



B&B Italia chairman Giorgio Busnelli is flanked by BSC Industries executive director Jenny Lau and chairman William Lau.



Italian flair comes to town

Ivy Ong-Wood

CLOURLIVING, THE RETAIL arm of BSC Industries, recently unveiled B&B Italia's first flagship store in Wan Chai. The Italian brand is known for its contemporary and timeless collections, which are developed with internationally renowned architects and designers as well as its in-house team.

The interior of the flagship store is based on B&B Italia's store concept by architect Antonio Citterio. It recalls the ambience of B&B Italia's headquarters in Novedrate, Como. There are multiple areas to showcase the different styles – ranging from the minimalist to the decorative, but always with an accent on contemporary living.

The highlight of the flagship collection is the new-to-Hong Kong Backstage walk-in closet and wardrobe, designed by Citterio.

Full-height doors and dra-

matic lighting create a sense of privacy and the concept is reminiscent of a theater dressing room. Available through Colourliving's design-and-build service, the closets and wardrobes are all tailor-made, with a diverse selection of accessories and fittings to choose from.

Also presented in the 3,700-square-foot space are a wide range of signature beds, sofas, armchairs, wall systems and home accessories.

One best-selling bed is the all-leather Alys, designed by Gabriele and Oscar Buratti for B&B Italia. A padded headboard provides a comfortable backing to sit up and read in bed. The entire structure is designed to be low, to give the sleeper a feeling of being suspended in mid-air.

The sofas have been designed with a wide extension to embrace comfort while ensuring ergonomic support.

Contemporary sofa collections at the new store include the classic Tufty-time 15' and Bend-Sofa by Patricia Ulepola, as well as the Richard sofa, by Citterio. Tufty-time 15' is inspired by Chesterfield types of sofas, in particular the new interpretations made in the 1960s and '70s. The conventional modular system starts with an ottoman as the basic piece, which is then accompanied by central, corner and terminal elements with a low or high armrest, offering 360-degree seating.

Although inspired by the past, the sofa has all the elements of modern living: modular elements, comfort and removable covers.

The store also houses outdoor collections. The Gio, designed by Citterio for B&B Italia in 2016, is a contemporary classic.

With a basic structure of wooden slats, all the padded elements of the sofa have a polyester cover with water repellent treatment, comprising of materials that allow water to drain through for better insulation from the weather. The fabrics are all certified for resistance to weathering.

B&B Italia chairman Giorgio Busnelli said: "The new flagship marks a milestone in our partnership with Colourliving. Colourliving provides not only the top notch B&B Italia collections, but also a holistic service, sharing with clients the latest views on home living trends. We are excited to continue spreading B&B Italia's forward-thinking approach, with further expansion plans through future openings in Asia Pacific."

Where: 31 F, China Online Centre, 333 Lockhart Road, Wan Chai
ivyoung@singtaonewscorp.com

Scandi noir on tape

Ivy Ong-Wood

FANS OF SCANDINAVIAN style will definitely need to check out the new tableware from Finnish brand Marimekko's spring/summer 2017 home collection.

The table-setting range is the product of a collaboration between designers Carina Seth Andersson, designer of the year at Elle Decoration Swedish Design Awards 2017 and Sami Ruotsalainen, designer of Marimekko's Oiva tableware.

Seth Andersson is known for her minimalist glass and ceramic works that are decorated with subtle details.

Her works have been exhibited in galleries and museums in New York, Washington, Paris, Amsterdam, Milan, London, Berlin, Helsinki, Stockholm, Tokyo and Osaka. Some are part of the permanent collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and Designmuseum Denmark in Copenhagen.

For the Swede, the design process is all about "scaling down, finding the balance between simplicity and carefully thought-out details."

She designed her



first prints and vases for Marimekko for the spring/summer 2016 home collection. What she finds most fascinating about Marimekko's collection is the interplay between organic forms and nature architectural patterns.

She has also designed for other Finnish brands such as Iittala and Hakkola.

This season, she interpreted Marimekko's design language in the form of two prints: Hortensie and Spalje.

She created the prints by hand, carefully placing tape on white paper in different ways.

Then she gave Ruotsalainen free rein to place the prints on his designs so that the prints complement the form, and vice versa. The prints continue over the edges of the pieces: inside cups and on to the underside of plates.

The collection includes printed fabrics, kitchen textiles and tableware items that were inspired by the contrast between organic and geometric forms seen in the urban environment.
ivyoung@singtaonewscorp.com



Carina Seth Andersson collaborates with Sami Ruotsalainen to produce the Hortensie and Spalje tableware collection.



Warm fuzzy feeling

DON'T RUB YOUR eyes. Yes, that new rug from Tai Ping Carpets is really blurred. Aptly named the Blur collection, these hand-knotted rugs include eight designs and four variations.

The rugs are made blending Nepalese craftsmanship, rich materials such as wool, silk, cashmere and mohair, and effects inspired by vintage photos. Using up to 150 knots per square inch, with pile that ranges from three to 10 millimeters, each rug is hand-made to order.

"The collection allowed us to experiment with graphic techniques that were unprecedented for us," says design director Juliana Polastri.

"While utilizing standard counts of just 100 to 150 knots, we opted for an ambitious approach of multiple dying lots to achieve the maximum number of shades of each color"

Website: houseoftaijing.com
ivyoung@singtaonewscorp.com

