

Monarch to open a new location

Darron Kloster. Times - Colonist. Victoria, B.C.: Sep 25, 2009. pg. C.4

Monarch Furnishings is opening a retail and warehouse location in the former McLarty's Rattan Unlimited location on the corner of Store and Chatham streets downtown on Oct. 3.

"I've been looking for a spot like this every since I first arrived," said Tony Martin, the Australian entrepreneur who opened Monarch four years ago on Summit Avenue, and then relocated to Victoria's Design District on Herald Street last year. "The great thing is it's right around the corner from our current store and it's within the Design District ... you can't find this kind of space with a loading dock anywhere downtown."

The McLarty family, which still owns the building, closed the business earlier this year and retired from retail.

The 4,000-square-foot space at 1807 Store St. will allow Martin to import more product not only from overseas -- his specialty -- but also one-of-a-kind items from new Canadian sources. Reducing overhead in a warehouse/retail environment will also allow Martin to offer lower prices, he said. The company had previously stored excess inventory in the former Now Furniture building on Douglas Street, but that property is being sold.