



## Textravagant

Before 1999 Lee Menichella was one unhappy man when it came to the range of outdoor textiles available on the market. In his mind, they were stale and coarsely textured. Then came that fateful day when, as the head of the hospitality sales arm of (indoor) luxury textiles purveyor Cowtan & Tout for Los Angeles and Las Vegas, he brushed shoulders with Scott Bodenner, a well-connected textiles fabric designer. Just before the turn of the century, the two men founded Chella and gave the outdoor textile – and outdoor living spaces generally – a new lease of life. Eight years later, Menichella continues to turn out often eccentric and logic-defying solution-dyed acrylic fabrics that keep designers and homeowners hooked. However au courant his wares are though, Menichella shuns the use of up-to-the-minute weaving technologies, insisting instead on time-tested, centuries-old mills in Europe and America. Unquestionably, Chella's most recent collection Back To Neutral proves that the extra time and energy expended in doing it the old-fashioned way pays handsomely. Consider Plush Velvet, an Italy-produced solution dyed velvet that adeptly combines Italian heritage weaving techniques with Chella's own finishing process; or Luxe Boucle, a woven boucle made soft with Chella's secret finishing process; or Lateral, a vertical check weave textile engineered from 100% recycled, post-industrial fibre. As Menichella would say, the possibilities are simply endless. [www.chellatextiles.com](http://www.chellatextiles.com)



## Aussie Chills

Australia's presence in Hong Kong doesn't just come down to great beef and Shiraz. The country has also made a lower profile but arguably more significant contribution to the city by helping it curb its environmentally destructive ways. One Aussie import Enacon Holdings Pty comes particularly handy in a place that relies almost too heavily on air conditioning. Enacon peddles PermaFrost, a patented solution that steps up the efficiency of AC or refrigeration systems without needing to tweak the unit. Unlike other technologies in the field, PermaFrost focuses directly on the refrigerant circuit rather than the external components. The technology, furthermore, compliments and boosts other energy-saving solutions that may already be in use in one's HVAC. According to the firm, PermaFrost results in energy savings of up to 34 percent, reduced runtime and extended equipment lifetime. PermaFrost is currently keeping things responsibly chilled in the Excelsior Hotel, Manulife Building, and the China Ferry Terminal. For more information, contact the Australian Trade Commission. Tel (852) 2588 5310 [www.enaconint.com.au](http://www.enaconint.com.au)



## Nicely Handled

If you went wrong with your choice of front door, don't make a bad decision worse by selecting the wrong door handle. In other words, dial up Yale and get yourself a devastatingly stylish but brutally secure door handle/lockset. The international locks purveyor recently disclosed the Yale M870 series, a solid brass handleset with a patented push button design and integrated ANSI grade 2 stainless steel mortise lock case. It also features a patented anti-panic function whereby the turning of the interior knob causes both the latchbolt and deadbolt to retract while the exterior push button remains locked. Exterior surfaces are coated in high quality PVD finish to fend off corrosion and any other unsightly wear-and-tear effects. Of the many M870 varieties is the D Handleset, a design whose angular properties are inspired by Norman Foster's HSBC tower in Hong Kong. This and other Yale products are available at hardware stores throughout Hong Kong. Lock up. [www.yalelock.com](http://www.yalelock.com)

## Top Dog

Another year, another interior design prize for Hirsch Bedner Associates (HBA). The esteemed hospitality design firm was in fact crowned Designer of the Year by the International Hotel/Motel & Restaurant Show last month. According to IH/M&RS Show manager Christian Falkenberg, the 43-year-old Santa Monica practice was "selected for its attention to the needs and trends of today's sophisticated world traveller. The firm combines a detailed knowledge of design with a depth of experience that enables its associates to identify interior design trends at the source, make predictions about new directions and innovations and influence design standards at a global level." On receiving the honours, HBA CEO Michael Bedner (pictured) noted that, "For nearly half a century, our design professionals have been guided by the HBA philosophy of creating a 'sense of place', a well-designed and integrated package of fantasy, drama and creature comfort." This latest mark of distinction adds to a towering pile of accolades for HBA. The firm currently holds the number one spot on Interior Design Magazine's 'Top 10 List in Hospitality Design'. It's hard to see how things for HBA could possibly be better. [www.hbadesign.com](http://www.hbadesign.com)

