

OUT & ABOUT



Feel-good fabric is a sensory, as well as visual, experience

Suzanne Tucker's keen eye for eye-pleasing patterns and rich color schemes has won her considerable accolades over the years, including being named one of Architectural Digest's Top 100 designers. But when the San Francisco designer set out to create her own line of interior fabrics, she considered her hands just as valuable.

"For me, fabric not only has to look beautiful, but it also really has to *feel* wonderful," she said, waving her hand across part of a ceiling-high panel of Dolce, a velvet woven with 15 percent alpaca that is one of 68 silks, jacquards, cottons, damasks and mate-lasses in her collection.

At a recent launch party at the Shears & Window showroom in the San Francisco Design Center, nearly all of the 150 attendees also made it a point to sweep their fingertips along sensuous sample panels that hung nearly the entire height of the building.

"It's just so incredible when you sit on a chair or a bed with this fabric, and that's what I love about her designs — she's just so real about the way people actually want to live in their homes," said showroom manager Kirk Phillips. "They have to slow the loom way down to produce the cashmere velvet, but it's worth it."

Tucker spoke briefly to the

crowd about her passion for design philosophy. They also got a preview of the furniture and home accessories line Tucker plans to release later this year.

Phyllis Washington, an antiques dealer in Palm Desert (Riverside County) and longtime friend, said she is confident that even in a

crowded textile marketplace, Tucker has carved an elegant niche for her line, which is sold to the trade and cost \$86 to \$275 per yard.

"There just aren't very many designers out there left like Suzanne who could do something like this," she said.

— Anastasia Hendrix

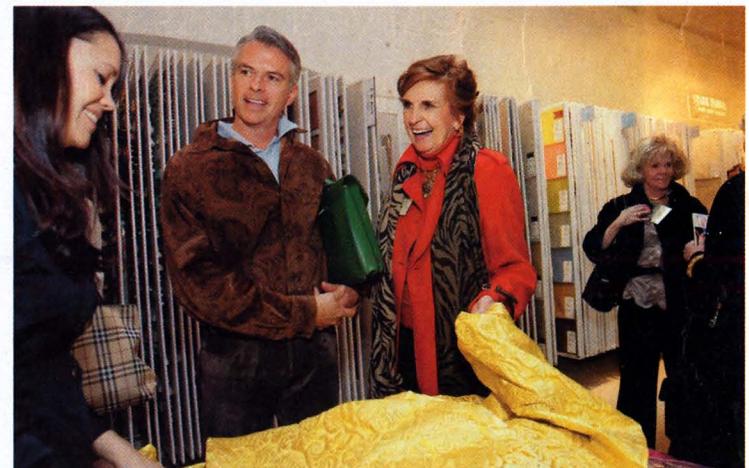


About 150 people listened to a talk by Tucker, whose line was featured at the Maison et Objet and Deco-Off shows in Paris.



Photography by Laura Morton

Suzanne Tucker sits on her alpaca velvet chair by a cushion made from her vintage fabric stock. She designed the sofa, too.



Vanessa Kane (left) shows Brent Hartman and Phyllis Washington a remnant. More are on display at top left.