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CELEBRATING

featuring
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**FINANCIAL
FREEDOMS**
DODGING
STUDENT DEBT
pg. 16

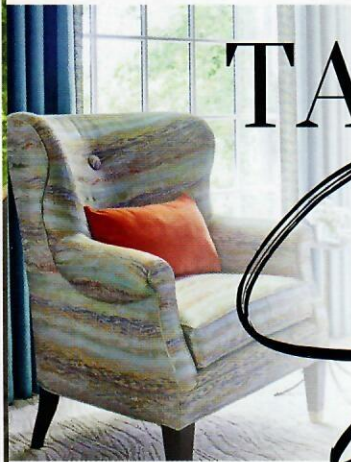
Summertime
DETOX
and
HYDRATION
HEALTHY TIPS
YOU'LL WANT
TO TRY
pg. 12

**FIRE UP
THE GRILL
FOR THE
4TH**
GRILLED CAPRESE
CHICKEN SLIDERS
pg. 38

**SWEET LAND
OF
Liberty**



TAKE A Seat



WE USUALLY TALK ABOUT SUSPENSION as it relates to the system of shock absorbers for your car. In interiors we use the same word to describe the spring networking for a chair or sofa to suspend your underside. As it relates to furnishings, the number one request we hear from new clients is that they do not want a saggy sofa. Let me explain how the main suspension systems work and why you want to invest in the higher quality suspension.

BEST - EIGHT-WAY HAND TIED

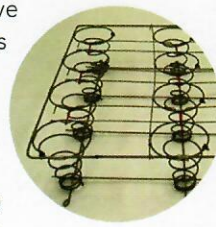


Long considered the gold standard of sofa suspension, eight-way hand tied is the most labor-intensive option. It's the mark of a high-quality piece of furniture.

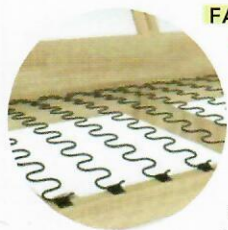
The springs are supported by webbing on the bottom of the sofa (steel webbing is best) and the top of the springs are secured by twine. The twine is tied by hand at eight different spots for each spring and then attached to the frame. This web of twine keeps the springs from shifting, providing years of unwavering support. The soft twine also ensures that the suspension won't start to squeak with use.

BETTER, BUT COULD SQUEAK - DROP-IN COIL SPRINGS

A less labor-intensive version that consists of coils mounted on a metal frame, which is then added to the furniture as a single piece. It comes with some sacrifices. The drop-in coil system isn't supported on the bottom by anything (it is screwed into the sides of the frame) so it will start to sag before a true eight-way hand tied unit will. Secondly, there is a lot of metal-to-metal contact with this option, which can lead to squeaking.



FAST FURNITURE - SINUOUS SPRINGS



A common type of sofa suspension in low- to mid-range priced sofas. Imagine many large zig-zagging pieces of metal set in rows several inches apart and running perpendicular to the front of the sofa. These springs are an example of planned obsolescence found in fast furniture and car seats. The manufacturers of this suspension type want these chairs and sofas to have a shorter life span and get replaced more often.

The old adage is, "You get what you pay for." In this case it is true. If you invest in seating customized with a designer fabric, you want a piece that will hold up to the wear and tear of years of use. The manufacturers who build a true 8-way, hand-tied system also use other resilient methods and materials that will allow reupholstering, leveling, lumbar support, shape retention to name a few attributes. My take, fast furniture is not economically or environmentally sound. •

Starr Miller
Founder and Principal,
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Allied ASID, IDS, CAPS



Our resident home-design expert, Starr Miller, has garnered local and national acclaim with more than 30 industry honors. An alumnus of the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York, Starr has built a strong following as the principal of her sought-after design firm, located in Cornelius, NC.

She feels the composition of a space must originate with the client's unique perspective. Along with that perspective she brings together her team's collaboration, design skills and refined processes in a way which results in truly captivating homes for her clients.

StarrMiller Interior Design specializes in full-service interior design projects.

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