

SCRIBBLES...POSSIBILITIES...& DISCOVERIES



High Point Market

We have seen the future of design, and it is wonderful! Lauren Benditzky, our junior designer and I, are back from several days at High Point Market in North Carolina, the largest furniture show in the world, and we have brought back a cornucopia of exciting new ideas for furnishings and accessories. How perfect, with Thanksgiving just around the corner!

The show attracts roughly 75,000 people from around the world to see the freshest ideas on the market, and we nearly got whiplash trying to visit as many of the 2,000 vendors as we could. There is so much to share that we decided for the first time to dedicate an entire newsletter to High Point highlights: Which fabric knocked our socks off? What are latest accessories for filling up a corner? What's new in furniture finishes? Hint: It involves fabric!

Yes, we saw a lot, but I'm kind of choosy about what I add to the Sweet Peas Design stable of fabrics, finishes, furnishings and accessories. We're always looking for quality, of course, and styles that have some staying power, and we never recommend something just because it's on-trend. It has to be right for you.

So enjoy a virtual tour of the Market below and let us know what grabs you. The photos are a bit rough because we were moving fast, but they'll give you an idea of what we saw!

And while you catch up on the latest we are making plans to meet with new and existing vendors who can deliver all these goodies to Sweet Peas Design. In the meantime, all of us at Sweet Peas

Design want to wish you and yours a very happy (and delicious) Thanksgiving. Gobble 'til you wobble.

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

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

WHAT'S IN



1. Oversized Table Lamps These supersized lights took us by surprise, and maybe that's the whole idea. They are daring and exciting, and they are changing our outlook on

proportion. Some of them are big enough to be floor lamps! No more "lampshade on the head" for partygoers who have imbibed a bit too much...

2. Asymmetry Furniture makers are having a lot of fun with this one - especially with case pieces such as tables, consoles, cabinets and credenzas. Off-center hardware, consoles with details only on one side and table bases that are thicker on one end than the other - we were starting to feel a bit off-balance! They're quirky and unusual, but still handsome and sophisticated.

3. Channel Upholstery As if the revival of bell bottoms isn't enough, here's another nod to the 70s. Channel upholstery is back, and it's literally groovy! Horizontal or vertical, subtle or deeply stitched, this upholstery technique gives super cool geometric texture to solid fabrics. Expect to see a lot of this on velvet furniture. Maybe it's time to break out the white go-go boots.

4. Geodes/Minerals/Selenite in Lighting We saw so many geodes, minerals, rocks and other natural elements on lamps and light fixtures throughout the Market we were starting to wonder if we had wandered into a convention of geologists. These lamps and light fixtures are striking and some are a bit startling, especially the ones made with selenite, a white, semi-opaque, quartz-like mineral with long spikey shards. They generate a lot of sparkle, even when the light is off, and they're certainly memorable.

5. Plexi Framed Artwork Here's a "clear" winner - artwork pressed between two pieces of plexi-glass. While we love frames of all kinds, we're always open to something new, and this technique puts all the focus on the artwork. Imagine mixing this with a traditional wood-framed piece of art. Mod and classic on one wall.

6. Split Image Cabinet Hardware Half and half makes a whole - that's the popular new spin on cabinet hardware - one shape, split down the middle, half on one door, half on the other. When the doors are closed the pieces create one complete shape, when they're open, it's splitsville. Expect to see it in circles, squares and hexagons, all inspired by Asian antique cabinetry.

> High Point Market Finds (left to right): Allison Paladino, Kathryn McCoy, Shine by Sho, Hickory White, Theodore Alexander, High Point Market, John Richard, Wesley Hall, Lorts

WHAT'S OUT

Mismatched Books as Decor Gone are the days of bookshelves packed from side to side with mismatched books. Talk about chaos! When it comes to bookshelf styling, we're seeing a more controlled aesthetic - books grouped by color or even books reversed on the shelf (allowing the neutral color of the pages to be exposed.) Small, matching clusters of books creates a bigger visual impact and a cleaner look. It allows for negative space - a place for the eye to (and mind) to rest - and it certainly puts the obsessive brain at ease!

sweet tip



How to Fill a Corner

There's nothing wrong with a tall plant to fill a corner, but we found much more exciting options during our explorations. These 5- to 7-foot tall pieces have visual pizzazz and are tall enough to fill a corner and balance a room. If you're not quite ready for the "see no evil" trio, think about the series of more traditional glass towers instead. Personally, we are particularly smitten with the ceiling mounted piece featuring alternating glass balls and a metal ring. Unforgettable- but don't let the kids do any gymnastics on it!

>High Point Market Finds (left to right): Sklo, John Strauss Furniture, Phillips Collection

FABU FABRIC



VELVET

Would you be surprised to know that velvet was a major player at the Market? It seduced us time and time again on sofas, chairs, ottomans, pillows, and yes, even walls, Today's versions aren't your

Grandma's velvet, the kind that no one could sit on. Instead of crushed, glitzy, or overly shiny velvet we're seeing sophisticated low-pile variations with a soft luster that fits with today's functional homes. And there's another new twist: Vendors are pairing velvet with other fabrics such as linen and leather for a look that works beyond formal living rooms. Velvet has been a sought-after luxury fabric since its origins in the 14th century, probably in the Far East. Royalty, state officials and the clergy coveted it for vestments and robes. It must have been warm and cozy back in the days before central heating.

> *High Point Market Finds (left to right): Kravet, Hickory White, Verellen, Louise Gaskill*

SPOT LIGHT ON A FAVORITE

Linen-Wrapped Case Pieces

Finding a consistently good source for linen-wrapped case pieces can be crazy difficult because these are truly specialty items, so we felt like we had won the lottery when we discovered two great manufacturers of these pieces. The proof is in the seams and corners, which can be difficult to get just right, but these two vendors are spot on, and they're producing a wide range of pieces. We saw chests, buffets, credenzas, end tables, cocktail tables, bed frames and head boards. Some are unfinished, others painted and still others have a sleek, lacquered finish. We wanted to bring some of these pieces home on the airplane, but it would have pushed up over our baggage limit!



> *High Point Market Finds and photos from (clockwise): Creative Metal & Wood, quintus.com, EJ Victor, indulgy.com, vandm.com, Creative Metal & Wood*

WELCOME ANGELA LAVISTA

Sweet Peas Design is growing! We're excited to introduce Angela LaVista as our newest senior designer. Angela is extremely talented, has a wealth of experience and is the perfect addition to our team. Before joining Sweet Peas Design



Angela was principal for more than five years of Chelle Design Group in Libertyville and before that, she headed up LaVista Design Group for 7 years. Angela also has been a showroom designer and buyer and an interior design consultant for a major retail furniture store. She studied interior architecture and interior design at

Northern Illinois University. Angela officially joined our team as a senior designer on November 2, and we anticipate many inspirational moments together! Check out her bio at our website, www.sweetpeas-inspired.com, and feel free to contact her at angela@sweetpeas-inspired.com.



MODERN LUXURY/ INTERIORS CHICAGO

In the spirit of Thanksgiving all of us at Sweet Peas Design want to say thank you again to ASID Illinois for the "Design of Excellence Award 2015" for our Lake Forest Showhouse room. We were thrilled to see all of the winners recognized in a special section of the current Modern Luxury/Interiors Chicago magazine. Kudos also to ASID Illinois for its hard work in promoting our field and recognizing individual interior designers.

GET THE LOOK



Metallic

Silver and gold leaf finished furniture isn't so glitzy and glammy anymore and we're lovin' it. Tables, chairs and chests with these metallic finishes are moving out of the living room and foyer and into the family room, often with a softer, less shiny look and sometimes with a casual mix of wood and gold, such as the pedestal table. You can go for broke with real silver and gold, applied in a very thin layer of leaf or powder in a technique called gilding. But we saw excellent faux finishes created with paint that are nearly as good as the real thing. The concept dates back to ancient times, and there's a reason the look has endured - people all over the globe have a love affair with these precious metals.

> *High Point Market Finds (clockwise): Creative Metal & Wood, Theodore Alexander, Lorts, EJ Victor, EJ Victor*

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Susan@sweetpeas-inspired.com

SWEET PEAS DESIGN

Studio

507 East Park Avenue
Libertyville, Illinois 60048 ([map](#))
tel 847.816.1296

Home Office

100 East Bellevue Place
Chicago, Illinois 60611
tel 312.572.9090

Sweet Peas Design, Inc., 507 E. Park Avenue, Libertyville, IL 60048

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