

MAISON ET OBJET

Briddets Fabi

This past September, Paris's bi-annual gift and décor show maintained its status as the most important European event in the market, and broadened its scope with the addition of a new hall for outdoor living products. Although a broad array of designs were spotted in this hall and others, a few overall trends were quite evident...

AMAZING GREYS

Gray was seen absolutely everywhere in both monochromatic schemes and paired with black, taupe and mauve. While hues varied from dark pewter to light silver they all featured an understated elegance.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

A keen focus on the environment was apparent with a large number of designers adhering to the motto, "rethink, reduce, re-use and recycle." Companies made a concerted effort to use sustainable materials and reclaimed objects. Natural materials and organic designs with tactile surfaces in neutral palettes were major elements of this trend.

CULTURAL MOSAIC

The latest spin on the ethnic trend was strongly influenced by African, Asian and Moroccan cultures. By mixing ethnic-inspired items with traditional and large furniture, the trend was imbued with a warm ambiance. African carvings combined with Asian floral detailing, Moroccan lanterns and elegant furniture in jewel tones made for a rich and cozy product assortment.



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CRÈME FRAÎCHE

Many high-design exhibitors showed vintage French furniture and soft goods in combinations of ivory, cream and soft gray. Paired with opulent velvet throws and chandeliers in urban décor settings or with understated neutral tones, linens, cottons and lace for a more rustic feel, this trend was all about traditional and classic European design. ■