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*** Showroom photography available**

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**COUTURE FASHION MEETS LUXURY FURNITURE AS FENDI CASA
OPENS IN THE WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER**

WASHINGTON D.C. October 11, 2006 - Looking for the perfect sofa to match your crocodile leather stilettos? A crystal, glass-blown lamp from Italy to make your dress sparkle? Now's your chance to find high-end furnishings and accessories that go with your favorite Fendi handbag. Fendi, the international fashion icon known for its signature logo, opened a Fendi Casa showroom on the 6th floor of The Washington Design Center today. Fendi Casa's stylish and expansive furniture and accessory lines will add yet another dimension to the acclaimed Washington Design Center's home furnishings collection.

Staying true to its fashion roots, Fendi's furniture line Fendi Casa uses only the richest and most exclusive materials available, such as damasks, hand-made prints enriched with gold powder and silk and the printed leathers and precious furs for which the collection is known. Fendi Casa's collection also offers every piece imaginable to create a complete, couture home environment, including sofas, armchairs, chaise lounges, beds, dining and coffee tables, lighting, accessories and more. Hand-made with impeccable attention to detail, each creation is unique and built with sinuous curves and sensual textures to create a sleek, seductive look.

"Our luxury home furnishings encompass the Fendi lifestyle with each piece supporting and enriching each other to create whole home design," said Ani Schroeder, owner of Fendi Casa, Washington D.C. "Admirers of the Fendi fashion collection will appreciate the high quality and fashionable look of Fendi Casa."

The latest Fendi Casa collection, which will be showcased at the new Washington Design Center showroom, is featured in rich ivory, black, chocolate, dark oak, sky blue and sand. Gold brings all the colors together to enlighten and enrich the pieces, whether gold is used in an accompanying fabric or in the details of the furnishings. Additionally, Fendi Casa incorporates details taken from its acclaimed fashion line into its pieces, including buckles, jewel buttons, and of course, the signature Fendi logo.

"Fendi Casa is an exciting addition to The Washington Design Center because it is exclusive to the East Coast region and one of the few places to find couture home furnishings directly influenced by fashion," said Julia Chappell, marketing director for The Washington Design Center. "Now style-savvy residents in Washington D.C. can work with their interior design professional to find high-style furniture for their home from one of their favorite fashion designers."

To learn more about Fendi Casa, please call 202 479 0990.

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, DC. Above the Federal Center SW Metro Station, The Washington Design Center is served by the Orange and Blue lines.

To learn more about The Washington Design Center and its showrooms, programs and special events, call 202.646.6100 or visit the Design Center online at www.merchandisemart.com/dcdesigncenter.

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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 W. 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 and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

Vornado Realty Trust, owner of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated 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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