Publication: Furnishing
Country: Australia
Date/Issue: Oct/Nov 2007

Coming Soon

If you haven't booked to visit the European shows it may be too late with air travel already heavily subscribed. These events are some of the 'must see' of the year with Frankfurt's Heimtextil (**www.heimtextil.messefrankfurt.com**) kicking off the season 9-12 January followed by imm-Cologne (**www.imm-cologne.com**) from 14-20 January. This is quickly followed by the two events in Paris, Maison et Objet and Meuble Paris 24-28 January **(www.meuble-paris.net)**

Birmingham Interiors is a great event for anyone wanting to tap into the extensive UK market. It attracts visitors from around the country and from Europe. Held 20-23 January at the height of the European show season (**www.interiors.cmp-info.com** for more information).

For those planning to visit Interior Lifestyle USA in 2008, this has now been cancelled due to a scheduling clash.

The Spring Market in Las Vegas will see further expansion of the facilities in what is billed to be the largest furnishing exhibition centre in the world. Building C will open in 2008 and further buildings are planned over the next 10 years. Dates 28 January to 1 February (**www.lasvegasmarket.com**).

Our own Australian International Furniture Fair is on in Sydney's Darling Harbour from 6-8 February 2008. The event will showcase the latest in furniture and furnishing designs, with more than 250 exhibitors displaying their products across 15,000 square metres of exhibition space.

NEW in 2008, will be the Hotel and Hospitality Showcase and the Health and Aged Care Showcase, both featuring the latest furniture specifically targeting these markets. The Edge – Design & Innovation Showcase will again be a highlight of the show along with the Seminar Series and Decoration + Design. (**www.aiff.net.au** or **www.decorationdesign.com.au**).

Date change for Singapore

Catch your breath before heading to Asia for the premier events Singapore International Furniture Fair (IFFS) and Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF). As five shows are now being managed under the ASEAN Furniture Industries Council (AFIC) to offer one seamless circuit for visitors.

There will be a date change for Singapore in 2008 which will now be held over four days from 9 to 12 March 2008. The new dates will facilitate travel arrangements for industry players who wish to attend various shows in Asia. The show will occupy 70,000 square metres spread over seven halls at the Singapore Expo, making it the biggest in the show's 25-year history. (**www.iffs.com.sg**).

This means that those attending the MIFF from 4-8 March (**www.miff.com.my**) can then head south and enjoy the exhibits in Singapore. MIFF claims that as one of the top ten global furniture fairs, it will be back, bigger and better for 2008! At two major venues - Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) and the MATRADE Exhibition and Convention Centre (MECC) in total the show will cover over 80,000 sqm. The fair will showcase a comprehensive selection of new products, designs, styles and concepts from over 450 companies.

Moving to March as well will be CebuX in the Philippines renowned for its unique products and designs as well ingenuity and excellent craftsmanship. Held at Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino from 6-9 March.

At the same time the Philippine International Furniture Show will be on at the SM X Convention Centre from 5-8 March where exciting design concepts and the use of natural and man-made fibres evolve out of the rich local culture. Again well designed and quality furniture in tune with new design directions and material innovations.

Then it's on to Indonesia from 7-11 March for the inaugural International Furniture and Craft Fair where the organisers are keen to present the best that is unique to Indonesia; quality products at reasonable prices.

Finally Thailand offers the latest design trends, materials, innovation and technology in interior and furniture design in 40,000 sqm of exhibition space at the IMPACT Exhibition Centre in Bangkok from 12-16 March. (for websites see advertisements on page 5).

Other Asian fairs include China's Shenzhen International Furniture Exhibition (**www.chinafurnitureexpo.com/en/index.asp**) scheduled from 19-22 March 2008, according to the show's web site. On going to press, the March dates were not available for the China International Furniture Fair in Guangzhou (**www.eventseye.com/fairs/trade_fair_event_5994.html**) and the 19th International Famous Furniture Fair in Dongguan (**www.3f.net.cn/e/index.asp**). However, they are expected to be at the same time as Shenzhen.

New Middle East show

One of the cities growing at an astonishing rate in the Middle East is Abu Dhabi with many hundreds of major building projects planned every year. As a result, Interiors UAE, a brand new event for the interiors industry, will take place from 30 March – 2 April 2008. Showcasing a diverse product mix, the event will bring interiors to the forefront and focus on the increasing business opportunities in the region.

Interiors UAE is targeting a contract and retail exhibitor base of 250 – 300 clients, made up of 30% domestic and 70% international, taking 9,000 net square metres of exhibition space. Increasing numbers of businesses and corporations are realising the benefits of being involved in the city and are taking advantage of its free trade environment. (**www.interiorsuae.com**) FI