

Material Wealth

9 global textiles trending among decorating pros: Can you match the place of origin to the pattern, using our clues?

- BY COURTNEY BARNES
- 1

England

Narrative textiles like this one feature folkloric woodland critters and other rural images associated with this green and pleasant land. ‘Varx’ Hand-Block Printed Cushion, about \$119, bonfieldblockprinters.com
- 2

India

Burberry and Valentino used the mirror work featured in these Shisha embroidery fabrics in their fall 2015 collections. The look hit London in the 1960s, as an element of haute-bohemian style. Vintage Shisha Pillow from Pat McGann, \$650, 1stdibs.com
- 3

United States

These improvisations—named after Gee’s Bend, the Alabama community from which most originated—use household remnants including corduroy and denim; many hang in museums. In 1965, creators of ones like this marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blocks and Strips, 1980, by Loretta Pettway, \$28,000, gregkucera.com
- 4

Japan

This cotton cloth gets its look when a paste of rice and bran that resists dye is pushed through painstakingly cut mulberry-paper stencils (often resembling chrysanthemums or abstracted birds). Length of Narumi Kongata: Multi-Stenciled Katazome, \$90, srithreads.com
- 5

Uzbekistan

This example of the region’s lustrous, silk-on-cotton embroidered coverlets exemplifies a tra-

- ditional style that endured despite Soviet attempts to force makers to incorporate political motifs like the hammer-and-sickle. Pair of Suzani Pillows from Joseph Malekan, \$375, 1stdibs.com
- 6

Congo

Used for dance skirts and ceremonial fabrics, this kind of raffia features inventive geometric patterns embroidered into cloth then snipped to produce a plush velvet finish. Henri Matisse was a fan. Kuba Shoowa Mat, \$95, africanallure.com
- 7

Southeast Asia

This sort of textile, associated with the peripatetic Hill people of Vietnam and Thailand, is distinguished by rows of neon-bright stitches in silk or cotton (sometimes juxtaposed with indigo batik). Batik Tribal Pillow With Appliques from Treasure Trove, \$225, chairish.com
- 8

West Africa

Strip cloth, named for the bands of hand-woven cloth sewn together to form a larger textile, comes in many styles and colors. Mid C20th Hand Spun Cotton Blanket, \$740, adireafrican-textiles.com
- 9

Mexico

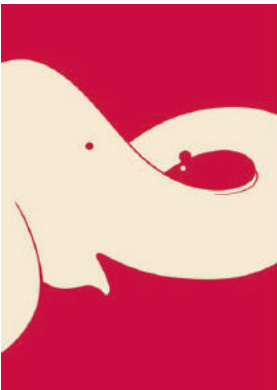
These bold, marketable designs—densely embroidered with fanciful birds, deer and flora—were born of a devastating drought in the 1960s, when resourceful women reimagined ancient motifs. Red Otomi Tablecloth, \$650, stfrank.com



ANSWERS: 1-E; 2-A; 3-I; 4-B; 5-G; 6-F; 7-C; 8-D; 9-H.

HIDDEN FIGURES

4 drawings that conceal creatures in negative space, from ‘Noma Bar: Graphic Story Telling’ (Thames & Hudson)



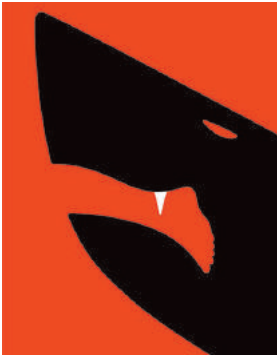
Cover for Diplomat magazine, ‘Deference’ issue, 2012



‘Look Out,’ 2013



Cover for Diplomat magazine, ‘Deference’ issue, 2012



‘Jaws,’ 2013

WHEN DECORATING CLIENTS WON’T LET GO

7 interior-design pros and architects share how they worked around odd objects (inanimate and living) that their customers fixated on

“What is a designer to do when his client falls hard for a life-size Yves Klein-blue flocked-velvet gorilla sculpture? Embrace it and give it pride of place in a dazzling white Miami house. Throw in a giant orange sectional for good measure—and don’t tell the husband.”

—Brian Murphy, New York

“A prominent American novelist asked that we insert a 60-foot handgun range in his luxury condo development in an East Coast city not unfamiliar with gun violence. We managed to design it and get it approved, but as construction began, word leaked to the press and the client decided not to proceed.”

—Dominic Kozerski, New York

“Clients purchased a monumental Botero art piece. Their West Village loft offered few walls and even fewer large enough, so the art now serves as a screen providing privacy between the master bath and neighboring buildings—a rather tongue in cheek placement, considering the sub-

ject is a rear view of a zaftig bathing nude.”

—Phillip Thomas, New York

“A parrot occupied the living room where we were doing an installation. It swore repeatedly, sang opera loudly, mimicked radio commercials and, most disconcertingly, imitated the lady of the house’s voice convincingly. For the cage, we looked to English antique dealers, but in the end, I had one created to fit our client’s oversize bird.”

—James Duncan, Key Biscayne, Fla.

“A client collected French antiques known as ‘gobbi’ statues: dwarfs wearing opera garb. I convinced the client that the most evocative place for them would be on the woodland path to the children’s garden off to the side behind the hedge.”

—M. Brian Tichenor, Los Angeles

“One client came in prepared with floor plans, a checkbook and a fuzzy picture of his most



MONKEY BUSINESS In Miami, Brian Murphy had to accommodate a beloved, giant blue gorilla

prized possession: a bed accessorized with clamps, straps and harnesses. To deflect from the bed’s gadgets, we added designer sheets, a heavy comforter with three oversize pillows covering most of the headboard and

some abstract wall art.”

—Vanessa Deleon, New York

“I had a couple who refused to part with a stuffed teddy bear that needed to be consulted on every design decision. I thought

the bear was a toy from one of the grandchildren, but the husband had given it to his wife during their courtship. Luckily, the bear only had opinions on the master bedroom.”

—Jean Liu, Dallas

ASSET ALLOCATION: POUF EDITION

4 extravagant footrests and how many \$99 West Elm ones you could buy instead

Clockwise from above: Cotton Luster Velvet Pouf, \$99, westelm.com; Suomi Pallina Pouf, \$1,141, Missoni Home Showroom, 212-719-2338; Donut, \$2,810, morosousa.com; Les Necessaires d’Hermès Ottoman, \$10,900, hermes.com; Adam Pogue Carved Foot Ottoman, \$6,000, communedesign.com



x12 | \$1,141

x28 | \$2,810

x60 | \$6,000

x110 | \$10,900