



Rainbow Coalition

Vibrant color is no flash in the pan for outdoor décor

FASHION IS FICKLE, AND COLOR PREFERENCES can change as quickly as the wind. But these days, what's blowing in is not well-behaved neutrals—love them as we do—but a rainbow of bold colors that have made their way outdoors to the garden and the patio.

Make no mistake: This is no arbitrary change in the weather—no here-today-gone-tomorrow fad. Not since the Greeks painted the Acropolis has man introduced color outdoors with such fanfare and pizzazz. Until now, two short rules have governed color on outdoor furnishings and statuary: Either love that patina (on marble, limestone and the like) or know thy paint will peel (on cast iron, wood, etc.). It has been a drab, drab world. But now that the door has been opened to an array of new weatherfast materials—from powder-coated paints to plastics and synthetic wicker—it's possible to



impart long-lasting color to outdoor furnishings. It's also fair to say that there is no better way to celebrate the fanciful energy of contemporary outdoor design—from mushroom-shaped stools to glowing light cubes—than with the exuberance of color. I guess, after all, somethin's in the air.

[1] ROBERT ALLEN AL FRESCO COLLECTION: Using the new fabric technology Bella-Dura, this collection brings durability to a startling color palette. Top to bottom: Leafy Accent, Splash; Summer Magic, Splash; Megastar, Azalea; Center Field, Watermelon; Leaf Cluster, Spring; Fun Time, Melon; On the Lake, Melon. From Robert Allen: \$56 to \$66 per yard. Available to the trade. Call 800-333-3777 or see www.robertallendesign.com.

[2] MARRAKESH: With chair backs reminiscent of Arabian architecture, this collection conjures up a mystical Morocco, where colors inspire the soul. Available in six colors. By Dedon through JANUS et Cie: \$1,360 each (frame only); \$1,500 (with cushion). Call 800-24-JANUS or see www.janusetcie.com.

[3] VALERIA PLANTER: Express yourself with color with these tall hand-glazed ceramic planters in six "lipstick" colors and two sizes. Store in frost-free covered areas in winter. From Campania: 10 inches wide by 18 inches high, \$58; 14 inches wide by 24 inches high, \$108. Call 215-538-1106 or see www.campaniainternational.com.