

**HOME GROWN AND STRONGER THAN EVER:
Australian Made exhibitors flock to Furnitex 2009**

The number of Australian Made furniture companies at Furnitex 2009 will be the highest recorded in seven years, with over 50 local manufacturers already confirmed for this year's Trade Fair. Held from 16 – 19 July 2009 at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, with the co-located DECORATION + DESIGN Melbourne, this year's Fair will see the largest ever showcase of Australian manufacturers.

Whilst the furniture industry, like most other industries, has seen a recent contraction, the FIAA remain extremely positive about opportunities in the Australian market.

"The value of the Australian dollar has made locally made furniture very price competitive," said David Connolly, Exhibition Director, Furnitex. "Buying Australian-made product provides retailers and consumers peace of mind. Local furniture is of exceptional quality, and comes with extended warranties.

Retailers can choose local manufacturers who allow them to place orders based on what's happening at store level. They are able to choose from extensive finishes, fabrics and sizes, with the flexibility of customisation".

Returning to the 2009 Fair is **Colby Furniture**, awarded Manufacturer of the Year at Furnitex 2007. Offering a diverse range of both traditional and contemporary furniture, Colby are favoured by architects and interior decorators nationwide as well as in countries ranging from Britain to Singapore. Colby's 2009 collection will reference a return to classicism, environmental consciousness, and the latest colour trends.

Furnitex is also delighted to welcome back **Silver Lynx**, winner of the 2007 Excellence in Design and Manufacture, Best Dining Furniture Award at the FIAA Vic/Tas Inc Furnitex Gala Dinner. 100% Australian owned and operated, Silver Lynx have received multiple accolades for their bedroom, occasional and dining furniture.

Melbourne-based exhibitor **Molmic**, whose portfolio includes projects for high end hotels Novotel and Mercure, will celebrate their 10th Furnitex and will again be exhibiting their award-winning designs. With a range that spans classical, contemporary and vintage, every detail of each couch is hand-crafted at the company's Melbourne plant.

Visitors to FURNITEX will also have the opportunity to see prestigious furniture design competition **VIVID** – Vibrant Visions In Design. This year 45 of Australia's most forward-thinking young designers have entered more than 100 pieces of furniture in Commercial, Concept, Student and Green categories.

Another not-to-be missed highlight will be the **International Industry Seminar Series**. Three international speakers have been confirmed, including Paul Simmons of textile label Timorous Beasties (UK), Mark Woodman of Mark Woodman Design and Color (USA), and back by popular demand is Milou Ket of Milou Ket Styling and Design (NL).

This year FURNITEX and DECORATION + DESIGN Melbourne is a key satellite event of the State of Design Festival (15-25 July).

What: FURNITEX 2009 and DECORATION + DESIGN Melbourne

Where: Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Southbank

When:

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| Thursday | 16 July | 9am – 5pm |
| Friday | 17 July | 9am – 5pm |
| Saturday | 18 July | 10am – 5pm |
| Sunday | 19 July | 10am – 5pm |

Event organiser: Australian Exhibitions and Conferences Pty Ltd

Exhibitor information: Contact AEC, tel 03 9654 7773 or furnitex@aec.net.au

Web: www.furnitex.com.au or www.decorationdesign.com.au

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