

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Victoria Kent
Public Relations Manager
MMPI
312.527.7508
vkent@mmart.com

Jennifer Sergent
Director of Marketing
Washington Design Center
202.646.6109
jsergent@mmart.com

**WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER ANNOUNCES 2011 OUTDOOR WEEK
February 28 - March 4, 2011**

WASHINGTON, DC (February 8, 2011) – The Washington Design Center is celebrating its second annual Outdoor Week, February 28 – March 4, 2011, to highlight its showrooms' outdoor furnishings, fabrics, and rugs. See the latest collections across 30 showrooms, punctuated during the week by lectures and events on all things outdoor.

Highlights include a fabric, fashion and jewelry trunk show featuring the designs of Trina Turk, a panel discussion on outdoor trends by prominent local designers and landscape architects; and a lecture on the special considerations of vacation house design.

Advance images of many new outdoor collections are available. We can also help arrange interviews with showrooms and/or product designers.

Below is a full listing of our Outdoor Week events:

Monday, Feb. 28, 4 p.m.

A panel of landscape architects and interior designers on outdoor design trends, featuring:

Anthony Cusat, McHale Landscape Design
Jay Graham, Graham Landscape Architecture
Barbara Hawthorn, Barbara Hawthorn Interiors
Elizabeth Norman, Elizabeth Norman Landscaping and Garden Design
Dana Tydings, Tydings Design

Cocktails to follow in the J. Lambeth showroom, Suite 120. J. Lambeth offers outdoor lines by Grange and Giati.

Tuesday, March 1, 11 a.m.

Steve Elton of Brown Jordan will talk about the merits of performance fabrics: How they are built to withstand the elements; the technology that makes them beautiful, with luxurious textures; and from Brown Jordan's Spring 2011 line, the best coordinating colors and patterns for a grand outside setting. Lunch follows in the Brown Jordan by AmericanEye showroom.

Wednesday, March 2

10 a.m.

Kathleen Litchfield of Petro Design/Build will deliver a CEU-credited lecture on blending indoor and outdoor design.

12:30-2 p.m.

Over lunch, Eric Graham of Century Furniture will talk about the construction of outdoor furniture, and which frames and style are appropriate for different outdoor settings.

Thursday, March 3

10:30 a.m.

Designer Erin Paige Pitts and Architect Lee Foster, the founders of VacationHouseReview.com, will discuss all aspects of vacation house design, including regional differences, durability and comfort, and marketing your design services

Lunch will follow in the WILLEMSMITHDC showroom.

2-4 p.m.

In the Schumacher showroom, Suite 523: A fabric, fashion and jewelry trunk show featuring the designs of Trina Turk, cosponsored by Georgetown's Wink boutique and Charm Georgetown.

To be placed on our press list for any of these events, please contact Nicole Frye at nfrye@mmart.com or 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.

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.

Vornado Realty Trust, owners of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated equity real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

###