

# The New York Times

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Rohingya refugees illegally crossing into Bangladesh on Friday. They faced another day of walking to reach crowded camps.

## After Surviving a Storm, an Overwhelming Start to the Recovery

By JACK HEALY

HOUSTON — She couldn't sleep. Not now.

Kris Ford-Amofa lay next to her husband in a spare bedroom at her sister's house, thinking once more about the brown water that had slithered under the front door of the first home she had ever owned. The water that swirled around her three children as the family fled, wading up City Green Trail to seek refuge at a neighbor's house. The water that had buckled their living room floor, rotted the drywall and made them homeless. The floodwater that was not covered by their insurance.



through layers of bureaucracy, all while bills pile up and bosses call them back to work.

An hour and a half into her morning, Kris, 43, was nowhere. Growing up in rural Louisiana, she knew floods and tropical storms. She had fled Hurricane Rita in 2005. Still, she was not equipped for this.

She had filed a claim with FEMA, but was told she needed to send a declaration and release form. She didn't have her laptop, and she couldn't find the right paperwork with her phone.

"Where do I find the form?" she asked. "I see the name of the form. There wasn't a link."

A pause.

"I need to speak to someone. I

## SHOPPING GUIDE

### DRESSERS

# More Than a Place For Keeping Socks

Unlike sculptural chairs and glittering chandeliers, dressers are rarely the focal point of a room. But they do offer valuable storage space and can be used for much more than merely concealing underwear in the bedroom.

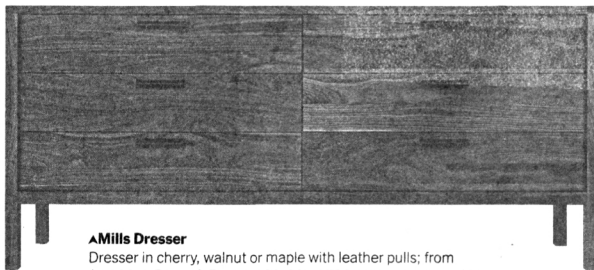
“We use them in media rooms, living rooms, dining rooms, mud-rooms and foyers,” said Beth Webb, an Atlanta-based interior designer whose book “An Eye for Beauty: Rooms That Speak to the Senses” (Rizzoli) is out this month. “It’s one of the most versatile pieces in our arsenal.”

Dressers come in a multitude of shapes, sizes and styles, from long and low to tall and skinny, she noted, and can add a surface for displaying art and objects along with additional storage just about anywhere.

“If you put a mirror over a chest in a foyer, it can become something of great beauty,” she said, while the drawers serve as discreet catchalls for items like keys and stationery.

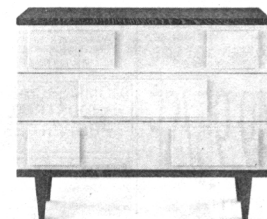
“It’s not form versus function,” Ms. Webb said. “It’s form plus function.”

TIM McKEOUGH



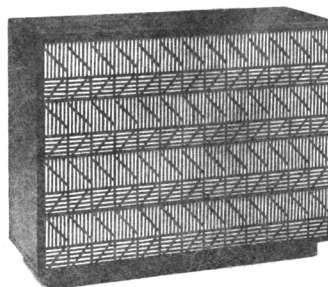
#### ▲Mills Dresser

Dresser in cherry, walnut or maple with leather pulls; from \$1,599 at Room & Board; 800-301-9720 or roomandboard.com



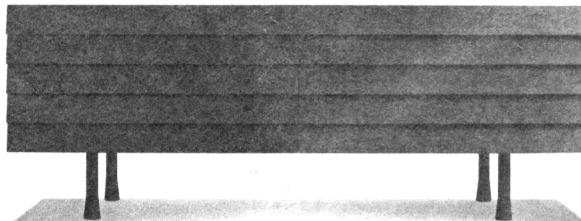
#### ▼Midcentury-Style Block-Front Dresser

Cerused oak dresser with lacquered linen drawer fronts; \$1,550 at Mecox; 212-249-5301 or mecox.com



#### ►Bone Inlaid 4-Drawer Dresser

Black lacquer dresser with inlaid bone tile drawer fronts; \$1,299 at West Elm; 888-922-4119 or westelm.com



#### ▲Lap 4-Drawer Dresser

Dresser with overlapping wood slat detail and soft-close drawers; \$2,199 at Blu Dot; 844-425-8368 or bludot.com



#### ▲Odetta Dresser

Dresser with textured and dyed wood veneer finish and brass-and-acrylic pulls; from \$1,298 at Anthropologie; 800-309-2500 or anthropologie.com

- What depth of drawer is ideal? “A deeper drawer is better for winter wear and heavy sweaters,” said Ms. Webb, while shallower drawers make it easy to see smaller items like socks.
- Will the dresser hold enough? “If I’m doing a chest of drawers in the family room, I’m looking at puzzles and video games,” Ms. Webb said.

“If we’re doing a piece off a kitchen, I’m thinking about the size of chargers.”

- Should it be wide or skinny? “If you’ve got the wall space, I like to go as long as you can,” Ms. Webb said. “You want to maximize storage.”