

TRADITIONAL HOME®

* **Special guide**
DECORATING SECRETS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

60+
ELEGANT ROOMS FROM NEW TALENTS & OLD MASTERS

best of show *house*



GIVE A SOUTHERN TOUCH TO YOUR SUNDAY BRUNCH
DRESS UP OUTDOOR SPACES WITH COLOR, FABRIC & STYLE
TREND ALERT: NEW LOOKS FOR LEATHER (AND FAUX)

TREND Dig into showroom archives and you'll see that in design, leather used to ride a two-way street. On one side, be it in fashion or furniture, chic and sleek metropolitans wore basic black. Go west, or at least western, and you'd find casual types who sported hides that were distressed and lived-in, the look that Ralph Lauren catapulted into a lifestyle.

Now, nature's most coveted pliable luxury has its compass pointing in all directions, as well as to side roads and scenic routes. Hides are manipulated to rival the unlimited possibilities of fabric. Designers >

Tuft Love
"Deschanel" armchair with tufted upholstery and mahogany frame, \$600; Thomasville (thomasville.com).



Watch It
"Koppel" watch cased in 18k gold, \$9,700; Georg Jensen USA (georgijensenua.com).



For the Desk Set
Desk with nail-head trim, \$4,143, and "Darien" chair with contrasting piping, \$2,652, both from Drexel Heritage (drexelheritage.com).



New Suede Shoes
Kate Spade "Licorice" suede shoes, \$285; Zappos Couture (zapposcouture.com). Shoes sit on Hancock & Moore's "Society" metallic snakeskin-embossed leather in cobra, (hancockandmoore.com).



Feet Up
"Drum" ottoman in metallic laser-cut leather, \$926; Lee Industries (leeindustries.com).



Our designer says

And I am so happy when I can stay home and pass the time in a leather armchair. —from the poem "One Self," by former U.S. poet laureate Billy Collins

SWATCH WATCH

"Venus" in chartreuse metallic print; Hancock & Moore (hancockandmoore.com).	"Ethiopia" in Starlight White Varnished calf skin; Moura Starr (mourastarr.com).	"Razzle Dazzle" in platinum herringbone motif; Townsend (518/762-2764).	"Flamingo" in black lava; Cortina through Thomas Lavin (310/278-2456).	"Montque" in fawn lambskin leather; Hancock & Moore.	"Floral" with hand-wiped finish; Illuminaire through Thomas Lavin.

Andrew Feigin, who owns Dualoy Leather and heads up its product development, discovered it is possible to weave silk and leather together from craftspeople in Laos, who have been using this fine technique for centuries.

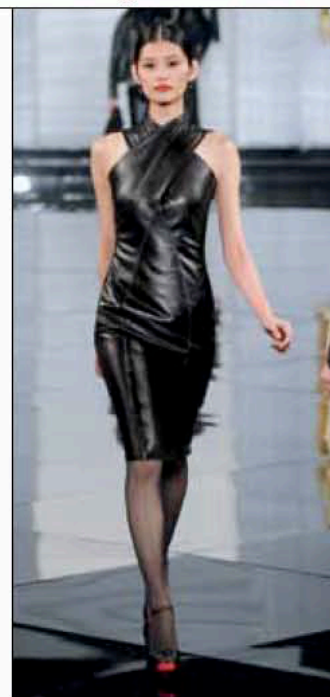
"We've transformed the leather from its original state of a full, heavy hide into a new material that delicately drapes like fabric," he explains. "So the end product has the feel and smell of leather, but behaves more like a textile." Since prehistoric times, history may have clung to leather's practical durability, but the future likes its new look. ➤



Bag It
Orange woven-leather tote, \$495; Christopher Kon through Carleen Ligozio (631/204-0104). White, faux-croc patent full-frame clutch, \$128; Abas (abas.net). Pleated, platinum lambskin tote, \$595; Nanette Lepore through Zappos Couture (zapposcouture.com).



Braided Beauty
"Pierson" woven-leather table lamp with brass details, \$900; Ralph Lauren Home (888/475-7674).



Leather Dresser
Black leather dress, \$3,998; Ralph Lauren Collection (ralphlaurencollection.com).



The White Way
The tufted "Bergdorf" sofa in white vinyl, \$5,700, is a convincing leather-look-alike; Pal + Smith (palandsmith.com).

OUR designer says

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SWATCH WATCH



PHOTOGRAPH: WHITE SOFA COURTESY OF PAL + SMITH