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MEDIA CONTACT:

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

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

The Washington Design Center Reveals Newly-Renovated Lobby in Celebration of 25th Anniversary

Frank Babb Randolph-created vignette features exclusive Design Center furnishings

WASHINGTON, DC (March 13, 2007) – In celebration of its 25-year anniversary, The Washington Design Center proudly announces that its lobby has received a complete renovation and will feature an impressive vignette created by award-winning interior designer **Frank Babb Randolph**. The newly-remodeled space provides a welcoming and warm environment that accurately reflects the luxurious sophistication of showrooms at the mid-Atlantic top design and furnishings destination.

“The Washington Design Center is thrilled to have a very inviting and stylishly-designed entrance for all of our visitors to enjoy,” said Ed Collins, newly appointed Vice-President/General Manager of the Merchandise Mart property and the Federal Office Center Southwest. “For 25 years, the Design Center has been the mid-Atlantic’s premier resource for home furnishings and décor. We are very proud that talent for home design is no longer bound to our showrooms; one can see what we can do just by walking in our front doors.”

The revamped lobby showcases the true essence of the Design Center displaying furnishings exclusively from its showrooms. The vignette features:

Barbara Barry through Henredon - standing lamps
Clarence House and George Smith through J. Lambeth & Co. - pillows
David Bell - art work
Fabricut - sofa fabric
latesta & Co. through Holly Hunt - custom mirrors and custom tables
J. Asher Handmade & Decorative Carpets - wool carpet
J. Lambeth & Co. - custom sofa
JF Chen through Hines & Co. - silver square trays
Lee Industries through AmericanEye - bench
Niermann Weeks - custom planters, center table and custom rock crystal chandelier
Oscar de la Renta through Century Designer Showroom - tall cupboard
William Switzer through Hines & Co. - painted chair
Michael Cleary – decorative stone column, black coral accessory
Century Designer Showroom – coffee table

With a complete change to a more contemporary look-- including a state-of-the-art plasma screen displaying events and Design Center messages offering more convenience to its guests-- the renovation has created a natural, interactive space that will be appealing for the future Design Center functions.

[About Frank Babb Randolph](#)

A native of Washington, DC, Frank Babb Randolph's interiors reflect the influence of his mentor Billy Baldwin and his love of classical Italian architecture. Some of his projects have included a Palladium Villa on the Miles River on Maryland's Eastern Shore and the redecoration of the official residence of the Vice President of the US. His work has been featured in *House Beautiful*, *Southern Accents*, *Veranda*, *Traditional Home* and *The Washington Post Sunday Magazine*. His classical Jeffersonian dining room for the Alexandria showhouse was honored by *House Beautiful* magazine as one of the top ten showhouse rooms of the year. Mr. Randolph has been included on *House Beautiful's* 100 Best Designers In America list for the past 10 years and he has collaborated with Niermann Weeks on an elegant furniture collection.

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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