Indigo

Artisans in India and Japan pioneered the use of this hue, which is everywhere now but has been well-liked for centuries. It seems ancient and modern at the same time, and it never feels sterile or perfect, which plays to the whole handmade movement. That’s why it works so well in a range of applications. Look for Tensira indigo cushion covers (shown below) and textiles by master craftsman Habibou Coulibaly.

FEELING THE FUTURE

Hot new design trends? Seen ’em. What we want is fresh looks ... that won’t hit their expiration dates in a blink. Two (hot, now!) Chicago designers offered their futures reports

BY LISA SKOLNIK

Embroidery

Humans decorated their clothing and textiles with decorative hand stitching for centuries, but sewing machines made embroidery common and cliché. But new digital technology that marries novel stitching techniques with large-scale manufacturing has made embroidery more complex, colorful and daring than ever, and brought it back in a big way. Lines that have bold new approaches to this art form include Coral & Tusk, which blends illustration, machine embroidery and hand finishing; Holland & Sherry, with appliqué work that has an architectural edge; and Ankasa (above), where the artisans renowned for their hand-embroidered creations for couturiers (think Oscar, Carolina and Jean-Paul) have translated it into versions for interior textiles.