

**THE WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER PRESENTS THE FALL 2008 DESIGN HOUSE:  
CASA COUTURE - DESIGNERS IN VOGUE**

WASHINGTON (August 22, 2008) – The Washington Design Center is proud to present its milestone 24<sup>th</sup> presentation of the Design House, entitled "**Casa Couture**". The Fall 2008 Design House, residing within The Washington Design Center, provides lifestyle-conscious consumers an entrée into the world of high-end home décor. The theme, **Designers in Vogue**, features 8 sensational rooms, each inspired by interior design trends from across the globe.

"This year's Design House reflects each designer's personal style and vision, drawing inspiration from different time periods and destinations around the world. Casa Couture is a beautiful representation of the variety of luxury products available at The Washington Design Center and the creative interpretations which define high-end interior design," said Julia Chappell, director of marketing at The Washington Design Center. "Consumers and designers alike will be surprised and inspired by the 8 beautiful spaces."

**The Fall 2008 Design House  
The Washington Design Center  
Free admission; open to the general public  
September 26 through December 13, 2008  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**\*\*Design House Preview Party –Thursday, September 25, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.\*\***

The Design House unveiling will take place on Thursday, September 25, 2008 inside the showhouse at The Washington Design Center. Tickets are on sale for \$50 at [www.dcdesigncenter.com/designhouseparty](http://www.dcdesigncenter.com/designhouseparty) or by calling 202.646.6114.

The distinguished design teams include:

**Living Room - Emily Bishop of Emily Bishop Interior Design**

*Think Café de Flore meets Studio 54 meets Velvet Lounge...*

Inspired by the herringbone marble floor, Bishop chose to create a space reminiscent of a traditional Paris flat. The French are masters for their ability to cleverly mix old with new, making an art form in their opulent yet comfortable living environments. Bishop's interpretation brings it stateside, proving that in this day and age, anyone can pull off the international style. The living room becomes truly livable with the use of cozy furniture and fabrics, all while providing ample room for entertaining or simply stretching out for a relaxing night at home. Bishop's "client" represents a growing demographic of consumers who are looking to combine luxury, elegance and sophistication with a little hipster cool thrown in for good measure.

**Bedroom - Michelle Miller of Baltimore's Jenkins Baer Associates**

Michelle Miller has created an environment melding a series of contrasts, all seamlessly working together to create a unique and calming master bedroom for Casa Couture at The Washington Design Center. By selecting natural fabrics such as plush cotton velvets, polished wools, textured silks and woven linens, all in tonal shades of grey, Miller creates a sense of uniformity and warmth. Each piece has been carefully selected, with purpose and restraint in order to create a balanced atmosphere, one that leans itself to rest and rejuvenation.

**Dining Room/Bar - Michelle Pilon of Michelle Pilon Interiors**

*Dining Menu: Yesterday – Today - Tomorrow*

For a very long time Dining Rooms have been dressed in formal attire from a restricted wardrobe. That is in the Past. Now as with the title of this Design House, 'Casa Couture' for the interior, is about unveiling a lot about the people who live there through the elements of design and decoration - the display of unique acquisitions from around the globe old and new, the lines of modern furnishing styles, and the simplicity of the architectural detailing. This tells about the Present. Michelle Pilon has set the stage in this room for the unveiling of a 'dining' scene a little ways into the Future with the help of some 'new age' gadgetry. The surprise ingredient of this Dining Room space resides only in your imagination!

## **Entry/Foyer - Yvette Piaggio of Piaggio's Loft**

### *European Transitional*

"Casa Couture" is not only the inspiration for the Design House, but also the inspiration for the lifestyle Yvette Piaggio creates for her clients. When designing, Piaggio truly believe in fashion AND function...what she likes to refer to as "approachable design". As a Designer, Piaggio sources heavily from Europe for textiles, furnishings, accessories, color, trends and lifestyle. She believes the Foyer is the "appetizer" of the home and truly sets the tone for what is to come. Her goal was to create a balance of mixing crisp whites and clean lines in the upholstered pieces, with a soothing sophisticated mineral aqua color on the walls. The room is then anchored by espresso brown accents in textiles and incorporating different textures, while creating warmth with antique and reclaimed woods in the accent tables. Finishing the space with distressed golds and silvers bedazzles the room and nods to a formal entry, while the natural linens invite you to stay for a while.

## **Man's Retreat - Wayne Breeden of E.Wayne Breeden**

### *Gentleman's Retreat*

"Not being able to date a room is the key to timeless design.....modern, but never "trendy", elegant, but never "fussy" and comfortable and familiar, but never "worn or tattered" are traits Wayne Breeden tries to achieve in the homes he designs for clients!" In the hectic time we are living, it is with delight to enter the quiet and enveloping "Gentleman's Retreat". Getting away from it all for a little nap; losing yourself in that wonderful new novel or CD; attending some overdue correspondence to that *special someone*; or maybe just a fun shopping spree on "ebay" can all be done in this special place!

The walls are lined with a putty colored linen from Kravet Fabrics, with drapery treatments in "Garnett", a printed linen in taupe and moss from Lee Jofa's newest collection for the Royal Oaks Foundation. All textiles are from Lee Jofa and Kravet and are in shades of moss, cement, putty, ivory and celery. And yes, my friends, moire is back!!!!!! The draperies are enhanced by a celery moire called "Payge" from the Royal Oaks Foundation and it is also used on two small chairs in the room.

## **Kitchen - Todd Martz of Todd Martz Interiors**

Todd Martz believes that America is getting stylish. The mass retailers have raised the awareness that everyday life can have beauty. The trend is toward clean style with personal accents. The kitchen Martz designed is a reflection of what he sees happening. The clean style of the cabinets and furniture is warmed by the collection of outsider art. The room also becomes a multipurpose space with room for seating and a desk. Time is precious with family and friends; this kitchen becomes the traditional hearth, a gathering place.

## **The Family Room - Brad Weesner of Brad Weesner Design**

Brad Weesner introduces a concept of a "Family Room" for both the last century, as well as today's cutting edge gaming technology. The sophistication of the room gives way to the reality of today's family's needs of TV, conversation, games, music, art and just being delightfully quiet. Calmness was achieved by the use of just Charcoal Grays and Winter Whites, with clean lines mixed with Antiquities. The handmade fireplace of Wormy Chestnut stained in Gray will support a superior oil done by famed artist, Kevin Fitzgerald, showcasing the most delicate ocean wave just at twilight. The room will show the textures and soft tones of a luxury room, while the durable pieces allow for real family use.

## **Photographer's Loft - Tami Hatch and Pattie Gunter of Gunter-Hatch Design Group**

Drawing their inspiration from the lifestyle and tastes of a well-traveled photographer at home, Gunter-Hatch Design Group designed the Photographer's Loft as a creative retreat for a woman whose work has taken her around the world. Surrounded by photographs, sculptures, and objects gathered from her travels, this is a place she may share with friends, colleagues, and family. Coastal hues of pewter, sepia, smoke and mallard blue bring a restful quality to the space. Runway trends from this Fall inspired the designers, both for dressmaker details, as well as the palette they selected. Gunter Hatch interiors are known for their combination of textures and colors, achieving a timeless appeal. Here, they've layered mohair, silk, velvet, and wool with stone, hand-hewn wood, and metalwork. Furnishings with a transitional flavor were selected for the space, with an eye toward balancing straight and curved lines. Subtly textured walls provide a soothing haven for the photographer who spends her time here. In conceptualizing the photographer's loft, designers Tami Hatch and Pattie Gunter have woven a richly imagined space for the artist to relax, reflect, and review her work.

Furnishings featured in the Design House are available for purchase at The Washington Design Center showrooms by working with a design professional. The Design Center offers resources to help the public

connect with interior designers, including a newly revamped Web site with a sophisticated Find-a-Designer search feature. The new Web site features a beautiful and easy-to-navigate home page with Design Center events and information. Each showroom will have an individual Web page within the site that will contain showroom information as well as extensive details on its products.

The Fall 2008 Design House also is available for private or corporate parties and for charitable functions. For more information, please call the marketing department at 202.646.6114.

**About The Washington Design Center:**

Dedicated to providing the finest in home furnishings to the design trade, The Washington Design Center houses over 60 wholesale residential, commercial and building products showrooms. Considered the mid-Atlantic region's largest resource and destination for the design industry, The Washington Design Center works closely with designers to guarantee consumers the best possible luxury shopping experience.

The Washington Design Center is located at 300 D Street, SW in Washington, D.C. Above the Federal Center SW Metro Station, The Washington Design Center is served by the Orange and Blue lines.

**Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI)** is a trade show and property management firm, specializing in managing buildings devoted to wholesale showrooms and commercial office space. MMPI produces more than 300 trade shows, market events and conferences each year.

MMPI manages The Merchandise Mart and 350 West Mart Center in Chicago; Market Square, the Suites at Market Square, Hamilton Market, Plaza Suites, Furniture Plaza and the National Furniture Mart in High Point, N.C.; the Architects & Designers Building and 7 W New York in New York; the Boston Design Center in Boston; the L.A. Mart in Los Angeles; and The Washington Design Center

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