



## not-so-blank canvas

### IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THESE FABRICS ARE MEANT TO BE LEFT OUTSIDE

In a land where the sun shines for most of the year and refreshing afternoon showers are par for the course, weatherproof textiles are a must. Luckily, style need not suffer. Today's textile designers marry colorful prints, stripes and textures in a variety of hues with UV protection that helps ward off fading, along with antibacterial characteristics that prevent mildew. (After all, durability is key, but we think beauty is too.)

The function of the textiles themselves has also come a long way. Besides the obvious cushions, Florida-apropos fabrics are readily available for everything from outdoor settees to tieback drapes. Depending on the texture, some fabrics even can help turn walls into room dividers (opposite page).

Like in everything else, "green" is the buzzword. This means eco-friendly acrylic textiles and those without latex finishes. Designer Jason Champion of Jason Champion Outdoor in Sarasota just debuted a modern patio chair humorously called Mama Jenks. Its mod-leaf motif is made of acrylic and was designed in collaboration with southwest Florida's Laurie Bell, an exclusive purveyor of designer outdoor textiles with a portfolio that's like a metropolitan mosaic of color and texture. Also on the sustainability scene is Belgian linen thanks to its ability to both repel water and resist fading, no matter how many times you wash it.

Design-wise, chic, subtle patterns, plenty of texture and saturated colors are haute. "More color, more color and more color!" exclaims Champion enthusiastically. "Manufacturers are taking risks simply because they figured out it's *outdoors*, and you don't have to be limited since you're not just working within four walls."

Designers look to water and sky for inspiration, as in the shade of pool blue. Sunbrella's Caroline Seabreeze collection (above, first row, center) has striping in this dreamy shade with a few earthy tones thrown in for good measure. Beach culture is also topping the muse list for many designers. The result: fabrics that remind you of bright beach towels.

Nature's easygoing (and easy to live with) color palette of cocoa, grass, coral and sky is also on the scene. Seacloth's Splash On collection offers cool patterns for Florida living in a cotton/linen blend (above, top row, left). Lattice, Jungle and Palm are fun to mix and match. In contrast is *tres* tranquil Caribe, part of the Scroll Moderne collection by Chella. This texturally beautiful fabric (above, bottom row, center) comes in moss and smoke as well as several other shades.

Above: **1** Bright patterns from **Seacloth** + **2** Subdued side of **Sunbrella** + **3** Floral whimsy from **Seacloth** + **4** Thin stripes from **Donghia** + **5** **Chella's** sea of blue + **6** **Donghia's** wide appeal. Opposite: **Laurie Bell** cushions and tiebacks.

PHOTOGRAPHY, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY SEACLOTH; COURTESY SUNBRELLA; COURTESY SEACLOTH; COURTESY DONGHIA; COURTESY CHELLA; COURTESY DONGHIA; OPPOSITE: COURTESY LAURIE BELL