

FURNITURE-MAKING

# GARDEN PARTY

*Never has alfresco seating been in such high demand, and American makers are extending enticing invitations to drop in and pull up a chair.*



FAUX-BOIS ARTISTRY

Faux-bois bench (\$10,000) and faux-bois chair and table (\$2,500 each); fauxbois furniture.com.

## A Place Among the Trees

A risky career change brought artist **Diane Husson** closer to the organic beauty around her—and the French-born art that celebrates it.



**W**AS THERE ANY OTHER DESTINY for a girl who sat atop the branches of her favorite tree “like a bird in a nest”? Sculptor Diane Husson discovered the French furniture style faux bois 10 years ago and didn’t quite realize that the spontaneous-looking winding of vines and branches is in fact a highly technical construction of metal forms, specialized concretes, and finishes. “I was an American woman sculptor with no background in welding, chemistry, concrete technology, or furniture design,” she says. “I walked away from a successful career in ceramic sculpture to embrace a micro-niche art form that had been ignored by the fine art world and all but forgotten by history.” But now, with her pieces roundly embraced in American garden design, Husson may be faux bois’s greatest ambassador.



BRUNCH IN BRIDGEHAMPTON  
**Visions lounge chair**, \$1,620; lloydflanders.com.



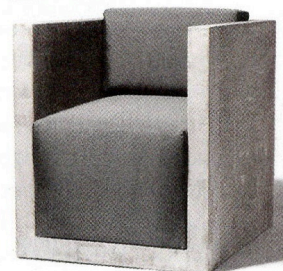
CHARLESTON LUNCHEON ON THE LAWN  
**Delphi dining side chair**, \$813; woodard-furniture.com.



PALM BEACH GAME OF PIQUET  
**Douglas dining arm chair**, \$6,850; mckinnonharris.com.



SUNDOWN ON THE CAPE  
**W2086**, \$6,470; bieleckybrothers.com.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COCKTAIL HOUR  
**Modern chair**, \$3,500; pennyroyalnewman.com.

PERFORMANCE FABRICS

## POWER COUPLE

It’s a marriage of two American institutions: the performance fabric brand **Sunbrella** and **Jack Lenor Larsen**, the venerable designer, author, and collector. Drawing on his seven decades of pioneering design, the new Larsen Performance Collection offers a veritable tour of textile’s classic motifs—floral, palm, stripes, basketry, jacquard, and damask—in modern tones that feel as timeless as the man himself.

Larsen **Midsummer, Cakewalk, Hieroglyph, Inscription** and **Chinoise fabrics**, to the trade; cowtan.com.



DIANE HUSSON PORTRAIT AND FAUX-BOIS FURNITURE: EMILIE HUSSON; JACK LENOR LARSEN: JACQUES-LOUIS BOUILLON; VISIONS: LLOYD FLANDERS; DELPHI: WOODARD; DOUGLAS: MCKINNON HARRIS; BIELECKY: BIELECKY BROTHERS; PENNYROYAL: PENNYROYAL NEWMAN





MICHAEL TAYLOR

DESIGNER GO-TO

## POTTED TREES

Organic materials, a sun-bleached palette, rugged surfaces, and indoor trees. Today, these design elements, at once laid-back and refined, are as synonymous with California cool as surf culture and acai bowls. San Francisco designer **Michael Taylor** (1927–1986), who, in the 1970s, gave new meaning to bringing the outside in with his slate floors, rough-hewn furnishings, and signature potted plants, paved the way for this increasingly coveted aesthetic.



**Bali planter**, to the trade; michael.taylor designs.com.



**Boxwood planter**, to the trade; formationsusa.com.



**Whiskey barrel planter**, \$1,050; pen.noyernewman.com.



**Pacifica planter**, \$178; serena.andlily.com.

## Design Legends



1



2



3



7



6



4

5

SIGNATURE STYLE

## French Eccentricity



MADELEINE CASTAING

“Don’t be intimidated by audacity. Be audacious—but with taste.” It might well be considered a mantra for the woman who said it: Parisian decorator **Madeleine Castaing** (1894–1992). Working at the peak of Parisian modernism, her near singular focus on decorative traditions of the 19th century—Regency furniture, Second Empire—esque striped spaces, bullion fringe trim—seems revolutionary today. The imaginative “whole” of Castaing’s rooms was truly greater than the sum of its parts. Would her signature cool-blue upholstery look so ravishing without the ebonized case goods? Would those decorative borders be so chic sans leopard carpet?

ABOVE RIGHT: The salon at Castaing’s country house. **1. Galerie des Lampes Empire hanging lamp**, to the trade; latestastudio.com. **2. Lola Montez border and Rayure Fleurie fabric**, to the trade; brunswick.com. **3. Claw-foot side table**, to the trade; johnrosselli.com. **4. Alexa Hampton Sargent games table**, \$2,670; theodorealexander.com. **5. Leopard trim**, to the trade; houles.com. **6. Rayure Cachemire pillow**, from \$270; artemisiainc.com. **7. Deslongchamps armchair**, \$9,480; taillardat.fr.

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