

# NEW YORK SPACES

THE HOME DESIGN MAGAZINE OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK



**EXPOSED!**  
**design  
secrets**



# Common threads

Designer Eve Robinson weaves together fabric  
and furnishings for a poolside retreat



At Donghia, designer Eve Robinson selects Pisces fabric, which will bring a touch of fun to a posh pool house.

IN THE HIERARCHY OF interior design, fabric is king. “You couldn’t design a room without it,” says Eve Robinson, principal of Eve Robinson Associates in Manhattan.

“It gives you your color, comfort and texture.”

With nearly 20 years’ experience in interior design, as well as a background in fashion with a stint at

Polo Ralph Lauren, Robinson is a go-to textile guru—and a resource *New York Spaces* was happy to draw upon recently. We joined her as she scouted the to-the-trade showrooms of the Design and Decoration Building, 979 Third Avenue, to fashion a pool house suitable for weekend guests. Her approach: searching for furniture and fabric at the same time, then pairing them together at the end.

## BEACH SUITE

For our cabana-like guesthouse, Robinson chooses a beach theme. “Since it’s a space you’ll be in and out of, I want colors that reflect the outdoors,” she explains. “I’m thinking of an earthy palette of taupe and blue.” It seems natural then that the designer gravitates to the Great Outdoors collection at our first stop, Holly Hunt, suite 503. Thumbing through a smattering of neutrals, she is drawn to Froth, \$98 per yard, in White Cap. The 100 percent dyed acrylic is surprisingly as soft as it looks. “It’s just like a white terry-cloth towel,” says Robinson. “It would be great to sit on after a swim.”

Next the designer seeks a stripe, but it has to be the right kind. “Wide stripes have been done so many times,” she says. “I prefer a pinstripe.” She finds a suitable one in Coastline, \$54 per yard, which features thin stone-colored stripes on a white backdrop. For versatility, we also pick up a solid-blue swatch, Fresh Canvas, \$54 per yard, from the same collection.



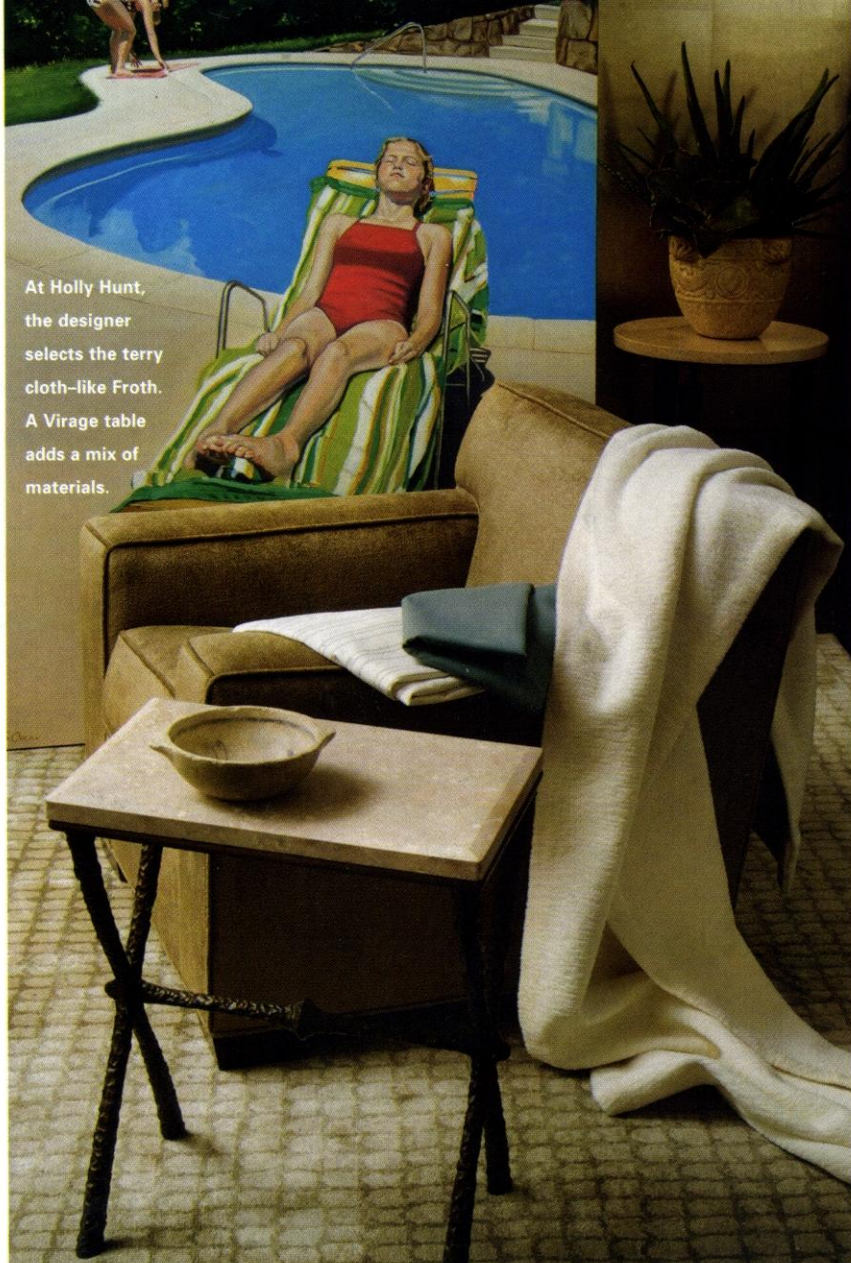
## CLEAN-LINED IN THE COUNTRY

We head to Holly Hunt's upstairs suite, 605, for furniture ideas. The showroom is known for modern pieces, but today's task calls for furnishings on the rustic side. Robinson zeroes in on the Standard Cubis chair, \$3,380, an oversize seat she deems "comfy and clean-lined." A good match for the overstuffed chair is Virage, \$2,845, a side table with a textured metal base and a limestone top. "I love the mix of materials," she says. Also on her to-get list is a light fixture that will complement the beachy look. Toward the back of the showroom she spots the Cubic lantern, \$2,590, a hanging fixture designed as a cube within a cube. It's modern and simple but exudes a country charm, so we're taking it.

## PERFECT PAIR

With only three fabric options so far—and according to our expert, a room typically features at least six—we walk downstairs to Jerry Pair, suite 502. The spacious showroom is a treasure trove of antiques, furniture and fabric, providing us the opportunity to pursue both our quests. But first, we look for swatches. With brands like Jim Thompson, Dedar and Marvic, we're not short on choices. The pairing of thick and thin stripes in blue, khaki and taupe hues in Spenser Stripe from the Classic Cloth collection by Dessin Fournir, \$138 per yard, makes a statement. "You

At Holly Hunt, the designer selects the terry cloth-like Froth. A Virage table adds a mix of materials.

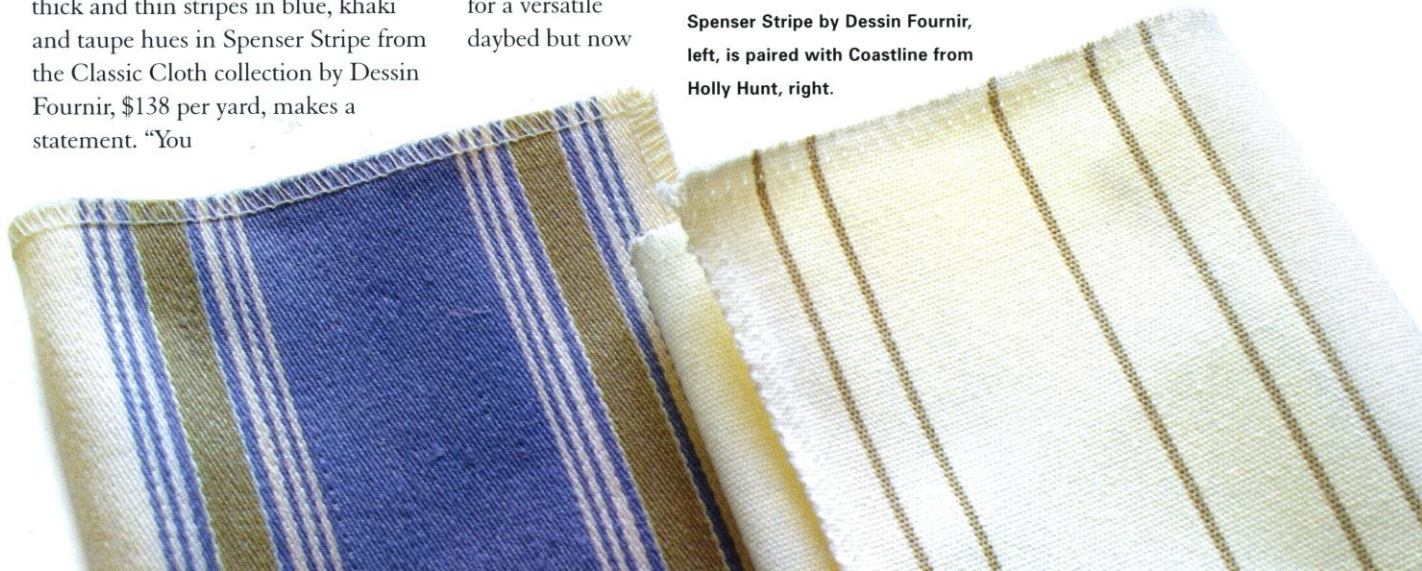


can do many striped fabrics in a room as long as the proportion changes," Robinson observes.

While we wait for our sample, we shift focus to the bed. Robinson originally thought the guesthouse called for a versatile

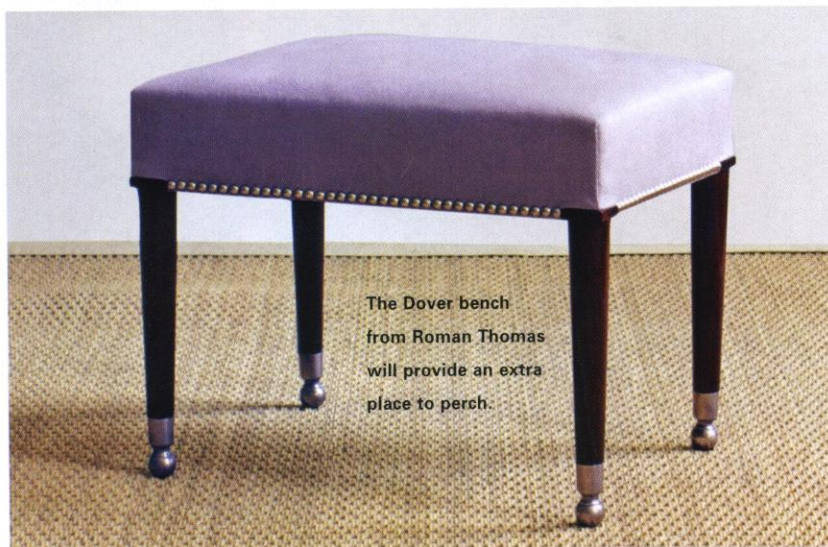
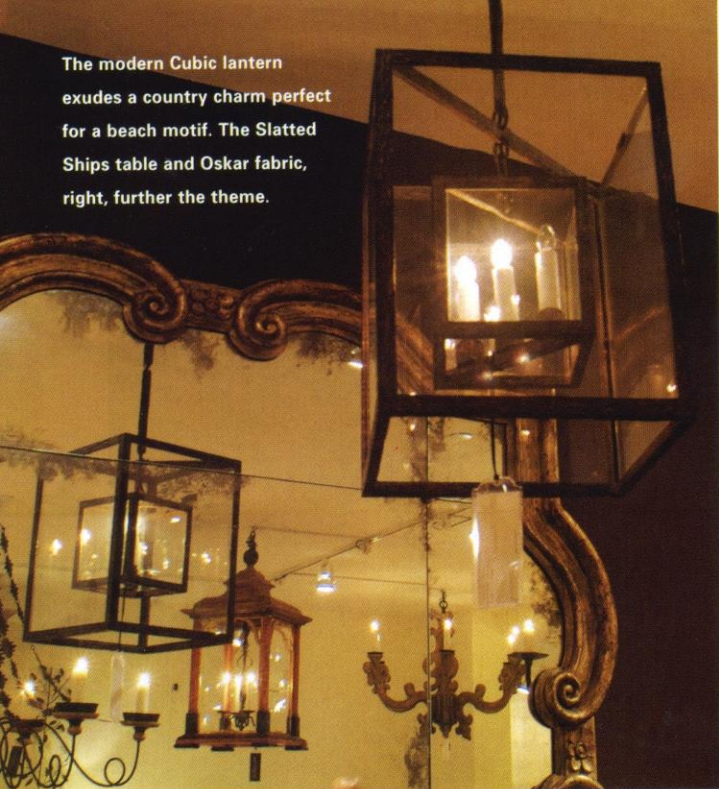
decides something enveloping like a canopy is more fitting. The four-poster walnut Norton Canopy Bed, \$14,520, is her choice. "It's tapered, so it's not overdone or fussy," she explains. "And the rich wood tone will

Spenser Stripe by Dessin Fournir, left, is paired with Coastline from Holly Hunt, right.





The modern Cubic lantern exudes a country charm perfect for a beach motif. The Slatted Ships table and Oskar fabric, right, further the theme.



The Dover bench from Roman Thomas will provide an extra place to perch.

look great against a white fabric.” This selection brings to mind one of the designer’s favorite pieces—the Dover bench from Roman Thomas, \$3,830. She adds it to the mix, noting that it’s perfect for extra seating.

## DOUBLE DUTY

Since we already had luck at one dual-purpose showroom, we take the elevator to the top floor to John

Rosselli, suite 1800. Known for its antiques, the showroom also offers fabric, and we’re now in search of pattern and texture. “I always play up texture when working with similar colors, or the space will lack interest,” Robinson

explains. From Jed Johnson Home, we find Oskar, \$180 per yard. The damask, cotton, silk and nylon blend features a raised geometrical print that’s soft to the touch and a delight for the eyes—and its taupe backdrop fits in with our scheme. On the way out, Robinson spies the Slatted Ships table, \$2,930. Nautical in nature, the bedside table reminds the designer of a waterfall, and it’s ours.

## ON THE WINDOWS

We talk window dressings on our way to Osborne & Little, suite 520. “Roman shades are the best treatment for the space,” Robinson says. “They’re clean-lined and functional.” If light control weren’t a factor, the designer would go with a sheer for the pool house because it provides a fresh, outdoorsy feel.

But the space will be used for sleeping, so a weightier fabric is a better option. A solid linen or linen-blend is what we’re looking for,

Osborne & Little’s taupe Twist makes for a neutral Roman shade, while a blue trim of Holly Hunt’s Fresh Canvas adds a bit of color.







The dark wood of the Norton Canopy Bed will help white linens pop.

and Robinson likes what she sees in two from Nina Campbell—the straw-colored linen Twist, \$140 per yard, and the olive-hued woven linen Fustian, \$118 per yard. She also fancies Tamar, \$154 per yard, a dark taupe linen-blend from Designer's Guild. We're not certain which will work best with our other selections, so we take samples of all three.

#### A TOUCH OF WHIMSY

The only thing Robinson feels our pool house is missing now is a little fun. "We need to bring in some personality," she says. It's at Donghia, suite 613, that we find a print that takes our theme to the next level. Pisces, \$54 per yard, a reversible cotton jacquard, features an oversize fish pattern that's cheeky and ideal for a throw pillow. Sold.

#### GRAND FINALE

Still at Donghia, we lay our picks along a windowsill to get an optimal view of our swatches in natural light.

First we select our Roman shade fabric and have a clear winner in Twist from Osborne & Little. Tamar is "too dark" and Fustian is "just not right," so it's the straw-colored linen that will provide the neutral backdrop the space needs. Robinson wants to trim it with some color and decides that a one-inch border crafted from the blue-hued Fresh Canvas from Holly Hunt will do the trick.

The terry cloth-inspired Froth, also from Holly Hunt, is her pick for the Cubic chair, and a Pisces pillow from Donghia will add pop. The designer considers Spenser Stripe from Dessin Fournir for the duvet but wants a greater expanse of white on the walnut bed. So instead she opts for the pinstriped Coastline from Holly Hunt, deciding to use Spenser Stripe for box pillows. Finally, the geometric pattern of Jed Johnson's Oskar will cover the Dover bench from Roman Thomas—just the touch needed to complete our sand-and-sea scheme. □