

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEARN ABOUT THE LATEST EXTERIOR DESIGN TRENDS AT THE 2009 INTERNATIONAL CASUAL FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES MARKET**

**Join industry experts as they discuss upcoming trends, Thursday, September 24th**

**CHICAGO, IL (August 6, 2009)** – The International Casual Furniture & Accessories Market™, returns to Chicago's Merchandise Mart, September 21-24, 2009. The Casual Market is the most complete collection of furnishings, trends and accessories for outdoor living. There you can see the newest, most innovative products from leading manufacturers around the world and discover the latest trends in color, product design fabric pattern and more.

On Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1pm interior designers, landscape architects, landscape designers and casual market attendees are invited to attend a special presentation: **Trends in Design – Beyond 2009** sponsored by *Garden Design* magazine. Learn about the hottest trends in exterior décor from top experts in the industry. Before and after the presentation designers are encouraged to view all the product offerings the Casual Market has to offer in 350,000 square feet of exhibit space on four floors.

Design trade professionals are also invited attend the Casual Market during all four days of the show.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

**Trends in Design—Beyond 2009**

**1 p.m. | The Library, Suite 1520, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Discover what's hot in the home—both indoors and out—during this informative panel discussion. Moderated by Sarah Kinbar, editor-in-chief of *Garden Design* magazine, top experts in the industry will speak on the latest in furniture designs and styles, fabric trends, popular paint colors and finishes, plant and floral pairings. Also learn how the green movement is affecting homeowners' choices. Sponsored by *Garden Design* magazine.

RSVP to Jaclyn Kotzum at [jkotzum@mmart.com](mailto:jkotzum@mmart.com) or 312-527-7764 by September 18, 2009.

**Moderator— Garden Design, Sarah Kinbar, Editor-in-Chief**

- Sarah Kinbar joined Garden Design as associate editor in 2001. Kinbar oversees editorial development of departments and features, covers, scouting and manages the *Garden Design* team.

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**Glen Raven Custom Fabrics, makers of Sunbrella® fabrics, Gina Wicker, Design and Creative Director**

- Gina Wicker manages a 10 person creative team with oversight of the fabric design process for the casual and residential furniture industries, as well as catalog and contract markets. In addition to her design responsibilities, Wicker also manages the creative elements in Glen Raven's marketing communications program, including photography, advertising, collateral, Web site design, sample books and custom sampling programs. Wicker, who joined Glen Raven as design director in 2003, has more than 20 years experience in the textile industry, including management roles for fabric design, product development, marketing and customer service.

**Veneman Group, Bill Markowitz, President**

- Bill Markowitz, president of The Veneman Group, has worked in the furniture business for nearly 30 years, 25 in the outdoor furniture industry. Veneman is a leader in both the high-end residential design market and commercial outdoor market concentrating in the resort and hotel market. Veneman debuted The Walt Disney Signature Outdoor Line of furniture at the High Point market earlier this year.

**Eberly & Collard Public Relations, Don Eberly, President/CEO**

- Don Eberly is a co-owner of Eberly & Collard Public Relations, a national firm specializing in the home, garden, design, and agribusiness industries. His clients include interior designers, landscape designers/architects, furniture manufacturers, and home & garden product companies. Eberly and his team manage clients' photo shoots and press materials, resulting in thousands of collective publicity articles each year. Additionally, they conduct focus groups and marketplace studies to uncover and publish industry trends on a quarterly basis.

**SHOW INFORMATION**

For casual furniture and accessories buyers who need to purchase a wide selection of outdoor furnishings and accessories, The International Casual Furniture & Accessories Market is a four-day trade show that provides retailers with an outlet to find all things related to outdoor and casual living. Featuring the latest products and trends in the industry, the Casual Market boasts approximately 300 temporary exhibitors and more than 40 permanent showrooms totaling approximately 350,000 square feet of overall exhibit space on floors 7, 8, 15, 16 and 17 in The Merchandise Mart in Chicago.

The Merchandise Mart  
Chicago, IL  
Monday, September 21– Thursday, September 24, 2009

**Permanent Showrooms: Floors 15, 16, 17**

Monday-Wednesday, September 21-23, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Thursday, September 24, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Temporary Exhibitors: Floor 8**

Monday – Wednesday, September 21-23, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Thursday, September 24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.casualmarket.com](http://www.casualmarket.com).

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**GARDEN DESIGN** magazine is the leading publication on exterior design, creating a viable connection between the design community and the avid home gardener. Through forward-thinking ideas and products, GARDEN DESIGN provides continuous inspiration on all aspects of outdoor living and design. [www.GardenDesign.com](http://www.GardenDesign.com)

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**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 in Washington D.C.

**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.

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