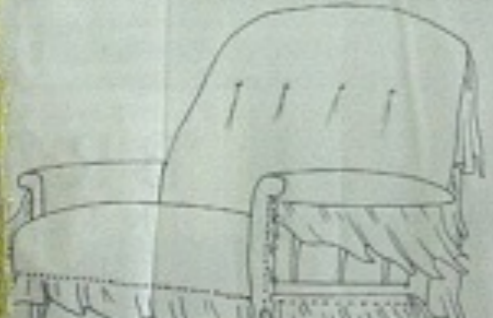




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| casamento | |
| DESIGN | |
| STYLE | |
| EDITION | |
| DATE | |
| DESIGNER | |
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shared passion

FURNITURE DESIGNER EVE COLLETT AND FASHION DESIGNER AKIRA ISOGAWA JOIN FORCES FOR VOGUE LIVING, AND THE RESULT IS REMARKABLE.



When something is designed, it is often perped and polished, loved in the production process to the point of obsession, so that when it emerges as a final object, it cannot be improved: it is perfect, complete. But for Eve Collett of South African furniture studio Casamento and Sydney-based fashion designer Akira Isogawa, when collaborating on the 'Juno' love seat for Vogue Living, polished perfection was never the intention; indeed, completion itself was not an aesthetic they ever wanted.

For them — two makers of beautiful things — the process of making is a beauty all itself. With Isogawa having released his inaugural upholstery fabric collection last year, this was an opportunity to showcase his fabrics in a way that reflected his love for the craft, as well as the results. "What I enjoy most is the textile design process, developing a particular colour palette or texture motif," he says. "So I guess you could say that my textile collection came about out of my passion for textile design."

The process is reflected in the way Collett has upholstered three of Isogawa's cotton velvet fabrics onto the frame of the love seat at her Cape Town workshop. "When you are upholstering, and start pulling the insides, you have this fabric that just falls along the outside," she says. "The last stage is always covering up the outside, cutting away the fabric, and putting all the panels on. So for this I wanted to cut that whole step out and just leave the fabric falling — I love the way it hangs."

Inspired by Isogawa's use of beaded embellishment in his clothes, Collett asked him to send her a photograph of an embellished dress he made that contrasted the colours yellow, ivory and grey (the same as the materials he sent for the sofa). She used it to inspire the beadwork on the backrest. "She has this sophisticated vision," says Isogawa, "but at the same time it's quite raw, quite untouched. She has a sensitivity that lets fabric speak naturally."

For Collett, this was both a chance to work with someone who shares her vision of sourcing natural materials, and to challenge herself creatively. "It's amazing how other people push your boundaries," she says. **VL** PHOTO: STEPHEN
For more information, visit casamento.co.za and akira.com.au.

Eve Collett stands behind her 'Juno' love seat in collaboration with Akira Isogawa. The light fitting is a piece from the Casamento showroom, by South African designer David Krymar. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** the mood board in Collett's Cape Town showroom includes a photograph of the dress which energised the sofa's beadwork, a detail of the dress's beading, a rear view and prototype sketch of the sofa, plus detail of fabrics. This 1938 book embroidery (far left) is 'biblic', says Collett.



SHARED PASSION

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