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THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Saturday/Sunday, May 22 - 23, 2021 | **D1**



All Together Now

Family-reunion getaways are taking off as we look for ways to simultaneously book a much-needed vacation and finally see our extended clan in the flesh. Here's how to seize new travel opportunities

By **RICHARD MORGAN**

FOR SHEENA SUAREZ, having to watch her only brother get married via Facebook Live last February was "the last straw." The Brooklynite had already endured an entire pandemic pregnancy and birth with no way to share the experience with her siblings in real life, even as her newborn doubled in size. Ms. Suarez's family hadn't gathered since June 2019. So, last month, on the occasion of her parents' 40th wedding anniversary, nine members of her extended clan drove from Brooklyn and Richmond, Va., converging on a hotel in Virginia Beach. Like many Americans newly emboldened by the Covid vaccine, Ms. Suarez was eager to both take a long overdue vacation and see her family. "Time to me now is so precious," she said. "Without the

pandemic, actually, I wouldn't have appreciated that." If they'd been seeing each other every other month, as in other years, "it wouldn't be a reunion. It would be a regular visit."

After enduring lockdowns, the chaos of working and schooling at home, unreliable reopenings and messy vaccination rollouts, families are battle-ready for familiar foes: siblings, uncles, aunts and cousins. An April survey by Vacasa, a vacation-rental management platform, found that family reunions were the top travel priority for Americans, accounting for 32% of group travel plans (weddings represented 15%). Compared with the company's February survey, plans for extended family vacations increased from 5 to 13%, while immediate family trips increased from 17 to 28%.

And Vacasa is seeing those intentions play out in its bookings, said Natalia Sutin, vice pres-

ident of revenue management. "For many of our top vacation destinations, we already have double the reservations for June, July, and August of this year compared with the same point in 2019." Properties on North Carolina's Outer Banks islands are already at 90% occupancy, she said. "The more bedrooms the house has, the further out it should be booked," she advised. Now that the pandemic has blurred the difference between Wednesdays and Saturdays, Ms. Sutin noted the viability of midweek bookings, which tend to yield more options. "You're not limited to the weekend anymore."

Demand is so high that the Westin Cape Coral Resort in Cape Coral, Fla., created a chief reunions officer position in February. Tosha Wollney, a catering sales executive, took on that role. "[Families are] so anxious to get together and

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The '90s bucket hat—a signature of Oasis frontman Liam Gallagher—returns **D2**



THE ANTI-MINIMALIST PATIO
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RAISE A GLASS...
...filled with one of the under-appreciated, affordable white wines of Campania **D6**



WHY WE EAT WHAT WE EAT
A new Netflix series explores how Black Americans shaped the nation's cuisine **D7**

AMKWARD FAMILY PHOTOS (PEOPLE); SHUTTERSTOCK (HOT AIR BALLOON, AIRPLANE); GIORGIA ASCOLANI

DESIGN & DECORATING

BY ALLISON DUNCAN

SINCE IT WAS FIRST christened in 2019, the “grandmillennial” interiors aesthetic has flourished in the homes of design-forward 20- and 30-somethings who embrace passed-down furnishings. Elements include mixed patterns, vintage furniture and unabashed ornament.

Now designers say clients, even beyond the throwback-loving set, want to see the look in their outdoor spaces. London interior designer Stephanie Barba Mendoza noted that a garden serves the style’s elaborate flourishes well. “Nature will never feel overwhelming, so it’s a safe space to go all out,” she said.

The design of this season’s outdoor collections signals the shift. Business & Pleasure’s Premium Beach Umbrella in Chinoiserie (right), combines undulating contrast fringe with a surprising blue-and-white underside. Wicker predominates, but not in the form of blocky low sectionals. Grandmillennial style calls for lighter classic shapes accompanied by sunny-hued upholstery. A tablecloth from Nordic home-textiles brand Projektityyny features a grandmillennial hat trick: gingham, a ruffle and floral embroidery. The goal, said New York designer Lillse McKenna, is décor that feels “layered and collected” rather than “ordered and delivered.”

Adding contemporary components, like a more modern fabric print, to the mix can save a patio from appearing simply mummified. They help ensure grandmillennial spaces don’t read like an estate sale, said Chicago designer Kara Mann. As 1stDibs editorial director Anthony Barzilay Freund advised, referring to the 20th-century American interior designer known as the prince of chintz, “Think Mario Buatta if he’d spent some time hanging with Brooklyn hipsters.”

In a newly completed lanai in Naples, Fla., for example, Chicago designer Summer Thornton positioned wicker porch chairs around a dining table set with a golden floral cloth, brass palm-tree candlesticks and hand-painted glassware. But to offset the

How Gran Is Your Garden?

The ‘grandmillennial’ aesthetic favored by younger Americans ushers in a new look for patios



In a Palm Beach space by designer Caroline Rafferty, a table blends two grandmillennial faves: wicker and ruffles.

NEW BUT NOT SHINY / 9 PIECES TO BRING MORE DECORATIVE, ANTI-MINIMALIST GRANNY CHIC TO YOUR PATIO

‘Nature will never feel overwhelming, so it’s a safe space to go all out,’ said designer Stephanie Barba Mendoza.

old-school aesthetic, Ms. Thornton brought in trending textiles nearby: “We went for a Batik-inspired African-print sun cloth on two huge sofas,” she said. The effect is 1940s Florida for a younger generation.

The granny-chic appetite for floral prints can also be satisfied with the genuine article. Miami landscape architect Fernando Wong uses plants and flowers—think aged terra-cotta planters overflowing with vividly colored geraniums—the way a decorator might use bloomy wallpaper, bold paint and architectural trim indoors. “A trellis with ivy or bougainvillea takes the place of pattern on the walls to replicate the grandmillennial look,” said Caroline Rafferty, a decorator in Palm Beach.

The retro-tinged style translated outdoors owes a lot to the classic style of that beachy town, with its pink-and-green palette, cabana stripes, Chippendale lattice work and wicker everything. Take the Mimi Cuddle chair (right), a roomy canopied seat from a new collection of outdoor furniture by Celerie Kemble, now based in New York, for Lane Venture. The perch would suit any vintage-loving 30-something’s garden as well as a current courtyard in the designer’s hometown of Palm Beach.

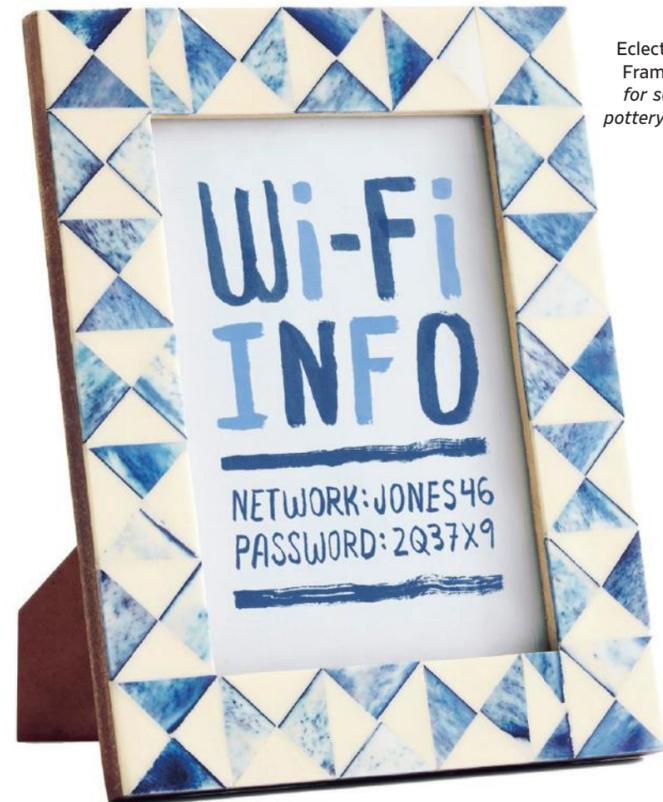
For a recent project, pictured above, Ms. Rafferty updated that Florida town’s signature style. In a covered porch she laid a wide-striped pink and white rug, and she set vintage rattan end tables on either side of a white-painted sofa. The couch, however, sports zebra-print upholstery, the nearby white metal lounge chair is all geometry and the cocktail table, though wicker, drapes from its glass top like a skirt. Granny chic? Yes. Stodgy? No.



1. Danielle Dining Table in White, \$295, [hdbuttercup.com](#) 2. Outdoor Cushion with Liberty Strawberry Thief Fabric, \$96, [cocoandwolf.com](#) 3. Aerin Ginger Jar Champagne Bucket, \$160, [williams-sonoma.com](#) 4. Golden Rabbit Green Scallop Enamel Dinner Plates, \$84 for 4, [potterybarn.com](#) 5. Opalhouse Floral Fringed Outdoor Rug in Blush, from \$50, [target.com](#) 6. Fermob Guinguette End Table in Cactus, \$306, [potterybarn.com](#) 7. Premium Beach Umbrella in Chinoiserie, \$299, [businessandpleasure.com](#) 8. Celerie Kemble for Lane Venture Mimi Cuddle Chair and Canopy in Coral, \$2,895, [onekingsslane.com](#) 9. Leinikki Tablecloth in Apricot, \$367, [projektityyny.com](#)

Be My Guest...Memorably

As we happily host houseguests again, these eight creative, stylish gestures will tell them just how welcome they are



Eclectic Bone Frame, \$99 for set of 3, [potterybarn.com](#)

NOW THAT WE’RE shunning Zoom and starting to see each other IRL, any overnight visit is going to feel special. Practical niceties such as blackout window shades and access to an electric socket that doesn’t entail moving a dresser will make your guests comfortable. But meaningful gestures unique to their tastes—be-loved lilacs bedside, a stack of vintage Esquire magazines by the tub—will touch them on a deeper level. Here, eight ways to roll out the welcome mat rather unforgettably.

1. Easy Hookup To save a visitor’s having to ask “What’s your password again?” print out Wi-Fi info in a friendly typeface, frame it and set it where it can’t be missed.

2. Cool Comfort When Dallas interior designer Michelle Nussbaumer welcomes straight-off-the-plane guests to her house in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, she offers a cold cloth steeped in lavender oils, topped with a fresh sprig of the herb from her garden. “It’s a historic gesture that goes back to desert culture,” she said.

3. Pretty Pills If it’s safe to assume libations will flow late into the night, decant three types of headache remedies—say, Advil, Tylenol and aspirin—into identical glass apothecary jars for the morning after.

4. Digital Direction “We created a curated ‘Guide to Hudson’ on Instagram to easily share our favorite places to shop and eat in town,” said Anthony D’Argenzio, of New York design agency Zio and Sons.

5. Fan Favor “Even in climate-controlled environments, I always appreciate having the option of turning on a fan—both for air movement and white noise,” said Los Angeles designer Madeline Stuart. “There are contemporary and retro-chic versions that are very attractive.”

6. Tailored Flames Research your guest’s birthday and set

out the appropriate Zodiac candle (options below). Gemini’s might thank you twice.

7. Suitcase Place Because a visitor doesn’t want to flop a bag on your sheets or a chair after it has been rolled through the airport, New York City designer Tamara Eaton suggests getting a good-looking folding table, which you can closet later. The visitor will intuit the table’s function from its bare surface.

8. Bud System The truly on-it hostess changes bedside flowers at least once while the guest is sojourning.

—Daisy Prince



Maison La Bougie Aries Candle, \$107, [luisaviaroma.com](#)

Bonjour Matches, \$10, [brooklyncandlestudio.com](#)

Make a Match

Offer a candle synced with your visitor’s astrological sign, and let them know it’s theirs to keep.

Zodiac Candle, \$18, [zeebeemarket.com](#)