

Summer Linens

Written by By Susie Timm

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Colors

Believe it or not, summer's linen trends take their cues from the spring fashion runways. When global color authority Pantone reported that vibrant pink honeysuckle was the color of 2011, fashion embraced the news, with the Dessy Group producing a line of bridesmaids' gowns in this juicy shade. At the same time, OPI's Texas Sorbet nail polish collection included pink and coral colors such as "Big Hair, Big Nails," "Guy Meets Gal-veston," and "Too Hot Pink To Hold Em." Even wall-paint monolith Benjamin Moore got on board with Royal Flush 2076-20, a cheerful fuchsia.

Bold-colored table linens are an easy way to transform a reception space and personalize any party.

Encore Creative, Phoenix's leading special event decor and design company, notes that the first step in developing a memorable event and a stunning table is to create the palette.

Honeysuckle pink is delicious when paired with grape shades and warm chocolate-colored accents. But it's particularly charming when joined with willow or olive green colors with mossy undertones. Coupling honeysuckle with a bronzy coral color such as apricot brandy, a sophisticated orange such as coral rose, or a warm beeswax yellow evokes balmy summer nights.



Texture

Conjure an atmosphere of faraway locales by choosing linens with exotic influences and inspired detailing. Ethnic-influenced patterns and animal prints are making a big impact this year. Jessica Barry, Encore Creative's wedding expert, reports that their hottest summer trends incorporate layering and lots of detailed accents. Layered fabrics, in solids or patterns, contribute visual and tactile interest.

Dupioni's slubbed texture adds depth to tablescapes. A beaded overlay on top of a solid tablecloth also adds richness. An overlay woven with metallic threads sparkles while allowing the underlying color to shine through, like a shimmering topcoat over a solid nail polish. Go with sheer, embroidered organza for an elegant choice, silver sequins for something eye-catching or dark copper or cocoa sequins for a more subtle glamour.

Crinkled taffeta tablecloths and overlays are gaining in popularity. One of the most stunning new table coverings features satin rosettes – imagine swirls of taffeta tucked and sewn until they form a field of flowers. It's a lush statement piece that's ideal for a bride and groom's sweetheart table or wedding cake table.



Metallic Finishes

Continue the rich mood with a bold, metallic charger in brushed bronze, shiny copper, or matte gold to echo the warmth of candlelight.

Complete the look with a napkin in one of the palette's secondary colors and a napkin ring in a matching metallic. The result is a tablescape that positively glows.

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