



The Washington Design Center
300 D STREET SW • WASHINGTON, DC 20024

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Victoria Kent, Public Relations Manager
MMPI
312.527.7508
E-mail: vkent@mmart.com

**THE WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW DESIGN HOUSE CONCEPT
Featuring WDC Hall of Fame Designers**

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 12, 2010) – The Washington Design Center is proud to debut its brand-new Design House concept, The Halls of Fame Design House. The Design House, newly rebuilt on the 5th floor of The Washington Design Center, provides lifestyle-conscious consumers an entrée into the world of high-end home décor. The 2010 Design House will truly celebrate local designers, with each room in the house designed by a WDC Hall of Fame Designer.

"This year's Design House reflects each designer's personal style and vision. The Design House 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 Mitchell Walters, director of marketing at The Washington Design Center. "Consumers and designers alike will be surprised and inspired by the eight beautiful spaces."

**The 2010 Design House
The Washington Design Center
Free admission; open to the general public
May 21- December 4, 2010
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

*****Design House Opening Black Tie Gala Preview Party –Thursday, May 20, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.*****

Join us for the 2010 Design House Opening Black Tie Gala, which will feature entertainment by a Frank Sinatra Swing Band, cocktails, a delicious dinner buffet and tours of the 2010 Design House. Tickets are on sale for \$50 at <http://www.dcdesigncenter.com/2010springdesignhouse/> or call 202.646.6114.

The distinguished design teams include:

Foyer / Lobby – Kelley Proxmire, Kelley Proxmire Design

Kelley Proxmire envisioned this space as the Park Avenue home of a New York socialite, and a backdrop for big entertaining. The inspiration for the room came from a pair of turquoise vases that Proxmire acquired at Charlotte Moss's store on East 63rd street in Manhattan. Building on the exquisite shade of blue and Proxmire's love for black and turquoise, the room is a study in graphic contrasts and glamorous finishes.

The unlikely focal point of the room is the floor. Rather than using a rug in this space, Proxmire painted the floor in a David Hicks-inspired black and white octagonal pattern, a look both bold and classic. Aside from the floors, patterns in the room are restrained. The skirted table is vibrant turquoise, outlined in a black-and-white trim. Window treatments are crisp white silk, with horizontal turquoise stripes adding flair. Walls are finished in a simple yet sophisticated white lacquer. Patterns in the room may be restrained, but the scale of the pieces are dramatic. The two console tables were originally built as dining tables, and the mirrors above these tables are nearly five feet high. A sweeping wall of French doors gets added impact by being painted black. Accent pieces add refinement to this punchy room, like jewelry giving glittering touches to the space. An enormous gilded

chandelier by David Latesta sits over the center table, and the mirrors and wall sconces extend the luxurious gold tones. Crystal table lamps dispense sparkle through the room, and even the center skirted table is adorned with rhinestones.

Portico – Frank Babb Randolph, Frank Babb Randolph Interior Design

Inspired by Grecian lines, Frank Babb Randolph created a graceful outdoor space that greets visitors as they enter the Design House. The Portico is a tranquil space that features dramatic lighting and four large columns that create a perfect frame for the house.

Dining Room – Victor Shargai, Victor Shargai and Associates, Inc.

The English mystery writers of the first part of the twentieth century were fond of including descriptions of livable spaces. Always there is comfort and style, but of more significance is the personality of the space. This is very much the credo of Victor Shargai and Associates' design ethic. When working with a new client, the "getting to know you" phase is extremely thorough. Shargai's design is always an evolving process, and he believes that homes should be organic and not look as if they had been "done." He has only one rule and that is that there are NO rules. Using the client as inspiration, Shargai's room was inspired by the English mystery writers of the first part of the twentieth century.

Living Room / Study – David Herchik and Richard J. Looman, JDS Designs, Inc.

David Herchick and Richard Looman's concept for the Living Room/Study was a collaboration between modern and retro. Inspired by the Bohemian batik feel of the plum and gold Rubelli fabric, Herchick and Looman let it guide the tone for the room. They envisioned a relaxed, contemporary room in a loft setting or open-space apartment. They also played on different textures from the fur-like Stark rug to the braided hemp wall covering to the polished plaster wall behind the fireplace. The living room is perfect for city-living, as the space is designed for multi-use. The living room and study spaces can be combined for a sophisticated cocktail party or the study can be transformed for a casual dinner, work space or game table. The drapes act like a divider and can be closed to create an intimate and tranquil space.

Family Room - Rita St. Clair, Rita St. Clair Associates, Inc.

Rita St. Clair's inspiration for this space was a client who was sophisticated and world traveled, yet relaxed enough to buy and live in his or her own style. St. Clair and her team gathered the eclectic contents of this space to form what they considered an intimate and personal room for their "fantasy client". The multi-functional space may appear loose and not designed. However, that is the challenge in properly designed homes for families or active adults. St. Clair feels that family rooms must be visually pleasing as well as functional for their use.

Library / Study – Nestor Santa-Cruz, Gensler

Nestor Santa-Cruz prefers spaces to reflect personality and reference design history, while still sending a message with a modern point of view. For this small study room, he used French decorator Madelaine Castaing as his inspiration. With her in mind, Santa-Cruz drew on Castaing's love of all kinds of blues, and mixing it with black, red, green.

Garden / Terrace – Michael Roberson, Michael Roberson Interior Design

While designing the garden / terrace space, Roberson asked herself, "How do you create a "garden room" on the 5th floor of a city building, with no gardens in sight?" The answer, of course, was with imagination. Roberson's goal was to design a calm, welcoming retreat and infuse it with a hint of fantasy. Her garden room was furnished with a mix of comfortable seating. Some outdoor, some indoor, each piece upholstered in the same white fabric. Accents of brown in the pillows and brown wood furniture enliven the room. Among those accents is an antique Palladian style aviary wired to light a corner, not to cage a bird. A beautiful table illuminated by a hanging lantern, a chaise lounge for reading or a nap, a table top bar make this room a very livable space. To introduce the fantasy, Roberson installed artificial turf for a lush green carpet and hung photographic images from her own garden to create a garden motif on the wall. Behind the bay window seat, a planter box brings a bit of real garden to our fifth floor aerie with walls the color of reflected sunlight. Here, we can imagine we that we are in a garden.

Master Bedroom – Theo Adamstein & Olvia Demetriou, Adamstein & Demetriou

Believing the bedroom to be a sanctuary for rest and relaxation, Adamstein and Demetriou created a sleek and urbane retreat that is both calming and seductive. Working with the challenging scale of a large room, Adamstein and Demetriou's goal was to provide multiple zones of intimacy. Spatial harmony is created by focusing on the delicate balance of shadow and light, texture and sheen, and solid and void. Clean lines, dark walls, and luminous planes come together to create an inviting atmosphere. It was decided that a dark rich

palette punctuated by glowing surfaces would help to create the focal points necessary to provide balance within the space. Deep niches were formed to help identify zones for sleeping and bathing as well as to create a warm ambient glow within the dramatic scheme. Shimmering wall-covering and luxurious Arabascato marble were selected to provide contrast while bringing a light and sensual element to the design.

Centered within the largest niche, the low modern bed grounds the space and defines the sleeping area. To the left of the bed, the master bathroom showcases light-washed walls of marble and glass, a playful freestanding tub, and a floating vanity. A comfortable lounge area addresses the fireplace and television wall, creating a zone for relaxation. Centered on the window, a table and pair of chairs offer a space for reading. The natural daylight is filtered by a delicate open sheer and framed by lush velvet drapes. The room is grounded by a large silk and wool rug, which has been layered over Eco-friendly grey oak flooring. From the rich materials to the clean lines of the furniture, each element of the bedroom was carefully selected for its' character, helping to enhance the design's subtle choreography of scale.

About The Washington Design Center:

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 2010 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.

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.

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