

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DESIGN DC: INAUGURAL MARKET EVENT DEBUTTING LATEST IN HOME INTERIOR
MARCH 13-15 AT WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER**

WASHINGTON, DC (February 22, 2007) – The Washington Design Center will debut a luxury interiors extravaganza – **Design DC**, March 13-15, 2007. Design DC is a three-day market event for interior designers and architects that showcases the mid-Atlantic region's hottest new fabrics and colors; the newest in furnishing and décor; and the latest in kitchens, appliances, flooring, tile and more. The design-savvy public and design trade are invited to attend the kitchen and bath-focused events hosted on Thursday, March 15.

Design DC will combine trade events previously held throughout the year at The Washington Design Center into one event that will feature acclaimed industry guest speakers, showroom seminars and events, and new product launches. Events and lectures held on Tuesday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 14 are specifically for those in the design trade. Homeowners and designers and seeking inspiration for their kitchen and bath projects are invited to attend Design DC on Thursday, March 15, when the focus shifts to those areas of the home.

"The Washington Design Center is thrilled to introduce Design DC, a once-a-year opportunity for the area's design trade and public to hear from the industry's top professionals and see the latest trends and interiors products available in the region," said Julia Chappell, marketing director for the Washington Design Center. "We have a great line-up of speakers for the feature presentations and our showrooms will conduct their own seminars and events throughout the three days. Design DC is a chance to educate the trade and for homeowners to experience the luxury resources available at the Design Center."

Design DC boasts feature presentations, new product introductions, food and beverage hospitality and individual showroom events throughout its duration. Highlights of Design DC events are as follows:

Tuesday, March 13 – Fabric Focus (TRADE only)

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Joann Eckstut, "Mastering Color: The Art of Choosing Ideal Palettes"

Joann Eckstut, leading color consultant, will detail how people biologically perceive color, emotionally respond to it and socially construct it. Eckstut will also address personal tastes and cultural associations as well as how color changes perception of space.

11 a.m.-Noon – Steve Mittman, "The Wrong Fabric for the Right Chair: Fabric Selection 101"

With tens of thousands of different fabrics and upholstery styles available, each order is almost guaranteed to pose a new challenge to designers. Steve Mittman, owner of Edward Ferrell/Lewis Mittman will share examples from his 35 years of experience in an engaging presentation to help designers avoid costly mistakes.

Wednesday, March 14 – Furniture Focus (TRADE only)

9:30-10:30 a.m. – Joan Mercuri, "Timeless Design...Wright Living for the 21st Century"

Joan Mercuri, president and CEO of the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, will share how Frank Lloyd Wright's concepts from the late 1800's have survived, thrived, inspired and continue to be adopted by 21st century designers, architects and residents. Mercuri also will showcase Wright's inspiration behind his architectural masterpieces, detailing his design concepts and architectural philosophy.

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11 a.m.-Noon – Barry Dixon, “Behind Design: Why Designers Do What They Do”

Barry Dixon believes interior design is influenced and inspired by designers' childhood memories and the world around them. This design icon will host an informative presentation on the inspirations behind his own furniture and designs.

4 – 6 p.m. – Cocktail Reception

Toast to the newly renovated Washington Design Center lobby at a cocktail reception for the trade and media.

Thursday, March 15 – Kitchen & Bath Focus (TRADE and CONSUMER)

10-11 a.m. - “Top Trends in Kitchen and Bath Design”

Top Trends in Kitchen and Bath Design will feature a top Kitchen and Bath designer, who will showcase his work and discuss the latest styles, products, innovative materials and surfaces on the market today. The discussion will be supported by HOME & DESIGN Editor-in-Chief Sharon Jaffe Dan.

For a complete listing of showroom events, please visit www.mmart.com/dcdesigncenter. In order to register for Design DC, please visit <http://www.martreg.com/reg/wdc/designdc.cfm>.

The Washington Design Center is the mid-Atlantic's premier resource for home furnishings, décor and building products. The home furnishing showrooms cater to interior designers, architects, and space planners for custom design for their clients. Consumers may window shop and browse a select number of residential showrooms, but must work with a design professional in order to purchase any home furnishings, accessories and fabrics from those residential showrooms. However, consumers may shop direct from any of the Kitchen, Bath & Building Design Center showrooms on the Concourse level.

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

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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