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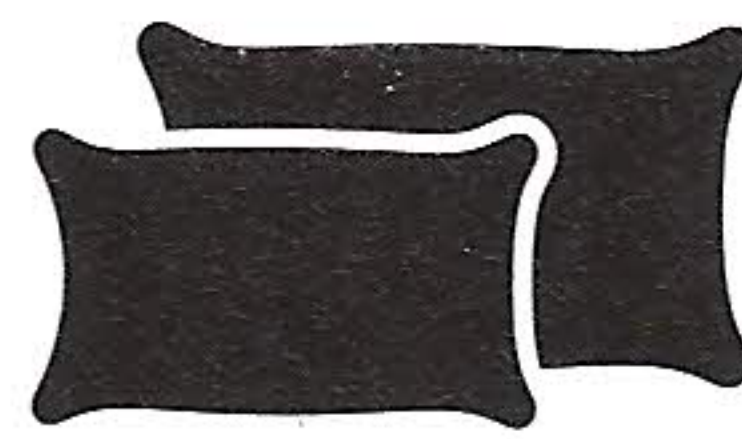
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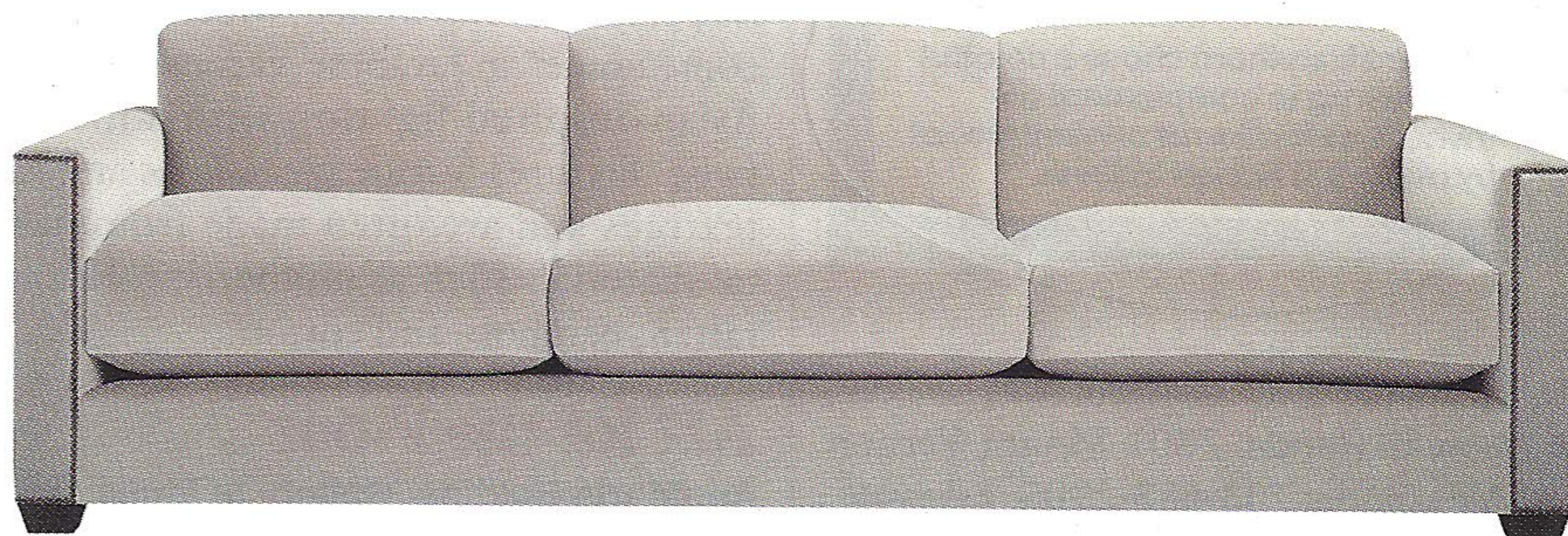
Great Home Design



Stay Awhile

Homeowners today want casual, comfortable spaces. Here are our favorite places to find furniture and linens that are relaxed and stylish.

By Wendi Kaufman



The low Manhattan sofa by Baker is \$6,930.

With gas prices rising, more people are spending their money to create cozy retreats in their homes. “My clients want a haven from the outside world,” says DC interior designer Liz Levin. “People want relaxed, more casual spaces.” In addition to comfortable couches and chairs, designers say clients are investing in fine linens and towels that give their bedroom and bath a spa-like feel.

To find the stores on this list, we asked top interior designers where they shop for comfortable furniture, good-quality bedding, and plush linens. Then we tested those recommendations, plopping down on sofas and feeling linens in stores across the area. The undertaking was inevitably somewhat subjective: Couches and chairs were test-driven by a five-foot-six woman looking for comfort and style—including deep seats, padded armrests, and soft pillows that hold their shape.

If you’re looking for seating with lots of support, talk to the store about firmer cushion options and upgrades. The best way to judge comfort is to try these options yourself—you may never want to leave the couch.

Couches and Chairs

Baker, 3330 M St., NW; 202-342-7080; bakerfurniture.com. This upscale furniture store is packed with sleek couches and chairs, but the Manhattan sofa (\$6,950) ticks all the boxes: low, deep, comfortable.

Crate & Barrel, multiple area locations; crateandbarrel.com. Crate & Barrel uses recycled-steel frames and soy- and corn-based foam and fibers in many of its chairs and sofas. The eco-friendly Aris and Portico lines—especially the swivel glider chair—are particularly comfortable.

Mitchell Gold & Bob Williams, 1526 14th St., NW; 202-332-3433; mgbwhome.com. This contemporary furniture store is the biggest supplier to such retailers as Restoration Hardware and Pottery Barn. We like the Dr. Pitt sectional (\$6,000 to \$10,000). The catalog calls it a “modern interpretation of a disco-era classic,” but with its many configurations, we call it a whimsical conversation pit and comfortable sectional for grownups.

Pottery Barn, multiple area locations; potterybarn.com. The original PB Comfort Slip-covered Sofa (\$999 to \$2,099) is still the store’s bestseller. With deep seats and three

