



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brian Bishop (x210) / Kerry Lynn Bohem (x203)
Brotman Winter Fried Communications
703.534.4600 (kbohen@bwfcom.com)

Jaclyn Kotzum, Public Relations Manager
Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc.
312.527.7841 (E-mail: jkotzum@mmart.com)

SPRING 2007 DESIGN HOUSE BRINGS ELEGANCE TO "A SUMMER HOUSE"

The Washington Design Center and *HOME & DESIGN* Magazine To Showcase the Season's Finest

WASHINGTON (March XX, 2007) – Discover your muse, find true inspiration, and the impetus to bring your own dream home to reality, at the Spring 2007 Design House presented by The Washington Design Center and *HOME & DESIGN* Magazine. This highly-anticipated design platform will celebrate the imminent arrival of summer by bringing together eight of the East Coast's finest interior design professionals to create the 21st installation of this acclaimed showcase of D.C.'s top design talent.

The Spring 2007 Design House features "A Summer House" and is open to the public beginning April 20, 2007. *HOME & DESIGN* editor Sharon Dan explained that "visitors will see the work of top designers as they present fabrics, colors and accessories that evoke a light and airy waterside retreat. Eight rooms will feature some of today's hottest home furnishing and accessories, created by some of today's most sought-after designers. Their collected inspirations promise to evoke feelings of relaxation and escape in these 'getaway' inspired spaces."

"Interior designers have an amazing ability to gather individual pieces and blend them to create stylish, yet comfortable living spaces that meet their client's needs," said Julia Chappell, director of marketing at The Washington Design Center. "The Design House is always tremendously popular because it offers the public an opportunity to see the world's most beautiful home furnishings and accessories brought to life in a space that's as inspiring and unique as the designers who create it..."

**The Spring 2007 Design House
The Washington Design Center
Free admission; open to the general public
April 20 through June 30, 2007
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**** Design House Media Preview – Thursday, April 12, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. ****

**** Design House Preview Benefit Party – Thursday, April 19, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. ****

The Design House kick-off celebration will take place on Thursday, April 19, 2007 inside the showhouse at The Washington Design Center. Tickets are on sale for \$75 by calling 202.646.6114 and a portion of each ticket will go to Best Buddies, a charity dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-on-one friendships and integrated employment.

In harmony with this season's theme, each room in the Design House is inspired by one designer's unique interpretation of a summer house. The distinguished design team includes:

- Sheree Friedman and Ricardo Ramos of Studio Nuovo – Veranda with a View
- Tricia Huntley, Huntley & Company Interior Design – Palm Beach Powder Room
- Stan Kelly, Stan Kelly Interiors – Oceanfront Dining Room
- Judith Loomis of Judith Loomis - Boardwalk Entry
- Mary E. Mitchell, Mitchell Designs – Surfside Living Room
- Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Designs – Sleek Summer Suite

-MORE-

SPRING 2007 DESIGN HOUSE UNVEILS “A SUMMER HOUSE”

Page 2

- André Sabbagh of TAS Interiors in Falls Church – Ocean View Bedroom
- Nestor Santa-Cruz, SKB Architecture – A Sunset Retreat

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.

Guests interested in working directly with a designer can also browse the *Designer Index*, a collection of portfolios featuring local architects and designers, found on the concourse level of The Washington Design Center.

The Spring 2007 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.

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.

About HOME & DESIGN Magazine

HOME & DESIGN Magazine is the region's first and most respected resource for luxury home decor. Each elegant issue inspires readers with its selection of fine interior and exterior designs from homes across Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. A sister publication, **Waterfront Home & Design**, focuses on wonderful homes found along water venues from New Jersey to Florida.

About Best Buddies International

Best Buddies® is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to enhancing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities by providing opportunities for one-to-one friendships and integrated employment.

Founded in 1989 by Anthony Kennedy Shriver, Best Buddies is a vibrant, international organization that has grown from one original chapter to more than 1,300 middle school, high school, and college campuses across the country and internationally. Best Buddies programs engage participants in each of the 50 United States. We have accredited international programs on six continents with additional country programs under active development. Our six formal programs – Best Buddies Middle Schools, High Schools, Colleges, Citizens, e - Buddies® and Jobs – will positively impact more than 300,000 individuals this year. The Washington, D.C., office of Best Buddies supervises e-Buddies, our e-mail friendship program with participants around the United States.

###