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Self-assured, versatile, and easy. Four West Coast designers bring the vernacular of home to fall furniture collections

By KIRK REED FORRESTER

AT THE APRIL Home Furnishings Market in High Point, North Carolina, even the most casual observer could notice a decidedly West Coast vibe in the middle of the Carolina Piedmont. Four A-list companies—Baker, Castelle, Century, and Hickory Chair—featured fall collections by Los Angeles–based designers. While the looks from each showroom were as unique as the designers who created them, the mood was singularly California cool.

When Barbara Barry began to imagine her



ABOVE AND RIGHT: Born into a family of painters, Barbara Barry shares an artist's reverence for light. Her use of soft, subtle hues, like the one in this chair, is intended to express the magical mood of California light. LEFT AND BELOW: Inspired by geometric tile carvings, Barclay Butera's collection features intricate fretwork and his signature blue-and-white palette.

latest collection for Baker—a collaboration celebrating its 20th year—she wanted to capture the natural beauty of her home state. "This collection was inspired in part by my personal move into the countryside and more into nature," says the designer. "California is more than a place; it's a state of mind, an open mind and an ease of living." Ease is the word that captures Barry's latest offerings, a 70-piece collection that feels rooted in the sun-dappled woods of Northern California. The mix of organic, relaxed silhouettes, luxurious fabrics, and honest, open-grained wood finishes pairs beautifully with modern or antique pieces. "Barbara has an innate sense of tapping into the zeitgeist," says Baker president Russell Towner, who credits the designer's instincts with her long-running success.

While Barry's latest designs reflect the majesty of the California forest, Barclay Butera's outdoor collection for Castelle takes its inspiration from the Pacific Coast. Featuring his signature blue-and-white palette, Butera's lounge chairs, pool chaises, and dining and occasional tables are made with intricate fretwork that conveys glamour, comfort, and a sunny California disposition. "West Coast living has always been an inspiration in my design," says Butera. "When you live near the sparkling blue water, sun, and sand and have spectacular views of yachts sailing up and down the coast, you can't

