

IHGF Delhi Fair (Autumn) 2024 Honoured as India's Largest Business Exhibition at Exhibition Excellence Awards 2025



31st May 2025, Mumbai: The 58th edition of the IHGF Delhi Fair (Autumn) 2024, organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH), was honoured with the prestigious 'India's Grand Show Trophy' for being the 'Largest Business Exhibition in India'. The accolade was presented during the Exhibition Excellence Awards 2025, hosted by Exhibition Showcase. ■

CTG Brands Bringing Canadian-Based Kitchen Stuff Plus to U.S. in New Partnership

CTG Brands, a distributor covering North America, has announced a new strategic partnership with Canadian retail chain Kitchen Stuff Plus Inc. The partnership, which was effective immediately upon the deal being signed, gives CTG the exclusive distribution rights for all Kitchen Stuff Plus-branded products across the U.S. and the sole distribution rights within Western Canada.

Kitchen Stuff Plus is known for its innovative designs and strong consumer appeal in kitchenware, home décor and household essentials. It operates more than two dozen retail locations throughout Canada.

"This enhanced relationship with CTG enables broader market reach while preserving (Kitchen Stuff Plus)'s core identity as a leading Canadian retailer," CTG Brands President Grant Pittam said in a release. "The partnership also allows CTG to expand and enhance its product offerings, meet growing consumer demand, and significantly strengthen its market presence across North America."

The news of the partnership comes as CTG Brands celebrates its 40th anniversary. According to the company's website, they will be debuting their first-ever US showroom at AmericasMart in Atlanta this year, marking a "new era" for the company. ■

Source: Gifts and Decoratives

Fire features, functional furnishings key outdoor trends in 2025

Outdoor living is no longer a seasonal sport: People now view it as a year-round feature and extension of the home, according to renovation resource provider Fixr's "Outdoor Living Trends Report 2025." The report noted that more than half of industry experts (56%) say homeowners are prioritizing outdoor upgrades more than they did in 2024, with updated backyards increasingly viewed as both lifestyle enhancements and smart investments.

The data further backs that up: 98% of professionals surveyed agree that a usable, updated outdoor space has a significant impact on home value. Real estate pros estimate the return on investment

outdoor furniture as the top furnishing trend this year, while earthy tones lead the color palette. The goal? Create spaces that feel clean, calm, and contemporary, without sacrificing functionality.

Composite decking, favored by 46% of pros, complements that low-maintenance ethos. It's durable, weather-resistant, and fits well with the natural aesthetic dominating 2025 design schemes.

Backyards are pulling double or triple duty in 2025. Thirty-one percent of professionals report that outdoor spaces are being transformed into multipurpose zones, serving as fitness areas, home offices, dining patios or wellness retreats depending on the day.



(ROI) from outdoor projects can reach 50% or more, depending on scope and location.

"Outdoor design in 2025 is all about smart effort, maximum comfort (and) minimum upkeep," said Danny Niemela, co-owner and vice president of ArDan Construction in Scottsdale, Ariz. "People want their outdoor spaces to work for them without requiring constant maintenance or elaborate upgrades." Among the standout trends in 2025: fire features. One-third of experts say fire pits and similar amenities are top of mind for homeowners creating cozy, multifunctional outdoor areas. Portable propane fire tables, in particular, are gaining traction for offering ambiance and comfort without the commitment of a built-in structure.

Minimalist furniture, earthy tones define the aesthetic

As outdoor spaces become more integral to daily living, style is following suit. Fifty-eight percent of experts name minimalist

"The trend isn't about building a second house in your backyard anymore," said Frank Wickstead, owner and partner at Alair Buckhead. "We're seeing clients ditch massive hardscapes in favor of meaningful pockets — spaces that feel curated, not conquered."

Entertainment still matters, too: 27% of experts say outdoor zones designed for socializing — think movie nights, game tables or spa-inspired features — are among the most sought-after backyard additions.

The top overall trend? Creating a cohesive flow between indoor and outdoor spaces. More than half of experts (56%) say homeowners are looking to blend design elements across thresholds with features such as pocket sliding doors (a rising

trend named by 46%), matched materials and complementary color palettes.

Other highlights from the report include: Pizza ovens, now the most desired outdoor kitchen feature (50%); Swimming pools, leading outdoor entertainment amenities (40%); Durable, easy-care furnishings, gaining favor for their longevity (27%); Full outdoor living rooms, with sofas, throw pillows, and even TVs (23%); Wellness-centered areas, from yoga decks to plunge tubs (21%); Biophilic design, prioritizing greenery and a connection to nature (19%); and Smart technology integration, an emerging but growing interest.

Ultimately, the outdoor living space in 2025 is about more than just looks; it's about purpose, comfort and adaptability. Whether it's a fire pit under the stars, a modular lounge set for weekend gatherings or a quiet corner for wellness, homeowners are making the most of every square foot they have, inside and out. ■

Source: *Furniture Today*

Controllable designs and a move beyond the traditional aesthetic

As the casual furniture segment heads into 2025, manufacturers in USA are keeping an eye on what consumers want from their outdoor spaces, with a focus on utility and performance shaping both design approaches and material choices. Two industry leaders shared their perspectives on the trends shaping outdoor in 2025, and both said they see a continued move into modern.

Bew White, founder and executive chairman at Gabriella White's casual brand Summer Classics, said that his company is seeking to move beyond the traditional design aesthetic for which it's previously been known. "It's still a modern world, so most of what we're working on for 2025 is modern," he said. "But we are looking at architectural modern, not crazy modern. Some people are kind of getting crazy on design; they're trying to do modern, but really they're moving into contemporary. If you don't go back to your traditional roots, you'll make the mistake of going contemporary." White added that this translates into how Summer Classics is planning on curating products for next year.

"We're in the process of making our showrooms modern and taking the traditional out," he said. "Everybody knows we have (the traditional designs), so why would we show them? Let's just show people the new stuff."

Even with this renewed focus on modernity, Summer Classics is still looking to the past for inspiration, while at the same time, branching out into new mixed materials that can lend increased durability. "We're always looking at old furniture because everything comes back to something that's been done before," he noted. "And while we're looking at it increasing our teak business, we really want to move into more mixed materials like marine vinyl, resin wicker and aluminum."

Another designer-focused casual brand, Sunset West, is headed into 2025 with an eye on modernity. Vice President of Marketing



Aliena Klaus said that the company views its design approach as a key "controllable" in the face of uncertainty.

"We like focusing on controllable trends," she said. "We ask ourselves, 'What are we seeing, and what are we doing in response?' We're very much influenced by fashion, color, architectural trends, (in particular) the fashions in Europe, which take a little time to get to the US, first translating into indoor, then finally to outdoor."

With people spending more time in their outdoor spaces in the post-pandemic era, Klaus said that consumers want casual furniture to lend a sense of calm.

"Over the past few years, we've really seen a lot of clean, organic lines that reflect a desire for soft, organized modern design," she noted, adding that the "handcrafted" look of pieces made of materials like wound rope and resin wicker is a huge part of how Sunset West communicates its brand identity. "Not everything has to be perfect and alike," Klaus continued. "Natural lines, patina ... these things are coming back, elements that feel and look special, unique and lived-in. We're really focused on telling our handcrafted story in 2025." ■ *Source: Furniture Today*

Toppling furniture regulation approved by ACCC

Furniture suppliers are now required to provide safety warnings to consumers about the dangers of toppling furniture. The mandatory information standard for toppling furniture came into effect on 4 May 2025 after at least 28 people, including 17 children under five, have died in Australia from toppling furniture since 2000 and more than 900 Australians suffer injuries each year.

The new information standard applies to chests of drawers, wardrobes, bookcases, hall tables, display cabinets, buffets and

sideboards with a height of 686mm or more and entertainment units of any height. In line with these new Australian requirements, furniture retailer IKEA Australia has introduced fixed safety labelling to products that present a toppling risk including bookcases, chests of drawers, wardrobes and TV cabinets. "Permanent, visible labels are now attached to our products," says the retailer. "Suppliers face serious penalties for non-compliance, with penalties up to \$50 million for businesses and \$2.5 million for individuals." ■

Source: Giftguide Australia