

ATLANTA ●

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Tried and True, Not a Lot New

The latest trends from the High Point Market.

by **Melissa Galt**

DURING THESE HECTIC TIMES, it's comforting to see that High Point International Furniture Market reinforces the trends of the last few seasons. We can still rest assured that our passion for an island getaway, our step back into the 50s and 60s, our love affair with leather and the classicism of Danish Modern are still going strong.

The world is still shrinking, and global influences are the rage. Asian accents and lines are still evident; we are still looking for every chance to bring the outdoors in with garden elements suited for our interiors. Now reflections and light are brought to bear with an expanding line of mirrored furnishings, while the feathers and beads so prevalent the last couple of years are waning slightly, transitioning to a more classic stance.

Tropical moods are ever popular

Got island fever? You're not alone. The tropics are still hot and getting hotter. More color and oversized prints, as well as Tommy Bahama, are major influences on the home fashion front. We started

with plantation a few years ago and moved full fledge into island moods. Wicker, rattan, coco leaf, palm prints and even bamboo flooring and chests. The materials are durable, clever and lightweight.

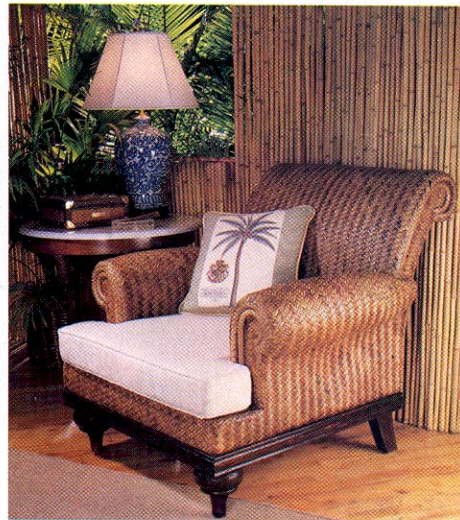


Photo courtesy of Bauer International.

Color hues range from mellow banana to date nut brown with lots of airy greens for that outdoor feeling.

Asian influence is strong

A softer Asian is evident this market with Ashland and bamboo pieces being made in Vietnam. A gentle curve on chests and

consoles beckons with welcome. The pieces have lost their austerity and invite touching and entertaining. The calming influences of Buddha figures are still apparent, though now expanded to include an increasing number of sculptural objects from Indonesia and China. Now cart wheels are being used as table tops and inset in media center doors, the woods are darker, richer, warmer and often with a satin finish instead of the typical glossy polyurethane. Gleam is in; shine is out.

Retro is back

Tons of furnishings are showing up from the 50s and being retrofitted for life today. Those Steelcase desks and Eames chairs are as comfortable and functional as ever, and even better, they bear the patina of decades of use. The steely grays, slick

Photo courtesy of City Issue.



blacks and dramatic whites are punched up with vibrant hip patterns and still-electric hues, including tangerine orange, lime green, bubblegum pink, fire engine red and chocolate. The lines are clean, simple and still fun. Heywood Wakefield is a favorite still, whether original or new reproduction.

Photo courtesy of Olympia.



Danish Modern is even better

With more folks turning to contemporary lines and simpler living, Danish Modern is getting fresh interest. IKEA helps that too. But now the old teak pieces are updated with sharper edges and available in cherry, maple, and other popular woods, and include lots of glass and metal accents. Upsized for American homes with their vaulted great rooms and trey-ceiling dining rooms, Danish Modern has updated their classic styling to succeed today.

Leather is everywhere, except where you'd expect it

Thought leather was just for chairs and upholstery? Think again. Now found wrapping tables, dressing mirrors, enveloping chests and adorning headboards, leather is hot. It is also coming in an increasing array of patterns, textures and colors. No longer relegated to just the Southwest look, it has expanded to take a real place in contemporary and traditional homes. With the increase in mountain getaways and rustic lodges, the Stetson brand has taken off.

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Bringing the outdoors in

In keeping with the desire to spend more time in the great outdoors, more and more interiors are sporting elements often found in the garden: stone urns, moss covered vessels, botanical motifs, vine trellised wrought iron table bases, zinc pots, pottery shards, birdcage and birdhouse collectibles, Celtic crosses and much more. Greenery and plants always provide a greater sense of life in a room, even when no one is there to enjoy them. They also clean the air and add a healthful feeling. Bringing the garden indoors is a way to truly enjoy it.



Photo courtesy of Bauer International.

Pillows, lamps

While not as strong as it has been, the feather and bead trend is still hot. A myriad of delightful lamps were well dressed with feather and bead trims. Pillows and bedding also sport this elegant and whimsical accent. Feathers are moving out of their touchable range though and are now being printed on fabrics, as well as screened onto china and dishware. Beads are now showing up on frames and decanters, are dressier and more traditional, and more likely to last.

Mirror, mirror on the wall

Once relegated to wall decoration, mirrors are now showing up on all manner of furnishings and adding sparkle and light reflection as they go. Now companies such as Oly, from France, are offering glassed tables and cabinets. The Julian Chichester Company, from England, is also providing a wealth of mirrored pieces. Many are antiqued or aged to soften the reflective properties, adding instant patina and an antique quality. Others are inlaid or etched in intricate patterns bringing an unmistakable formality.



Photo courtesy of Olympia.

The market in October will likely bring many changes, new looks and new styles. For now, just enjoy the slower pace of interior change and cocoon in our own ways.

