITES, the Council has been regularly taking up the matter with Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoPFCC) and NITI Aayog. A Non-Detrimental Findings study has been conducted by Botanical Survey of India and as per the study carried out



Dalbergia sissoo does not fall into any threathend category and is available in abundance both in wild and cultivated populations. Based on the study, a proposal for delisting of Dalbergia sissoo from Appendix II of CITES has been submitted to CITES. The proposal has been co-proposed by Bhutan, Bangladesh

and Nepal.

The proposal would be discussed during the 18th meeting of Conference of the Parties[Cop] to the CITES, which is scheduled to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23rd May – 3rd June 2019.