

Smart Homes

One quarter of millennials have begun building one

Millennials are on the road to building smarter homes. According to The NPD Group Connected Intelligence Home Automation Advisory Service, Millennials are twice as likely as the total population to have a smart home product installed in their residence. The array of smart home products evaluated include network connected security and monitoring devices, sensors, system controllers, smart lighting, power, and appliances. One-in-four Millennials (23 percent) already installed at least one of these products in their homes, compared to 12 percent of the total population. Millennials will continue to drive the growth in this market as four-in-ten (41 percent) of this age group are already aware of and interested in owning smart home products.



A key factor that is driving this early growth is that the smart home market is no longer just for home owners. Renters are as likely as home owners to have smart home products installed, and are three times more likely to be part of the millennial age group. More than a third of renters are between the ages of 18-34. Today's smart home products no longer require professional installation and ongoing subscriptions, many are now plug-and-play options. The product mix such as smart cameras, lights, and plugs, fits the lifestyle of both home owners and renters which opens up a larger, younger and more tech-savvy consumer market. ■ *Source: NPD*

Terracotta Trend

picking pace for its warmth tone, colour and texture

The Terracotta trend is catching up not just as a colour option, but also in its natural, unadorned form. In fact one is currently seeing it used in the design and construction of a variety of different products, such as small furniture pieces, homewares and accessories. Terracotta's rich, red-based orange with brown undertones imparts a friendliness and welcoming attitude. Its natural rawness lends an added element of sophistication and luxury. This type of fired clay invites a natural connection that creates cosy and comforting warmth within a space. Much like the colour red; the orange base is also said to stimulate appetite and is therefore the perfect shade for use in dining rooms and restaurants.

Terracotta tones are really proving a popular choice in furniture and homewares design. With so many beautiful Terracotta products available from designers all over the world, the next step in decorating is in deciding what the boldly-coloured material should be paired back with. When decorating with Terracotta there are many paths one can take: think amethyst purple, cooled off with grey blue and sulphur yellow highlights or, if a neutral palette is more one's thing, look to natural woods with faux furs, dark accents, cool greys and hints of marble.

It's clear why Terracotta is trending, why it has come back with such a strong presence and why it has endured since ancient times. Its distinct colour and warmth make it perfect for beautiful decorative pieces and occasional furniture and its

flexibility means it's available in many different forms. Like the hugely popular materials of copper, brass and marble, Terracotta is here to stay. ■ *Source: the home journal*

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Ergonomic Furniture

sees accelerated demand to match rising health concerns

The statistics are alarming: Lower back pain is an issue for 33% of ages 55 to 64; Neck pain is a reality for 19% of those between 45 and 54; Migraine headaches are a problem for 18% of ages 25 to 44; Heart disease is an issue for 26% between ages 65 and 74. As we're living longer, our desire for healthier living has never been stronger. The prevalence of home juicer appliances to extract vitamins and nutrients from fruits and vegetables, the First Lady's "Let's Move!" campaign to help solve childhood obesity and the mainstreaming of yoga to an estimated 15 million U.S. participants help illustrate the health movement.

One way the furniture industry has replied to such health needs is through ergo and zero-gravity seating. The term ergonomics derives from the Greek word *ergon*, meaning work. According to Meriam-Webster, ergonomics is "an applied science concerned with designing and arranging things people use so that the people and things interact most efficiently and safely." Comfort and functional design are married to enhance a user's experience.

With zero-gravity seating, a person's feet are elevated to the same level as the heart. This has the effect of minimizing the strain of gravity on the spine and vertebrae to relieve back pain, tension and stress. Circulation is also improved, which benefits the heart and promotes leg circulation. ■

Source: *Furniture Today*



Rugs & Flooring

World demand to rise nearly 5% annually through 2018

Through 2018, global demand for floor coverings is forecast to grow to over 19 billion square meters on annual gains of nearly five percent, an improvement from the rate of the 2008-2013 period. In value terms, flooring and carpet demand is forecast to rise over seven percent annually to \$325 billion in 2018. Expected rebounds in housing construction in higher-income countries, including the US and some in Western Europe, will boost floor covering demand. In less developed countries, flooring and carpet demand will benefit from continued strong growth in building construction activity and rising per capita incomes that will allow households to purchase more expensive floor coverings. In addition, increasing motor vehicle production in many areas will boost demand for flooring and carpets.

Overall, the most rapid demand growth through 2018 is projected for North America. An expected housing market recovery in the US will be the primary driver of demand in this region, with demand for floor coverings in residential buildings forecast to rise more than seven percent per year through 2018. The Asia/ Pacific region is expected to register the second fastest advances in floor covering demand through 2018. ■ Source: *PR Newswire*

Cross Pollination at BBB

Bed Bath & Beyond leverages nameplates in stores, online

Bed Bath & Beyond will cross-pollinate more of its stores with merchandise from its various nameplates this year. Nearly 200 locations now carry specialty departments featuring gourmet food and beverage (leveraging its World Market format), health and beauty care (the core competency at Harmon Discount) or baby (the *métier* of buybuy Baby). Another 15 BBB stores will add at least one specialty department this year, executives said during its conference call with investors.

Bed Bath & Beyond is known for revealing as little as possible in such sessions and for taking no questions during its calls. Most of the remarks from ceo Steven Temares focused on covering previously announced omni-channel initiatives and category extensions. Recent moves include: Introducing Studio 3b by Kyle Schuneman, an exclusive line of bedding, décor and furniture pieces created for urban apartment dwellers and small space living; Launching the Lady Antebellum bedding collection, also an exclusive; Expanding bedding and home décor skus online; Launching a full line of brand name mattresses as well as outdoor furniture online earlier this year; Adding an express checkout feature in concert with PayPal to its ecommerce operation and offering the ability to ship items from one order to more than one address; Opening a Las Vegas customer service center to help support the work of a similar center on the East Coast. The company is also scouting additional sites. Bed Bath & Beyond's performance during the first quarter was in the range of its guidance, although it fell just shy of many analyst projections. ■ Source: *Casual Living*

Indian container volume builds as Nhava Sheva congestion eases

The volume of containers shipped via publicly-owned major ports in India expanded 4.3% year-over-year in April and May, the first two fiscal months, according to provisional port statistics collected by JOC.com. Container-handling in the two-month period reached 1.33 million 20-foot-equivalent units, up from 1.28 million TEUs a year earlier, according to the latest figures. Containerized cargo tonnage during April-May was up 3%, at 20.4 million tons.

The data showed JNPT, or Nhava Sheva, increased container throughput by 4% from a year ago, to 747,000 TEUs, helped by a combination of equipment upgrades and truck traffic improvement measures. JNPT handles roughly 60% of total container cargo moving through India's 12 major ports and about 40 percent of overall container traffic in India. Volumes via the three terminals in Nhava Sheva rose 7.5% last fiscal year, which ran from April 2014 to March 2015, compared to the same period in 2013-14, reaching an all-time yearly high of 4.47 million TEUs.

Congestion or sluggish terminal productivity and capacity constraints on rail and highway corridors are hurting JNPT's long term growth prospects. Looking ahead and to ease growing pressure on the Nhava Sheva terminals, the government unveiled a plan to build a new deep-water satellite port in Dahanu, about 80 nautical miles from Nhava Sheva, with public and private investments. Construction on the Rs. 6,000 crore (\$936 million) project would begin toward the year end.

According to the collected data, the number of containers handled at the Chennai port in April and May rose 6.3% to 268,000 TEUs from 251,000 TEUs in the corresponding months last year. Other smaller container ports, such as Tuticorin, Kolkata and Cochin, also posted improved container volumes in the same two-month period year-over-year. Tuticorin's volume climbed 9% to 98,000 TEUs; Kolkata handled 96,000 TEUs, up from 93,000 TEUs; and Cochin reported moving 61,000 TEUs, compared with 58,000 TEUs. The data showed total cargo tonnage at the 12 major ports grew 5.3% to 101 million tons. Kandla led the pack with a throughput of 16 million tons, followed by Paradip, at 12 million tons; JNPT, at 11.2 million tons; Mumbai, at 10.7 million tons; Chennai, at 9 million tons; and Visakhapatnam, at 8.9 million tons.

Mundra's container volumes jumped 14% year-over-year, and the private operator is looking to rack up 3.5 million TEUs in the current fiscal year. The port has seen considerable increase in rail-bound cargo, including a rise in the handling of double-stack containers. Mundra has also attracted transshipment cargo from Pakistan, Africa and the Persian Gulf, giving the shipping lines an option to 'hub' the cargo. ■

Source: www.joc.com

Intl. Airport at Greater Noida Civil Aviation Ministry clears proposal

The civil aviation ministry has cleared a proposal for a second international airport in Delhi-NCR that is likely to be built at Jewar in Greater Noida. The new airport, according to the ministry needs 2,200 acres of land and will take around three to four years to build. The proposal was cleared at a meeting attended by officials from the ministry officials, Airports Authority of India, and other senior bureaucrats. It now needs the Cabinet's approval to be taken forward.



The Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority has also proposed to extend the Noida Metro line from Greater Noida to Jewar, a 48km corridor that needs an investment of Rs. 2,000 crore.

Jewar is around 100km from Delhi and was pitched as a site for an international airport when Ms. Mayawati was chief minister of UP. Over 2,000 acres of land was also acquired for the airport before the the successive government binned the idea in 2012. But Gautambudh Nagar MP, Mr. Mahesh Sharma revived the Jewar project last year after he took charge as Minister of State for Civil Aviation.

The majority stakeholder in Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) that operates the IGI — will be approached first to build the Jewar airport. The proposal (for the second airport) will soon be sent to the Cabinet for approval. GMR group is proposed to be accorded the right of first refusal with regard to the new project. It will have the first right to develop the project, if interested, before any other entity. The minister also said the government will amend a rule that doesn't allow airports within 150km of each other. "Unless an existing airport is functioning beyond its operational capacity, existing rules do not allow a second airport to come up within a 150km radius of an existing one. For the new project, the government will be required to amend certain regulations," Mr. Mahesh Sharma said. ■

Source: TOI