

## SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



### *High Point Market*

I didn't know the meaning of the phrase "shop 'til you drop" until I became a designer and started attending High Point Market in North Carolina, where I practically walked holes through my shoes a week ago.

High Point is the largest furnishings industry trade show in the world, attracting 75,000 people - and me - for a serious walk-about. Imagine 11.5 million square feet of show space! More than 2,000 exhibitors in 180 buildings. Mind-boggling, yes, and inspirational. This year I went with a designer friend - two sets of eyes are better than one - and we spent 2 ½ days exploring from early morning until 7:30 at night.

I took notes constantly and came home loaded down with ideas for the latest and greatest in home furnishings.

One key take-away: It was exciting to see that the furnishings industry is more vibrant than ever. Vendors are introducing engaging new styles, color palettes and materials and bringing back earlier trends with a new spin. I noticed a tremendous amount of enthusiasm as we quizzed showroom owners on their new lines and developed an understanding of their visions.

To whet your appetite, here are five major trends I spotted at High Point, but if you want to know more I will be breaking down those trends and examining them more closely in my blog in the weeks to come. Do some of these sound familiar? We spotted them earlier and blogged about them!

**Color:** Color is back in a big big way. Expect brightly painted furniture and fabrics in solids and prints plus lots of two-color patterns. Of course, we've been seeing bold color in fashion for a few seasons, including a lot of orange.



Hide-on-hair, everywhere: I spotted it on upholstered headboards, tabletops and mirror surrounds. You name it. Hide-on-hair can be delicate or rugged, and it always adds nice texture to a room.



Furniture: Look for upholstery with new applications of buttons, banding, trim, nail heads and metal feet. Arms are splayed or peek-a-boo. Backs are more curved than ever.



Aquatic and horse-themed furnishings and accessories: I saw sting ray sconces, puffer ball metal accessories, and horse-themed fabrics, wall art and throw pillows. You could go all-out and design a room around one of these themes or just include an accent to an existing space.

Raffia and rope on anything and everything: tables, mirrors, headboards and chests. I saw raffia wall coverings and rugs. This is a continuation of the organic, natural look we've been seeing for quite a while. It just keeps coming at us!



More to come!

Sincerely,  
Susan, Beth, Jennifer, Tod, Becca, Lauren  
*The Sweet Peas Design Team*

what's **in** what's *out*

WHAT'S IN



**1. Pearl Finish** White has been making a huge comeback in interior décor, but now more than ever we're seeing metallic, glossy, white finishes on furniture. This pearl finish adds a little glamour and sparkle to any space whether it's used in an accessory, tile, or an entire piece of furniture. Recently we chose this Bradley curved cocktail table in a stunning pearl finish for our family room in the Gracious House Showhouse, and for another project we selected this totally glam Artistic Tile in a feminine master bathroom retreat. As Jackie O' once said, "Pearls are always appropriate" and we couldn't agree more!

**2. Multiple Chandeliers** Chandeliers can be quite the design spectacle, so why stick to just one? Create more drama at home by using them in multiples and drawing even more attention to them. We've been seeing these beauties in groups of three over a long dining table or clustered in a foyer or living space. It's totally fab! Looking for even more wow? Try three chandeliers clustered and mounted at different heights.

**3. Cerulean Blue** Cerulean blue is a bold, eye catching color that can add a punch of life into any space. We think of it as similar to azure, cobalt, and cyan. It is rich, saturated and striking - no wonder it has been trending! The word 'cerulean' probably derives from the Latin word caeruleus, "dark blue, blue or blue-green", which in turn probably comes from caelulum, meaning "heaven or sky." We certainly think it's heavenly!

**4. Tumbling Block Pattern** Chevron, move over. There's a new geometric in town! This tumbling block pattern has been on the rise for months and we're loving it! It's a bold, graphic print with a contemporary flair that has been popping up everywhere. We've seen a lot of it in flooring, both painted over wood or as tile. It is also being used in rugs and fabrics. Nervous about such a contemporary-looking pattern? Don't be-this pattern actually dates back to quilts of the 1700s and maybe even earlier. The blocks were viewed as more luxurious than the standard square patterns.

**FUN FACT:** Two of our presidents, when children, quilted with their mothers - Dwight D. Eisenhower and Calvin Coolidge. Their finished quilts both include this currently trendy tumbling block pattern!

**5. Gray Stained Wood** We've all been hearing that gray is the new beige, and now that's translating to wood as well. Instead of more natural wood tones we're finding gray-stained wood in flooring, millwork, kitchen cabinets and smaller wooden accents. A light wash of this sophisticated color will leave your space with a fresh, contemporary feel, ready for any accent color. We love the combo of light gray with pops of orange, blue, or a crisp white.

*> clockwise photos courtesy of: homedepot.com, Sweet Peas Design, luxemagazine.com, apartmenttherapy.com, flickr.com, horchow.com, padlocksandpearls.tumblr.com, dwellstudio.com, fantasydecorator.tumblr.com, ericolsen.com*

sweet  
tip

### Shower Curtain Rod

Hanging your shower curtain sounds like a simple task, right? But we're noticing that people don't always get it right so we thought we'd pass along some basics for making sure yours is correct:

The standard size of a shower curtain is 70 inches wide by 72 inches high. Assume that the shower curtain will hang approximately



1-1/2 inches below the rod and that you would like the curtain to hang 3 inches above the floor. Keeping these standards in mind, the rod should be mounted at 76-1/2 inches above the floor.

The primary purpose of a shower curtain is to keep the water in the shower. If you have a shower tub, you want to make sure the curtain can fit inside the tub without pooling at the bottom. The only exception to the above measurements would be if the shower tub is raised off of the floor. You would then need to make adjustments accordingly to accommodate for the added height.

*>photo courtesy of: bomeng.org*

## FABU FABRIC



### MONGOLIAN SHEEPSKIN

This fluffy fabric has a whimsically plush texture that makes it an unexpected and welcome addition to almost any room. We like it in small doses because it makes such a dramatic statement. Try it draped over a sofa or chair like a blanket, on a throw pillow, ottoman or bench. You may have spotted some Mongolian sheepskin in our family room at the Gracious House Showhouse. We used it to upholster a bench by Bradley. Everyone who stopped by couldn't resist running their fingers through the thick, long fur!

*> clockwise photos courtesy of: sulia.com, architecturaldigest.com, Sweet Peas Design, Sweet Peas Design, bellemaison23.com*

## Not Your Grandma's Dining Table

Gone are the days of feeling obligated to use your mother-in-law's mahogany dining table and coordinating set of chairs. Today we prefer those that are as individual as you are. On our radar now: tables with one material for the top and another for the base. Why not combine a rustic concrete top with a glossy metal base? Or a reclaimed wood top with an acrylic base?

Don't worry, even if your table is avant garde the entire room doesn't have to be. Pair upholstered chairs with the table to create a perfectly harmonized space.



>clockwise photos courtesy of: Hudson, onekingslane.com, Bradley USA

At Sweet Peas Design we always have our eyes (and hands) on the ball. Here's an update on our comings and goings.

### OUR NEWEST VIRTUAL HOME

We've been feathering another "nest" for Sweet Peas Design at the new myTrends.com, an online design community recently launched by Trends magazines. You can find our portfolio, the latest in studio news, design trends and tips here: <http://trendsideas.com/profiles/sweet-peas-illinois-usa>.



We're impressed with myTrends, and we think you will be, too. As Trends is based in New Zealand, this is a great way to search for ideas worldwide- from the US to Australia and from New Zealand to Asia and save them until you're ready for your next project!

### SPEAKING OF SOCIAL MEDIA...

We have been updating our Facebook and LinkedIn pages and I'm becoming a pro at Instagramming! Who says chicks of a certain age can't learn new tricks? We have been deliberately expanding our reach to include numerous social media so everyone can choose their favorite way to access Sweet Peas Design news, design trends and tips.

Now you can connect with us on online at [DeringHall](#), [Houzz](#), [DesignShuffle](#), and [Pinterest](#) as well as [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), Instagram (@susan\_brunstrum), Twitter (@SusanBrunstrum), [Sweetpeas-inspired.com](#) and our blog, <http://sweetpeas-inspired.com/blog>.

Sweet homes....in the cloud!



### HEADLINES....

#### DINING ROOM GETS SPLASH(ED)

Writer Ashley Devick at the Sun-Times' Splash magazine recently highlighted another one of our projects online and in print. This time it is a "chic and sophisticated" dining room for a Libertyville client who needed plenty of space to seat family. We selected a statement table that is 120- by 48- inches and can accommodate two head chairs at each end for a total of 12, as needed. I love the gray and butter-yellow color scheme! Get the look here:

<http://splash.suntimes.com/2014/10/20/sho-interior-life-dining-design/#.VEe79fnF9u0>

# GET THE LOOK



## Quilt it!

Is there anything more classic than a quilted Chanel 2.55 handbag? This iconic bag remains essentially unchanged and is still a beloved accessory for women worldwide. Now we're seeing Coco Chanel's quilted motif translating into chic interior design elements such as leather furniture, wall coverings and of course, bedding. It introduces an appealing pattern, texture and softness to any space, masculine or feminine. Quilting is similar to tufted furniture, without the buttons, so it's simpler and more contemporary.

Here's a fun fact for your friends and guests: Coco Chanel, who loved racing, was inspired to create her famous purse by the diamond pattern on jockey's jackets.

*> clockwise photos courtesy of: matadesign.com.au, chanel.com, houseofchappel.com, thezhush.com, elitis.fr, globalviews.com, bernhardt.com*



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