

## Carls Patio will expand to California

CARLS PATIO, INC. has announced the formation of a new corporation, Carls Patio West, Inc., and the acquisition of Saddleback of San Diego, an 18,000-sq.-ft. retail patio store. This is the first venture out of the state of Florida for the 11-year-old patio retailer.

"This is a very rare opportunity," Carls Patio President Gary Ecoff said. "We saw so many similarities when we compared the Florida market with Southern California that it



Lyle Ecoff

just seemed like a natural for us. Tony Stevens and his wife Donna have done a tremendous job here and we feel fortunate that we'll be able to keep their great name and continue that tradition."

Carls Patio West will be operated by Lyle Ecoff, a 20-year veteran of the patio industry. Ecoff has worked extensively on both the

wholesale and retail side, and started the Robb & Stucky patio division and served as its president.



Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens

## Terra Furniture inks license with Mount Vernon

TERRA FURNITURE has signed a licensing agreement with the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, caretakers of Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington, to produce a line of outdoor furniture.

This line of traditionally styled garden furniture, which will take its inspiration from the rich landscape and collections of the historic home, will launch in September with one group at the International Casual Furniture Market. A second group will follow in October.

"George Washington had a deep love and enthusiasm for gardening and landscape design, so a garden furniture collection is a natural for Mount Vernon," said Beverly Addington, licensing director at Mount Vernon. "We are pleased that our first such program is with Terra Furniture, a company known for excellent quality and design."

A portion of the proceeds from each purchase of the collection will go toward supporting the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association in its continued preservation and educational endeavors.

## Wearbest debuts performance fabric

Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills is introducing its first performance fabric, Bella-Dura, while also celebrating its 25th year in business as an award-winning weaver of yarn-dyed jacquard upholstery fabrics.

Although being previewed now, the formal introduction of Bella-Dura is planned for the Showtime fabric fair, set for July 11-14 in High Point, N.C.

"Approximately 2½ years ago, we set upon this journey to develop a performance fabric that would at least meet, if not beat, the competition on every line item of performance and aes-



thetics. The result is Bella-Dura," said Wearbest President Irwin Gasner.

Performance features include 100% solution-dyed fabric, light fastness of at least 1,500 hours, stain resistance and bleach cleanability as well as anti-mildew and anti-fungal properties.

## Obituary: Phillip Murch

Phillip K. Murch, 43, died unexpectedly on April 28, 2005.

He was well-known in the casual furniture industry as director of sales and marketing for family-owned Olympia Lighting Products, based in Pompano Beach, Fla. He is survived by parents Paul K. and Sandy Murch; wife, Aileen; three children, Phillip Kevin "PK" Murch Jr., Tata Moreno and Maxwell Eric Murch; brother Chris Murch and two sisters, Natalie Murch and Ericka M. Kelmanson.

"His death has sent a black cloud

over the hearts of everyone who knew him," said friend Kathleen Ferry, Emu Americas. "Phillip had a face we all loved to see and a laugh we all loved to hear. Phillip will be sorely missed and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."

A trust fund has been set up at Bank of America by friends in the industry.

Until contributions can be made directly at the bank, checks may be made payable to Children of Phillip K. Murch Living Expense Fund, and mailed to Charlie Emmons, 316 S. Central Ave., Ramsey, N.J. 07446. Please note on the envelope that it is for the Murch fund.

### CORRECTION

A caption in our May issue's Resin Revival feature incorrectly identified a photo of Kettler USA's Venezia Collection as its Tiffany group.