

Artistic Tile Offers Chicagoans Entrée into World of Fashion Forward Tiles New LuxeHome Boutique Elevates the Tile Shopping Experience

August 14, 2008, Chicago, IL-- Artistic Tile founder and CEO Nancy Epstein, who is best known for relating her tile and stone designs to the world of fashion and luxury, has announced the opening of a new boutique at LuxeHome in the historic Merchandise Mart in Chicago this Fall. Open to the public and located on the first floor of The Merchandise Mart, LuxeHome is the world's largest collection of luxury boutiques for home building and renovation and has become synonymous with the best in luxury kitchen and bath products for the home.

LuxeHome is renowned for its wide selection of luxury tile products from world-class brands including Ann Sacks, Urban Archaeology, Paris Ceramics, Hastings Tile & Bath, among others. Each manufacturer is famous for its individual style and philosophy, Artistic Tile being no exception. Artistic Tile has an extensive offering of innovative, fashionable products created to enhance and complement the lifestyles and tastes of professional designers and discerning homeowners. Epstein travels the globe for one-of-a-kind, high-quality tile and stone products, venturing as far as Tunisia, Mexico, Italy, France, Spain, China, Vietnam, Turkey, India, Brazil and Israel. Epstein's world travels combined with strong fashion influences make Artistic Tile an extraordinary addition to the LuxeHome collection.

Katherine Flaherty, vice president of building products and special projects for Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc., sees Epstein's vision for Artistic Tile as "the perfect complement to the luxury lifestyle shopping experience offered at LuxeHome," where an extraordinary collection of high end kitchen, bath and building products showrooms are referred to as "boutiques".

With a design composition that feels both curated and comfortable, this latest addition at LuxeHome answers Epstein's quest to "take tile shopping to a new level." It exudes both the buzz and energy of a bustling tile showroom and the lush intimacy of a top couturier's inner sanctum. "My vision was to create a space that all of my clients could embrace – an inviting, residential feel, along with a level of luxury found in the spas, restaurants and other businesses that feature Artistic Tile, where our clients are gathering inspiration," says Epstein.

Artistic Tile's goal to consistently exceed the expectations of its clients will stay true in its LuxeHome boutique. By actively listening to clients' desires, Epstein has developed a complete menu of premiere, value-added services. From in-depth design consultations to serving espresso, lunch or wine during meetings, her utter devotion to the client is patently obvious. "We put that extra effort into each customer experience because we believe that for the client, the process should be as rewarding as the finished project."

"LuxeHome is already home to the world's best luxury kitchen and bath lines, so the high-quality products and superb service from Artistic Tile will be well-received by our clientele. We are excited to be the first to bring Artistic Tile to the Midwest," said Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI) vice president of building products and special projects, Katherine Flaherty.

On Saturday, October 4, 10-3pm, LuxeHome will hold their annual Open House in celebration of National Kitchen and Bath Month. Artistic Tile will present a sneak peek of their tile collections with a tile fashion show of couture-quality garments handcrafted from tile and mosaics.

For more details, please visit www.luxehome.com or call 312.527.7939

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ABOUT LUXEHOME™

LuxeHome boasts more than 100,000 square feet of space with 30 boutiques that feature the finest kitchen and bath products for luxury home building and renovation from the most recognized and respected manufacturers worldwide. Open to the public, as well as interior designers, architects and custom builders, LuxeHome displays the widest selection of products to fit all lifestyles, from modern European to classic American to traditional English. In addition to the extensive lineup of manufacturers, each boutique offers knowledgeable designers who are available to assist with all phases of each design project. LuxeHome's boutiques are open for shopping Monday through Saturday

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 W. 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.

Vornado Realty Trust, owner of MMPI, based in New York City, is a fully integrated real estate investment trust. Vornado's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and are traded under the symbol VNO.

ABOUT ARTISTIC TILE

A private company and family-run business, Artistic Tile offers thousands of stocked tile and stone products for immediate delivery, as well as in-house design services and complete custom capabilities. No matter how intricate the designs or how rare the materials, Artistic Tile offers assistance in every aspect of the specification process from concept to completion. This has won the firm acclaim among top interior designers and architects. These professionals have selected Artistic Tile for some of America's finest residences and most innovative design projects, which include acclaimed restaurants, hotels, resorts, shopping destinations, cruise lines and spas. The company's core value of generosity is expressed in many ways, including philanthropic endeavors with charitable organizations worldwide. For additional information, call 800-260-8646 or visit www.artistictile.com.

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Artistic Tile's New Chicago Showroom 2-2-2

The large front windows offer a light, airy mood along with a touch of whimsy - mannequins draped in garments made from tile as seen on top models in Artistic Tile's award-winning ad campaign. For Chicago, Artistic Tile commissioned master costume designers to fashion a trompe l'oeil windblown effect as an homage to the Windy City.

Epstein's love of glass collecting, and specifically chandeliers, drove the decision for the showroom's lighting. Handmade Barovier & Toso Murano crystal chandeliers bathe the space in warm residential light, enhanced by task lighting for accurate color definition. The front entrance sports two of Barovier & Toso's fanciful upside-down-table lamp chandeliers, in fashion-forward colors of blue and brown. Umbrella-shaped fabric canopies suspended from arched ceilings absorb excess sound while also dispersing soft light and providing a serene backdrop.

More than 30 lifestyle vignettes draw the visitor through the space, culminating in an extensive design library. This thoughtfully appointed room provides a relaxed place in which clients can review countless product samples, neatly stored in an efficient "bin-and-drawer" system of Epstein's design. Generously sized work tables, and an adjacent kitchen and bar area, create an environment that encourages clients and designers to engage in leisurely working lunches and meetings.

Artistic Tile's goal is to consistently exceed the expectations of its clients. Of paramount importance is open communication with all its customers – both homeowners and design professionals. By actively listening to clients' desires, Epstein has developed a complete menu of premiere, value-added services. From in-depth design services to serving espresso, lunch or wine during meetings, her utter devotion to the client is patently obvious. "We put that extra effort into each customer experience because we believe that for the client, the process should be as rewarding as the finished project."

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