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Fabrics of Hollywood

Textile Décor for the Home or Movie Set



Suzanne Boucher, owner of Full Swing Textiles, relaxes in a pile of vibrantly patterned fabrics with her son, Max, daughter, Bella, and dog, Stella.

Fabric of Life

Unleashing the power of pattern



Towering stacks of folded fabrics with exotic names like “Casablanca,” “Bamboozled,” and “Haley’s Comet” fill Suzanne Boucher’s workroom with a kaleidoscope of color. The space, which was once the living room of her Duxbury home, now serves as the center of operations for the boutique fabric line, Full Swing Textiles.

“When people want to spice up their décor, one of the easiest ways to do it is with fabric,” says Boucher, whose company sells an exclusive line of high quality barkcloth. The dense fabric, which first became popular back in the 40s and 50s, has a nubby, bark-like texture of 100 percent cotton open-crepe weave. Boucher’s line of vintage-inspired fabric is authentically woven and printed so that it reproduces the same rugged texture and beautiful, bold patterns as the originals.

BY MARIA FERRI • PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS LEWIS





“Everything we do is very old-world and vintage,” says Boucher, who was first introduced to barkcloth while working as the assistant to the original owner of the company during the 80s. Back then the business was a little vintage furnishings and accessories shop located in Newport, Rhode Island. After 20 years of working for the company, Boucher and her husband, Fred, took over the business in 2005 and relocated it to their home on the South Shore.

Up until 2007, Full Swing Textiles products were only available to vendors within the textile industry. Customers included interior designers, restaurant decorators, as well as Hollywood movie directors eager to get their hands on a fabric that would create the mood of a past era.

Full Swing Textiles has outfitted such restaurants as chef Bobbie Flay’s New York restaurant, Mesa Grill, which has red cowboy “Yippee-ei-o” and has appeared in countless movies, including films like *L. A. Confidential*, *The Good Shepherd*, and *Mona Lisa Smile*. The fabrics will also appear in the upcoming 2010 release of *Shutter Island*. Award winning Art Director Dante Ferretti and Set Director Francesca LoSchiavo ordered up some of the fabric known as “Palm” as well as a solid teal color to be turned into drapes and a sofa for a flashback scene in the movie.

Thanks to a new website and an extended line of accessories, Boucher can now sell her fabrics to a much wider audience. Besides selling fabric by the yard, she also sells many fun accessories, like pillows, bags, aprons, potholders, journals, and dog beds.

“Barkcloth is washable and very durable,” says Boucher, who has used many of the patterns in her own home. There are banana yellow pillows in the guest room, covered in a pattern known as Bacall, while the seat cushions of the kitchen bar stools are covered with “Lush Life.” A panel of “Casablanca” hangs as a shower curtain in the kids’ bathroom, and even the family dog, Stella, has a leopard “Tangier” print dog bed.

“Carmen Miranda in the color natural has been the number one seller for 20 years,” says Boucher. “I think it’s because the colors are so easy to work with. The pattern has a natural background, with red, yellow, green, teal blue, and some purple.”

The patterns aren’t just for connoisseurs of vintage decor either. Designers, decorators, and now private homeowners are finding new ways to use the colorful patterns to rev up the look and mood of rooms. “The current trend is 1950s modern patterns,” says Boucher. “We also have a selection of regional patterns like ‘Moonlight in the Pines’ and ‘Conifer Stripe’ that fit in great with New England style decor.”

While barkcloth never really left the limelight for interior designers, Boucher is excitedly anticipating the fabric’s potential with mainstream buyers. Whether used to upholster a chair or turned into a bag to carry around town, the unique qualities of the fabric are guaranteed to make a statement. **SSL**

Full Swing Textiles
781-934-6781
www.fullswingtextiles.com