

GO LONG! 16 BIG, BOLD FISHING MACHINES

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Live a Little!

Sit down to fun, color & style

The world of outdoor fabrics for deck furniture is moving far beyond its cotton duck roots. It seems like only a decade ago that designers in search of fade- and water-resistant fabrics were thrilled when Sunbrella broadened its outdoor fabric offerings to include patterns and lighter "interior" weight fabrics with what designers call a softer "hand." With tight weaves, water repellent finishes and three- and five-year warranties, they were an instant success.

Today, performance fabrics in elaborate jacquard weaves and patterns in 100 percent acrylic or acrylic/poly blends have added lots of style to upper and aft decks. Glen Raven Custom Fabrics, the makers of Sunbrella, has launched a new collection of furniture weight fabrics that are specifically designed for upholstery as well as cushions.

The Sunbrella Yachting Collection includes 57 selections featuring solids, stripes and jacquards. Traditional marine colors are combined with neutrals in white and taupe, offering boatbuilders options for use above and below deck.

Outdoor fabric options generally fall into the categories of coated fabrics—ordinary materials with a water- or stain-repellent coating—and engineered or performance fabrics. Coated fabrics are generally not UV resistant. Performance fabrics are made to meet specific requirements such as abrasion or fade resistance, ease of cleaning, or comfort by altering fiber composition, yarn construction, weaving techniques, and finishing applications.

A number of companies have boarded the outdoor fabrics bandwagon. Whether you're looking for fantasy fabrics with fibers and patterns that glimmer in the moonlight, glamorous tapestries for old world charm or even traditional rugby stripes seen in a new way, contemporary manufacturing techniques for surface, texture and durability have raised outdoor style to a new standard.

By JUDY BELL-DAVIS

For those in the market for simple lines but elegantly designed deck furniture, Kettal is a great new find. This Spanish furniture company showcases 15 collections that can be easily combined with 16 frame colors, 15 Porotex-coated fabric colors and 19 shades of fabric. A sleek mix of teak and aluminum in painted and natural finishes are just the thing for contemporary decks.

Kettal's new Pret-a-Porter collection matches sleek frames with a range of colored Porotex covers featuring an exclusive floral knit. A favorite for decks is the Kettal Soft collection, which includes armchairs with adjustable backrests and footstools and deck chairs with four backrest positions and optional headrests for exceptionally tall customers.

Consider an outdoor material that looks and feels like an exotic hide or woven leather yet flows through the fabrication process like trouble-free fabric. Valtekz is what is called a composite fabric. Its nanoparticle topcoat gives this premium material resistance to oil, sun care products and



Kettal, a Spanish outdoor furniture company, is stepping out with bold, rubberized coatings for aluminum lounges, synthetic woven deck chair "fabrics" and a sleek new style that marries teak with aluminum frames.



Valtekz is a composite product with stain and water resistance as well as texture embossed into the fabric during manufacturing. It has indoor and outdoor yachting applications.

both chlorinated and salt water, making it versatile, durable, easy to work with and a cinch to clean. The unique manufacturing process emulates natural textures from lizard to croc and also includes fantasy weaves now receiving rave reviews from marine designers. Stacey Swecker, director of design at Hatteras Yachts, says, "My clients can't believe it isn't actual leather. We use Valtekz at Hatteras for custom sofas, dinette seating, bar stools, club chairs, wall coverings, and many outdoor applications."

Valtekz, headquartered in North Carolina, offers luxury outdoor material collections called Luxo, Celerie, Kemble, and Yachtsman.

Randy Wells, president of Valtekz says, "Valtekz's roots are in fashion and service. We did our homework to learn what the marketplace lacked."

Perennials Outdoor Fabrics recently introduced Networks, a collection with patterns and colors evoking memories of tropical villages where palm trees sway and barrier reefs team

with brilliantly colored fish. These fabrics are an engraved invitation to relax.

Inspired by the aesthetic of handmade fishing nets, the fluid lines of Perennials' styles—Mesh Around, Nothing but Net and Sheer Net—reflect patterns found in traditional fishing cultures. Even the names are fun! Adding some razzmatazz, colorways such as Sea Urchin, Twilight, Green Parrot, Red Coral, and Sea Horse reflect brilliant, iridescent colors found in the warm tropical waters.

Let's you think this is all about looks, Perennials isn't just a pretty face. All of Perennials colors and patterns in 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic fabrics maintain a high durability standard.

While many of the highest end outdoor fabrics are sold to the trade only, Sunbrella is widely available at retail. Boat owners in search of the designer look without the designer price might want to investigate companies such as outdoorfabrics.com that specialize in templated or custom cushions covered in your choice of Sunbrella fabric.



Long the standard-bearer in UV-resistant outdoor fabrics, Sunbrella, from Glen Raven, recently introduced 57 new stripes, patterns, weaves, and colors (top) for its Yachting Collection.

At right and on page 86, a sampling from Perennials' Networks collection shows coordinated textures, stripes and prints.

