



SUNNY DAYS

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TEXTILE REPORT



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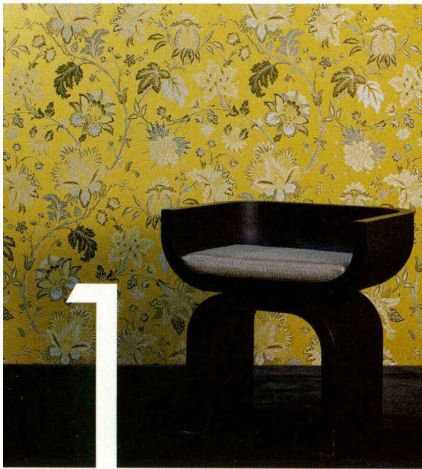
Yellow is the hue of the season, in more ways than one. Explore the colour and sense of sunshine to evoke summer warmth and cheer.

WORDS REBECCA FITZPATRICK

OUTDOOR VELVET? YES, REALLY
It is hard to believe, but this is truly an outdoor velvet. There are many products touted as indoor/outdoor that are probably not suitable for New Zealand's extreme environmental conditions, but Mariaflora's Augusta is guaranteed. Solution dyed acrylic is the fibre most suitable 'down under'. It is stain- and mould-resistant, breathable and water repellent, bleach cleanable and, probably most importantly, fade resistant. Mariaflora is a family company based in Biella, Italy and most of their collection uses solution dyed acrylic fibre. The selection available is vast and all of the fabrics have a lovely feel, belying the fact that they are crafted with manmade fibre. The fabric is as colour-fast as a product can be as the colour is integral to the fibre.



A TOUCH OF SUNSHINE
C&C Milano continue to add to their fabulous collection of ethically sourced and sustainable linen fabrics with their Roots collection. Inspired by the Mediterranean and offering both elegant neutrals and marvellous colours, these new linens are just divine. We love the sunny yellow and exuberant orange of Pienza Okapi, used as placemats in this fabulous table setting. C&C Milano offer a bespoke service for tableware, bedding and cushions, and I think the idea could be replicated in New Zealand too. As the Pienza Okapi is reversible, it could be rather lovely to have a selection of cushions made using both sides.



GLAMOUR TO THE FORE
As in centuries past, Verel de Belval use their fabulous new 'silk-look' fabric Grandiflora (pictured in Citrine) to luxuriously line their walls. Originally conceived by Lyon silk manufacturers Mathevon et Bouvard, this stylised floral design is still woven in Verel de Belval's French workshops but modernised using a cotton warp and viscose weft. Embracing the traditional know-how of silk weaving but using more practical fibres, this fabric is simply gorgeous. The fibres' subtle interplay casts both light and shadow, and the leaves seem to almost flutter into life. Using fabric as a wallcovering gives your room a special ambience. Both sound and light will be more mellow.

SUMMER HUES
There are some fabrics that warm you right to the heart. Perhaps they remind you of your childhood or maybe it is something more innate. Liberty has that effect on some of us. This pretty design, Poppy Meadow (pictured in Fennel), has been reworked from an archival print from 1910 in the appealing shade chartreuse yellow. The design is printed on their iconic Landsdowne Linen, a fabulous draping fabric suitable for both curtains and upholstery. The same design is shown on the wallpaper and, as shown recently with Toile de Jouy, the trend of using the same design on everything is still strong.

