



HELLO DEAR READER

The passage of time is measurable. There are universal metrics and more allegorical ones. In “Seasons of Love” from the show *Rent*, we are reminded that 525,600 minutes measures a year. Fact.

For me lately a year is measured in magazine issues and closings. Nowadays, any given day might be measured in new coronavirus cases. On May 25th, 8 minutes and 46 seconds measured the time it took to extinguish a life and consequently ignite a movement. When the song begs the rhetorical question, “How do you measure the life of a woman or a man?” I doubt “about 9 minutes” was ever the answer to be considered.

Sigh. It is so so sad and yet it has woke a collective consciousness.

I was driving in Florida on the day of George Floyd’s memorial service. Reverend Al Sharpton’s voice turned up in the car. Two points that he made stuck in my head. One, he used the metaphor of “you had your knee on our necks” to represent how white society continues to hold back, limit and oppress Black people. He also called this “a different time and a different season.” He said when the number of whites marching outnumbers Blacks, “it’s a different time and season.” He said when Germany marches for George Floyd, “it’s a different time and season.”

This summertime is a different season indeed. For one, I’m wearing a mask in 90-degree heat. This is the summer of listening, of communication and of actions that are vital to making our world healthy, better and just. We need to take responsibility and protect our physical, economic and spiritual health and to work to obliterate racism.

The onus of responsibility can be quite exhilarating. Affecting positive change is empowering to self and others. Sure, there may be guffaws along the way, but, whether you are leading or participating, taking a stand feels good. Our industry stepped up to serve the healthcare industry and it has begun making change in matters of race.

As for the magazine you are holding in your hands or reading online right now, I hope you find something lovely inside, learn something and meet someone new. And I hope you like our cover girl Sylvia, photographed by artist Cheryl Maeder. Sylvia’s only care in the world, it seems, is to play her cards right. In some ways, I guess we’re all trying to do that, too.

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Top to bottom: It’s me, protected from sun and COVID with the “Jane” mask from Jill Seale Design Studio.

Meet Carole Marcotte. This is one view of her workspace. See another side of her design studio in *Spark*, page 42.

Who’s that masked man? Jamie Drake in his favorite Citizens of Humanity mask designed by the Haas Brothers. We catch up with him on page 14.

Pom Pom at Home’s lightweight Austin Scarf is a handy summer market accessory. Keeps the A/C chill at bay, and when draped over the mouth, is extra protection against germs.

Catching up with Jamie Drake



The designer, above, and three of his new tables (right, from top): The Reed rectangular dining table, Serpent accent table and Dragonfly cocktail table.

This spring, interior designer Jamie Drake, co-principal at Drake/Anderson, added 15 new pieces to his furniture collection with Theodore Alexander. Design elements include dragonfly motifs executed in mother-of-pearl, brass serpents coiled around table bases, gem shapes and more. The common thread, Drake explains, is “nature filtered through a lens of history, resulting in romantically glamorous furniture.”

In partnership with Theodore Alexander since 2014, Drake shares what he’s learned. “The most important lesson in licensing is to be partners—let the designer push for aesthetics but allow the brand to advise on items that will really sell through.”

Through COVID, Drake held onto the mantra “serenity in solitude,” reengaging with old skills, and developing new ones. Drake got reacquainted with his stove, turned on the TV again and discovered Netflix. He was also pleasantly surprised that WFH was much easier than expected.

Drake had time to reflect on the greater good, too. “Each and every day seems to be one where we all have to be prepared to learn new skills and habits, be aware about safety, and get woke to systemic racial inequality that has gone on for centuries,” says Drake. “It’s an exciting time, I embrace change and I have great faith we will grow and emerge better, stronger, fairer and wiser.” — J.D.



Saltwolf’s Remedy for Custom Upholstery



Lindy and Jordan Williams on Saltwolf’s Linden sofa

“We want to compete not only on the e-comm experience but on the design of our product, the brand we are building, and our customer service.” — Jordan Williams

How a company gets its unique name is interesting to know. For Lindy and Jordan Williams, the couple who founded Saltwolf, a new trade-only e-comm destination offering high-end handmade upholstery from order to shipping in four weeks or less, the name merges Lindy’s Virginia Beach, Va., roots and love of the beach with Jordan’s Pacific Northwest heritage and affinity for hiking in the woods. And the O in the logo is reminiscent of a salt crystal.

Officially launched on May 26, Saltwolf was created to bypass the inconveniences—out of stock fabrics, illusive pricing, lack of communication and shipping woes—that designers and their clients often encounter when ordering custom furniture. Lindy, who is an interior designer, knew the pain points all too well and Saltwolf is the couple’s well-considered and simple solution.

Aligning with the right manufacturing partner was critical to their mission. After looking over 40 factories and meeting a lot of naysayers, the Williamses partnered with a North Carolina manufacturer who blended proven heritage construction methods with a desire to modernize production, too.

Featuring three basic sofa silhouettes (with derivative options), three wood finishes, and fabrics culled from three textile families—linen, leather and performance velvet—vetted trade members also have access to comprehensive specs, CAD and Sketchup files for each piece. — J.D.

Photo of Jamie Drake: Brittany Ambridge