The Ardent family has built a very successful business in the Northeast, with five wholesale locations and four showrooms. Members of the second, third and fourth generation of the family are currently involved with Ardent Supply and the WaterSpot showrooms. Read much more on page 62.

Conbraco adds to Apollo brand

Matthews, N.C. — Conbraco Industries Inc. introduces the most recent addition to its Apollo® brand: Apollo® Fire Protection System Solutions (FPSS). The fire protection fittings were previously sold through Elkay Products Corporation. Both Conbraco Industries Inc. and Elkay Products Corporation are Aalberts Industries companies.

HD Supply sells Industrial PVF business

San Diego — HD Supply announced March 12 that it entered into a definitive agreement to sell its Industrial PVF business to Shale-Inland Holdings LLC, an affiliate of investment firms TowerBrook Capital Partners LP and The Stephens Group, LLC. The transaction closed last month, subject to obtaining customary approvals.

“After careful evaluation, we determined that divesting our Industrial PVF business is in the best interests of our company as we seek to continue strengthening our industry-leading businesses,” said Joe DeAngelo, CEO of HD Supply. “The Industrial PVF team, with the expertise of its many seasoned industry veterans, has done a tremendous job and they can be proud that this new chapter is the result of the momentum they have built and the success of their initiatives.”

NKBA reveals K/B trends for 2012

Hackettstown, N.J. — More than 350 National Kitchen & Bath Association member designers took part in the 2012 NKBA Design Trends Survey to cite the materials, product types and styles that they’ve incorporated into their kitchen and bath designs over the final three months of 2011. While broad trends won’t be evident in every local market, the following are 10 overall trends for kitchens and baths across the United States and Canada.

(Turn to Kitchen-bath... page 78.)

(Turn to Apollo... page 55.)
Hues in the Home

Color Trends 2012

In step with style: Provocative tangerine tango

BY LINDA JENNINGS
Showroom specialist

Uplifting and energizing, it’s no surprise that kitchen and bath showrooms and the design community as a whole are quickly embracing Tangerine Tango, Pantone’s 2012 Color of the Year. According to a report released by the Associated Press, “the world doesn’t need more gray, and the blues are covered, too. What consumer products need is a jolt, a shot of energy and boldness, all of which comes from Tangerine Tango, the reddish-orange hue that Pantone announced as its top color for 2012.”

Over the past several years, orange has grown in popularity and acceptance among designers and consumers. A provocative attention-getter, Tangerine Tango is appealing in not only fashion and home décor but also making its way into luxury kitchens and baths.

“Color can be a mood lifter, which is why we chose Tangerine Tango,” said Loretta Eiseem, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. “We thought that would be the perfect color, the one that will get people’s attention.”

Sophisticated but at the same time dramatic and seductive, Tangerine Tango is already appearing in plumbing and decorative hardware showrooms as well as high-end homes and even hotels. Victoria + Albert’s free-standing tubs, while regal in white, become fabulously glamorous when painted in this luscious color. The freestanding tub has always been the centerpiece of the bath, and for today’s consumer looking to add vibrant style, Victoria + Albert’s tubs allow custom painting of their exteriors.

Victoria + Albert’s freestanding tubs become fabulously glamorous when painted tangerine.

The tubs are made from eco-friendly English Cast iron, having a smooth exterior surface easy to decorate using either oil or water based paints. And when it comes to custom decorating Tangerine Tango is hands-down this year’s color of choice.

Pyroclave countertop surfaces can be ordered in similar radiant sunset shades, adding impact and exotic flair to any décor. From residential and commercial kitchens to bathrooms, tabletops, swimming pools, fireplace facades and outdoor living spaces, the glazed lava stone surfaces are perfectly at home in contemporary or traditional settings.

While the striking good looks of Pyroclave speak for themselves, the engineering process goes deep beneath the surface. Volcanic lava stone is extracted from the heart of volcanic craters in Auvergne, France. Blocks of stone are mined and then cut into slabs, imbued with gloriously-hued enamels and fired at temperatures exceeding 1000° C. The finished masterpiece can withstand almost anything – high temperatures, acids, corrosive products – making these surfaces as durable as they are visually captivating.

Orange-hued patterns are also capturing attention, particularly in unlikely spaces. KOHLER’s Ipanema bathroom sink features oversized patterns and mini-prints in vivid, contrasting colors, pieced together eclectically, taking inspiration from some of the most hip fashion trends of today. Part of the Top Art Collection and named for the popular beach in Rio de Janeiro, the Ipanema infuses both positive energy and playfulness into its surroundings and naturally lends itself to coordinating orange accessories.

For a pop of color in the bath, Decolav’s insanely vivid 2806 Magma Lavatory Sink from its In-candescence Collection does not disappoint. Crafted from resin, this designer lavatory is not only durable, but extremely easy to care for. The uniqueness of this sink is its ability to be used as both an above counter vessel or a semi-recessed lavatory.

Decolav’s vivid 2806 resin Magma Lavatory Sink from the In-candescence Collection can be used as both an above counter vessel or a semi-recessed lavatory.

AquaBrass Lady Chef orange retro colored spirals.

Get the Look!
For more information on the trends mentioned here go to:

Atlas Homewares
800-799-6755
www.atlasmomewares.com

Pyroclave USA
919-788-8953
www.pyroclave.com

Victoria + Albert
800-421-7189
www.vandabaths.com

Decolav
561-274-2110
www.decolav.com

AquaBrass
514-381-4141
www.aquabrass.com

* Be sure to visit www.thewholesaler.com for web exclusive articles and videos!