

## Space-saving cookware in demand

With kitchens smaller and one or two-person households increasing globally, demand for space-saving cookware solutions is on the up. According to market research figures from GfK, kitchens are smaller today with the number of one or two-person households growing rapidly around the globe. And, as a result, demand for kitchenware, including cookware that can be easily stored or stacked, is in demand. And the kitchenware brands are delivering on innovative and clever solutions.



"We seek out solutions for storing cookware," says Dr Stephen Schuster, WMF's Group VP brand marketing and product communication. "Our new cookware range WMF Compact Cuisine helps to save on space." This stackable pot range will be available in different set variations combining the broad range with all necessary items. With its mirror-finished optic and the stackability of the pots and lids, the range is an optimal space saver. The

pots are Made in Germany with high WMF quality standards including all known benefits. Claire Budgen, marketing manager for KitchenCraft, says elements of multi-functionality and space-saving attributes are important on-trend aesthetical features today. And these are evident in KitchenCraft's MasterClass Smart Space range, which comprises three pots, which stack inside each other, one lid which fits all pots and a detachable handle, offering "convenient all-in-one cook/serve/store capabilities," says Claire.



Cristel's Casteline Collection (think a layer of aluminium sandwiched between two layers of stainless steel, allowing heat to spread throughout, ideal for searing meat, even without oil) delivers pots and pans with removable handles and its recently-launched version with a removable walnut wood handle secured the Red Dot Design Award 2018. Owing to such success, the collection has expanded with two further wood handles, including olive and beech, adding softness, warmth and space-saving. ■

Source: *Kitchenware International*

## Tariff hike on List 3 temporarily delayed

The Home Fashion Products Association (HFPA), USA, issued an alert on the latest developments in tariffs on imports from China. Late on Friday, May 31, the US Trade Representative (USGTR) announced it would not boost 10% tariffs on List 3 products to 25% effective June 1, as had been originally planned. The new effective date is June 15. However, the delay only applies to products shipped from China prior to May 10, 2019. List 3 products include certain types of rugs and carpeting. The delay was enacted because of custom enforcement factors and transit time between China and the US. "HFPA members that have products affected by this delay should contact their customs broker regarding entries made the last 3 days and early this week, as the Customs electronic ACE system might have automatically charged the additional 15%. That increase should be removed by Customs but it might not happen automatically," wrote HPFA legal counsel Robert Leo. He also provided an update on proposed List 4 tariffs, which will impact all home textiles imports from China. ■ Source: *Home Textiles Today*

## Athleisure trend extends to women's bags as consumers seek more casual materials

The same casual athleisure trend that continues to drive growth in the active apparel and sport leisure footwear markets is starting to influence women's fashion accessories. For the second year in a row, sales of leather bags declined and nylon and other fabric options are now driving significant growth for the US women's bag market, according to The NPD Group. While leather still accounted for more than half of dollar sales in the women's bag market as of the 12 months ending March 2019, declines drove 60% of the category's losses. Vinyl accounted for another

20% of sales and 30% of the losses. Much smaller in terms of overall sales, nylon, polyester, and cotton options accounted for just 11% of all women's bag dollar sales but accounted for almost 90% of the growth this past year. Both established and emerging brands are promoting alternative materials, like 'vegan leather', neoprene, and recycled options that may be lighter in weight and easier to clean than leather options. These options can appeal to a consumer looking for day-to-day practicality, as well as those looking for sustainable options. ■ Source: *NPD*

# Enspire brings out eco-friendly alternative to traditional leather

UK based Sustainable Composites' Enspire Leather, is a new alternative to traditional leather that is made using 100% leather waste. "We have invented a new process which takes leather fibers and turns them into a leather product which can be used in making anything that is usually made using traditional leather," said Tom Tymon, co-founder of Sustainable Composites. He said since Enspire Leather is made using recycled leather, it doesn't require additional animals to be killed and reduces the amount of landfill. "Traditional leather has many imperfections which creates a lot more waste and makes leather more expensive," he said. "Enspire Leather is made in perfect rolls which cut down on waste and is a less expensive alternative. The rolls can easily be finished in a tannery, similar to traditional leather." According to the company, Enspire Leather can be finished precisely the same as traditional leather due to its composition and patented forming procedures. That means that the highly durable finishes often used in home furnishings are now available to be made with the new product. It

can also be customised with any choice of color, texture, and thickness. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, up to 75% of traditional leather waste is unused and is often disposed of by being sent to landfills or by incineration. It took five years of research and development for the company to create a product that would maximize the use of waste and material utilization, use environmentally favorable processing, and provide products that deliver the utility, functionality and luxury that manufacturers and consumers expect from high-quality leather, according to Tymon. ■ *Source: Furniture Today*



## Melrose International Collaborates With Adama

### Market distribution partnership to help retailers expand their offering

Melrose International, wholesale supplier of home, holiday and giftable décor, is forming a market distribution partnership with Adama LLC, sister company to Adama-Alma S.L. ("Adama") of Barcelona, Spain. Adama manufactures vinyl rugs, tableware and wall art abroad in Spain and domestically in a Georgia facility. "The products Adama offers compliment the Melrose collections so well that a partnership of this nature made perfect sense," said Brad Gullion, vice president of sales and marketing for Melrose. "The addition of these complementary décor products is a way for many retailers to expand their offerings to the end consumer without a need to order wholesale elsewhere."



Adama's products are designed to coordinate with the cornerstones of modern design trends and are made of high-durability vinyl covered by a polyester "fabric fiber" top layer. This pairing of materials lends itself to be a durable, distinguishing factor among other similar products. "We believe that beauty has the ability to add soul and value to people's lives," said Iris Lavi, owner of Adama. "Established in Barcelona, Spain, Adama brings an original design concept to dress up interior spaces with elegance and style. Our wide selection of products is inspired by authentic, vintage and contemporary tiles, while having functionality in mind."

The Melrose Home & Garden showroom at AmericasMart, which held a grand opening during the January market, will feature a dedicated showcase of Adama product paired with Melrose's premier collections for the 2020 home and garden season. Additional Adama home décor product will be featured at each Melrose showroom in Dallas, Las Vegas and Minneapolis. "We are very excited to partner with Melrose here in the U.S., as both companies serve home decor customers with [an] eye for aesthetics and appreciation for high-quality designs and products," Lavi added. Headquartered in Quincy, IL, Melrose International has been a producer of home décor, giftware, and seasonal items since 1985. ■

*Source: Gifts & Decoratives*