

Upholstery Report

Dressed to thrill

10 trends from High Point Market

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HIGH POINT — At the recent High Point Market, the upholstery offerings were plentiful, creative and upbeat. It was a celebration of shape, color, pattern and texture that tingled the senses. It was what Highland House President Nathan Copeland called optimism.

With something for everyone, each ambitious trend had a counter trend that felt equally relevant. Simple boxy forms showed up alongside elaborate silhouettes. For every modern iteration, there was a maximalist option. Each bold textile and highly patterned cover had a quiet companion.

Coexistence was the name of the game as merchandisers shuffled the floor and dealt a breadth of styles, supplying vast possibility and means to indulge in total self-expression.



Lynx

1 Living large

Between sectionals and sofas that defy average lengths, transitional and contemporary seating satisfies the demands of large gatherings and home relaxation.

At **Vanguard**, new units were added to Michael Weiss' Steadman Sectional, and at Huntington House the hugely popular 7100 Pit sectional continued to surge.

Burton James debuted several new sections, among them the Quasar Sofa as part of its European Modern collection. Inspired by a chaise he saw in an Italian magazine, Creative Director Mark Landres said, "The goal was to make something that had an architectural feel. We had to navigate away from harder Euro foam, however, and use something that would appeal to our clientele who know us for comfort." Landres also likes the idea of pairing a right and left arm chaise to make an upright bed, perfect for a media room.

Nowhere does the generous sectional look most authentically Californian than at **Marge Carson**, a company that helped define the West Coast Casual aesthetic. Carson's creative director, Michael del Gaudio, describes the 11-piece Lynx sectional: "This design beautifully addresses California's casual elegance lifestyle. It is low-profile and low-slung, with oversized pillows that invite you to fall into them for true relaxation. The fabrics used are a study of tactile surfaces. Lynx combines a neutral body cloth with embroidered and raw silk pillows in slate and sable colorways."

Also of notable size and grace is the 103-inch Cassandra from **CR Laine**, its simply luxurious bench cushion blending seamlessly with the serenity of the sofa's subtle curved form.



Huntington House



Caracole



Christopher Guy

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Dem curves

Curvy shapes wound their way through market. From kidney sofas to sinuous two- and three-piece formations, these fluid creations come in both casual and elegant styles.

For everyday use, **Four Hands'** Liam sectional is dressed in an informal linen blend fabric and features a 212-inch elongated crescent, whereas more dramatically streamlined versions such as **Christopher Guy's** Jumelle and **Caracole's** Three's Company are for more formal or glamorously designed spaces. No matter the manner of the curve, these organic shapes are designed to float in any room spacious enough to have them.

Other rounded seating included pod-like swivel chairs with a '70s vibe. The olive green-clad swivel from **Lillian August** is one such example.

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Lillian August



Four Hands

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Bunakara



Burton James



Bernhardt

3 Hygge hug

With the Scandinavian aesthetic top of mind, upholstery manufacturers have mastered hygge (pronounced hoo-gah) and continue to embrace cozy. From plush textiles such as faux shearling and fur to an explosion of chaises and sheltering shapes that encourage nesting, the desire for at-home comfort prevailed.

CR Laine's Big Cozy lounger sofa measures 54 inches deep and is a prime gathering spot.

Burton James's Constellation sofa, also 54 inches deep, looks like a cocoon. Creative Director Mark Landres said, "This was a very special piece to develop. We saw this as the place where you could encourage your kid to get out of his room and in with the rest of the family but still give him that 'I'm hanging out in my bed' scenario." With curved sides that make this 84-inch-wide piece look smaller than it actually is, Landres adds, "It is a special SKU for a discerning customer."

Also, in the Hygge mode is **Bernhardt**, which introduced the sweater bed, a chunky knit-covered headboard.



A.R.T. Furniture



Sam Moore



Julian Chichester



Eleanor Rigby

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Nostalgic allure

A fondness for the past witnessed a profusion of chairs that seem to transcend time. While French-inspired Art Deco with curves, scallops and fish-scale motif fabrics still ranks prominently, the most marked and livable retro revival remains Mid-Century Modern.

From the concave channel-backed Vanessa sofa at **Norwalk** to **Huntington House's** tall-back 7751-50 chair with its sloped silhouette and **A.R.T.'s** sleek Prossima Mossa Grigio swivel rocker, these pieces could have easily furnished Don Draper's Manhattan suite.

The ongoing love affair with simple Scandinavian design also was well-documented. Showing their Danish roots are **Sam Moore's** Bodhi rocker and **Julian Chichester's** Button chair. Classically modern, these sculptural seats, cradled and framed in a variety of wood finishes, veer toward totemic and tribal when ebonized or swathed in leather or hide as in **Eleanor Rigby's** Lilly chair and **Tomlinson's** Greta.



Norwalk

5 New nomads



Fairfield Chair

Geography always plays a role in inspiration. Lily Koi hand-dyed organic cotton upholstery textiles hail from small villages in Vietnam and Thailand. **Fairfield Chair's** exclusive collaboration with Lily Koi features a collection of dreamy blues.

A romance with desert lands, successfully translated by Ralph Lauren, has returned with Mexico, the Southwest and South America as influential locales. Novelty cacti and llama prints surfaced on pillows and stools, while body cloths emulating horse blankets and other indigenous textiles were prevalent at **Lee**, **CR Laine** and **Norwalk**, where life-long textile collector Caroline Hipple tapped into Peru, a country she recognizes as having a rich textile language.

Pointing out the Aiken chair in a blanket stripe, Hipple said, "While I love a suzani, I wondered, what are some of the other global artisan textiles we can freshly explore?"

Additionally, upholstering kilim-inspired fabrics or rugs onto ottomans seemed pretty popular at **Company C**, **Lee** and **Norwalk** as a way to feature a textile with global flair.

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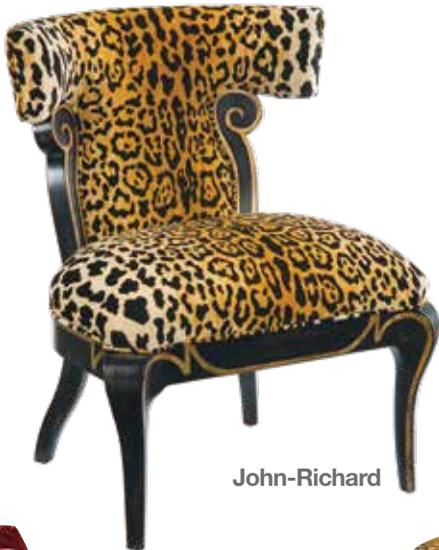
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Moorish is more

Related to this hunger for global inspiration is maximalism, an upscale and grown-up version of boho. Furnishings that pair well with this multi-cultural trend are often dressed up in animal prints, jewel and spice colors, intricate patterns and opulent textiles bearing embellishments like bullion fringe. It is the antithesis of restrained.

Divine leopard prints were spied at **CR Laine** and **John-Richard** on the Margot ottoman and Jefferson slipper chair, respectively. Moorish influence was evident in the plush arabesque quilting at **Nathan Anthony** as well as the Ottoman Banquette from the Tony Duquette collection from **Pearson**, with a stacked motif inspired by nomadic Turks who used cushions to create luxurious seating.

Velvets are always welcome with rhythmic patterns in gold and claret decorating **Tomlinson's** swivel Lombard chair and **Theodore Alexander's** Aiden chair.



John-Richard



Theodore Alexander



Tomlinson



Nathan Anthony



CR Laine

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Performance wanted

Every manufacturer upped its performance fabric offering because the customer has asked for it.

"Performance is the most requested textile category among our retailers and designers," said Holly Blalock, **CR Laine's** vice president of merchandising and marketing, who pulls fabrics from Sunbrella, Crypton, Revolution and Sustain. This market Blalock introduced 42 new performance fabrics.

The hand of the textiles is becoming softer, and the breadth of color and pattern is greater. Blalock, admires the dryness of today's performance textiles, the natural feel without shine or that slick feeling some olefin can have.

Lee Inds. introduced 24 new performance fabrics, with the most popular being a true slubby linen named Sahara in seven colors including Shale.

Norwalk showed off its performance area with a medley of bright acid colors in fabrics that included a Valdese Crypton velvet, and **Thibaut** also increased representation of light-fast and stain resistant fabrics with its Solstice collection of 13 exclusive designs including stripes, herringbone and chevron.



Lee Inds.

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Chaddock

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In to leather

Colorful, embossed and more supple than ever, leathery seats were abundant. Dyed hides spanned green at **Lee**, blue at **Highland House**, gold at **Alden Parkes** and red at **Chaddock**. And among the neutrals, warm tawny and buttery shades dominated along with gray. Embossed and digitally printed leathers add surprising texture and hide imperfections.

Norwalk's Zinc ottoman features one such burnt orange leather. Horizontal channeling, like that featured on **Eleanor Rigby's** Lilly armchair, call to mind chic motorcycle jackets, appealing to gents and others seeking romantic industrial style. Handsome campaign-style chairs, like **Chaddock's** Grant Campaign chair and **Four Hands'** Bauer, feature strapping good looks and conjure historic references.



Alden Parkes

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Femme form

Aside from the curvy silhouettes that echo the female form, there was a smattering of diminutive slipper chairs and fully upholstered shapes that have feminine appeal.

Smart-looking slipper chairs include **Thibaut's** antique-inspired Brentwood chair dressed in a snappy navy and white combination, as well as **Highland House's** Maggie chair shown in a lavish velvet stripe that would make a stylish pants suit.

Ferrules were rampant. This is one accent that will skew a piece of furniture toward the feminine as these dressy brass and nickel details register like a pair of sexy metallic stilettos. **Caracole's** Pretty Little Things and **Marge Carson's** Collins sofa wear them well. Fringe also add a feminine touch.



Highland House



Thibaut



Chaddock

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And to bed

Since we (should) spend a great deal of uninterrupted time in bed, it is important to note new upholstered bed programs at **Norwalk** and **Chaddock**.

Norwalk's Twilight Collection with four shapes in all standard sizes, varied heights and decorative options — including border embellishments, nail-heads, and tufts, the 800 fabrics and 150 leathers — combine to more than 1150 possible iterations. “Expanding our custom capabilities into upholstered beds was a natural extension of our product line,” said Hipple.

Chaddock's Sleepwell program also offers four basic headboard styles including Miles, which features open side panels. Coupled with the company's custom capabilities, a consumer can create a personal sleep experience that practically knows no bounds.

Vanguard and **Christopher Guy** also added new upholstered headboards. **IT**