

THE HEAT OF SUMMER PROMPTED OUR TESTY TASTEMAKER TO TAKE THE TEMPERATURE OF THIS DESIGN MOMENT **BY MAYER RUS**

WHAT'S IN

◀ Swimming holes and aboveground pools ▶

Hotel and spa furniture and amenities at home—think big cabana chairs

◀ Fairies—we saw them in Bodo Sperlein's Lladró collection, left, and Patrick Jouin's Van Cleef & Arpels boutique in Paris, just for a start

Hanging an insanely expensive antique chandelier in the garden or using good old-fashioned tiki torches

Pétanque

◀ For indoors, hard-wearing (but soft and pretty) outdoor fabrics like Donghia's Velveteen and Chella's Coco Tweed

Wendell Castle—we love the limited editions at New York galleries Barry Friedman Ltd. and R 20th Century

◀ Bejeweled lighting by designers like Subversive Jewelry, left, and Tord Boontje

Books you've actually read and enjoyed

◀ The Trevi Fountain

American studio furniture

Adopting nondesigner mixes—otherwise known as mutts—from animal shelters

Silent-movie-era rococo Hollywood grandeur—take a giant step back from mid-century and go for pattern-on-pattern craziness

◀ Rediscovering the 1980s via art such as Robert Longo's *Men in the City* series

WHAT'S OUT

Infinity pools ▶

Anonymous arrangements of hotel-style furniture—instead, make sure you give it a personal touch

Gnomes had a moment ▶ when Philippe Starck reimagined them, but have now slipped back into ignominy

Dozens of knockoff Noguchi globes hanging from trees—a cute look, but we've seen it and seen it and seen it

The Slip 'N Slide: a surgeon's best friend

White canvas summer slipcovers ▶ that look like sad sacks. Sure, use slipcovers, but shabby really isn't chic; give it a little color and tailoring

A "resurrected" Prouvé chair for \$75,000

Overscaled drum chandeliers ▶ have been done to death by boutique hotels, so try something else—anything else

Three-hundred-dollar decorator books as props (e.g., *I Married Adventure*—the one with the zebra cover); Hip Hotel books; compendiums of great discos

Dinky faux-Zen water features ▶

Nakashima knockoffs

Hybrid dogs, including Puggles, Maltepoos, Shugs, and Labradoodles

Cartoonish Hollywood Regency

Mark Kostabi—still out, ▶ with no sign of revival

