



Genteelhome launches mirror collection on womanhood themes

By Almira Louise S. Martinez
Reporter

FURNITURE MAKER Genteelhome is highlighting local craftsmanship and interpretations of womanhood through a mirror collection titled Her, Unfolding, launched in time for Mother's Month.

"As a mother, as a woman, we always want to see our reflection and how we are evolving from yesterday, today, and how we can still evolve," Genteelhome founder and Creative Director Katrina Blanca de Leon told *BusinessWorld* on the sidelines of the launch.

"We're inspired by the different shapes of women, especially when it comes to motherhood, because there are different phases of it," she added.

The collection draws from the Filipino word *sibol*, meaning growth, as part of the brand's broader annual theme focused on transformation narratives. Her, Unfolding is the second installment in the Sibol series and was developed in collaboration with fashion designer Patty Ang.

Nathaniel M. Guntang, Genteelhome brand and communications manager, said the partnership aims to reflect evolving identities, particularly among mothers.

"We wanted to have partnerships with mothers for them to see that they can unfold a lot of versions of themselves," Mr. Guntang said in an interview.

"When you fit clothes, you see yourself in the mirror, and when you see yourself in the mirror, it unfolds a lot of stories," he added.

The collection features five biophilic-shaped floor mirrors with wood patina-ombre frames, handcrafted by local artisans. Each piece is manually finished using sponge techniques to create textured, nonuniform patterns.

"Because for simple sprays and simple brushes, you cannot have that kind of effect, you have to do it manually," Mr. Guntang said.

Ms. de Leon said the collaboration with Ms. Ang aligns with the brand's focus on detail-driven design and personal expression.

"If you are a client of Patty, you would know how she handles her clients, how intentional she is, and how well she puts a lot of her attention to details," she said. "So, this is very Genteelhome when it comes to furniture."

The company also introduced the Edit Collection, which includes jewelry boxes, trays and candleholders.

The Her, Unfolding collection is available exclusively at The Atelier Patty Ang at The Headquarters until June 22.

The Philippine furniture market is expected to grow 4.88% annually in 10 years to \$6.7 billion by 2034, according to global management consulting firm IMARC Group.

The firm attributed the growth to rising demand for locally made, environmentally friendly furniture, as well as growing interest in interior design and home décor.

Skyro eyes MSME lending push

By Edg Adrian A. Eva
Reporter

SKYRO LENDING, INC. is weighing an expansion into working capital lending for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) in the Philippines, aiming to support inventory financing and short-term growth needs among smaller firms that often face tight funding conditions.

Nasim Aliev, Skyro Lending co-chief executive officer and co-founder, said the initiative is meant to help merchants scale operations during periods of stronger demand.

"For example, if you sell around P500,000 worth of mobile phone loans per month, and you want to increase that by 10% to 20% in a given month, we can provide additional funding of around P50,000 to P100,000," Mr. Aliev said in a Microsoft Teams call.

The proposal focuses on bridging short-term liquidity gaps that arise when MSMEs increase inventory purchases from suppliers ahead of peak seasons. The structure is designed to link financing directly to sales activity, rather than long-term capital requirements.

The financial technology firm has yet to set a formal rollout

timeline pending internal discussions. Mr. Aliev said the company is still aligning product design with market demand.

"There are definitely plans and discussions surrounding how Skyro can support MSMEs in the Philippines, and we are finalizing these details to ensure they align with the evolving needs of Filipino businesses," he said.

Working capital lending forms one of two directions under consideration to deepen Skyro's exposure to the MSME segment, which accounts for more than half of its roughly 100,000 monthly loans sold, according to the co-founder. The second direction involves continued offering of product installment loans tailored for business use.

Those installment products can be distributed through agents or directly through enterprises, with commission structures available to participating partners.

Skyro said the model lets small retailers extend financing options to customers while retaining additional income streams.

Skyro operates a consumer-focused lending platform that includes Skyro Product Loans, which provide instalment-based financing for purchases; Skyro Credit, a digital credit line used for scan-to-pay transactions; and



SKYRO.PH

Skyro Cash, a short-term cash loan product with fast approval.

In recent months, the company reported a 10% to 15% increase in cash loan applications, which it linked partly to the war in the Middle East. Borrowers cited daily expenses and business-related needs as primary drivers of demand.

Despite the rise in application volumes, Skyro said it has not observed a significant change in how customers deploy borrowed funds, suggesting

stable usage patterns across its loan portfolio.

The company said it maintains interest rates of 0% to 7% as part of its effort to manage affordability risks. Customers can also adjust repayment schedules through its Flexi feature, which allows changes to payment dates via the mobile app.

"Skyro provides breathing room for Filipinos to manage essential needs without compromising their overall financial health," the company said in a statement.

HPI expands exports with Click125 shipments



HONDA PHILIPPINES

MOTORCYCLE MANUFACTURER Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI) said it has started exporting its Click125 motorcycle units to Cambodia and Laos as part of efforts to expand its presence in Southeast Asia.

In a statement on Tuesday, the company said it began shipping Click125 units on May 15 to N.C.X. Co., Ltd. Cambodia and Laos, the exclusive manufacturer, distributor, and assembler of Honda motorcycles in the two countries.

HPI said the Click125 has become one of its best-selling motorcycle models in the Philippines, supported by demand for affordable and fuel-efficient transportation.

"The Click125 export to NCX Cambodia and Laos marks another significant achievement for Honda Philippines as we bring one of the most trusted motorcycle models of Filipino riders to international

markets," HPI President Takeshi Kobayashi said.

The company said the export initiative forms part of efforts to expand the reach of locally manufactured motorcycles across regional markets.

"This milestone reflects our commitment to showcasing the quality of Philippine-made motorcycles and delivering the Joy of Mobility to more customers across the region," Mr. Kobayashi added.

The first batch of units was presented during a send-off ceremony held on May 15.

Motorcycle demand in the Philippines has remained strong amid rising fuel costs and demand for lower-cost transportation options.

Motorcycle sales rose 11.6% to 496,868 units in the first quarter, according to data from the Motorcycle Development Program Participants Association. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

Robinsons Land widens energy-efficiency program

ROBINSONS LAND CORP. (RLC) is expanding its renewable energy and energy-efficiency initiatives across its mall network as property developers face growing pressure to reduce power consumption and emissions.

In a statement on Monday, the Gokongwei-led property developer said Robinsons Malls has partnered with the Department of Energy (DoE) to support the government's Oras Natin sa Efficiency (O.N.E.) campaign, which encourages households, businesses, and institutions to reduce electricity consumption by switching off non-essential lighting from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Saturday.

Under the initiative, Robinsons Malls said it will dim or switch off non-essential lighting across its properties nationwide during the designated hour.

"At a time when responsible energy use has become increasingly critical, we recognize the role of the private sector in translating sustainability goals into practical, everyday action," Robinsons Land President and Chief Executive Officer Maria Socorro Isabelle V. Aragon-GoBio said during the campaign launch at Robinsons Galleria on Monday.

"Through our partnership with the Department of Energy, we are proud to support initiatives that encourage awareness and participation in energy-efficient practices across communities nationwide," she added.

Robinsons Land said the campaign forms part of its broader sustainability and energy-efficiency efforts under its "Building Better Lives" initiative.

Nestlé PHL, Robinsons pilot circular system for sachet waste

NESTLÉ Philippines, Inc., Robinsons Supermarket, and Restore Solutions PH are piloting a retail-based sachet recovery system through the installation of reverse vending machines in select stores as companies step up efforts to improve plastic waste collection and circularity initiatives.

In a statement on Tuesday, Nestlé Philippines said the three companies are deploying 10 reverse vending machines, or Smart Eco-llection Bins (SEBs), across selected Robinsons Supermarket branches in Metro Manila.

The initiative aims to establish a collection and recycling system for sachets, which are among the most widely used, but diffi-

cult-to-recycle, forms of plastic packaging in the Philippines.

"This starts the value chain of circularity with Nestlé as the manufacturer, Robinsons Supermarket as the retailer, and Restore as the upcycler," said José T. Uy III, head of corporate affairs at Nestlé Philippines.

"And it's not just about collection, but also about changing social behavior by providing a convenient and rewarding way for our consumers to participate in responsible waste management," he added.

Under the program, consumers can deposit clean and dry sachets into the machines in exchange for points and rewards through the Ecobin Portal. — **Juliana Chloe A. Gonzales**

The company said it continues to implement energy-saving measures across its malls, including solar power systems, light-emitting diode (LED) lighting optimization, and natural daylight design.

"At Robinsons Malls, we recognize that sustainability must be translated into everyday operational practices across developments," Robinsons Land Executive Vice-President Faraday D. Go said.

"Our participation in the DoE's O.N.E. campaign reinforces our commitment to reduce energy consumption while maintaining comfort and service for our customers," he added.

The company has also been increasing its use of renewable energy in several developments.

In April, Robinsons Land partnered with the First Gen Group to supply geothermal power to sev-

eral properties in the Visayas and Mindanao, including Robinsons Galleria Cebu, Robinsons Fuente Cebu, Robinsons Antique, Robinsons Roxas, Robinsons North Tacloban, Robinsons Pagadian, Robinsons Ormoc, Robinsons Tacloban, and Shopwise San Nicolas Cebu.

The agreement covers more than 22 megawatts of geothermal electricity supply across the company's properties.

Robinsons Land has likewise expanded its electric vehicle charging network through partnerships with Shell Recharge, Tesla, and ACMobility.

The company said the number of charging stations across its mall network increased to 42 from 14 over the past two years. The charging stations are located in properties including Opus, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Magnolia, Robinsons Tagaytay, Robinsons Iloilo, Robinsons Pagadian, Robinsons Dumaguete, Robinsons Roxas, and Robinsons Ilocos Norte.

Department of Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin said the O.N.E. campaign aims to encourage wider public participation in energy conservation efforts.

"Energy efficiency is not only a government responsibility — it is a shared responsibility among households, businesses, and communities," Ms. Garin said.

"Through O.N.E., we hope to inspire Filipinos to embrace simple yet meaningful practices that contribute to a more energy-efficient nation," she added. — **Juliana Chloe A. Gonzales**



FILINVEST LAND

Filinvest Land says Q1 mall leasing revenues rise 17%

GOTIANUN-LED Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI) said mall leasing revenues rose 17% to P744 million in the first quarter (Q1), supported by higher occupancy rates across its retail portfolio.

In a statement on Tuesday, the property developer said occupancy across its mall portfolio reached 80% during the period.

"The mall business is no longer just a defensive buffer; it is a primary growth engine for the group," FLI President and Chief Executive Officer Tristan Las Marias said.

"With leasing revenues up 17% and occupancy scaling to 80%, we are seeing the tangible results of our active asset enhancement strategy," he added.

FLI attributed the growth partly to stronger consumer activity and higher tenant take-up, particularly in regional developments such as Il Corso, where foot traffic increased 33% following asset enhancement initiatives.

The company said its mall segment is expanding through efforts focused on tenant mix optimization and community-oriented retail concepts.

FLI's mall business contributed to consolidated revenues of P6.31 billion for the quarter, up 4.5% from a year earlier.

Net income stood at P1.1 billion, supported by recurring income streams and contributions from its diversified property portfolio. — **Alexandria Grace C. Magno**