

Decoretirg withall the



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## A pillow-back sofa wears this season's favorite color

With a slim, squared-off frame, a single seat cushion, and loose pillows against a tight back, this sofa by Hamilton Furniture can move from a traditional to a contemporary setting, depending on the upholstery treatment. "The streamlined form and generous pile of pillows gave us lots of opportunities to experiment with fabric and trimming details," says our upholstery expert, Carl Dellatore, of D \& F Workroom. "For example, with Hable Construction's Orange Beads, we were daring and used a solid natural canvas for the frame and the orangebead print only for the cushion and pillows." To give an extra punch to Clarence House's reversible Tahiti, strewn
with polka dots and coral sprays, we used both colorways: with the red side out on the frame and seat cushion and the white flip side showing on the pillows. And with Rogers \& Goffigon's Sanderling, we broke up the stripe by alternating squares and crosses on the pillows.

The look we aimed for in every case was chic and uncomplicated. Fabrics are simple cottons and linens with a zing that comes from a spicy coral coloration ranging from pink to orange. Special details are mainly simple weltings or bands of fabric used as borders. The only place we went over the top was with a black-and-coral chinoiserie print, Summer Hill's Shangrila, that just begs for embellishment. Saucy pom-poms edge the pillows, and flirty black fringe finishes the skirt.

## NUTS AND BOLTS

- A clean-lined sofa like this one is a great investment because it can work in a modern or traditional scheme.
- This sofa looks more contemporary if you expose its great legs. If you like the traditional look of a skirt and want your sofa to have a double life, try a skirted slipcover.
- Reversible fabrics are fun to experiment with, but before you act, double-check with your fabric supplier or upholsterer to make sure the material is truly intended for reversing.
- Although handblocked prints are beautiful, they often lack perfect repeats. When working with such a fabric, lay it out on the piece before you cut it to distribute the design evenly.

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Clarence House's Tahiti (\#33323-3) in red; $100 \%$ cotton; 51 "w. We took full advantage of this reversible fabric, using the red side for the body and seat of the sofa, the white side for the pillows. The pattern was laid out so that the coral motifs would be distributed symmetrically. To soften the strong print, we used no welting or other trims.


Gaston y Daniela's Egeo (\#71447-651) in terra-cotta through Brunschwig \& Fils; $100 \%$ cotton; $571 / 2^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{w}$. We carefully matched the pattern on this tone-on-tone print so it would fall perfectly across the seat cushion and onto the frame. The central motif of the design was placed in the middle of each pillow. A four-inch band of linen in the darker tone forms a wide border.


Hinson's Lutece (\#HF-0912-R); $60 \%$ linen, $40 \%$ cotton; $48^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{w}$. We matched the pattern of this traditional floral print from the seat cushion down to the floor, but allowed the variety of flowers to meander across the frame. A different flower shows its face on each pillow, which is trimmed with off-white cotton moss fringe. Elsewhere, self welting was used.


Pierre Frey's Contrefond Napoleon III (\#1816) in rouge $03 ; 66 \%$ linen, $34 \%$ cotton; $51^{\prime \prime}$ w. Careful matching was imperative on this overscale lattice print: one mistake would be an eyesore. To rein in the strong pattern, welting in the darker red of the print outlines the entire ensemble; the wider band of the pattern was cut to form a hemline border for the skirt.


Rogers \& Goffigon's Sanderling (\#910036-04) in paprika; $100 \%$ linen; 62 "w. Stripes demand perfect matching but allow for graphic experimentation. Keeping the upholstery simple, we stirred up some excitement by mitering the stripes to form two designs on the front and back of each pillow-squares or crosses.


Cowtan \& Tout's Fairmont (\#10830-03) in citron; 59\% linen, $41 \%$ cotton; $54 " \mathrm{w}$. This equestrian print with riders trotting in opposite directions required careful placement. Half the pillows feature one rider at the center and half the other. Faux-suede welting in taupe furthers the sporting theme.


Summer Hill's Shangrila (\#1708) in color 03;65\% linen, $35 \%$ cotton; $54^{\prime \prime} \mathrm{w}$. To give this lighthearted chinoiserie print a hint of formality, we added a kick-pleated skirt trimmed with black bullion fringe and surrounded each pillow with black pom-pom fringe. Simple self welting appears everywhere else.


Hable Construction's Orange Beads; $100 \%$ cotton; $60^{\prime \prime}$ w. We took a flyer on this example, using two very different fabrics. The sofa's boxy frame is covered with a solid-color canvas and the seat cushion and pillows with the lively bead print. Tying the fabrics together is canvas welting on everything.

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