

Delegation of Buying Agents Association (BAA) meet Hon'ble Union Minister for Textiles



A delegation of Buying Agents Association led by Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH, called on the Union Minister for Textiles, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani. Seen in the frame with the Hon'ble Minister are (LtoR): Ms. Christine Rai, CEO, Indian Inc.; Mr. P Vasudevan, Indian Merchandising Services; Mr. Rahul Khubchand, Partner, Indus Valley & Greenfields; Mr. S S Bhatnagar, Chairman, Sakshay International; Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, EPCH; Ms. Mandira Malik, CEO, Something Else; Mr. C S Unni, CEO, India Export Consultants; and Ms. Pooja Rautela, CEO, Flat World.

Furniture ranks 4th in 2017 U S manufacturing growth potential

employment in the sector expected to grow

Furniture is among the top US manufacturing sectors that should experience growth in 2017. That's according to the Institute of Supply Management's latest Report on Business survey. According to the report, 16 manufacturing industries will see increased revenue in 2017. Capital expenditures are expected to increase by 0.2% in the manufacturing sector, and manufacturing expects that its employment base will grow by 0.6%. The 16 manufacturing industries expecting revenue improvement in 2017 over 2016 - listed in order - are: printing and related support activities; textile mills; fabricated metal products; furniture and related products; electrical equipment, appliances and components; computer and electronic products; transportation equipment; miscellaneous manufacturing; petroleum and coal products; chemical products; primary metals; paper products; food, beverage and tobacco products; nonmetallic mineral products; plastics and rubber products; and machinery.

"Manufacturing purchasing and supply executives expect to see growth in 2017," said Bradley J. Holcomb, chair of the ISM Manufacturing Business Survey Committee. "They are

optimistic about their overall business prospects for the first half of 2017 and are slightly more optimistic about the second half of 2017." In the manufacturing sector, respondents report operating at 81.9% of their normal capacity, up 0.2 percentage point from the 81.7% reported in April 2016. Purchasing and supply executives predict that capital expenditures will increase by a modest 0.2% in 2017 over 2016, compared with the 7.3% increase reported for 2016 over 2015. Manufacturers have an expectation that employment in the sector will grow by 0.6% in 2017 relative to December 2016 levels, while labor and benefit costs are expected to increase an average of 2.5%. Respondents also expect the US dollar to strengthen against all seven currencies of major trading partners in 2017, as was the case in 2016. The panel predicts the prices paid for raw materials will increase by 0.9% during the first four months of 2017 and will increase an additional 0.4% during the balance of the year, with an overall increase of 1.3% for 2017. This compares to a reported 0.4% decrease in raw materials prices for 2016 compared with 2015. ■

Source: Furniture Today

Pantone announces Greenery as 2017 colour of the year

A refreshing and revitalizing shade, Greenery is symbolic of new beginnings. That's how Pantone describes the colour of the year for 2017. "Greenery bursts forth in 2017 to provide us with the reassurance we yearn for amid a tumultuous social and political environment," said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. "Satisfying our growing desire to rejuvenate and revitalize, Greenery symbolizes the reconnection we seek with nature, one another and a larger purpose."

In releasing its colour of the year, Pantone said that this yellow-green shade evokes the first days of spring when nature's greens revive. The colour suggests new and flourishing foliage, and it is what Pantone describes as "nature's neutral." This green is hopeful and optimistic, and like spring



signals the start of something new. It's fresh yet edgy - a refreshing new way of doing green. Pantone's Greenery, as displayed is paired with neutrals, brights, deeper shades, pastels and metallic. ■

Source: Furniture Today

Asian Handicrafts gets Haryana State Highest Export Award



Asian Handicrafts Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded 'Haryana State Highest Export Award' in the category of 'Handloom and Handicrafts' along with a Cash reward of Rs. 1 Lac. Mr. Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana felicitated Mr. Raj K Malhotra of Asian Handicrafts at a ceremony on 30th November, 2016 at HSIIDC Vanijya Nikunj Complex, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Rug category maintains position of growth

US Furniture retailers looking for a surefire area to grow business might want to consider investing in area rugs. Furniture Today estimates the category's 2016 sales at \$5 billion, up 4.2% from 2015's \$4.8 billion in sales. Once again, that rate of growth outstripped the home furnishings industry's growth rate as a whole, which FT estimates at a total of 2.4%.



Looking ahead a bit, the rug channel will continue its upward trajectory, climbing to \$6.24 billion by 2021, which represents a 30% spike in business. Over that same five-year time frame, the home furnishings industry is projected to grow by 19.8%. Additionally, while times are good now, they believe better days lay ahead in this fashion-forward home accessory category.

The year has been one notable for change for retailers who rebranded in 2016 and broke new ground. Celebrity power helped fuel growth in some channels, particularly those stars with a background in home décor. For instance, Loloi scored big in 2016 with its Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines introduction. Retailers ranging from Top 100 stores to flooring specialists reported amazing consumer demand.

While the rug category is on a hot streak, those in the business believe those tailwinds will continue into 2017 and beyond. Of note is there's no election on the horizon, meaning things will start to settle back down into a more consistent pattern. e-Commerce continues to be an important place for the rug category, particularly as big box powerhouses such as Walmart (which recently acquired Jet.com) add their muscle to the channel.

The anticipated trends include colour, colour and more color. The trend toward individualization will be big in 2017. Importance of self interpretation and personalization in home décor will assume even more importance. The need to deliver more flexible designs for ever-changing lifestyles will urge manufacturers to think about design and style hand-in-hand with function, performance and quality. ■ Source: Furniture Today

Old School to gets a mod twist

new looks echoing earlier eras to rule trends for 2017

Winter edition of Dallas Market Center, USA has announced NeoClassical, New Hollywood, Mid-Mod & Beyond, and The New Rad as the four top home and gift style trends for 2017. These conjure up past eras with a contemporary spin:

NeoClassical

A mix of antique and modern styles: unafraid to embrace a strong heritage of ornateness and formality, yet remaining unfussy in presentation. Design elements include rounded edges and bold bases. Surfaces include stone, smoky marble, gilding, and brushed metal. With Neoclassical, the key is accessible grandeur, not too pretentious.



Mid-Mod & Beyond

The midcentury look remains highly popular but the challenge is to add an element of surprise. Manufacturers can seek a new color palette to update the style: muted pastels in orange, pink, and aqua. The vibe is cinematic and retro cool. The look includes light woods, open shelves, and hefty textiles such as



wool and jacquard. Use a variety of materials, blending designs for a modern take on midcentury style.

New Hollywood



Just as movie royalty sashays down the red carpet, retailers can get ready for their close-ups with well-placed sparkle and glitz. Textures include silk, suede, fur and cashmere. Surfaces include chrome, copper, gold, lucite and onyx.

The New Rad

This important trend embraces the bold, bright, and anything-goes 1980's. It's playfully serious and pays homage to pop art and art deco. The



New Rad is not for the timid, yet it's not altogether off limits for more conventional tastes. Optics include color blocks, geometrics, black & white, and tipsy angles. ■

Source: Tableware International

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US homes under the Asian influence

From art and lighting to furniture, Asian looks pepper new design as India becomes specifically influential

Whether it's the consumers' desire for Zen or a touch of the exotic in their homes-or both-Asian culture has been gaining ground in home design. Scot Meacham Wood, interior designer and High Point Market Style Spotter, cited chinoiserie and Asian looks as prominently peppered throughout October market. Bold choices mean a bold impact. Asian-inspired patterns-in textiles, furniture details, and wall coverings were prominent. Echoing the trend in colours-these vignettes took chinoiserie patterns to the next level, feel designers.

While the Asian culture has been increasingly influencing design over the last decade, now these elements have led way to what is now a more subliminal reference to Eastern culture with bright pop art colours and less traditional detailing. With vibrant colours of Eastern culture with a twist of pop art. Koi, pagodas, ginger jars, umbrellas and Chinese ink brushes are among the many themes. The design world is becoming more global and Asia has become more influential in the design community feel many designers and add that India in particular has been specifically influential, as a country rich with artistic diversity and embellishments. There is

seemingly an unending supply of decorative themes coming out of the country and retailers are using these themes in smaller decorative accessories. This look is expected to develop into larger scale case goods and lighting.

Inspiration from Japan includes Japanese architecture and culture. For example, some items include the Marugoushi chandelier, which resembles the circular lattice and paper windows common in drawing rooms of many Japanese homes, and the dramatic Graduation Chandelier, a more than four foot tall fixture that took its inspiration from bento boxes and vintage indigo textiles. Designers feel, they can't think of a

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time in design when some Asian influence is not around. Since the West first began to 'discover' Asia, the many countries and cultures of this amazing continent have influenced design, from the sumptuous fantasy of chinoiserie to the simplest wooden altar table. With so much manufacturing for fashion home furnishings there now, designers are experiencing the culture that it has to have influenced their work as well as their own personal living spaces. ■

Source : HFN



Gen Z shops differently

Friends, bloggers and social influence purchasing decisions

The retail industry is experiencing a generational shift in consumers, and today's younger shoppers have a new approach to retail. According to a new survey conducted by retail advisory firm HRC Retail Advisory, Generation Z - children ages 10 to 17 - has become an increasingly important influencer of consumer spending with new shopping behaviors that focus on both malls and online shopping, and are heavily influenced by friends, bloggers and social media.

The survey found that malls are not dead, but are being shopped differently. While more than 60% of all survey respondents said they visit a mall or shopping center at least once a month, 72% of Generation Z respondents and millennial parents with kids say they do so. These shoppers go to the mall with a specific mission and in search of specific items. Generation Z shoppers also visit more stores.

The survey found that 22% of frequent teen visitors said their typical trip to a mall is more than 90 minutes and they visit, on average, four to five stores. Gift cards are high on wish lists among Generation Z shoppers. Among all study respondents with a preference, 62% would rather receive a gift card than an actual gift. Among Gen Z children, this number climbs to 69%, further proving their desire to make their own purchase decisions.

Generation Z has significant influence over household purchases. Among the more significant findings is that buying habits of all respondents, and particularly those of young shoppers, are heavily influenced by others. Gen Z shoppers tend not to be strongly influenced by celebrity endorsements from athletes, actors and singers. However, over 61% of their purchase decisions are most strongly influenced by

friends, with 13% being influenced by bloggers. ■
Source :
Home &
Textiles Today



Earthenware, stoneware & ceramics

enjoy 'comeback' among cookware

Good things come to those who wait. It's especially true in the kitchen, when classic winter dishes like stews, roasts, goulash and ragout to warm both body and soul.

Earthenware, stoneware and ceramic dishes work

especially well and are currently

enjoying a comeback to

the kitchen. As with so many kitchen and cuisine trends, preparing food in non-metallic vessels like earthenware pots or ceramic roasting pans is a link to tradition and artisan cooking, and to the good old-fashioned products and ingredients that older generations knew and loved. And as people increasingly buy regional and seasonal produce, they are inclined towards traditional wares for cooking, making the entire experience distinctive.

Cooking and baking in stone and earthenware dates back to the days when people prepared food over an open fire, or used thermal properties of clay by burying the ingredients in the earth to cook slowly. Even now, many regional cuisines maintain the tradition of slow, gentle cooking in pots and roasting dishes made from sand, clay, earth or ceramics. The North African tagine continues to be popular, as are the Turkish Güveç pot, the Indian tandoor and Spanish cazuela (although the latter is now mainly used to present typical dishes). Meat melts in your mouth, fish stays succulent, and vegetables retain their bite. Not only does this old-school cooking technique offer an alternative to the popular sous-vide method, but it's also bang on trend. ■ Source : HFN

