

Material Matters

WICKER IS DESIGN ALCHEMY, turning humble natural fibers such as rattan, cane, and raffia to gold by weaving them into topographies unimaginable for more refined materials. But the greater magic is that wicker turns moments to gold as well. It tugs at the too-tight necktie of a formal room, offers a tactile reprieve from idealized surfaces, and playfully reminds us that the color tan can in fact be fabulous.

And the alchemy is as strong as ever. From its first grand moment in the 19th century to a showy turn mid-20th, wicker is in the throes of a right-now renaissance as France's Atelier Vime produces a breathtaking range of pieces and designers Amanda Lindroth and Justin Van Breda launch their own fresh lines. Meanwhile, the weave is anchoring notable design projects from Harbour Island to Southern California.

The material does inspire fealty bordering on obsession. Oscar de la Renta long channeled his Dominican heritage when placing wicker pieces in society (and most recently in an exuberant update of his Tortuga Bay Hotel in Punta Cana). Hubert de Givenchy and Philippe Venet went famously wicker-mad in their French country

retreat Le Jonchet. Italian art collector and style icon Marella Agnelli (influenced by Renzo Mongiardino) filled her rooms with it, as did American horticultural genius Bunny Mellon. But who can out-obsess Lee Radziwill? No one. The renowned socialite and interior designer left the world last year in—of all things—a casket woven exquisitely of wicker.

Custom wicker and wood paneling by 150-year-old French shop Atelier Vime. Price upon request; ateliervime.com.

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WICKER ON WALLS
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WICKER IN THE 1950s
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A palace for prized greenery, this **vintage French planter stand** has dyed woven borders akin to tilework. \$2,400; shopcourtneybarton.com.



Wicker, Well Lit



Celerie Kemble **Terrace floor lamp**, \$965; arteriorshome.com. • **Antibes chandelier**, \$2,410; currencyandcompany.com. • Mario Lopez Torres **Cockatoo table lamp**, \$2,900 for a pair; circawho.com.

MAIN IMAGE COURTESY OF ATELIER VIME