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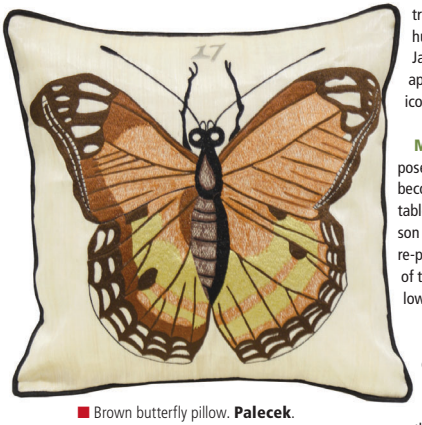
■ Damier red clock features a gingham pattern. **Comptoir de Famille**. 866.709.8085. www.comptoirdefamille.net
**Circle #918**



■ Brown butterfly pillow. **Palecek**. 800.274.7730. www.palecek.com
**Circle #919**

## Jill Sands

**Publisher, The Trend Forecaster**

**Ode to Mother Nature –** Ever popular are the three B's: Birds, Bees and Butterflies, but taking center stage will be song birds, often pen-and-ink rendered in sepia tones and purples. In addition to shells in all shapes and sizes, look for deer and moose antlers (the antique shop variety) and animal horn. Also, animal skin, especially leopard, leather and fur — like the fur-lined ankle-strapped mega-heel shoes by Celine. Coral, for its color and free-form shape, will be focal. In the flora category we'll see bleached pine cones, birch barks in black and white, a nice contrast to the poppies which were everywhere at Maison et Objet. Poppies are beautifully graceful, simple and their corally-red coloration is very on trend.

**Modern Romance –** Think early 1960s, *Mad Men*. Modern romance with peek-a-boo lace, layers of open weave and velvets; flirty curves and full-fabric drapes: florals with romantic colors and themes. Pearlescent and reflective surfaces such as mercury glass, shimmer vs. shine, soft metallics and warm metals are in. Romantic glows are achieved with layered lighting (floor, table, overhead and uplights) creating a feminine mystique. Colors are soft with dusty hues of pinks, plum, light and darkened blues, and all values of gray.

**Express Yourself –** No rules! Listen to your inner instincts. Make your home YOU-nique, evoking memories like a photograph. Traditionally timeless styling is simplified, modernized and re-colored, combining architectural elements and styles from neo-classic periods. Its clean, fresh looks belie its historic heritage. Paired with men's suiting patterns (*Mad Men*, again) and crisp white painted molding it easily transitions to contemporary or traditional. Look for furniture painted in multi-hued stripes, patterns, and flags (U.S.A., France's tri-couleur and the Union Jack). Combine with handcrafted ethnic influences (embroidery, knits, reverse appliqués), distressed surfaces, animal prints, Suzani, paisley, ikats, toiles, or calico which is trending in. Most important, remember to include a pinch of quirky.

**Mid-Century Vintage –** Built-to-last factory parts and pieces are re-purposed for function and fun. These nostalgic gears and industrial parts have become collector items since our factories of old have moved overseas. Look for tables on wheels, gear lamps, freezer latches, etc. Trunks were everywhere at Maison et Objet; mirrored, cowhide or painted. Some displayed as coffee tables are re-purposed as drawer chests. Trunks are a symbol of transition in our lives. A mix of textures and materials add pizzazz without commitment to color. Hues are mellowed grays, complemented with old brick, pewter, gold, kiwi and aubergine.

**Architectural Engineering and Contrasts –** Look for simplicity with exciting, outstanding touches of chic styling. Chehoma exhibited a white chest of drawers with oversized free-form red coral drawer pulls. Simple, but so elegantly casual looks belie intense behind-the-scenes engineering. Everything lies perfectly; the ruffles, angled stripes, asymmetrical lines, pin-tucks, draping and oversized zippers with decorative pulls. The distinction between fashion and home decor has become a blur; what you see on the runway today is in home decor tomorrow. The "it" colors are in combinations of stripes, blocking and circles. So unpretentious, yet so outstanding. Tiresome matchy-matchy is long gone. Contrasts whip up our creative juices. Rustic and formal, town and country. It's simple and elegant.