

HOME DINING RECREATION TRAVEL COMMUNITY HEALTH STYLE

805 LIVING

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ARTS &
CULTURE

A woman with blonde hair in a ponytail, wearing a black top, patterned leggings, and black high-heeled boots, is crouching on a light-colored floor in an art gallery. She is looking up at a large, colorful abstract painting on the wall. The gallery has white walls and large windows in the background.



ABOVE: Think of the **NILE VINE MIRROR** (\$469) from Padma's Plantation as wicker, deconstructed; Great Rooms, Camarillo, greatroomsdesign.com.

LEFT: Handwoven synthetic fiber makes a stunning design statement on Janus et Cie's **BALOU TWO-SEAT SOFA** (\$5,255), **LOUNGE CHAIRS** (\$3,142 each), and **OTTOMAN** (\$1,444); Cabana Home Santa Barbara, cabanahome.com; or Janus et Cie, janusetcie.com.

BELOW: Hand-bent rattan poles lend a secret-garden feel to Palecek's **AUBURN DINING TABLE BASE** (\$3,118; glass not included); Pacific Rim Home, Westlake Village, pacificrimhome.com.



WILD ABOUT WICKER

Updated takes on our favorite furniture weave—for indoors or out.

BY MALLORY McCREARY

“IT’S IMPORTANT IN DESIGN to bring in some texture,” says Julia Mora of Julia Mora Design (juliamoradesign.com) in Summerland, noting that wicker instantly adds texture—indoors or out. Mora and her clients are people who appreciate casual, indoor-outdoor living with creative flair, she says, and wicker or rattan pieces outfitted with outdoor fabric will handle wet swimsuits and resist fading. “It’s practical,” she adds. And although most think of it as beachy, Mora suggests a more updated approach using color and mixing materials—and considering wicker for indoor use. “I could see [a wicker piece] in a loft with leather cushions and industrial lamps,” she says. Or freshen wicker in an unexpected color: Mora suggests a rustic red for a kid’s room or a dark brown-black finish for a living room. “You can really make it whatever you want. What you surround it with will change the feel of a wicker chair.”

Mora debuted a line of furniture last fall that’s sold

exclusively at Porch (porchsb.com) in Carpinteria. The line includes comfortable upholstered pieces and case goods with an edge—items that seemingly shouldn’t work together but do, effortlessly. Her rattan chair (see number 1 on page 50) has been so enormously popular that Mora is creating a dining chair out of the same material. She’ll also unveil a new line of outdoor pillows this summer.

Mora has a portfolio of her work along with a catalog of her furnishings and fabric swatches on display at Porch. She offers a one-hour in-home design consultation to prospective clients. “When I walk into a room I kind of know instantly what should be there,” she explains, taking her cues from the architecture of the home, the natural light, and the desires of the client. “My clients tend to be like me, a little more artsy and open to design. Even when I take them out of their comfort zone, they say, ‘Let’s go for it.’” >

UPGRADES



1. This Julia Mora Design **RATTAN CHAIR** (\$1,800) is based on a vintage 1930s design; Porch, Carpinteria, porchsb.com.

2. Brown Jordan's woven **OPEN COLLECTION BAR DINING TABLE** (\$3,550) **AND STOOLS** (\$1,505 each) elevate dining to a 36-inch bar-height for a sophisticated supper; Patioworld, Thousand Oaks, patioworld.net; or Berks, Agoura Hills, berkspatio.com.

3. Easy-care plastic rattan in a stylish weave marks the **ENHOLMEN SOFA COMBINATION** (\$502) and **TABLE** (\$60); Ikea, Burbank, ikea.com.

4. The **MALIBU CHAISE** (from \$1,695) features clean lines and a tight wicker weave; Restoration Hardware, West Hollywood, restorationhardware.com.

5. Rooms & Gardens' own **TEA CART CONSOLE** (\$3,150) evokes images of afternoon tea in the Colonies, and it can be custom-made in any size; Rooms & Gardens, Santa Barbara, roomsandgardens.com.

6. Wicker takes an unexpected turn in this **WOVEN ROUND PILLOW** (\$25); Target, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, and Ventura; target.com. ♦