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Building Materials & Bathroom Fittings



New Era for Building Materials & Bathroom Fittings

Taiwan's Quality Building Materials Give Added-Value in Construction



Taiwan Sourcing Service Provider

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A Close Look at Taiwan's High-profile Bathroom Furniture Makers

Continues R&D gives makers solid basis to take on underselling rivalry

By STEVE CHUANG

Taiwan-made bathroom furniture with high quality and functionality, along with competitive prices, can help buyers to ride on U.S.'s bullish realty market.

With U.S.'s realty and job markets continuously on the mend to sustain strong demand for bathroom furniture nationwide, buyers intended to explore the lucrative business opportunities by truly marketable product items with great balance between quality and prices can't overlook Taiwan when sourcing globally, as suppliers from the island have been well recognized by professionals for their unrelenting dedication to R&D and quality, a shared trait that not just makes them capable of better handling customized production as required by customers, but helps to take the edge off the increasingly intensifying underselling rivalry facing them.

The following sums up interviews with three Taiwanese notable makers to disclose why Taiwan-made bathroom furniture can be a great choice for buyers to ride on U.S.'s strong realty market.

Zhou Yong Co., Ltd.

Zhou Yong Co., Ltd. has been a beacon of hope

among peers, managing to register remarkable growth in exports despite the global recession.

Established in 1996 in Changhua County, central Taiwan, Zhou Yong is an OEM and ODM of metal shelves, display racks, metal and K/D furniture for commercial and household applications. Running two factories on the island, the maker has in less than 13 years become one of Taiwan's top-5 suppliers in the line by shipment.

Having helped the company to ship an amazing two hundred containers of various metal shelves and display racks in the fourth quarter of last year alone, Ko Chin-shan, chairman of the company, attributes such achievement to strong commitment to building trustworthiness among customers. "Our motto is to earn customer's trust by delivering quality and efficient service," he says. "We are totally customer-oriented."

To assure unbeatable quality and production efficiency, the ISO-9001-certified company

discusses production plans and schedules with its engineers and subcontractors, strictly carrying out world-caliber quality inspection throughout production and delivery at both in-house factories and subcontractors'. Ko proudly claims that years of close attention paid to quality assurance have totally sold most of its customers from the U.S., Europe and Japan on Zhou Yong's product quality. "Sometime new customers even skip auditing and evaluating our factories just based on Zhou Yong's reputation."

When handling ODM orders, the company, backed by extensive knowledge about manufacturing and material properties, willingly advises customers to come up with optimal solutions through repeated, in-depth discussions.

Marketing Savvy

The company is also savvy regarding product marketability. Upon receiving orders, Zhou Yong's staff immediately analyzes specific consumer markets, and then drafts and designs suitable prototypes. In many cases, such preliminary analysis effectively satisfies customers who believe in the practicality of such study, according to Ko, adding "a maker shouldn't merely produce and dump bland, garden-variety goods that are not truly needed by consumers. So we help customers to explore markets and develop more appealing, satisfactory products."

Also, Ko stresses that steady pricing is as crucial as quality and services in building customer loyalty. In the logic, the company tends to absorb most of added material costs when prices of raw materials surge, so as to retain its clientele, and even achieve rising shipments.

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Enhanced Aesthetics

Also, Chang Fu impresses users with compact, attractive product exteriors, which are made ingeniously without welding, hence achieving smooth, integrated, compact metal surfaces. Enhanced aesthetics effectively adds to marketability of the firm's worldwide, despite being priced higher than ones made in China and Vietnam.

Other newly developed bathroom furniture include the SS series with two K/D shelves, the WR series with one cabinet and a basin, the OVAL series with a mirror cabinet, all of which are of stainless steel and built with larger tubing for better structural strength. The maker has also unveiled the "frame-less mirror" for its cabinets, believing such design, along with compact square shapes and metallic look, is a growing trend in the modern furniture market. Furthermore, the products are protected by multinational patents for assembly methodologies and structural designs, according to Chang.

"Production of frame-less mirrors calls for higher skill, and larger tubing costs more," Chang says. "However such factors haven't compromised marketability, as many buyers are showing intense interest in the middle-to-high-end furniture, thanks to its excellent functionality and designs."

E Tai Enterprise Co., Ltd.

Another remarkable supplier is E Tai Enterprise Co., Ltd. who, founded in 1977 in Taipei County, northern Taiwan, has achieved leadership on the island as a maker of aluminum shower doors.

Having started out by making aluminum windows and doors in 1977, E Tai later ventured into production of shower doors. After 20 years of hard work on branding and product diversification, the firm has become one of leading bathroom ware makers in Taiwan, supplying three major lines: shower doors, bathroom ware and home spa and sauna equipment, which are marketed under its own ITAI brand.

Among its many achievements, the general manager Hung Fang-shin is also honored in 2009 as one of 16 "Models of Taiwan and Overseas Entrepreneurs."

One of the most memorable pages in the corporate history revolves around the development of shower doors, a product that took the maker on a rigorous journey.

Pual Hung, E Tai's president, says his firm shipped less than 50 sets of shower doors yearly at first. Undaunted, Hung stuck to promoting products and improving quality, as well as concentrating on building sound distribution channels around the island to enhance service efficiency.

Reeducating Consumers

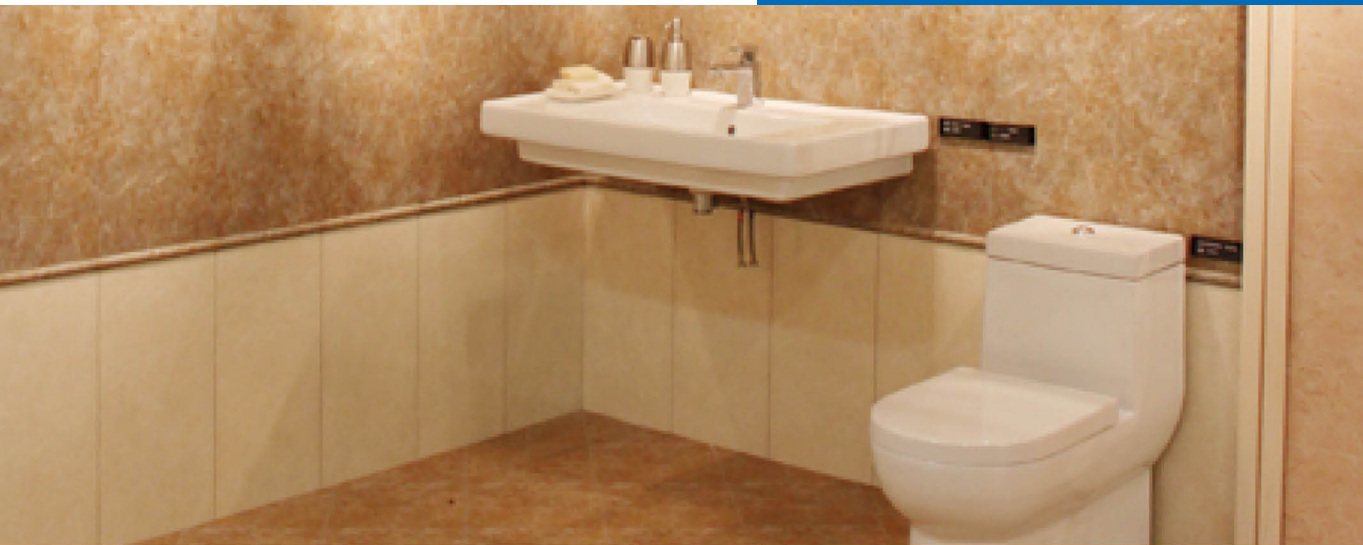
Eventual success was built on having to reeducate consumers. "We taught consumers to save water by taking showers and, for safety, to keep floors dry by installing shower doors in bathrooms," Paul says. "Besides, we labeled shower doors with the Itai brand to be fully liable for any defect." Few in Taiwan saw shower doors as a necessary bathroom furnishing earlier, but E Tai has changed that trend. The firm now ships up to 3,000 sets a month to lead the segment on the island, with all such products certified by BSI and international quality standards.

With the market for shower doors becoming saturated, E Tai is trying to carve out a new niche by developing far infrared, low-temperature home sauna equipment, ITAI-Sauna, as its ace in the hole.

Hung says that the product is designed to work at lower temperatures and less humidity to satisfy all users by offering a comfortable, healthy sauna

environment at home. "Using far infrared heaters and micro-computer digital control panels inside and outside the sauna is the major feature, which makes ITAI-Sauna safer and healthier than traditional steam rooms. Elderly or infirm users can also use this product safely as the low-temperature present less circulatory hazards." Plus, the built-in decorative lighting and speakers add to the sauna's recreational appeal.

The ITAI-Sauna is 100% developed and made in Taiwan, helping the firm to win the 14th SME (Small and Medium Enterprise) Innovation Research Award given by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, according to Paul. E Tai's home spa and sauna equipment, with excellent functionality and competitive prices attracting clients in the U.S. and Japan, have helped to drive export sales. [CENS](#)



Ceramic Bathroom Fittings, Kitchen Equipment and Accessories

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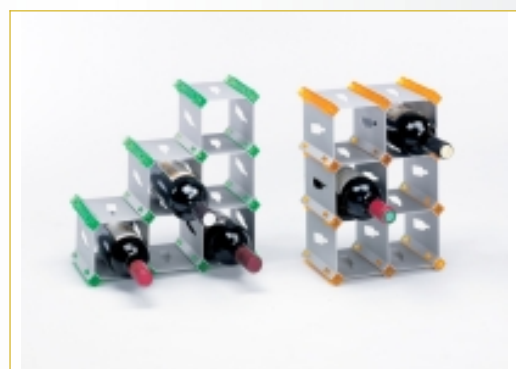
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Washroom Accessories & Bathroom Accessories



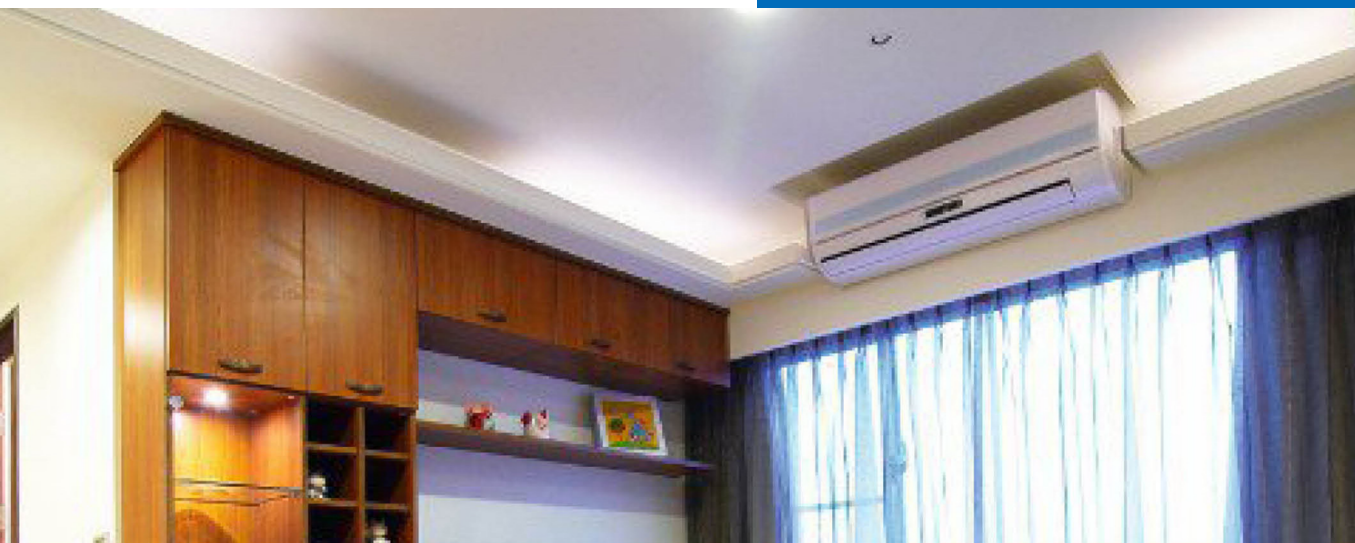
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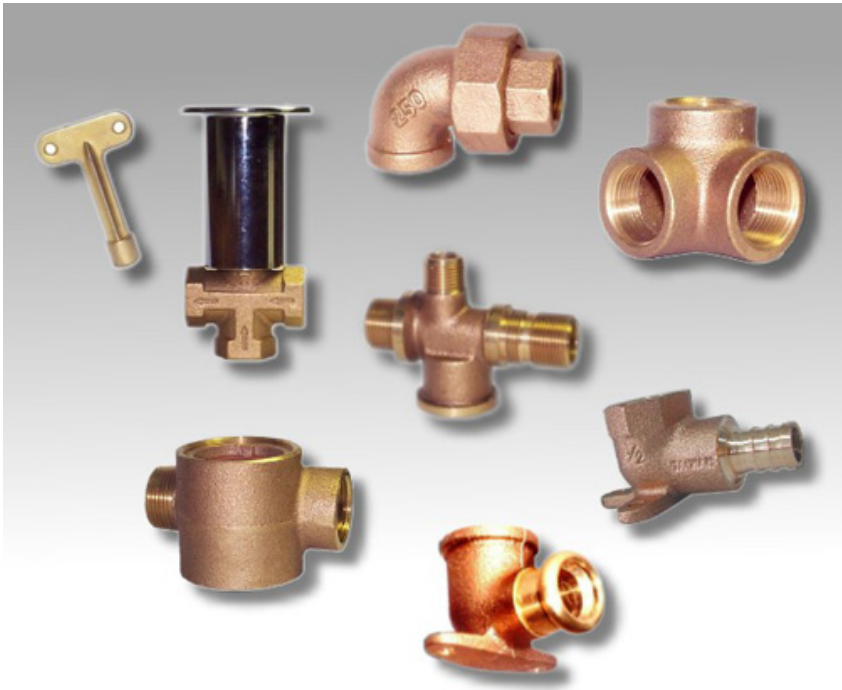
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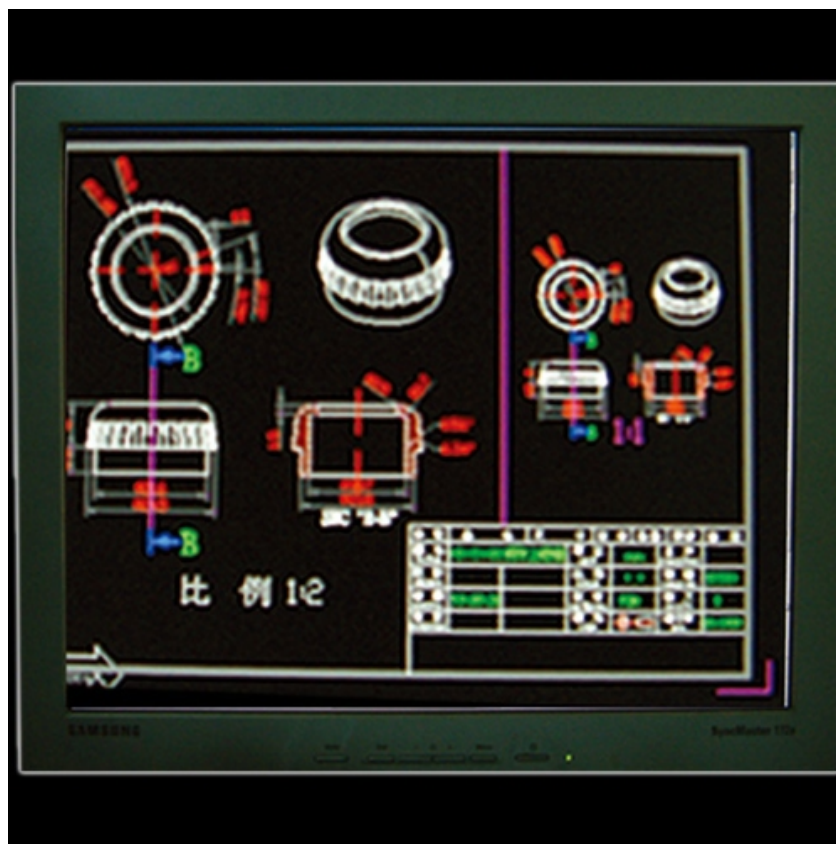
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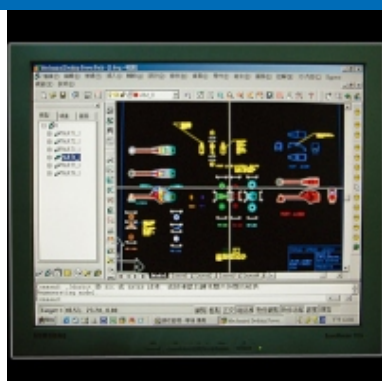


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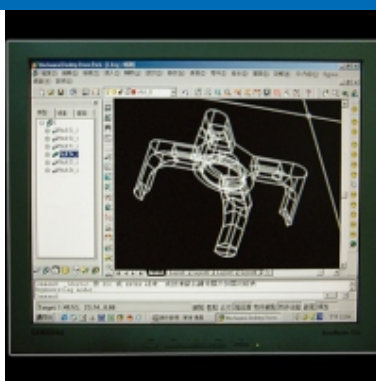
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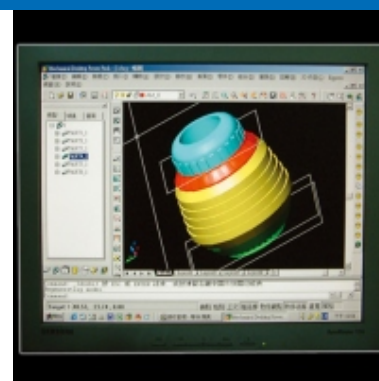
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