

FURNISH

BRING IT ON HOME

Project runway: from fashion to outdoor fabric

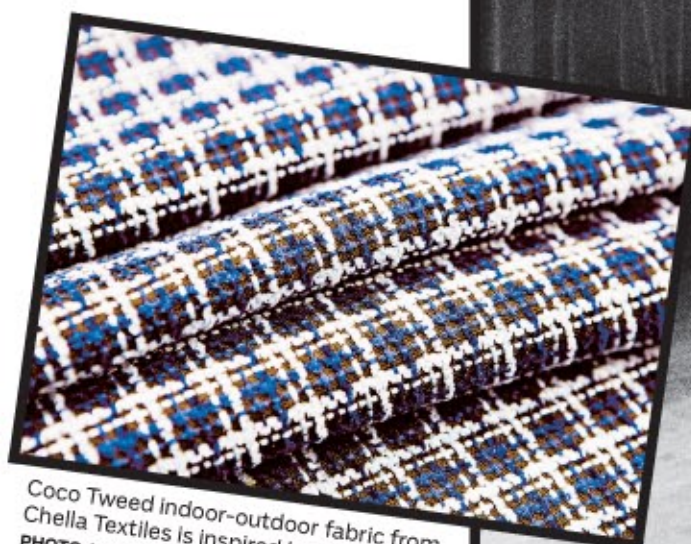
INSPIRATION: Coco Chanel's signature wool boucle tweed suits, originally brought on the scene in the 1920s and today re-imagined by Chanel designer Karl Lagerfeld.

INTERPRETATION: When asked to create a new performance fabric for Florida-based Chella Textiles, designer Scott Bodenner thought immediately of the iconic feminine suits. Bodenner translated their brawny yet beautiful, natty yet elegant persona into Coco Tweed, a line of woven boucle and chenille fabrics meant for outdoor furniture, bathrooms, nurseries and other hard-working areas. Coco Tweed comes in eight colors, including pink, light blue, moss, zucca (orange) and raffia.

WHERE TO FIND IT: To the trade, \$232 per yard at Area International, Suite 1611, The Merchandise Mart, Kinzie and Wells Streets, 312-644-0595.

—Shaila Wunderlich

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Coco Tweed indoor-outdoor fabric from Chella Textiles is inspired by Chanel. PHOTO AT RIGHT: LAURENT/AP/1969

House & Homes' Shaila Wunderlich

shares her favorite home furnishings find of the week



Slap the (coffee) cuff on

WHAT WE FELL IN LOVE WITH: The Coffee Cuff from Vancouver-based Contexture Designs.

WHY WE'RE GLAD WE FOUND IT: Practical innovations—the kind that elicit a “Duh, why didn't I think of that?”—make me giddy. And this 2 1/4-inch-wide wood cuff is one of the more practical productions I've seen in some time. It's green in that it eliminates the daily consumption of those wasteful cardboard coffee-house sleeves and is made from architectural scrap wood. It's good-thinking in that you can wear it around your wrist rather than lug it around in your bag. A bit pricey, but an efficient investment for everyday coffee consumers who like cool jewelry.



COST: Approximately \$55.39 (Web site's pricing represents Canadian dollars.)

WHERE YOU CAN FIND IT: contexture.ca



Contexture Design gets cute with the Coffee Cuff (\$55.39), a coffee sleeve that doubles as a bracelet.

THE GOODS

Foul-weather friends

Windy City winters aren't for wimps, so arm yourself with this battery of weather-beaters



EIGHT LITTLE KITTENS HUNG THEIR MITTENS OUT TO DRY

Tired of clogging the radiator with your mittens? Afraid that splaying them on the stove just might get things smokin'? Well, here's a mitten rack to the rescue. This one, of wrought iron, holds up to eight pairs, or perhaps a knitted cap, or a boot too soggy on the inside to stand up and let them drip, drip, drip. Also comes in four-pair size. And besides this snowflake top, it comes with heart or star.

Cost: \$59.95
wroughtironhaven.com
800-748-8717



WHEN THE BACK OF A CHAIR WON'T DO

Perhaps you live in a house that sometimes looks as if it's upholstered with winter coats. Maybe the folks you live with—or your very self, for that matter—have an aversion to the hanger. This just might be the slat-rack coat hanger you've been looking for. When it's naked, that is, without a wardrobe full of wraps, it might be mistaken for wall art. But when put to the task, it'll hold your every parka. You can even tuck the mail or mags on the ledge behind the slats. It's made of powder-coated steel and each 22-by-18-inch panel comes in orange, green, white or chocolate brown.

Cost: \$145
wallter.com
510-232-5018



PARK THE MUKLUKS HERE, PLEASE

Call us boot-tray snobs, but those dark-brown rubber ones just make us grumpy. The only chance for beating SAD (seasonal affective disorder), perhaps, is something along the minimalist lines of this galvanized tray from our old friends, Smith & Hawken. A nifty trick to take it up a notch: Fill it with river rocks (you can find at any crafts store), so the slush will drip down beneath the rocks and you won't have to stare at crud till springtime rolls around.

Cost: \$39
1780 N. Marcey St., 312-266-1988; 1883 2nd St., Highland Park, 847-681-0380; smithandhawken.com



BILL HOGAN/TRIBUNE

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS, GRAB THE BLANKIE

After battling all that snow and sleet, after making like an Eskimo and trudging for the igloo, you deserve to drop it all, and just curl up on the couch. Here's the one wrap you won't ever want to lay aside. This boiled-wool blankie from Lotta Glave, a heart-melting Swedish designer, is pure confection. And it's warm as heck to boot. It comes in other designs, but we fell for this one with all the red and white hearts (it's reversible, so you can flip-flop). And it's 4-by-6-feet, so it's big enough to snuggle with the Eskimo you love.

Cost: \$225
Sweden Shop, 3304 W. Foster Ave., theswedenshop.com, 773-478-0327

—Barbara Mahany

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PLOP YOUR SOGGY SELF DOWN

You've plowed through bitter winds, leapt over oceans of slush; you've made it home at last, you wintry superhero. Now you need a place (this bench, maybe?) to shed all those layers.

Cost: \$279 for bench; \$29 for each basket; \$75 for cushion. Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com or 888-779-5176 for stores or to order