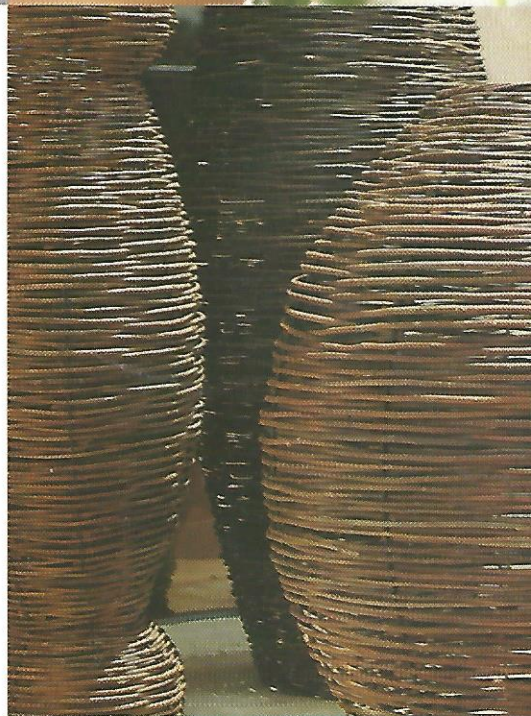


# F O R M

Aesthetes will enjoy this one, as the approach here is to appreciate and replicate the artful act of natural style. This is more of an artistic than moral pursuit, but benefits those in allegiance nevertheless. Looking to nature for artistic and other inspiration is not new but the way that we are looking is given a new twist. It's not a frivolous past-time with the effects lasting as long as a plucked hibiscus. Having recognised that nature is a master designer with not a petal out of place, setters of this trend do their best to study the relationship of colour, shape, material and volume behind the surface beauty. They aim to create the way Mother Nature does when supplying her kingdom with whatever it needs to function optimally. So practical items like bowls are beset with a beauty that recalls nature and all forms, fashion and even homes, are designed according to her principles – organic shapes, natural rhythm, movement and growth all apply. From items that look alive to the more abstract suggestion of the fold of a leaf or the consistency of a succulent, this is about applying the techniques of nature with the human hand. There is a rash of these products about: the artful ceramics of Astrid Dahl, whose Venus Flytrap was commissioned amongst others for Libertys in London, the oversized ceramic thorn hooks of St Verde or rose curtain tiebacks (available from Florence Masson Interiors) et al, the classic tulip chair by Saarinen (available from Knoll showrooms countrywide) and botanical prints on wallpaper, to name a few. And of course, the resurgence of the colour green factors hugely too.



DECK YOUR HOME OUT WITH DESIGNS REMINISCENT OF NATURE, ANYTHING THAT'S AS PRETTY AND PERFECTLY FORMED AS A FLOWER – OR A BULB, THORN, LEAF OR SEEDPOD. INVEST IN A FEW LIFE-LIKE STRELITZIA LEAF PLATTERS OF IAN AND MAUREEN WALDECK OF INSPIRIT (MORE SUPER-REALIST SCULPTURE THAN ANYTHING).

ANTI-CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT The sculptural qualities of cactii have made them a popular choice in today's homes; Lientjie Wessels' oversized sculptures are made from the felled alien poplar tree; fashion takes its cue from nature; Astrid Dahl's Venus Flytrap ceramics for Libertys in London; wood sculptor Phil Oosthuizen's wood and bark seat

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