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The NY Gift Show



Susan Slotkis—This is far from my first foray into the wild and weary world of this semi-annual “Stuff Fest” produced by [GLM Shows](#), but this is my first article for Design2Share. The Gift Show, or more formally known as the [New York International Gift Fair](#), is more than just gifts and it’s definitely more far-flung than just the Javits, extending to runways beyond the expansive convention center to other trade venues—the [Show Piers on the Hudson](#): 90, 92 and 94 on the West Side Highway; trade centers such as [7W](#), the [New York Merchandise Mart](#) (still referred to as “The Gift Building” and now “41 Madison”), and the [New York MarketCenter](#) for home fashion and tabletop.

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The Art of Craft

Authenticity is a theme that resonated in this year’s show, whether from a village in a developing nation (at right, textiles from [Carpenter + Co.](#)) or the proud exclamation of “Made in Brooklyn.” It’s all a reaction to the machine made, the pressure to be sustainable, and the human need to have something unique and individual. This is a trend with many miles to go.



The influence of Asian textiles is enormous. The colors, symbolism, motifs, and weaving techniques translate well to modern applications. Blues that originate from the Indigo plant, medallion motifs from Central Asia ([Suzani](#)), Indian paisleys, Chinese chrysanthemums ([Company C](#)), and Japanese kimono designs ([Sylvie Guieysse Pillows](#); photo on the left) were splendidly interpreted by modern masters, among them [Ralph Lauren Home](#).



[Wabi-sabi](#), the Japanese respect for the beauty of imperfection was evident in the weathered beauty of patinas and distressed surfaces. For expediency, many of the products seemed prematurely aged through a variety of curious techniques; but it’s the thought that counts.



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