



network

Sophia Salaman chooses the best merchandise and events worldwide



From top: De Le Cuona tweeds; c1950 ash and wrought-iron dining chairs from Mid-century Online; Maria Flora-covered sunbeds from Summit Furniture;



■ This year De Le Cuona opens two new showrooms: the first, its first flagship store in the USA, is located in the iconic D&D Building in New York; and the second is on Smolenskaya Street in Moscow. Founded as a fabric company by Bernie de Le Cuona in 1992, the firm is famous for its raw linens, paisleys and richly textured stock. However, in recent years, it has expanded its collection to include a range of throws, cushions and even furniture. De Le Cuona, Suite 914, 9th Floor, D&D Building, 979 Third Ave, New York, NY 10022 (001 212 702 0800; delecuona.co.uk).

■ Mid-century Online is an internet shop that sells a curated collection of furniture (each piece is chosen for its ability to enhance a room and not just exist within it) that works in both period and modern interiors. Its elegant and eclectic range includes world-class vintage American and European designer furniture, plus a selection of antiques. Ring Killian McNulty on 0780 788 2180, or visit mid-centuryonline.com.

■ Now available at Summit Furniture, Maria Flora fabrics combine fine Italian design with textures such as jacquard, velvet, chenille satin and bouclé. Plus, because they are made with a 100 percent Temptest solution, they are resistant to water, oil and mould, and can therefore be used both indoors and out. What's more, colours are introduced before spinning, which helps to prevent them from fading in direct, bleaching sunlight. Summit Furniture, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (020 7795 3311; summitfurniture.com).

■ This year Romo unveils two new luxury fabric and wallcovering brands: Mark Alexander and Zinc. The first includes nine collections of embroideries, prints, wallcoverings and decorative weaves – all featuring classic designs with a clean, modern edge and a neutral palette. Its fabrics are woven from materials such as linen, wool, silk, alpaca and mohair, using special techniques that emphasise their sumptuousness. Meanwhile, Zinc includes modern monochrome graphic designs, textured weaves, silks, jacquard velvets and faux fur. Romo, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour, London SW10 (01623 756699; romo.com).

■ For its spring 2010 collection, Lexington sought inspiration from international travel. The collection – which uses natural materials such as cotton and linen, and colours such as beige, blue, yellow and coral pink that are inspired by sand, sky, sun and flowers – includes rugs, bags and bath mats, as well as a brand-new bedding and a dining collection that comprises handcrafted block-print tablecloths and napkins, with place mats and napkin rings in natural straw. Ring 01494 524681, or visit lexingtoncompany.com.

■ Italian brand Poliform has refurbished and expanded its Chelsea store, which now includes Britain's first Varenna showroom. The revamped space displays the contemporary furniture for which the company is famous. Visitors will also be able to view five kitchen styles, including the new 'Twelve' design by Milanese architect Carlo Colombo. Poliform and Varenna, 276-278 King's Rd, London SW3 (020 7368 7600; poliformuk.com).

■ Stocked in Britain by Pierre Frey, Taillardat, founded in 1987, continues with its tradition of producing high-quality French furniture and cabinetmaking. Micheline Taillardat, the company's founder, takes inspiration from the Louis XVI period and her collection includes more than 200 pieces: including chests of drawers, desks, console tables and armchairs. A qualified team of 20 work on all the varnishes, patinas, gilding, ornamental borders and tapestries in Taillardat's workshops. Pierre Frey, 251-253 Fulham Rd, London SW3 (020 7376 5599; pierrefrey.com).

■ Visitors to the Bed Studio in Harrods will find a newly designed space for Vi-Spring. The area encourages customers to try out Vi-Spring's collection of handmade beds – including its latest model the 'Majesty'. To make a good night's sleep even more likely, staff are on hand to provide expert advice on choosing the right model. Visitors can browse the entire Vi-Spring collection, including bespoke divans, headboards and accessories, as well as a selection of Jab's 'Grandeza Ariano' fabrics exclusively for the 'Majesty' and 'Monarch'. Harrods, 87-135 Brompton Rd, London SW1 (020 7730 1234; harrods.com) ■



Mark Alexander fabrics at Romo; Lexington's cushion with map design; the 'Bug' chair from Poliform; a Taillardat table at Pierre Frey