



ONE-STOP SHOPPING

Resourceful designers (and others in the know) head to DCOTA for fabrics, wallpaper and more

BY SAXON HENRY

In Europe, fine wall coverings and fabrics are at retail stores like Liberty of London, John Lewis, Osborne & Little or David Hicks's new store in Paris. But in the United States, the really cool prints are available only to designers. Luckily for those of us in Florida, there is a beehive of "to the trade" vendors at the Design Center of the Americas, better known as DCOTA, in Dania Beach.

Of course, you can buy more than fabric and wallpaper there. You can get Ayala Serfaty lighting from J. Batchelor or Horm accessories from Mobelform or loophole rugs from Designtex. And don't worry if you don't have your own personal decorator. You can still buy at DCOTA (see the box on page 88). But if you're dealing with \$400-a-yard fabric, you might think twice about going it alone.

Bill Nessen, owner of the Nessen showroom, carries such luxe lines as Bergamo, Cowtan & Tout and Manuel Canovas. Particularly appealing this summer is Misia, a large-scale floral fabric from Canovas. The linen-and-cotton blend is available in Celeste, a playful blue and green palette. The pattern is also

FINE FABRICS

Top, Au Marché jacquard fabric in Francoise from Donghia; Bubbles in Ecru by Decorator's Walk from F. Schumacher.



COOL COVERINGS

From left to right, Tea Tree cotton blend fabric in Sea Glass from Designtex, Folie wallpaper (VW5451/04) from Osborne & Little, Misia cotton-and-linen fabric in Celeste from Manuel Canovas, Notturmo linen fabric by Josef Frank at Brunswick & Fils.

available in 100 percent linen. Both the blend and the linen are 54 inches wide.

Edward Carrillo Jr., the director of visual marketing at Nessen, says Canovas is fearless when it comes to using color. "He uses strong pigments that make a statement," he said. "He seems to have softened his palette just a bit for the U.S. market, but his colors are still bold and powerful."

If you like darkly appealing fabrics, you'll be drawn to Brunswick & Fils' Notturmo in Twilight. The 50-50 cotton-linen blend, from the Josef Frank Print Collection, is 54 inches wide. With its composition of moonlit lemon trees against a darkening tropical sky, the design is an interplay of brightness and shadow.

Cole & Son's Fusion, a wallpaper with a contemporary geometric pattern that's chic and mysterious, especially in Onyx, is available at Lee Jofa. According to the showroom manager, Donna Markham, there was quite a stir when Cole & Son introduced their contemporary designs. "Cole & Son was always known as a traditional line," she said. "When we introduced their contemporary designs, everyone went crazy for them." Fusion, which comes in 11-yard rolls, is 20 inches wide. From the New Contemporary Two Collection, it is also available in Maize and Slate.

Tea Tree is a retro-looking upholstery fabric that comes in 10 colors—one of which is Sea Glass, halfway between aqua and pale green. The cotton-poly-rayon blend by Designtex is 54 inches wide. Other Designtex

offerings this fall include Jocelyn Warner's Kaleido and Peony wallpapers, brazen computer-generated images that border on the psychedelic, and Astratta, a shimmering wallpaper that is fused glass beads and paper.

F. Schumacher & Co. offers the large-scale open pattern called Bubbles in Ecru from the Decorators Walk Spring 2005 Collection. The 100 percent cotton fabric is 54 inches wide. The textile, which is made in Belgium, is quite expensive but would be worth it in the right place.

Jeff Maisonette, the customer service representative for Jeffrey Michaels showroom, particularly appreciates the feel of their Lulu DK fabrics. "This line is unique because the hand is so beautiful," he said. "It's one of our most handsome lines." The Chant Reverse, a cotton-linen blend, is 54 inches wide and comes in four colors.

The new Ammon Hickson showroom in DCOTA carries Osborne & Little, including their Folie wallpaper from the Boheme collection—a resolutely sweeping design that comes in seven different colors. The 11-yard rolls are 20½ inches wide.

Au Marché, a jacquard cotton and viscose blend, comes in six colors. The Donghia fabric is 56 inches wide, and, as Linda Rector, the Donghia Showroom manager points out, "so whimsical" with its ranks of folkloric women.

These are a handful of the patterns available in DCOTA's nearly 150 showrooms. With so many appealing alternatives, why are there still so many beige sofas and white walls? ■

Showrooms at the Design Center of the Americas (DCOTA) are meant for professional designers—those licensed by ASID, IIDA and other professional organizations. In order to buy there, interior designers must have accounts in good standing with DCOTA. Lorie Lyn Boni, the DCOTA marketing director, says that hiring a designer actually helps you save money on raw materials like fabric and wallpaper. "Not only do customers get overwhelmed when they are on their own, they tend to over-order," she said.

If you are not working with an interior designer, there are services to help you get the right designs and the right amount. The Designer Referral Program will match you with an interior designer who can help you purchase products. There is also a consulting and buying program called DCOTA Design Service, which provides anyone the opportunity to buy a limited number of items at to-the-trade prices for a modest administrative fee. To browse designers' portfolios, visit www.dcota.com. For more information on services, call 954 921-7575.