

NEWS DIGEST | JAN 21, 2020

Home Depot makes a play for the home, Billy Cotton winds down his firm and more

By Robyn Smith

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BUSINESS NEWS

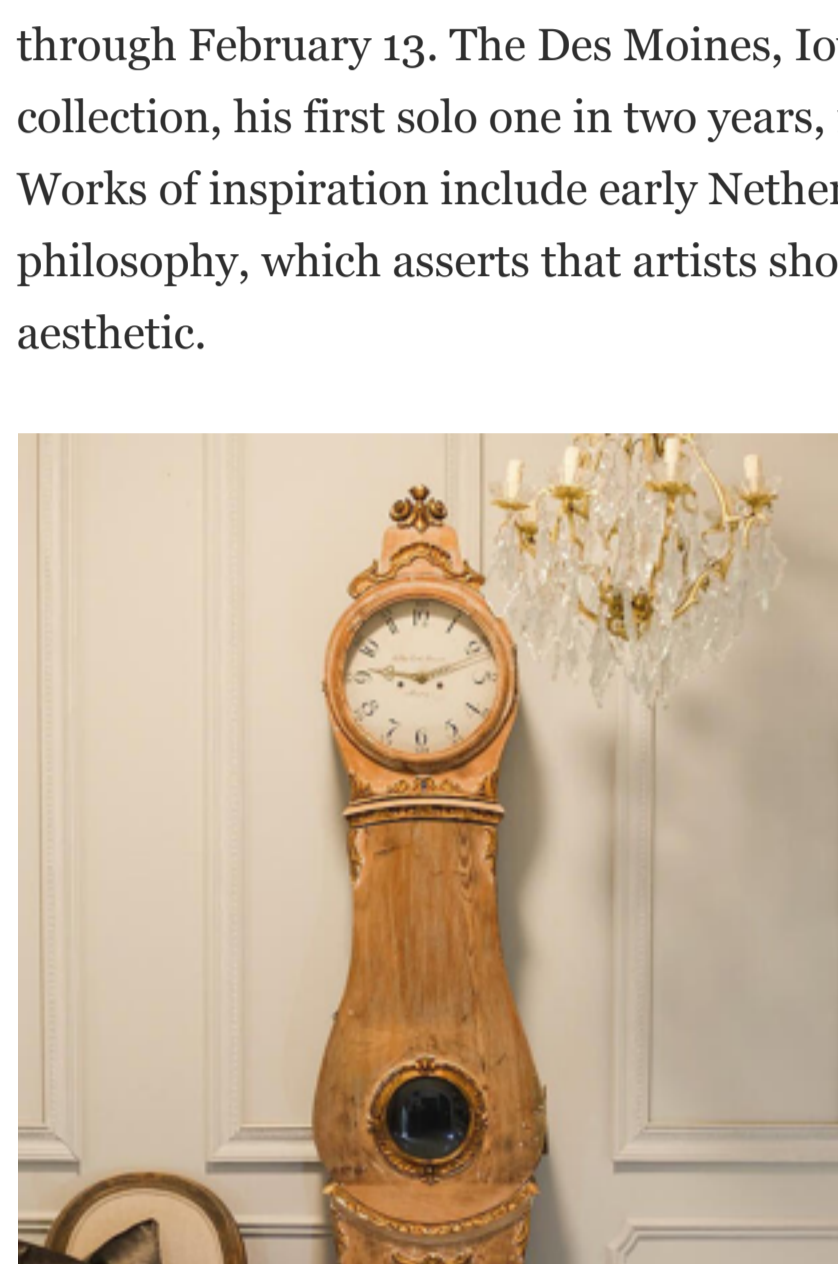
Home Depot may make a larger foray into home furnishings this year, predicts **Warren Shoulberg** in a piece for *HFN*. In the last two years, the company has grown its collections from rugs, lighting and window coverings to include textiles, tabletop, furniture and accessories; this year, it will transition those products from online-only to in-store as well.

NY Now and **Forty One Madison** will collaborate again for this season's market. From February 2 to 5 at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York, Forty One Madison will present tabletop brands Christofle, Lenox, Canvas Home, Match Pewter, L'Objet and others—the second consecutive show in which it will curate a pavilion.

In a personal email, **Billy Cotton** announced that following his appointment as **creative director** of Ralph Lauren Home in October 2019, he will wind down his namesake company after completing the firm's final projects. The move comes with a host of logistical details: The brand's design director, **Michelle Ficker**, and senior designer, **Michael Zipp**, will team up to create a new design firm, Bryant & Thomas. Cotton's products are no longer for sale as of January, and the designs have been archived—with the exception of the successful Pick Up lighting collection, which will now be run by Brooklyn-based maker and metalworker **Cam Crockford**. "I will say that this has been very emotional," wrote Cotton of shuttering the firm, which he founded 13 years ago. "I was extremely lost and afraid as I exited Pratt Institute all those years ago. That fear drove this unemployable young man to start his own business, and it would take volumes to describe the highs and lows of that journey. To all the clients, editors, buyers, friends and family who have supported me, pushed me through the failures and against all odds: I am forever in gratitude. You have given me faith when I lost my own."

OPENINGS, AUCTIONS AND EVENTS

The **Gallery at 200 Lex** is hosting an exhibit featuring the works of **James Anthony Bearden** through February 13. The Des Moines, Iowa-based sculptor is using new materials in this collection, his first solo one in two years, including painted polychrome and dyed glass enamel. Works of inspiration include early Netherlandish paintings and the Gesamtkunstwerk philosophy, which asserts that artists should maintain all creative control to guarantee a unified aesthetic.



An entry from the IMC's People's Choice product nominees. Courtesy of IMC

The **Winter Las Vegas Market** is fast approaching, and this year's show—which runs January 26 to 30—includes a host of new products, programs and expanded showrooms. Among those unveiling new spaces are Currey & Company, which debuts a 9,300-square-foot showroom, as well as new exhibitors Emerald Home Furnishings, Steve Silver Company and Global Home. The IMC's new Market Snapshot program will also make its Las Vegas Market debut, showcasing innovative products, with a People's Choice award for the best-in-show. **Martyn Lawrence Bullard** will be awarded the 15th-annual Las Vegas Market **Design Icon Award**.

A 100,000-square-foot Ashley HomeStore has opened in Hialeah, Florida, the largest ever opened by parent company City Furniture, **reported Furniture Today**. There are 12 other locations, but none include the Ashley Clearance Center & Outlet, which makes its debut in Hialeah.



Pieces from Bespoke by Gil Melott. Courtesy of Gil Melott

LAUNCHES, PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

Chicago interior designer and showroom Studio 6F owner **Gil Melott** recently debuted Gil Melott Bespoke, his inaugural furniture collection.

Leanne Ford of HGTV's *Restored by the Fords* will serve as 2020 brand ambassador to international electric and infrastructure company Legrand. She will model and create inspiration using the company's designer switches and outlets.

Cosentino has a new influencer program titled the Cosentino Design Alliance, which will kick off at the 2020 **Kitchen and Bath Industry Show** in Las Vegas. The seven designers involved include **Richard Anuszkiewicz**, **Nar Bustamante**, **Young Huh**, **Nina Magon**, **Jaime Rummerfeld**, **Ron Woodson** and **Ashley Rumsey**.

RECOMMENDED READING

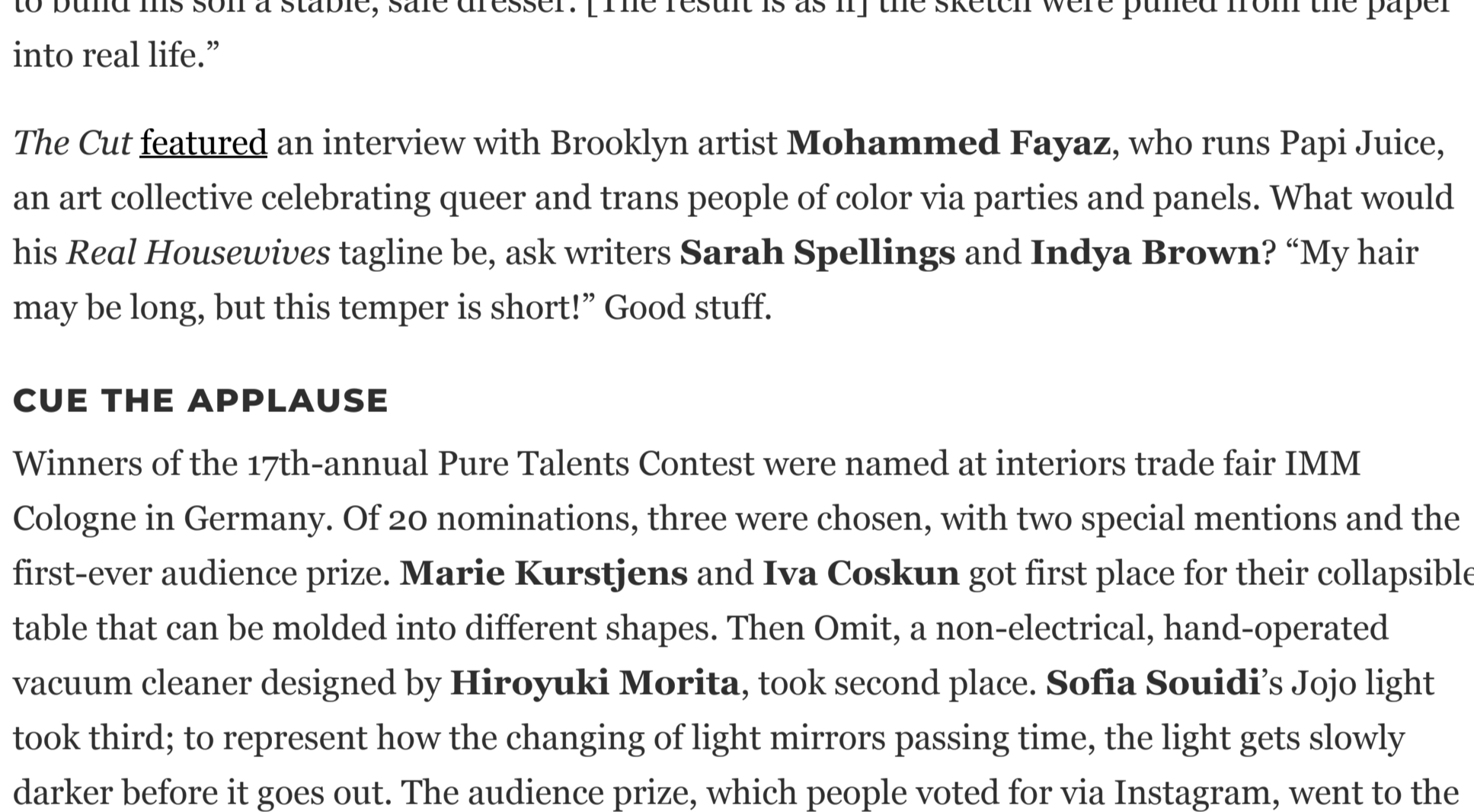
"Fast Furniture is an environmental fiasco," **reported The New Republic**. The story cites how the Environmental Protection Agency has measured that Americans dispose of over 12 million tons of furniture and furnishings, a small fraction of which is recycled. Upholstered furniture and mattresses are especially difficult to clean and reprocess; 9 million tons of wood, metal, glass, fabric, leather and foam waste goes straight to the landfill. And while rental companies extol better practices, they don't account for the extended supply chain. "While many producers tout their eco-conscious cred, shoppers, on the whole, either haven't been willing or haven't been able to afford the premium. ... Eco-friendly furniture is pitched at the wealthy [but] even those ready to pay a premium are stymied by a near-total lack of transparency."

Fast Company **spotlighted** a hero dad who turned his son's sketch into a real dresser, Pinocchio-style—kind of. "Maybe creativity doesn't die as we grow older, and one's career can always still peak, but I think most of us would agree that the sensation of boundlessness fades as we age—that the sheer possibility of it all feels more finite," writes **Mark Wilson**. That's what makes this dresser so great. "Long story short, he wanted to build his son's vision, but he also wanted to build his son a stable, safe dresser. [The result is as if] the sketch were pulled from the paper into real life."

The *Cut* **featured** an interview with Brooklyn artist **Mohammed Fayaz**, who runs Papi Juice, an art collective celebrating queer and trans people of color via parties and panels. What would his *Real Housewives* tagline be, ask writers **Sarah Spellings** and **Indya Brown**? "My hair may be long, but this temper is short!" Good stuff.

CUE THE APPLAUSE

Winners of the 17th-annual Pure Talents Contest were named at interiors trade fair IMM Cologne in Germany. Of 20 nominations, three were chosen, with two special mentions and the first-ever audience prize. **Marie Kurstjens** and **Iva Coskun** got first place for their collapsible table that can be molded into different shapes. Then Omit, a non-electrical, hand-operated vacuum cleaner designed by **Hiroyuki Morita**, took second place. **Sofia Souidi**'s Jojo light took third; to represent how the changing of light mirrors passing time, the light gets slowly darker before it goes out. The audience prize, which people voted for via Instagram, went to the Flow Chair by **Filip Lenarick**. Special mentions went to a beanbag chair inflated by sound waves made by screaming into a funnel, created by **Qing Deng**; and a wooden chair designed by **Sho Ota**.



Inside the Créateurs Design Award gala. Courtesy of the Créateurs Design Award

Last week in Paris, the Créateurs Design Award announced its 2020 winners across six design categories—Best Residential went to Bernard Peschard Architecture for Country House Valle de Bravo; Best Collection to Martin Massé for Orsetto; Best Hospitality & Commercial to Snorre Stinnesen Architecture; Best Collaboration went to Studiopepe for Les Arcanistes; Best Product to **Jamie Bush** for his Pier Bookcase; and Best Project Photography to **Emo Peter** for Brookridge. **Pierre-Yves Rochon** was also awarded the Andrée Putnam Lifetime Achievement Award.

New York designer **Lori Weitzner**'s accessories line was recognized as a finalist at the Fashion Group International's Rising Star awards, a competition for brands between one and six years old.

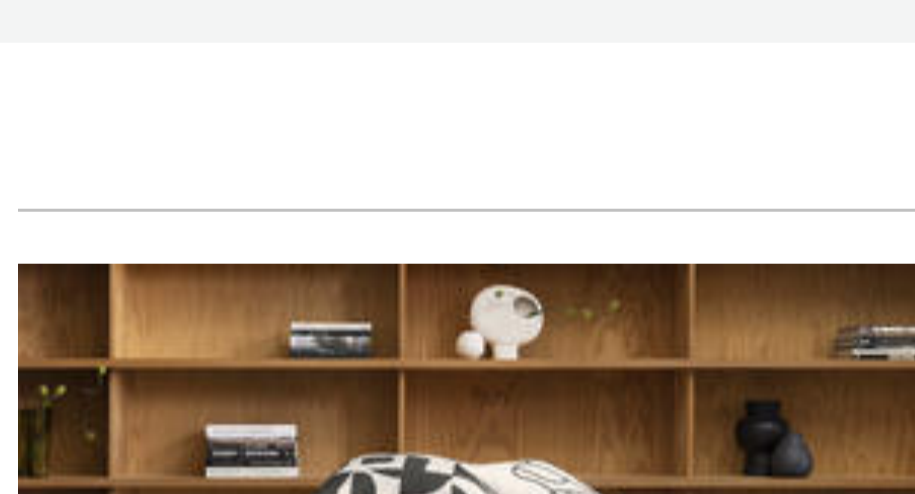
International Market Centers named three Atlanta Market exhibitors—Glee Jewelry, Puffin Coolers and VE Designs—as the first people's choice winners in IMC's new Market Snapshot program. The program celebrates innovations at the market; people voted online from 40 finalists. Three more winners will be announced at Las Vegas Market in January.

Homepage image: Hotel Californian by Martyn Lawrence Bullard | Courtesy of the Créateurs Design Award

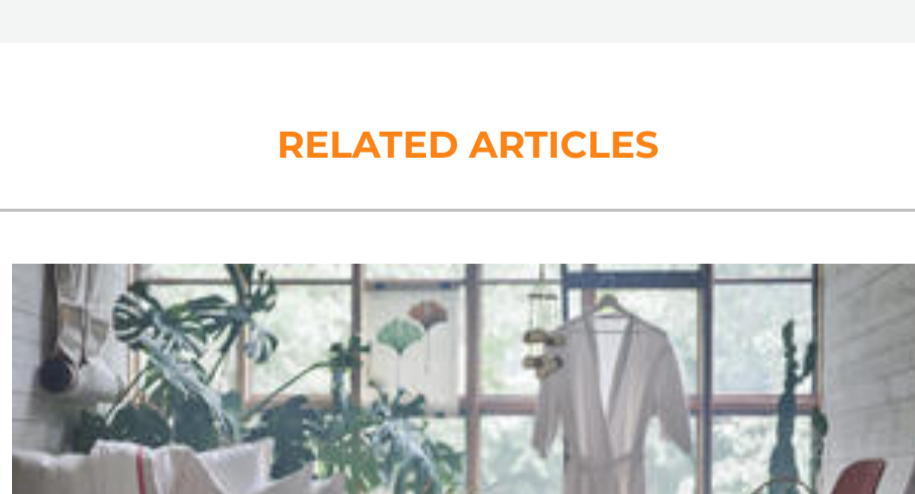
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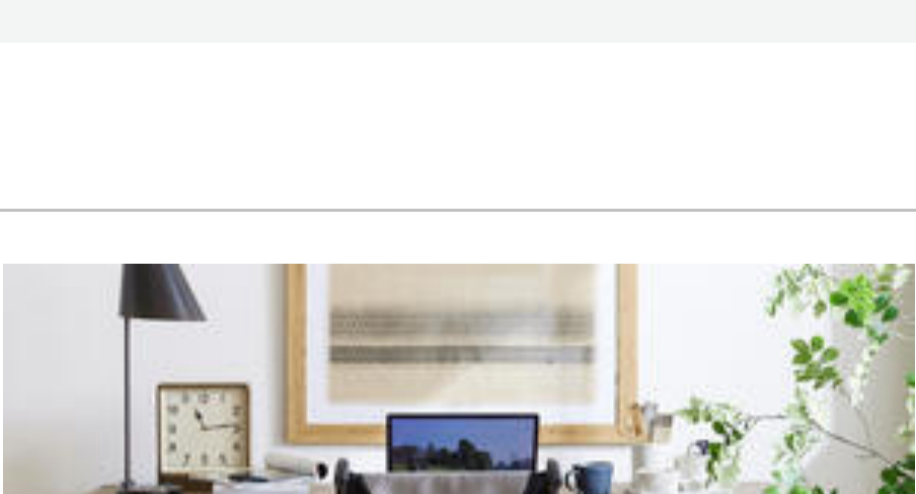
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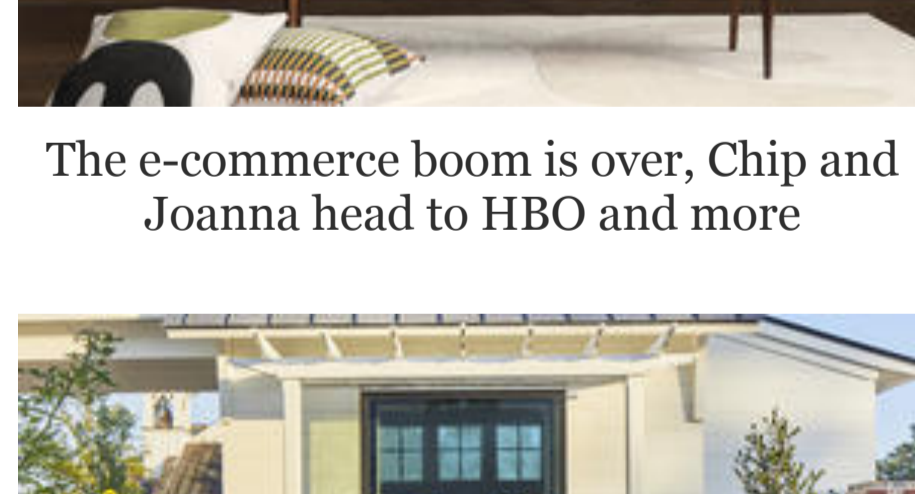
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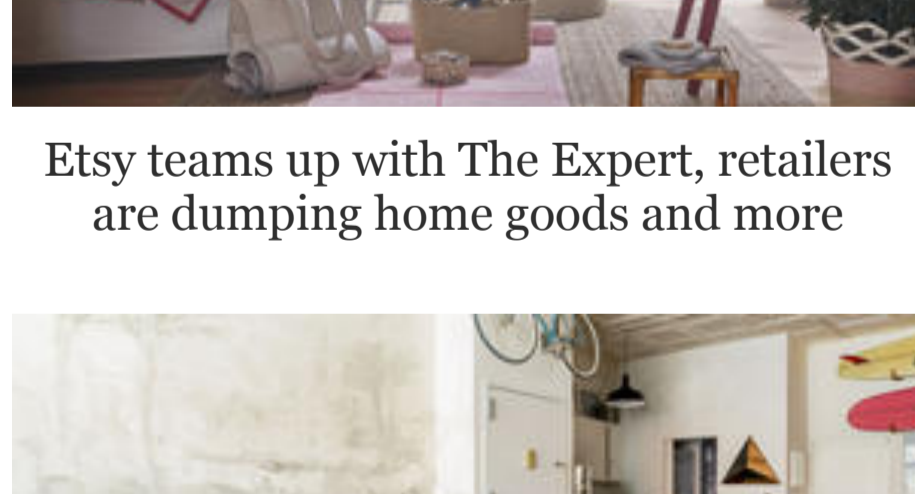
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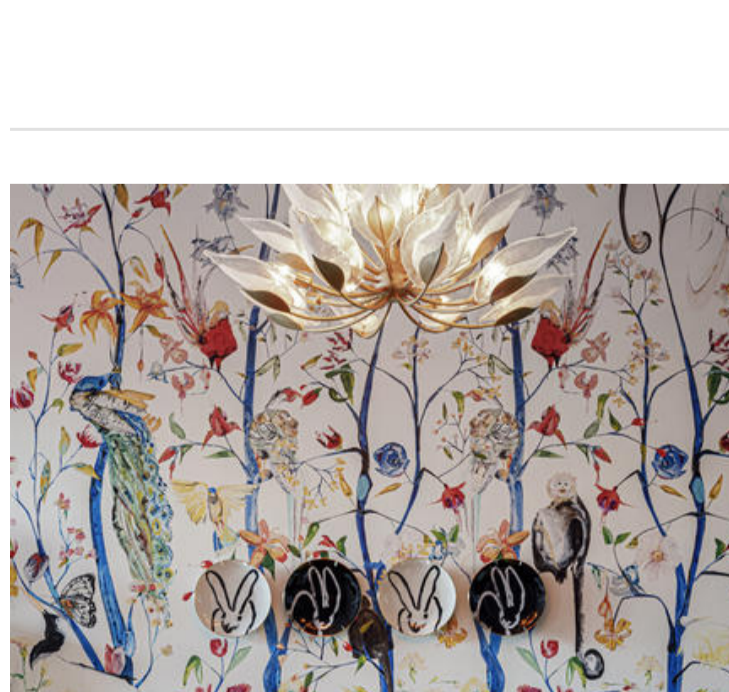
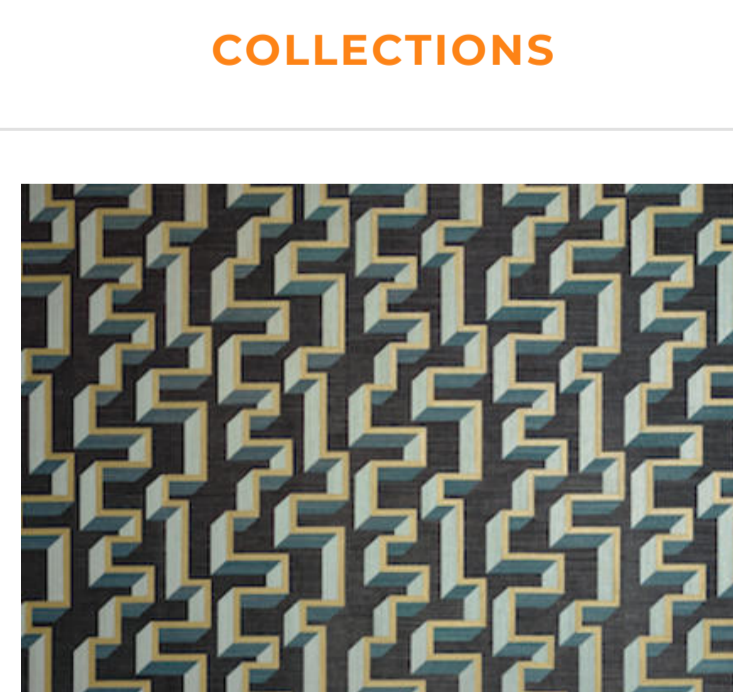
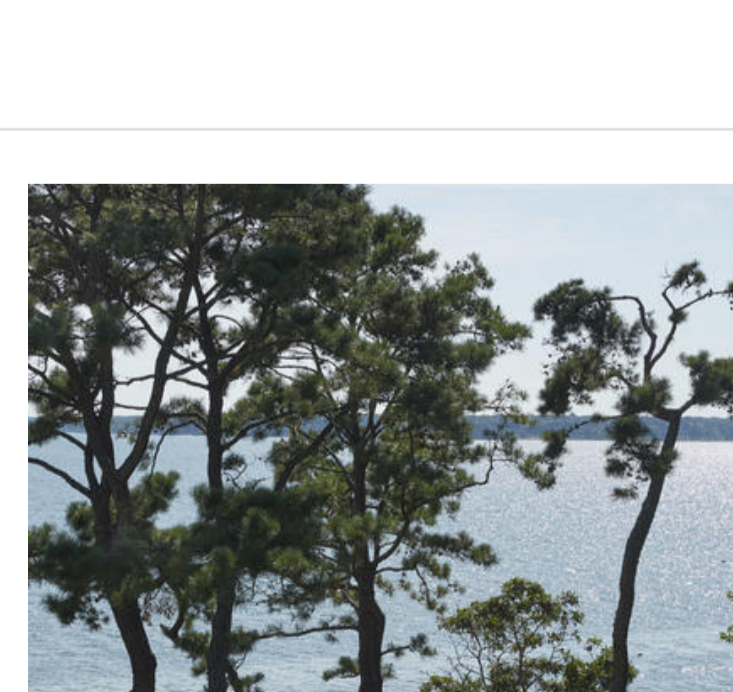
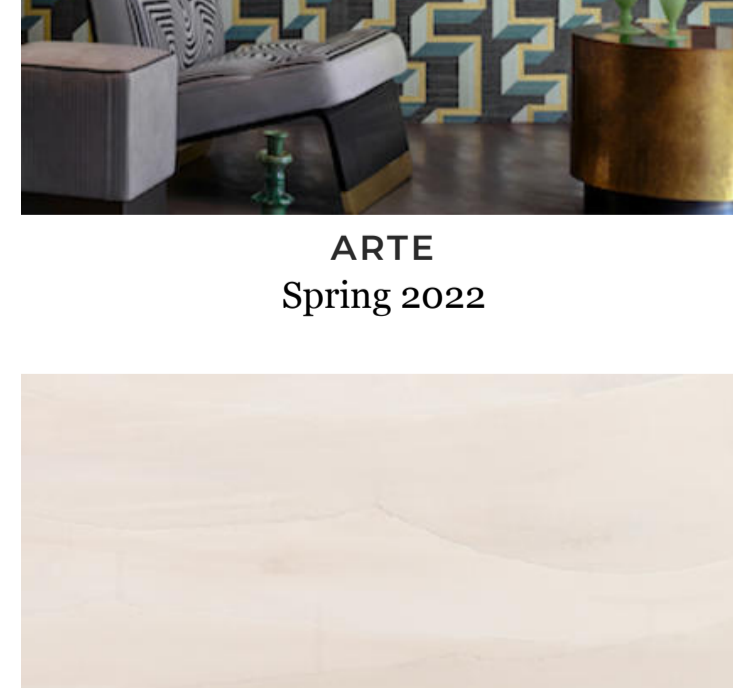
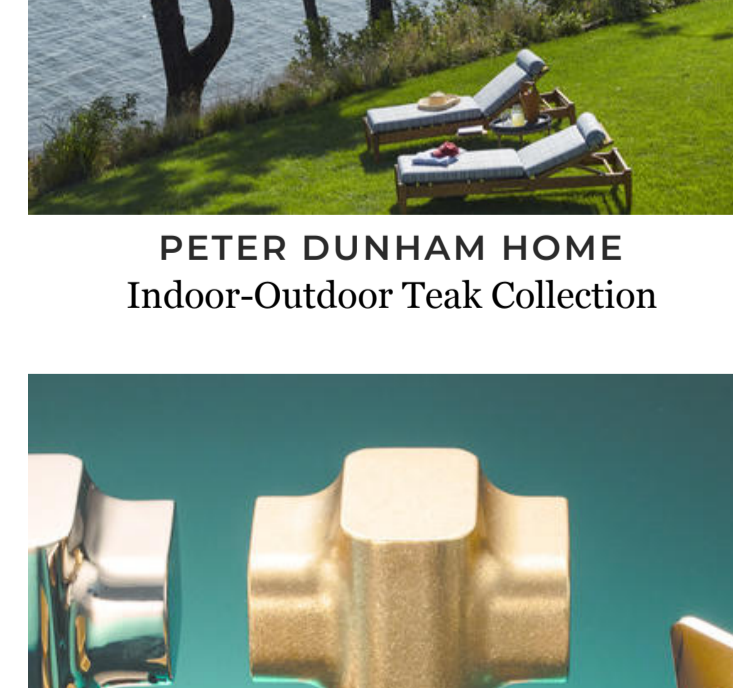


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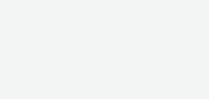
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