MSC Holdings, Inc. acquires Wholesale Specialties Inc.

FORT WORTH, TEXAS — MSC Holdings, Inc., parent company to Morrison Supply Company, Express Pipe & Supply and Farnsworth Wholesale Company, and a leading wholesale distributor of plumbing and builder products throughout the West and Southwest, recently announced that it has acquired the assets of Wholesale Specialties Inc., one of the largest plumbing supply businesses in Denver and surrounding markets. Wholesale Specialties will continue to operate under its existing management and brand name, led by Ron, Sandy, Bobby and Bryan Schiff. Noted for top customer service by a focused and experienced team throughout its organization, Wholesale Specialties is a great addition to the MSC Holdings group, according to a press release from MSC.

Chip Hornsby, Chief Executive Officer of MSC Holdings, said, “We welcome Wholesale Specialties to our growing family of companies throughout the West and Southwestern U.S. We share the commitment of Wholesale Specialties to continue to provide their customers with great value and excellent service.” (Turn to Morrison... page 50)
Design trends are always changing and evolving, and they're always fascinating to watch. The start of a new year is a great time to look ahead and share predictions as to what 2014 might hold for emerging trends in the kitchen and bath industry. One thing does remain fairly certain though, bathroom and kitchen upgrades were near the top of the list of homeowners’ renovation projects in 2013, and that trend is likely to continue in the months to come.

1. Curves Ahead

Curves are serious, graceful and mod-est. Case in point — the Botero collection from Du Verre Hardware. Created by renowned designer and thought leader William Harvey, this sophisticated collection is pleasing to the eye and the hand with perfect proportions and a distinctive look. Crafted entirely from recycled aluminum, Botero is available in large and small knobs, a 4” pull, a 9” pull and a luxurious 17” pull.

The Oro collection of therapeutic baths by Bain Ultra captures the essence of simple curves with a design inspired by rip-ping circles of water across the surface of a pond. This freestanding bath emphasizes its circular design with a bold rim, yet its overall sil-houette is elegant and simple. An integrated headrest allows bathers to lie back and appreciate the clean lines of the tub while a back support provides a gentle arch for maximum comfort and support.

Victoria + Albert use curves to enhance the comfort and convenience of the bathing experience with their new Tombolo bath caddy. Designed with soft curves to fit perfectly over the edge of certain versions of their rimless tubs, this must-have addition to the bathroom keeps essentials within arm’s reach and even holds two wine glasses for a truly indulgent soak. The Tombolo is made from multiple, durable layers of European-sourced hardwood and is finished in a light oak or walnut laminate that is compatible with a wet environment. Curves inspire even in unexpected places like the stunning linear drain designs from Quick Drain USA. Designed by world-renowned architect and designer Michael Graves, the Waves linear drain draws reference from graceful ocean waves and adds a subtle texture to the bathroom. Crafted from durable 304 stainless steel, the drains are available in a new oil rubbed bronze finish for 2014 as well as brushed, polished and satin stainless steel in standard lengths and custom sizes up to 100”.

2. Streamlined Functionality

In today’s busy world, people appreciate products that serve their purpose efficiently yet still manage to look good. A perfect example is the Ledge Prep Sink from Lenova. Its clean, seamless lines create a natural focal point in the kitchen, while Lenova’s award-winning innovation (it recently won Interior Design’s “Best of Year Award”) makes it an ultra efficient prepping station. Each model features a 90 degree ledge pressed into the front and back of the sink that converts it to a food prep center when accessorized with optional Edge. The Luxury Backrest provides the bather with enhanced comfort through a greater angle of recline and targeted support. Built with an internal stainless steel structure and finished with a water-resistant, soft surface, the backrest is an elegant accessory that is a practical and welcome addition to the bathroom.

In the kitchen, most people tend to fall in love with the look of a sink first; and then the functionality — but with Schön’s Luxury Single Bowl Radius Corner Stainless Steel Kitchen Sink the two are seamlessly combined. Practical yet beautiful, the Luxury Single Bowl sink features a soft satin brush finish and a 10” deep single bowl with radius corners.

3. Tuxedo Style

Black and white is bold and modern, and make their

(Facing page) Large luxury kitchen sinks and vanities from Furniture Guild NUVO Collection. Revo vanity and Luxe Bathtub.
KITCHEN & BATH STYLE

What’s new, what’s in for 2014

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presence known in the bathroom in dramatic fashion. ICERA’s new line of black toilets is part of this rising trend. Available on most of their premium models, this high gloss black finish gives consumers and designers a contemporary option for an often overlooked fixture. For those longing to make a statement, black is a bold color choice.

Classic white never goes out of style and when paired next to black elements can help create the elegant tuxedo style look.

Crystal Collection provides a true luxe look with a sparkling array of knobs and pulls.

For example, MTI Baths Melinda I bathtub features a classic traditional style and is now available with a two-tone color option—so you can have a black outside and white inside, with an optional pedestal base in matching or contrasting color. Part of the Designer Collection, the Melinda I is constructed of durable Lucite® cast acrylic and has a sophisticated aesthetic. Great choices as accent colors, black and white are gaining popularity in hardware options too. Atlas Homewares offers several collections in a range of styles, all available in a black finish. The simple silhouette of its Low Arch Pulls is given greater impact when done in black. The Buckle Up Collection with its bold lines and clever clips seems especially chic in black. And for those who love the elegance of crystal and black, the jewel-like Legacy Collection offers a variety of choices.

4. Spacious Showers

Showers are growing in popularity and in size. People are clamoring for spacious showers with spa-like features. Diamond Spas provide the foundation for this trend with its stainless steel and copper shower pans that can be configured in nearly any size, shape or drain placement. Not only are these pans extremely practical, but they are beautiful as well and set the stage for a luxurious shower experience. Stainless steel and copper are durable and non-porous, so they don’t harbor bacteria, mold or mildew. Each pan is fabricated from recycled sheet metal and is easily maintained with common household cleaners.

As showers get larger one emerging trend is to remove the shower door or wall entirely, creating a European-style open bathroom or wet room. Linear drains from Quick Drain USA are ideal in this scenario. Not only are they simple to install in a variety of configurations, they also create a curb-less shower, which meets Universal Design and ADA requirements. Quick Drain designs are the narrowest drain cover in the market and create a watertight connection to prevent leaks. Linear drains are available in a variety of patterns and are an elegant way to add style to the bathroom.

5. His-and-Hers

A double-bowl vanity has become one of the most popular requests of homeowners, even in small bathrooms. Two sinks allows each person to have his or her own space and storage. Style is important too. Of course, Vanity Flair’s Sydney vanity fits the bill on all counts. A designer’s dream come true, this vanity has ample counter space for two sinks and features mitered corners for a seamless look and an integrated finger pull. It is available in wood stains, matte paints and a new collection of eight High Performance Automotive Finishes. Customization options include a built-in laundry hamper, automatic LED lighting, an internal power outlet and a hair drier/curling iron kit.

Side-by-side tubs are going mainstream. A trend once reserved for five-star resorts, the idea of two tubs is inspiring more and more homeowners. Adding a second tub is both luxurious and practical as it creates time for couples to reconnect without having to share space or compromise on water temperature. Victoria + Albert’s Amalfi tub is perfect for dual bathing with its freestanding slipper shape and sexy curves. From a design point of view, the double tubs create an impressive focal point that is balanced and symmetrical.

Linda Jennings is President of Jennings & Company, a public relations agency specializing in the decorative plumbing and luxury hardware industry. For more than 20 years, she has worked with significant editors and journalists in the consumer home market, identifying trends and providing noteworthy products. Jennings can be reached at LindJ@jenningsandcompany.com.