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Design Chicago Welcomed More Than 2,500 Attendees to the Merchandise Mart, Including Designers, Industry Icons and More, October 3-4, 2017

The Midwest's largest residential design conference drew record crowds

Chicago, IL (October 26, 2017) – [The Design Center at the Merchandise Mart](#) and [LuxeHome](#) hosted [Design Chicago](#), the Midwest's largest trade-only residential design conference, on October 3 and 4, 2017 at the iconic Merchandise Mart (theMART) in downtown Chicago. The two-day event drew more than 2,500 attendees, including leading interior design, architecture and luxury custom homebuilding professionals from across the country, to more than 120 showrooms, spanning over 600,000 square feet of space.

Design Chicago presented a variety of education and innovative programming, along with signature events, including:

- 39 Featured Presentations
- 25 CEU Programs
- 50 Open Houses
- 56 Featured Products
- 14 Strategic Media Partners
- 8 New Showrooms
- 2 Exclusive Ticketed Events – Chairs for Charity and the Chicago VIP Luxury Gala

“We’re thrilled with the overwhelming response from our showrooms, presenters and attendees at this year’s Design Chicago,” said Susan McCullough, Senior Vice President at theMART. “Design Chicago has become the must-attend residential design conference in the Midwest and brings together the best of the best in the industry. We look forward to building on this year’s success and attracting even more attendees from the Midwest, as well as coast to coast, in 2018.”

Design Chicago Highlights

Presentations from notable members of the design industry packed the house, and included celebrated interior designers Vern Yip and Jonathan Adler. Additional A-list designers and architects who delivered featured presentations and CEUs included:

- Julia Buckingham, Principal, Buckingham Interiors + Design
- Mick De Giulio, Principal, de Giulio kitchen design
- Dirk Denison, FAIA, Founder, Dirk Denison Architects
- Julie Hacker and Stuart Cohen, Partners and Co-Founders, Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects LLC
- Shawn Henderson, Interior Designer, Shawn Henderson Interior Design
- Kara Mann, Founder and Creative Director, KARA MANN
- Elissa Morgante, Principal, Morgante Wilson Architects
- Christopher Peacock, President and CEO, Christopher Peacock
- Champion Platt, Interior Designer, Champion Platt Interiors
- Kathryn Quinn, Principal, Kathryn Quinn Architects
- Tom Stringer, Designer and Founder, Tom Stringer Design Partners
- Summer Thornton, Interior Designer, Summer Thornton Design
- Chip von Weise, Principal, von Weise Associates

In addition, 14 media partners from coast to coast were on hand to offer their deep knowledge of the industry and years of expertise:

- *Architectural Digest*
- *Chicago Agent*
- *Chicago Magazine*
- *Coastal Living*
- *Editor at Large*
- *Elle Décor*
- *House Beautiful*
- *Luxe Interiors + Design*
- *Metropolis*
- *Modern Luxury Interiors Chicago*
- *Interior Design*
- *Sophisticated Living*
- *Traditional Home*
- *Veranda*

An added draw was the energy generated from eight new showrooms which opened in 2017:

- Divine Flooring (105B)
- Experience and Design Center, featuring Gaggenau, Thermador and Bosch (108)
- Brizo and Delta Chicago (127)
- True Residential Design Showroom (163)
- Style Library (6-117A)
- Moore & Giles (1424)
- DEDON (1450)
- Artisan Electronics Group (1486)

Chicago VIP Luxury Gala Highlights

Design Chicago culminated with the ninth annual Chicago VIP Luxury gala, held the evening of October 4, 2017. The Chicago VIP Luxury Gala drew a record crowd of over 700, including a who's who of the design industry who came together to celebrate the best of Chicago and Midwest design. The event featured the induction of five residential design industry icons into the Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame.

- **Lifetime Achievement:** David Sutherland, CEO, David Sutherland Showrooms
- **Architect:** Stuart Cohen and Julie Hacker, Partners and Co-Founders, Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects LLC
- **Designer:** Jessica Lagrange, Founder and Principal, Jessica Lagrange Interiors LLC
- **Residential Developer:** Alan D. Lev, President and CEO, Belgravia Group

"We were privileged to honor this year's exemplary residential design professionals," said Susan McCullough, Senior Vice President at theMART. "All have made their mark on our industry and continue to inspire us through their professional achievements."

The Chicago VIP Luxury Gala was sponsored by exclusive Media Sponsor, *Luxe Interiors + Design*; Platinum Sponsors, Gaggenau, Thermador and Bosch; Gold Sponsors, Pella Crafted Luxury and Sherwin Williams; and Silver Sponsors, Gary Lee, Vicostone and Wood-Mode.

Chairs for Charity Highlights

This signature event from *Splash*, in conjunction with *Chicago* magazine, challenged 16 designers with the task of bringing a vintage chair back to life. The event attracted more than 375 attendees, who were encouraged to bid on the one-of-a-kind chairs through a silent auction throughout the event. All proceeds raised benefit Designs for Dignity.

About the Design Center at The Merchandise Mart (theMART)

The Design Center, located in Chicago's historic Merchandise Mart, is home to four floors constituting the world's largest and finest design center. As a leader in the \$65 billion residential home furnishings market, the Design Center offers the largest presentation of high-end, customizable, residential and outdoor home furnishings worldwide, all under one roof. Encompassing 750,000 square feet, boasting more than 125 showrooms and featuring more than 2,500 product lines, it is the ultimate resource for designers and design enthusiasts of luxury furniture, fabrics, floor coverings, wall coverings, lighting and much more. For more information, visit designcenter.com. Visit Design Center on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About LuxeHome®

LuxeHome is the world's largest collection of premier boutiques for home building and renovation located on the first floor of the Merchandise Mart in Chicago. With more than 125,000 square feet of showroom space featured in over 35 boutiques, LuxeHome is host to the finest products for home building and renovation from the most recognized and respected manufacturers worldwide.

LuxeHome offers discerning homeowners and trade professionals one-stop shopping convenience with access to the finest kitchen, bath, tile, lighting, cabinetry, appliances, countertops and much more. LuxeHome displays the widest selection of products to suit all upscale design styles, from modern European to classic American to traditional English. In addition to the extensive lineup of premier brands, 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. For more information, visit www.luxehome.com. Follow LuxeHome on [Facebook](#), [Houzz](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Vornado Realty Trust, owner of the Merchandise Mart, 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. www.vno.com

DESIGN CHICAGO – October 3-4, 2017



1: Design Chicago kicks off at Maya Romanoff (6-167) with a CEU on 20th and 21st century wallcoverings.



2: An artisan from the Maya Romanoff Chicago studio created wallcoverings for the live audience.



3: Interior Design & Author Vern Yip shared his design principles at Fabricut (6-117).



4: David Matuszko, Principal, David Wayne Interiors discussed fabric and frames at Interior Crafts (617).



5: Chad Stark, Senior Vice President, discussed how to stay ahead of the curve at STARK (6-102).



6: Tori Mellott of Traditional Home, along with interior designers Summer Thornton and Kara Mann, and Oscar Yague of Made Goods discuss the future of interior design at Made Goods (14-106).



7: Holly Hunt introduces Pamela McNally, VP, Digital, Sandow, to present 5 digital trends changing business today at HOLLY HUNT (1428).



8: Scott Group Studio (14-129) celebrated its grand re-opening at Design Chicago.



9: Eva Quateman, Founder and Lead Designer, Quateman Essentials, explored the ups and downs of creating a designer-curated product line at deAurora (1499).



10: New showroom Artisan Electronics Group (1486) presented two CEUs during Design Chicago on designing a home theater, as well as the art of hiding technology.



11: Osborne & Little (610) debuted its fall collection during Design Chicago.



12: Barbara Todd, showroom manager at Donghia (631).



13: Timeless and sophisticated – design fabrics and wallcoverings from ROMO (6-152).



14: Elaine Markoutsas moderated a discussion on mixing colors and patterns, with Jason Oliver Nixon and John Loecke of Madcap Cottage, and Thomas Paul of Thomaspaul, hosted by Robert Allen I Beacon Hill (633).



15: Jonathan Adler joined Editor at Large contributor Monica Pederson to discuss his most recent collaboration with The Shade Store (105)



16: Sean Stewart, Managing Partner with Divine Flooring (105B) presented the company's history – as well as where they are headed.



17: The Gourmand's Fantasy Kitchen! With Carisha Swanson, Kitchen & Bath Editor, House Beautiful and Interior Designer Summer Thornton at Wood-Mode Lifestyle Design Center (119).



18: Gillian C. Rose, Founder & CEO, The Science of Color presented a CEU at Lefroy Brooks I Cooper & Graham (117) on color and how it has a deep, physical and psychological effect on us.



19: Trends, tips and talk with Traditional Home's Editor in Chief, Jill Waage, at BRIZO and DELTA Chicago (127).



20: Modern Italian Design! With (L-R): Riccardo Conti, Managing Director, Fantini North America (163) and Stefano Giussani CEO and Partner, Lissoni Inc.



21: Pella Crafted Luxury (100) hosted Iconic House III, moderated by 2017 Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame honoree, Julie Hacker, Partner, Cohen & Hacker Architects LLC., and an esteemed panel.



22: #IHaveThisThingWithFloors – So do we! Pamela Jaccarino, Editor in Chief, Luxe Interiors + Design, moderated a discussion at Artistic Tile.



23: Mayer Rus of Architectural Digest and Shawn Henderson of Shawn Henderson Interior Design discuss the possibilities and pitfalls of working with celebrity clients at Paris Ceramics (146).



24: Jonathan Adler, Mayer Rus of Architectural Digest, Shawn Henderson of Shawn Henderson Interior Design, and Richard Abbott of Paris Ceramics catching up during Design Chicago.



25: CS Editor in Chief David Zivan moderates discussion with panel including Alexis Nataf, Owner, Exquisite Surfaces (143).



26: Making a stop at Sherwin Williams (163) for color inspiration during Design Chicago.



27: Leslie Ezelle, HGTV Design Star All Stars Winner, discusses lessons she's learned in creating stunning showroom spaces, hosted by Vicostone (163). Ezelle designed Vicostone's Dallas showroom.



28: Pamela McNally, VP, Digital, Sandow, discusses successful social media strategy with the crowd at Ann Sacks (100B).



29: Fashion forward thinking with interior designer Richard T. Anuszkiewicz at Monogram Appliances (124).



30: The Future of the Ultimate Kitchen with Sub-Zero and Wolf (134) and Interiors Editor Carolyn Englefield of VERANDA Magazine (left), along with (L-R): Dan Heyn, President of Sub-Zero Group Midwest; interior designer Danielle Rollins; and, interior design Ray Booth.



31: Kitchen trends and tastings with Miele (133), Traditional Home and Girl & the Goat.



32: The Evolution of the Bath with GRAFF (103).



33: What Makes Authentic Luxury with (L-R), Greg Rohl, VP of ROHL (163); along with interior designers Julia Buckingham and Campion Platt



34: Anne Hartnett (left), Managing Partner, Publisher of Chicago Agent led panel on what's trending in branded selections in the marketplace, which included Rama Dandamudi (right), President, Snaidero Chicago (140).



35: Barbara Sallick, Waterworks Co-Founder & SVP of Design, participated in a discussion on how integrated design & construction technology improves project outcomes at Waterworks (136).



36: Christopher Peacock presented his Building a Brand presentation (148).



37: Editor in Chief Elise Hofer Shaw of Sophisticated Living Magazine leading a panel at Poggenpohl (138).



38: Architecture and Design Writer Karen Klages Grace with Mick De Giulio, Principal, de Giulio kitchen design (121).



39: Getting social PORCELANOSA (149) with Metropolis Magazine discussing how to get published.



40: Luca Lanzetta, Owner of Ernestomeda Chicago (128).



41: Scavolini (110) Happy Hour with Elle Décor!

CHAIRS FOR CHARITY – October 3, 2017



42: More than 375 attendees joined the 8th annual Chairs for Charity, where Chicago's top designers gave new life to vintage chairs – and auctioned them off, with all proceeds benefitting Designs for Dignity.



43: Spinderella Chair – Donated by Anthony Michael of Anthony Michael Interior Design.



44: Lola Lounge Chair: Donated by Eva Quateman of Eva Quateman Interiors.



45: Canvas Chair: Donated by Mitchell Channon of Mitchell Channon Design.



46: Chairs for Charity



47: Chairs for Charity



48: Chairs for Charity



49: Chairs for Charity



50: Chairs for Charity



51: Chairs for Charity

CHICAGO VIP LUXURY GALA – October 4, 2017



52: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards – Lifetime Achievement: David Sutherland, CEO, David Sutherland Showroom



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54: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards – Lifetime Achievement: David Sutherland, CEO, David Sutherland Showroom, received congratulations.



55: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards - Architect: Stuart Cohen and Julie Hacker, Partners & Co-Founders, Stuart Cohen & Julie Hacker Architects LLC.



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57: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards – Designer: Jessica Lagrange, Founder and Principal, Jessica Lagrange Interiors LLC.



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59: Jessica Lagrange (center), Founder & Principal, Jessica Lagrange Interiors LLC, with team.



60: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards - Residential Developer: Alan D. Lev, President & CEO, Belgravia Group.



61: Merchandise Mart Hall of Fame Awards - Residential Developer: Toni McIntosh, VP of Leasing, theMART; Alan D. Lev, President & CEO, Belgravia Group; and Myron Maurer, Chief Operating Officer, theMART.



62: Vicostone Quartz Surfaces with Leslie Ezelle, HGTV Design Star All Stars Winner, Leslie Christine Designs, LLC. (2nd from right).



63: The team from the True Residential Design Showroom, one of the newest to open at LuxeHome, celebrates at the Gala.