



# Workroom Threads

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## The Power of Pillows

One of the most versatile home accessories is the pillow. A decorative pillow dresses up any seating and offers an invitation to unwind in comfort and beauty. Pillows can be the jewelry that transforms the room with color, pattern, texture, and individuality.

However, there is more than style and design to consider when creating a custom pillow. The workroom plays a key roll in providing you and your client the best possible result. Scroll down for some details that you may not have considered.

Sylvia Marvelli

## Size Matters



Pillow inserts (or stuffers) come from the factory. They can be filled with any combination of feathers, down, and/or poly. The cover is cut to the intended size *before* it is filled. Therefore, what is cut as a 20"x20" pillow becomes smaller due the the loft of the fill. Pillow size is measured seam to seam NOT by standing it next to a ruler. Professionals are aware of this, but you may need to educate your client if she questions the finished size.

## Sick Pillow Syndrome

Have you ever experienced a pillow that



appears to have a gremlin inside? A quality workroom tries to anticipate how the chosen fabric will perform when used. In this case the texture of the pillow cover creates friction with the insert. Prelining the pillow cover with a polished fabric will prevent this. Silk fabrics should also be prelined to provide durability to the otherwise delicate silk.



### **Limitless Possibilities**

Large pillows with a knife edge and square corners are being seen everywhere. What I find interesting about the pillows shown here is not only the variety of colors and the combination of print, geometric, and solid fabrics, but also the fact that the rectangular pillows are used vertically. Displayed on the neutral sofa the pillows become art.

### **Woo and Wow**

Over the years I've found that the "plump" of a pillow is a personal matter. Like Goldilocks describes it can be too soft, too hard, or just right. That depends on the size of the insert used inside the decorative covering as well as the type of fill that is being used. These are considerations in addition to choosing the correct pillow size.

To assist your client in making these choices I would suggest purchasing some sample inserts from your workroom. The goal is to woo your client with the comfort level and to wow her with the beautiful appearance.

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