

KREISS LEAVES THE STREET AND RETURNS TO THE MERCHANDISE MART

DESIGN ATELIER WELCOMES KREISS LINE

CHICAGO – May 26, 2009— Design Atelier Modern and Traditional, Suites 1848 and 6-148 at The Merchandise Mart Design Center, are pleased to announce that Kreiss will be returning to their showroom after 18 years. Kreiss, a family-owned and run company has been doing business from their stand alone boutique at 415 N Lasalle Street in Chicago and has relocated permanently to Design Atelier, but their store will remain open through the end of their lease in October and act as an outlet.

'We are very enthusiastic about rekindling the association we previously had with Barbara Pearlman and The Merchandise Mart,' said Michael Kreiss, President and CEO of Kreiss Enterprises. "We feel the return to the Mart will provide our line with better and broader exposure in the Chicago market."

"Kreiss is a world-renowned brand name and we're confident that their move back to the Mart is the most effective way to showcase their products to a discerning clientele," said John H. Brennen III, executive vice president, MMPI. "More and more companies are leaving the street to join forces with The Merchandise Mart, the world's first and largest design center."

Kreiss is renowned for pioneering the "California Look", which Barbara Pearlman, president of Design Atelier, brought to Chicago for the first time almost 23 years ago. Kreiss' eponymous collection is known for the blending of timeless grace, understated quality, traditional elegance and the Kreiss trademark of casual comfort into their furniture and accessories. Like fine tailored clothing, a Kreiss room creates an elegant environment for the people who live in it. Each piece is an original, inspired by the lives and travels of the Kreiss family, and a showpiece, refined by craftspeople whose skills in hand-detailing and hand-finishing is unrivaled. Indeed, everything is "done by hand" - handmade, hand-carved, hand-finished, hand-stuffed, hand-packed and hand-delivered.

This is what has earned the Kreiss Collection the acclaim of discerning homeowners and designers around the world. This artful balance of understated elegance allows a room and its inhabitants to shine against a backdrop of subtle colors, varied textures, and graceful shapes. Encompassing California Casual as well as European Formal, Spanish Mediterranean and other classic styles, the Kreiss Collection offers hundreds of combinations, with something for every taste, mood and moment. This diverse selection allows a versatility to create living spaces that suites homeowners' unique personalities and lifestyles.

"We are very pleased and proud to have Kreiss return to both my showrooms at The Mart," said Barbara Pearlman, president of Design Atelier. "Their products will reach a broad audience of designers and architects who frequent the building and showrooms."

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ABOUT THE MERCHANDISE MART DESIGN CENTER™

The Merchandise Mart Design Center™, located in the heart of Chicago, Illinois, is home to four floors constituting the world's first and largest design center. As a leader in the \$65-billion residential furnishings market, The Merchandise Mart Design Center™ offers the largest presentation of home furnishings worldwide, all under one roof. Encompassing 700,000 square feet, boasting 130 showrooms and featuring over 2000 product lines, the Design Center is the design professional's ultimate resource for luxury furniture, fabrics, floor coverings, wall coverings, lighting, antiques, accessories and much more.

The Merchandise Mart Design Center's Designer Portfolios are a unique online resource for homeowners to learn about working with a design professional and help them find the perfect designer to match their tastes, expectations and budget. More than 65 area design professionals are featured in the online Designer Portfolios, with his or her own web page featuring their design philosophy, area(s) of specialty, project photos, fee structure and more. Designer Portfolios can be easily accessed by visiting www.merchandisemartdesigncenter.com and clicking on the Designer Portfolio logo.

MMPI is the world's leading owner and operator of showroom buildings and trade show facilities, bringing buyers and sellers together in more than 300 market events, trade and consumer shows 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 and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.