Decorator's Notebook

Linen: The Elegant Textile, Room By Room

(NAPSA)—Adding permanent elegance to a room calls for the use of inherently luxurious materials, be it hardwood for the floors, silver for the table or linen fabrics for the upholstery, window treatments, bedding and tabletop. With proper care, each material will last for years and continue to produce an aesthetically pleasing experience.

When shopping for linen, it's a good idea to look for the Masters of Linen hangtag. This label shows that an item has passed stringent quality controls laid down by the Confederation Europeene du Lin et du Chanvre (CELC), which is supported by the European Community.

For example, here's a room-by-room tour of a house, with indications of what linen can do:

• Bedroom—The most intimate of rooms welcomes linen, a soft fabric used in sheets and pillowcases. Besides its gentle texture, the fabric absorbs humidity and possesses anti-allergenic properties.

• Bathroom—Boasts elegant linen in its toweling, especially friction and "huck" towels. Because of the natural smoothness of the fibers, little dirt becomes embedded in the towels, making them very sanitary.

• Kitchen—The ability to absorb great amounts of moisture before feeling wet makes linen towels preferred in the kitchen. They can absorb up to one-fifth of their own dry weight in moisture, and leave no trace of lint on dried dishes or glassware.

• Dining room—Preparing for guests means setting the table with fine linen tablecloth and napkins. Heirloom linen tablecloths tend to glow with a patina that comes through repeated use. In fact, linens for the table improve with age.

Linen fabrics provide elegance in any room of the house.

• Around the house—In window treatments and on upholstered furniture throughout the house, linen is often the fabric of choice. Its supple hand means the fabric will hold a fold in draperies, while in lighter casement installations, linen provides privacy with an elegant look.

The hangtag is currently found only on products made of Western European linen, considered by many to be the finest linen in the world. It certifies that the linen yarn comes from CELC-member spinning mills and meets the highest standards for construction, color fastness, dimensional stability and strength.

Free Brochure

For a free *Reinventing Linen* brochure, financed by the European Community, write to Masters of Linen, Dept. EC, 200 Lexington Avenue, Suite 225, New York, NY 10016.