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MEET YOUR MATCH: DESIGNER PORTFOLIOS HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT DESIGNER

The Merchandise Mart Design Center's Online Designer Portfolios Lend a Helping Hand to

Find a Designer to Complement Your Style and Budget

CHICAGO (January 5, 2007) — Offering even more insight into the world of interior design, 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. In January 2007, The Merchandise Mart Design Center, Chicago's home to luxury home furnishings and premier destination for designers, adds ten more of Chicago's finest design professionals to its comprehensive online directory of local designers to fit every unique taste and decorating project.

More than 50 Chicago-area design professionals are featured in the online Designer Portfolios, a web site easily accessed by visiting www.merchandisemart.com/designcenter and clicking on the Designer Portfolio logo. Each designer has his or her own page featuring their design philosophy, area(s) of specialty, project photos, fee structure and more. The site features designers of all backgrounds and styles, from those who specialize in historic renovations, to those with a minimalist approach. Homeowners can use this resource to find a designer to help create rooms that look like they came out of their favorite magazines.

The Merchandise Mart Design Center's Designer Portfolios also feature valuable information to consider before embarking on a design project, including an explanation of the difference between a decorator and interior designer and tips on working with a designer to make your project a success.

"Designer Portfolios are a resource to help consumers learn more about the design process and identify their ideal design partner," says Jeanne Fisher, managing director of marketing, Design Center Division, Merchandise Mart Properties, Inc. (MMPI). "By using the Designer Portfolios you can research a design professional to match your unique style and financial situation. The Designer Portfolios reinforce that there is a designer out there for everyone, whether you're looking for help on a small project or need a whole home makeover."

While home decorating may appear easy on the surface, only involving simple color choices and fabric selections, there are many more concerns that design professionals can help you address using their years of training and experience that will save you from costly mistakes. From constructing a plan to drafting a budget, designers offer assistance in every phase of a design project. In addition, they hone the subtle, but essential elements of proportion, lighting, color,

style, longevity, comfort and balance that all combine to make a room stylish and livable.

“Not only do designers bring knowledge and expertise, they also have access to the best selection of choice products, including thousands of furnishings, fabrics, flooring, lighting, artwork and accessories, like those available only at The Merchandise Mart Design Center,” explains Fisher. “Design professionals are your link to unlimited resources to help you create your dream home. They also can locate that one perfect piece to make a room complete or customize furnishings just for your home.”

After finding a designer using the Designer Portfolios, set up an appointment. Most designers are even willing to give a one-hour complimentary consultation, making it even easier to embark on a design project. Fisher suggests a few tips to make the meeting as productive as possible and help convey your personal tastes and style. “Designers are well versed in determining an individual's needs, preferences and personal style. Pull together your favorite pictures and ads from magazines, as well as photos of rooms you don't like, and bring them along to discuss with your designer,” adds Fisher. “An experienced

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designer can help you translate your tastes into a space that complements both your budget and lifestyle. Your design dreams can then unfold as quickly or as leisurely as your time, budget and lifestyle allow.”

To learn more about The Design Center, visit www.merchandisemart.com/designcenter. The Designer Portfolios can be found on The Merchandise Mart Design Center web site by clicking on the Designer Portfolio link.

ABOUT THE MERCHANDISE MART DESIGN CENTER™

The Merchandise Mart Design Center™, located in Chicago's historic Merchandise Mart, 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 high-end, couture, home furnishings worldwide, all under one roof. Encompassing 700,000 square feet, boasting 130 showrooms and featuring more than 2,000 product lines, it is the design professional's ultimate resource for luxury furniture, fabrics, floor coverings, wall coverings, lighting, antiques, and much more.

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 and Federal Center Southwest in Washington D.C.

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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