



THE BIG COVER-UP

VISI SHOWS SOME OF THE COOLEST WAYS TO COVER CUSHIONS, COUCHES AND FOCAL WALLS.

URBAN FABRIC

We love Constantine, a sophisticated new fabric range by artist and architect Lorenzo Nassimbeni for Mavromac. The monochromatic range consist of eight designs in black ink on a pure-white calico base cloth and features international architectural icons such as the Chrysler Building in New York. The fabrics have a sketched quality and Lorenzo employs strategies of repetition to create patterns. "The designs highlight the importance of the spaces between buildings – the place where cities breathe and people gather," he explains.

• Mavromac 011 444 1584, Cape Town 021 797 4739, Durban 031 303 8203, Port Elizabeth 041 586 3338

JUNKIE

Meet Katie Thompson. Katie has an eye for potential and an inexhaustible enthusiasm for old, discarded things. By combing imagination and local craftsmanship, she turns an old suitcase into a chair. Milk bottles, teacups and even an old Hoover are transformed into lamps and a wonky trolley finds new purpose as a portable kitchen island. A Design Time School of Interior Design graduate who has worked as an interior designer for eight years, she made her debut as the "Queen of Junk" at Decorex Cape, where her witty redesigns won an Excellence Award and the Green Stand Award. "It was never a conscious decision to be 'green'. I love old things and wanted to give them new life," Katie admits. "But once you realise that it is actually a way of recycling, this becomes part of the mindset." She was overwhelmed by the amazing response she received after the show and it proved to be the perfect launch pad for her own furniture and interior-design business, Recreate. Asked how she conceptualised the pieces, Katie shrugs shyly. "I can't really say how I come up with the ideas. When I look at an object I just see what it can be."

• 076 989 0871, www.recreate.za.net



SOUTHERN INSPIRATION

We are excited about Design Team's latest southern-Africa-inspired collection, d'Afrique du Sud, consisting of six brand-new fabric designs. Two of our favourites are Map (left), a beautiful rendering of the African continent, and Gemsbok, a funky alternative to the typical hunting trophy. Other creations draw inspiration from the floral designs of traditional Khanga cloths and the beauty of Islamic ironwork that adorns mosques. All designs are available in cotton, cotton/linen and silk in a variety of trendy colours.

• Visit www.designteamfabrics.co.za for stockists and agents.