

Atlanta Magazine's

153
SHOPS
DIRECTORY

page 106

HOME

Supplement to Atlanta Magazine

SUMMER STYLE

Your Guide to Outdoor Living

- >> Glam intown makeover
- >> Chic new chaises
- >> Sensational brunches

Conversation

Talking with Eric Brenner and Damon Fogel, owners of AuthenTEAK

Originally opened Downtown in 2004, outdoor furniture store AuthenTEAK [1094 Huff Road, 404-525-1995] recently relocated to a new space in the Warehouse District that's more than five times the size of the original showroom.

What's new in your showroom?

We're still very teak-heavy, but we've expanded into wicker, cast-aluminum and a few specialty products (Italian marble and travertine tables) based on what our clients are asking for.

What's new in outdoor furniture?

Last year it was a three-seat sofa. This year, we're seeing sectionals and the double-chaise lounge. It's all an extension of bringing the indoors outdoors. We're seeing lamps, and even outdoor art that's UV-fade-resistant. And the outdoor rug trend is continuing.

What new trends will we see in Atlanta this summer?

Comfort, particularly deep seating with cushions 8 inches thick. People are putting together "chat groups," four chairs around a coffee table, as opposed to a typical dining table. For balconies, look for tall dining sets—because tables at a regular height make you stare at a balcony railing.

Can you mix teak with other materials?

A lot of manufacturers mix teak with stainless steel and sling (mesh material) in the same piece of furniture. For people who think wood is not comfortable, they can have the teak armrests but a sling mesh seat and back.



BIG BUSINESS AuthenTEAK owners Damon Fogel (left) and Eric Brenner began their business selling imported Indonesian teak furniture on weekends in an empty showroom underneath their printing business. Now, the store occupies more than 9,000 square feet.

HAROLD DANIELS PHOTOGRAPHY

Is there a secret to caring for teak?

It's the same for all furniture, whatever the material. Keep it clean. Hose it off and maybe go over it with a light bristle brush. Just because it rains, it doesn't mean the dirt and the pollen are gone. It builds up in the cracks and crevices.

What about keeping it brown versus letting it turn silver?

All natural hardwoods weather to a silver gray. It's similar to a human. As we sit out in the sun, we turn brown or red. Wood turns gray. We offer a once-a-year application that acts as a suntan lotion for your furniture. It slows the weather-

ing process. Furniture that is already gray can be brought back to its original color with teak cleaner.

What do people like more—brown or silver teak?

It's probably 50/50. Personally, I (Eric) like it gray. I like the natural look. —M.D. H