

Interior Designer Wilson Launches Textiles Line

BY JENNIFER WHITE-KARP

AT THE NEW YORK MARKET— As a child, Robin Wilson suffered from allergies and asthma, an experience that informs her work as an eco-friendly interior designer and now has inspired her first textiles collection featuring hypoallergenic basic bedding, as well as fashion bedding and bath accessories, debuting this month at 7W during the New York Home Fashions Market.

The hypoallergenic basic bedding line, made of cotton and recycled polyester, includes pillows, pillow covers, mattress covers and duvets. The products are designed to reduce the incidence of “wheezing and sneezing,” Wilson said. The fabrics will be woven with less than a 10 micron opening in the weave, which prevents dust mites from penetrating the fabric.

“I remember as a child going to a hotel or someone’s home and laying my head down on a down-filled pillow and sneezing and wheezing,” Wilson said. Many consumers don’t know that down can be an allergen, she said. “Polyfill is a wonderful hypoallergenic alternative,” she said, adding that she uses recycled polyester in support of the company’s eco-friendly mandate to use sustainable materials.

The Robin Wilson Home Textiles Collection is pitched as a luxury line aimed at high-end specialty retailers, depart-

ment stores, home shopping networks and the hospitality industry. Products are sourced from Portugal and Asia.



ROBIN WILSON

Wilson is likely best known for such high-profile projects as rebuilding Robert F. Kennedy’s Westchester home using eco-friendly materials, like bamboo. She also renovated President Bill Clinton’s Harlem office space. Her licensed line of kitchen cabinets, made by Holiday Kitchens, avoids the use of formaldehyde-based glue and is handcrafted in the United States.

As an adult, Wilson still suffers from allergies. But even for non-allergy sufferers, she said hypoallergenic products are an important component of the bed.

“So many people focus on having a pretty bed but they forget to wash their pillow,” she said. “You could have the best sheets but your mattress could still have allergens and you will not get a restful sleep. You need products that provide a hypoallergenic barrier between the mattress and the sheet that protects the consumer.”

But Wilson does not neglect the “pretty” part of the bed either. Her fashion bedding line is made of 100% cotton, including organic cotton, for a collection of eight beds. The looks are inspired by designs in nature and the interplay of light and shadow found in architecture. The bedding collections include Bliss, a midtone contemporary, large-scale floral in watery blues, greens and grays on a cream



Fashion bedding includes some items made with organic cotton.

background printed on a textured linen fabric; and Skyline, a modern geometric pattern appliquéd on the comforter, with a matching bed skirt and sham.

In addition, a bath line of robes, rugs, towels and shower curtains will debut in basic white with the hope that retailers will request a particular bedding pattern done in a shower curtain, for example, Wilson said. A more comprehensive bath line will roll out in the fall. **HTT**