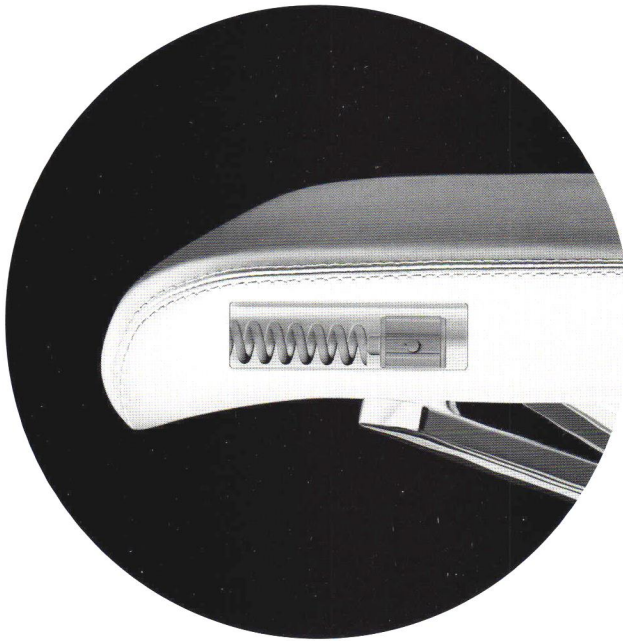


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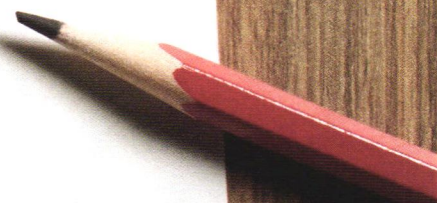
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#### James Beard Award Winners Announced for Design

The two 2015 restaurant design winners are Brindille in Chicago by Bureau of Architecture and Design and Workshop Kitchen & Bar in Palm Springs, California, by SOMA.

[contractdesign.com/jamesbeard2015](http://contractdesign.com/jamesbeard2015)

#### Winners Announced for 2015 National Design Awards

The Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum announced the honorees, including Commune and Michael Graves.

[contractdesign.com/nationaldesignawards](http://contractdesign.com/nationaldesignawards)

#### Contract Publisher John Rouse Among NYSID Honorary Doctorate Recipients

Trisha Wilson and Jamie Drake also received honorary doctorate degrees from the New York School of Interior Design (NYSID).

[contractdesign.com/nysidrecipients](http://contractdesign.com/nysidrecipients)

#### Rockwell Nominated for Two 2015 Tony Awards

David Rockwell was nominated for set design for "On the Twentieth Century" (below) and "You Can't Take It With You."

[contractdesign.com/tonyawards](http://contractdesign.com/tonyawards)



#### ASID Names 2015 National Awards Recipients

Recipients of the 2015 ASID National Awards include Sonya Dufner, FASID, of Gensler, who will receive the Designer of Distinction honor at the ASID 40th Anniversary Celebration in Boston on July 18.

[contractdesign.com/asidnationalawards](http://contractdesign.com/asidnationalawards)

#### Facebook Moves Into New Frank Gehry-designed Headquarters

Located in Silicon Valley, California, the new 433,555-square-foot headquarters features an open floor plan and a nine-acre rooftop park.

[contractdesign.com/facebookheadquarters](http://contractdesign.com/facebookheadquarters)

#### IIDA to Induct New President and Board Members

Scott Hierlinger, IIDA, will become the 2015-16 president, and four new board members will be inducted at IIDA's annual meeting on June 14.

[contractdesign.com/iidaboard](http://contractdesign.com/iidaboard)

#### PERKINS+WILL

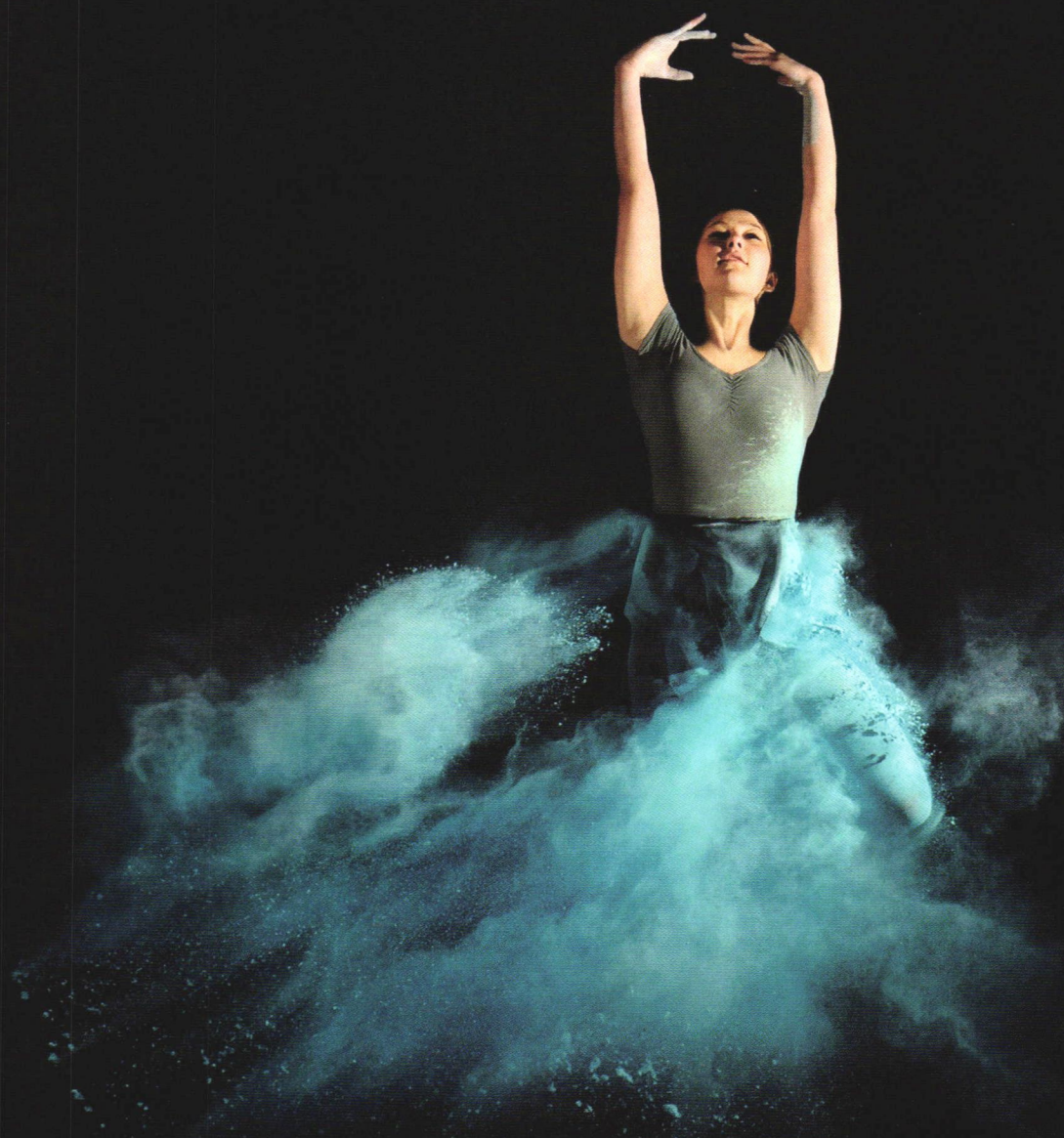
##### Designing for Health: Medical Simulation Center as Theater

Healthcare experts at Perkins+Will discuss the integration of theater elements for the firm's design of the Mayo Simulation Center.

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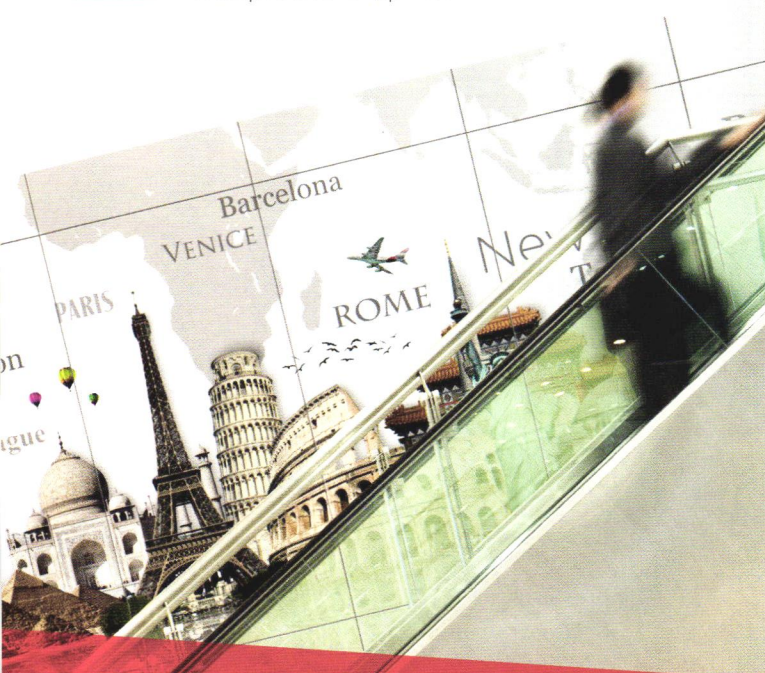
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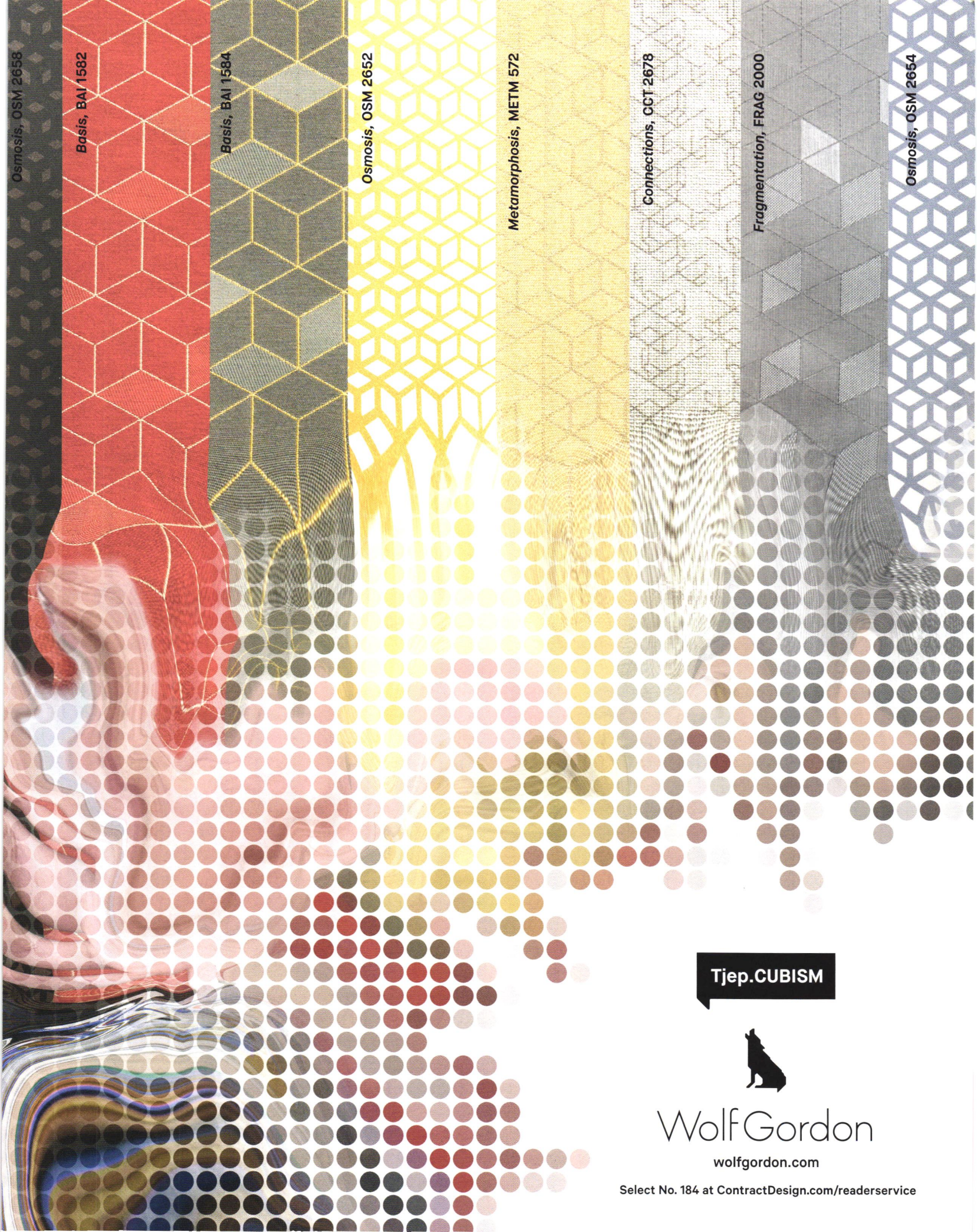
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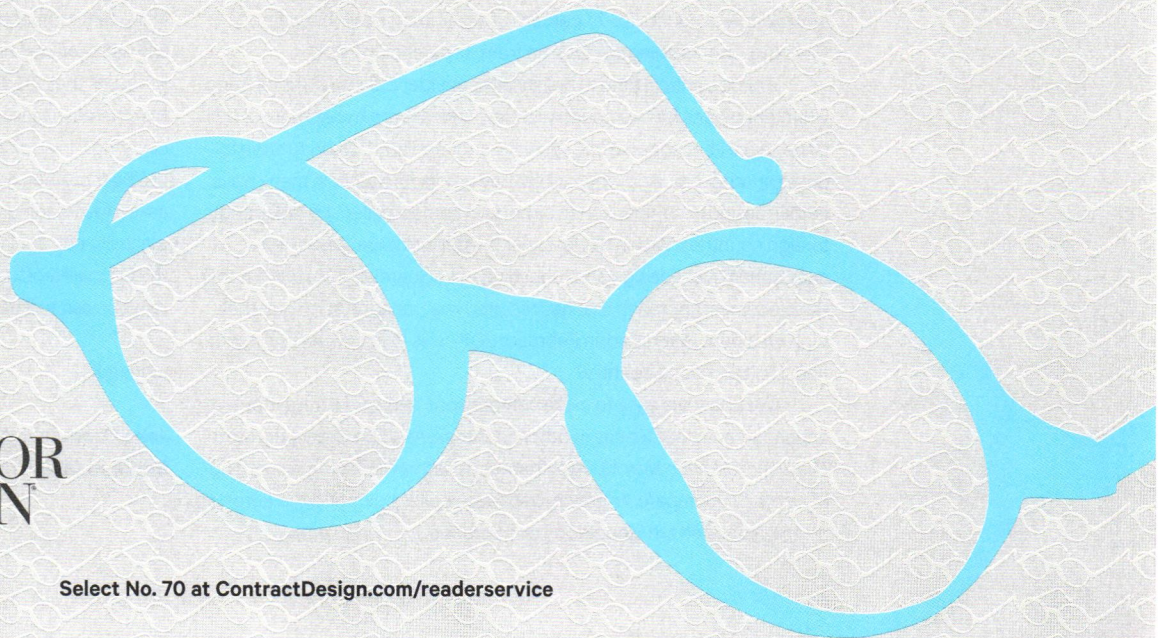
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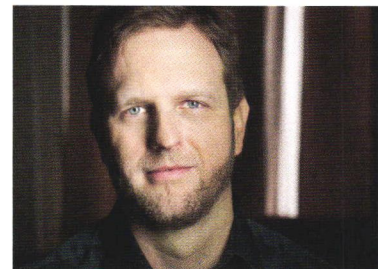
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## Time to Consider What Is Important

This time of year is busy for all of us in the commercial design profession and related industries, as we all seem to be traveling for business and industry events. As *Contract* editors completed this issue of the magazine in mid-May, four architecture or design-related trade shows—all of which our readers attend—were taking place nearly simultaneously across the country, and it was Design Week in New York. The week was a whirlwind for the industry that required considerable travel for many.

That same week, we watched the news of the Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia, which shut down the busiest rail corridor in the country for days. As we know it, Amtrak train 188 was moving at an excessive speed moments before the derailment. Nevertheless, the incident shed light on the state of our infrastructure in this country, and it highlighted how one major event can cripple a system.

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Convention began in Atlanta a day and a half after the train accident. Next year, the AIA convenes in Philadelphia. Imagine if this year's convention were on the same dates in Philadelphia, and consider all of those on the East Coast who would be planning to get there by train. Amtrak ridership in this Northeast Corridor rose 50 percent in just the last 15 years. And Amtrak now accounts for 77 percent of all rail or air travel between New York and Washington, D.C., up from 37 percent in 2000.

This is a critical time to holistically consider our infrastructure and what that means for this country. In New York, we are hyperaware of this issue, in part because we use subways and regularly hop on Amtrak to get to another city. And when we fly, LaGuardia Airport is, in many ways, embarrassing in comparison to airports in some smaller U.S. cities and foreign countries. Within the last year, lawmakers have supported a comprehensive redesign and rebuilding of LaGuardia Airport rather than the piecemeal approach that has resulted in a transportation hub that Vice President Biden said, in February 2014, was akin to what one might find "in a third world country."

We know it is easy to make comparisons to the vast infrastructure enhancements that we see in other countries. As John Cassidy wrote in *The New Yorker* on May 13: "At this stage, it has now become something of a cliché to compare Amtrak to Japanese bullet trains and the Eurostar, or J.F.K. to airports in Hong Kong and Singapore."

Improved transportation infrastructure—whether it be modernized airports or rail stations, faster trains with more safeguards, or upgrades to roads and highways—has an absolute impact on our commercial design profession. And while we are considering infrastructure, we should include schools and public amenities in the conversation as well. Taking a view that's very focused (and literal) on our industry, improving infrastructure can result in architecture and interiors projects—real work with tangible business results.

But taking a broader view, a compromised infrastructure network relates to lost productivity and ultimately reduces our GDP. As a country that continues to grow, economic development and economic opportunity is absolutely dependent on a sound infrastructure network. And as populations increase, especially in the Northeast U.S., this will become more and more critical. Simply put, good infrastructure—resilient infrastructure—means a sound, resilient, growing economy, and good business. It's in all of our interests to advocate for that.

### Previewing NeoCon®

I invite you to take a close look inside this issue. We've reconceived our preview coverage of NeoCon®, the commercial interiors industry's most important annual event. In this issue, we are pleased to present the Official NeoCon® Product Preview. We've highlighted numerous products that will debut at NeoCon®, organized by floor in The Merchandise Mart—from furnishings to systems to fabrics and floor coverings. In addition, you'll find information on the keynote speakers, the Best of NeoCon® awards program, and other key events. Also, we asked four leading Chicago designers to offer their tips on the best places to eat, drink, and visit in the Windy City. We hope you will find the Official NeoCon® Product Preview to be not only useful, but essential for your visit to The Merchandise Mart in June. I'll see you there!

Sincerely,

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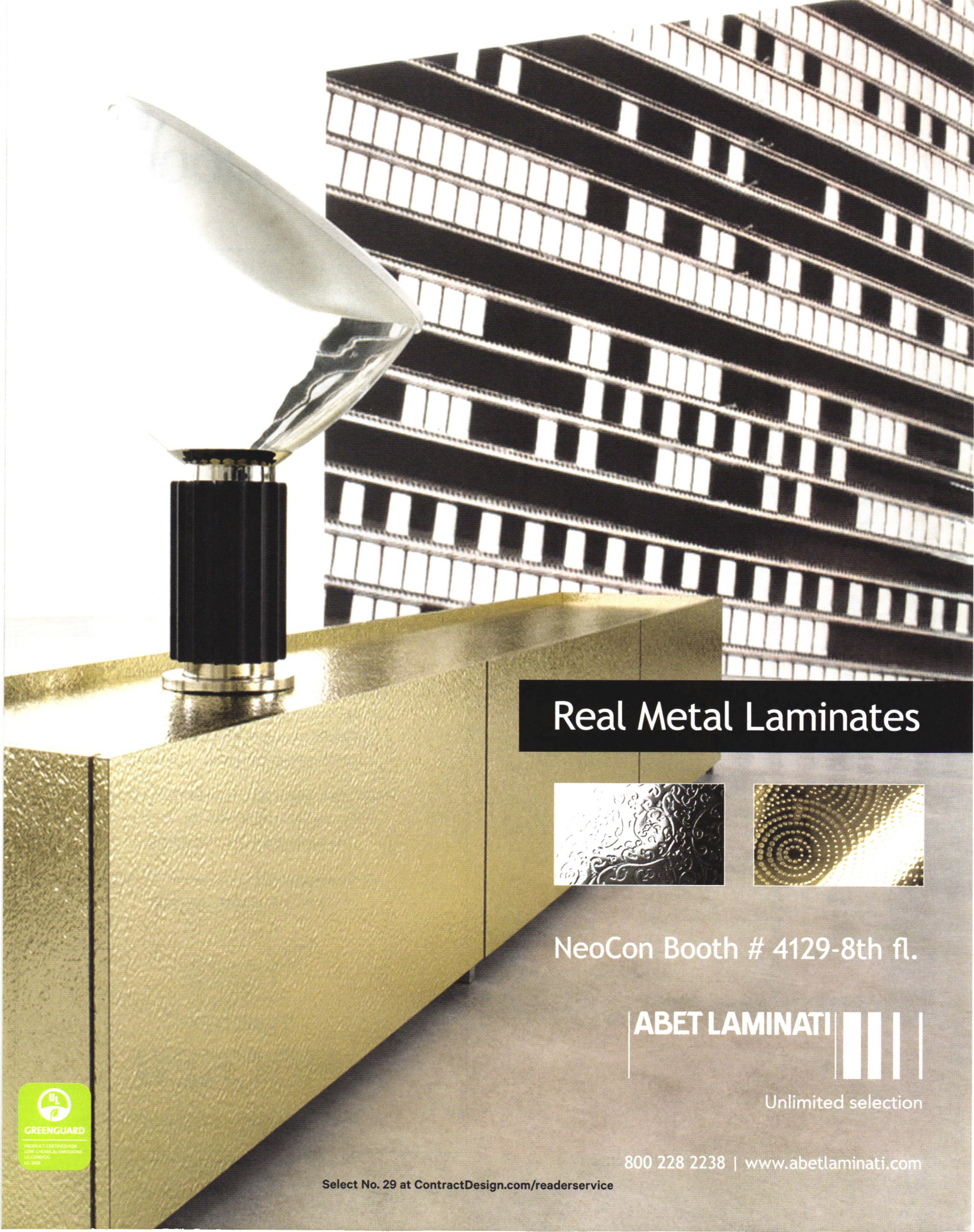


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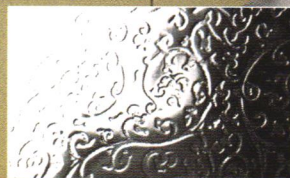
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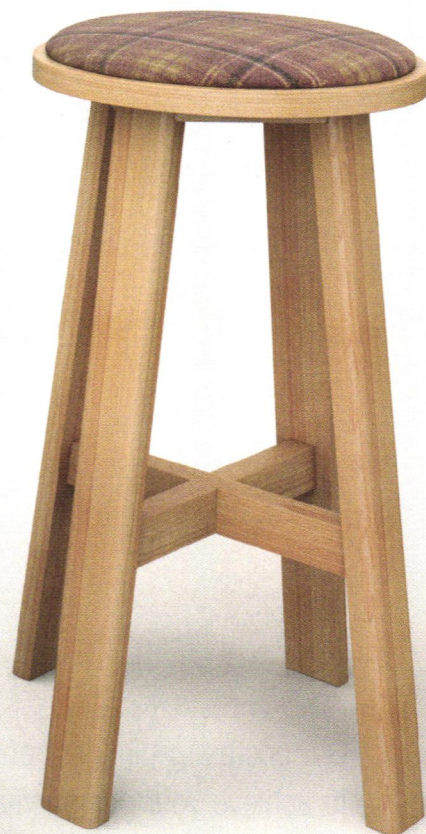
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# GlobalShop 2015: What's in Store for Retail's Future



Hointer Founder and CEO Nadia Shouraboura (top left) delivered the keynote address. The show floor featured products for all types of retail environments.

As the largest annual trade show for the visual merchandising, store design, and in-store marketing industries, GlobalShop 2015 offered attendees a first look at new products, including surfacing, lighting, fixtures, signage, and in-store technology. This year's event was held at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas in March.

A highlight at this year's show was "The Path to Purchase: Destination Bricks & Mortar," a centerpiece exhibit that showcased new tools and technologies and explored the merging of the digital and physical worlds of retail. The exhibit spotlighted the importance of creating dynamic shopping environments online and in-store and the role of social media. In response to the exhibit, a panel discussion focused on the "digital" retail world. Panel members described technology as a key—but not always welcome—part of their path to purchase. "To get my attention, technology needs to be either necessary or fun," said one panel member. "The products and displays in the exhibit that were most successful were the ones that were easy to use, visual, and interactive."

Hointer Founder and CEO Nadia Shouraboura delivered the keynote address, "In-Store Shopping Re-invented: Digital Meets Physical." She explained how she applied her knowledge of e-commerce, gained while at Amazon, to a brick-and-mortar store for her high-end denim concept. "When you come in, you don't see products, but you see experiences," she said. "You can engage with these experiences."

GlobalShop provided many networking opportunities and Vegas-style fun. The A.R.E. Design Awards were presented at the Four Seasons Hotel, and Kleinfeld Hudson's Bay in Toronto received the store of the year award. The GlobalShop Opening Night Bash, held at Light Nightclub at Mandalay Bay, featured three Cirque du Soleil performances. Additional GlobalShop 2015 highlights included the Retail Roundtable, a peer-to-peer networking event with retail VIPs, and Best of GlobalShop, which is a show-floor competition giving attendees the chance to see the show's most unique products. —LAUREN MITCHELL

The image features two modern armchairs in a minimalist setting. The chair in the foreground is a vibrant yellow with a curved, bucket-like back and a chrome-plated four-legged base. The chair in the background is a muted orange color with a similar curved back but a four-legged wooden base. Both chairs are upholstered in a textured fabric. They are positioned on a dark, highly reflective floor that creates clear, dark shadows of the chairs. The background is a plain, light-colored wall. The overall aesthetic is clean and contemporary.

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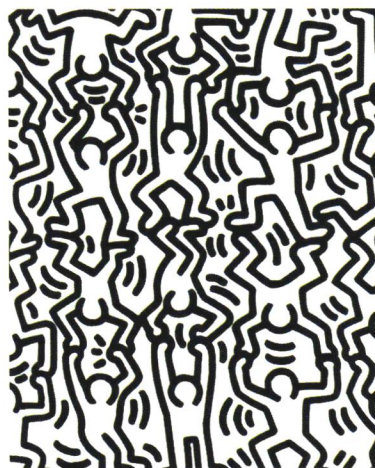
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# Highlights From Coverings 2015, the Tile and Stone Show

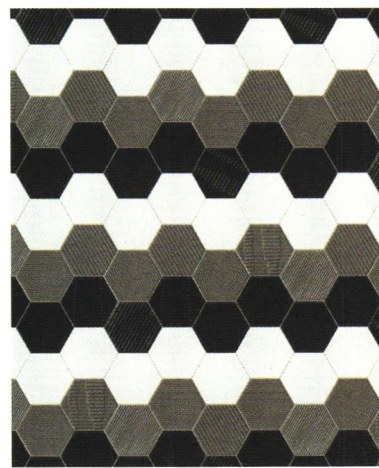


## Ascot Ceramiche: Game of Fifteen

[ascot.it](http://ascot.it)

Ascot Ceramiche introduces Game of Fifteen, a new tile series that will showcase 15 contemporary artists. The first installment of ceramic wall tiles is dedicated to Pop artist Keith Haring. Available in three sizes (8 inches square, 8 by 24 inches, and 32 inches square) and two finishes (matte and lux), Haring's Game of Fifteen includes 13 individual patterns and one larger composition.

Reader Service No. 271



## Settecento: Matière

[settecento.com](http://settecento.com)

Matière, a collection of porcelain tiles, blends a variety of shades and textures. The tiles come in three surface designs (Arbre, Carton, and Fondo) and two hexagonal sizes (9 by 28 inches and 4 by 5 inches). The surfaces are available in five color options: Ivory, Corda, Fango, White Glossy, and Black.

Reader Service No. 272

Designers learned about the latest product offerings at Coverings 2015, the annual tile and stone trade show held in April at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando. The show was attended by more than 25,000 industry professionals, featured more than 1,000 exhibitors, and offered 75-plus free conference sessions with CEU credits.

In the annual Best Booth Awards, four exhibitors were honored for their creative booth designs. The Overall Best in Show award was presented to Stonepeak, and other winners were Saloni Ceramica, Unicom Starker, and Atolini Luigi.

Coverings' keynote speaker was *Contract's* 2013 Designer of the Year Joey Shimoda, FAIA, FIIDA, chief creative officer of Shimoda Design Group in Los Angeles, who shared insight on how architects and designers can incorporate surface materials in innovative ways that blend both culture and design.

The fourth annual Coverings Installation & Design (CID) Awards, which honor outstanding design and installation of tile and stone, took place during an opening night celebration. Thirteen projects were awarded \$1,000 cash prizes and two Grand Prize winners received \$2,000 cash prizes and a one-night hotel stay in Orlando during Coverings.

Representatives from Ceramics of Italy, Tile Council of North America, and Tile of Spain highlighted the top trends in tile, which include wood-, steel-, stone-, and concrete-effect tiles; plays on geometric forms, including hexagons; Pop and contemporary art references; mirrored and metallic surfaces; and raised surfaces that mimic motion. Coverings 2016 will be held April 18–21, 2016, in Chicago. —MALLORY SZCZEPANSKI



#### Sisis: Fibers

[sisis.com](http://sisis.com)

Fibers is the latest mosaic collection from Sisis. Offered in both thick and thin styles, the pattern resembles a waterfall. The thin option features nine colorways in a thickness of 0.55 inches high and 0.39 inches wide, and the thick option has 19 colors at a thickness of 0.39 inches high and 0.59 inches wide. The mosaics come in several formats, including squares and thin rectangles, and materials, such as glass, mirrored glass, marble, platinum, and gold tesserae.

Reader Service No. 273



#### Lunada Bay Tile: Tommy Bahama Collection

[lunadabaytile.com](http://lunadabaytile.com)

Lunada Bay Tile has partnered with Tommy Bahama to create a new line of handcrafted mosaic glass tiles that are inspired by exotic and untouched destinations around the world: Maldives, Cocos Keeling (pictured), Kangaroo Island, Raja Ampat, Surin, Cappadocia, Pamukkale, Socotra, Atacama, and Aogashima. The approximately 12-by-12-inch sheets come in 10 colorways and six patterns.

Reader Service No. 274



#### Flaviker: Backstage

[flavikerpisa.it](http://flavikerpisa.it)

Inspired by the timeworn look of floors in behind-the-scenes locations, Backstage is a line of colored porcelain tile. Available in satin or textured surfaces and in five colors (Bisque, Tan, Ash, Graphite, and Spicy), Backstage can be used for both wall and floor coverings. The tiles come in a selection of sizes and finishes, and the 24-by-47-inch mixed-floor format can be combined with the 24-by-24-inch option to create a multiformat installation.

Reader Service No. 275



#### ABK: Dolphin

[abk.it](http://abk.it)

Dolphin porcelain tiles by ABK reference the mooring posts (also known as dolphins) that are used in lagoons. The collection features six colors—Milk, Clay, Oak, Moon, Grey, and Coal (pictured)—and a range of sizes: 16-by-67-inch, 8-by-67-inch, 8-by-47-inch, 3-by-11 inch sestina rectified tiles, and 8-by-47-inch aged rectified tiles. The nonslip tiles are ideal for both wall and floor coverings.

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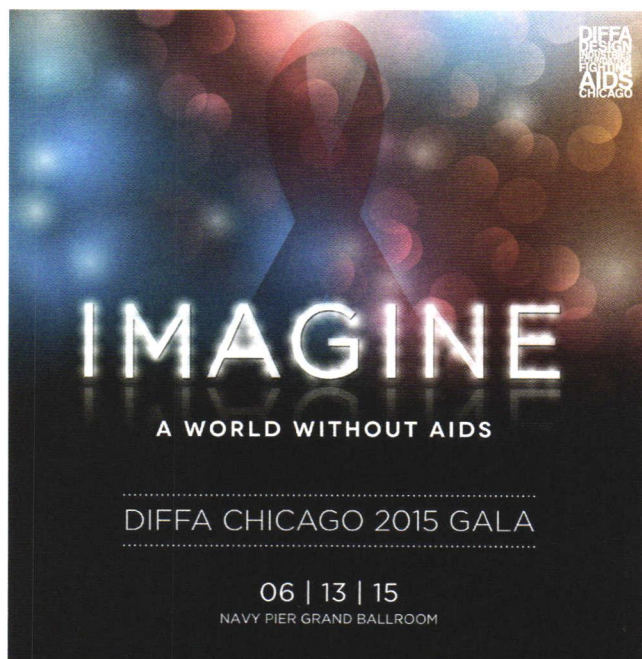
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## DIFFA/Chicago's Annual Gala, The Imagine Ball, Is June 13



Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS/Chicago (DIFFA/Chicago) will host its 27th annual black-tie event, The Imagine Ball, at the Grand Ballroom at Chicago's Navy Pier on Saturday, June 13.

Shining a light on a world without AIDS, the organization's Imagine Ball is the fifth in a series of six Believe Galas dedicated to DIFFA/Chicago grantees. Known as the social kickoff for NeoCon®, The Imagine Ball will host approximately 1,000 attendees for an evening filled with dining, dancing, and live entertainment. The gala will also include a live auction and raffle, and all proceeds will go to Chicago-based service agencies that provide assistance, education, and outreach to those living with HIV/AIDS.

*Windy City Live!* Host Val Warner is the gala's emcee, and Dr. John Flaherty of Northwestern Memorial Hospital will deliver the keynote on the latest HIV/AIDS research and treatment. The gala co-chairs are Ron Leiserowitz, Mary Jo Fasan, and Jeremy Davis.

At the event, the DIFFA/Chicago fellowship at Northwestern Memorial Hospital will be presented by BMO Harris Bank. Steelcase is the presenting sponsor, Herman Miller is the legacy benefactor, and The Design Center at The Merchandise Mart is the sustaining benefactor. *Contract* magazine is the gala's national media sponsor, and *Modern Luxury/Interiors Chicago* is this year's local media sponsor.

The 2015 host sponsors are Phil Stefani Signature Events, Shaw Contract Group, Emily Sachs Wong Luxury Real Estate, and Henricksen. Mesirow Financial, 1871, and Molteni & C are the cocktail sponsors, and Wyster is the brand design sponsor. For more information about the gala, visit [diffachicago.org](http://diffachicago.org). —MALLORY SZCZEPANSKI

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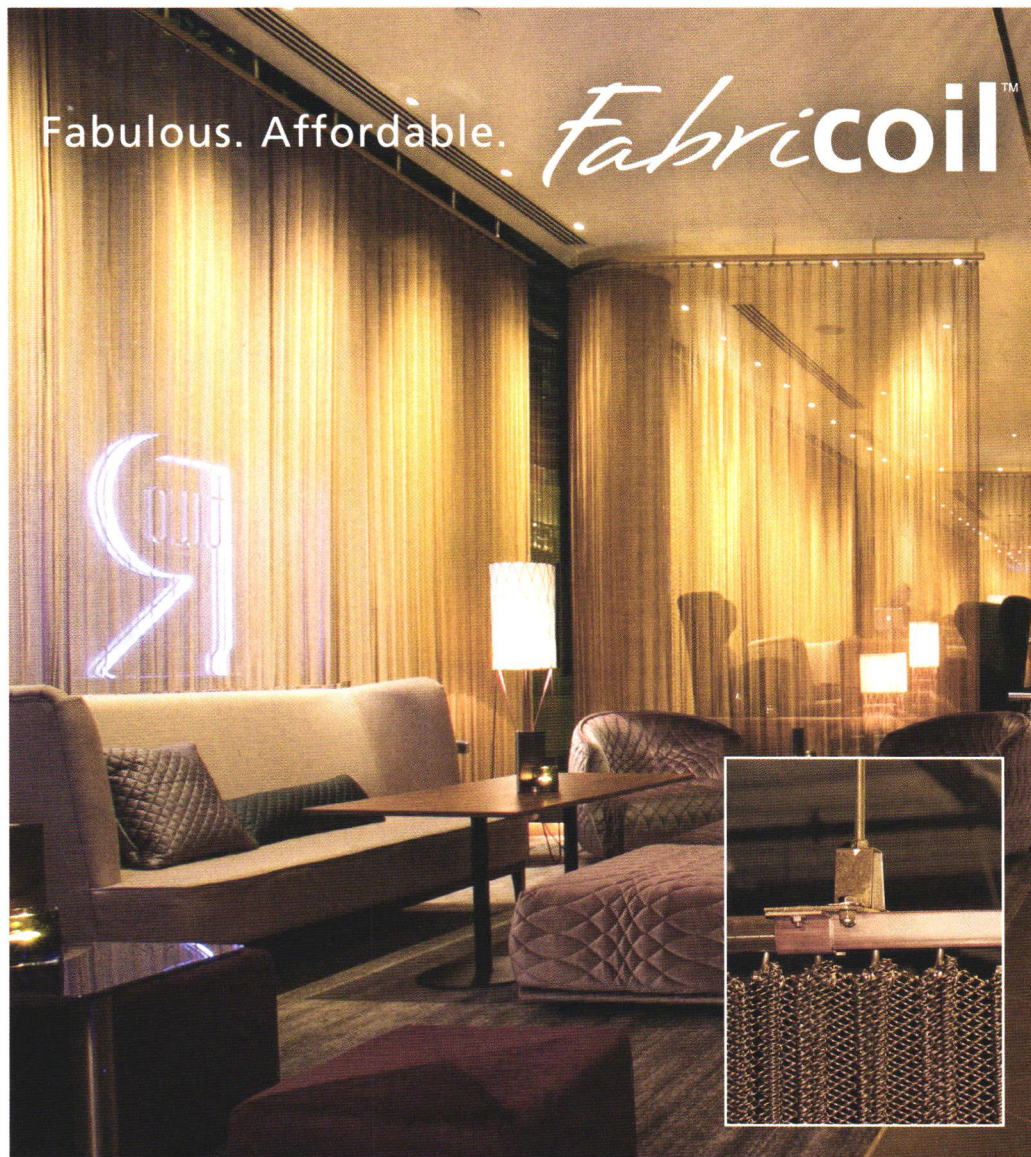
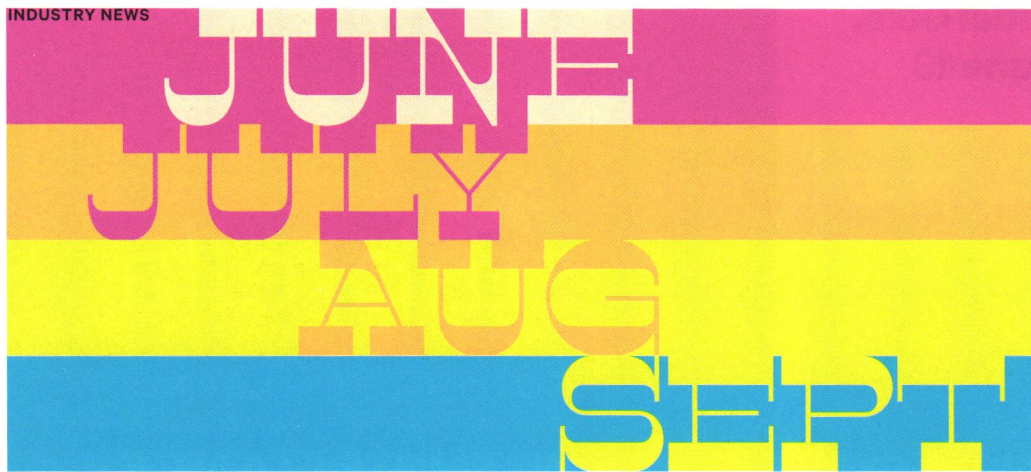
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[hidesign-emea.com](http://hidesign-emea.com)

#### DIFFA/Chicago Believe 2015 Gala

June 13  
Navy Pier  
Chicago  
[diffachicago.org](http://diffachicago.org)

#### IIDA Cool 2015

June 14  
Ritz-Carlton  
Chicago  
[iida.org](http://iida.org)

#### NeoCon® 2015

June 15-17  
The Merchandise Mart  
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[neocon.com](http://neocon.com)

#### Best of NeoCon® Awards Breakfast

June 15  
Renaissance Hotel  
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[contract-network.com](http://contract-network.com)

#### 2015 Every Building Conference and Expo

June 28-30  
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July 18  
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[metrocon.info](http://metrocon.info)

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[100percentdesign.co.uk](http://100percentdesign.co.uk)

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[cersaie.it](http://cersaie.it)

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## Structuring the Stakeholder Engagement Process to Drive Better Design

by Evelyn M. Lee, AIA



**Evelyn M. Lee, AIA,** writes a regular column for *Contract* on business practices in design and professional development. Lee is a senior strategist at MKThink, the ideas company for the built environment based in San Francisco, and holds graduate degrees in architecture, public administration, and business administration. Lee has served on the AIA national board of directors, and in 2014, she received the AIA Young Architects Award. Her website is [evelynlee.com](http://evelynlee.com).

As a designer, engaging with all key stakeholders on a given project—the client; the client's key decision makers, such as facilities and human resources leadership; and real estate professionals involved with a project—may be viewed either as cumbersome and time consuming or as an opportunity to create better outcomes. Embracing the latter in a strategic way often achieves greater consensus for a project throughout the design process. However, in order to make it meaningful to the participants, the client, and the design team, you have to ask the right questions, distinguish definite needs from wants, and ensure that everyone—not just the one with the loudest voice—has an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

### Going beyond Post-its

Similar to the design process, the engagement process needs innovation. Many individuals have participated in an exercise that involves writing on Post-its and moving them around. This remains a valid method, but in my experience with MKThink, the most successful engagements are tailored specifically for clients.

Brainstorming sessions for engagements that I have led at MKThink often start with flipping through the book *Gamestorming: A Playbook for Innovators, Rulebreakers, and Changemakers*. We then adapt one of the many exercises for a client's needs. For example, we recently had a

university client that was struggling with the values that students placed on in-unit versus community amenities when considering new housing on a sustainably conscientious campus. To help students prioritize their desires and understand that all decisions are associated with a cost, we came up with a "Design Your Own Apartment" game. Participants were divided into groups of four as if they were roommates and were given an explanation of the base-level apartment and a set amount of points to spend on upgrades. Upgrading the base unit from LEED Gold to higher sustainable standards would cost the most points, followed by in-unit amenities, and finally community amenities. The game enabled great dialogue between stakeholders and allowed them to collectively prioritize their needs. Each participant walked away understanding the value associated with their requests.

Due to the success of this exercise, we are repackaging it to apply to a workplace client's tenant improvement in order to examine values associated with private office space, communal space, and the desire for different types of individual workspace. The litmus test of a successful engagement is when stakeholders say they enjoyed the exercise so much that they want permission to run it with other groups for greater participation.

The follow-up to the engagement process and the representation of outcomes are as important to the overall

design process as engagements themselves. Often, follow-up can be lacking and produce few meaningful results. How often does the dialogue get reported in meeting-minute format with pictures of Post-its or the engagements themselves? How frequent are outcomes shared with participants? Do they see the outcomes integrated into the building design?

### Quantifying and sharing the outcomes

I tend to take these two steps after the conclusion of the engagements:

(1) Identify quantifiable outcomes, such as votes taken on various scenarios or a prioritized list of identified needs or desired outcomes. Quantifiable data is always of great interest to owners, even if it was gathered through a more qualitative process.

(2) Create meaningful infographics that display outcomes, simplify complex issues, and can be reused throughout the design process. Allowing participants to view infographics afterward is also a meaningful way to share findings with them and give them another opportunity to comment. Our clients enjoy the graphics so much that they reuse them in board presentations, marketing communications, and—most importantly—continue to refer to the results throughout the design process.

A good stakeholder engagement process informs design, but a well-designed, facilitated, and communicated engagement process can proactively drive better design. **e**

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## Milan's highlights in furnishings, floorcoverings, and lighting



### 1. Cappellini: Bison

Nendo has designed a poetic armchair for Cappellini called Bison. A rigid curl, which envelopes a void, is the significant feature, serving as both the backrest and armrest. To complement the solid ash wood legs, the chair's seat and backrest can be covered in a variety of fabrics or leather, with an optional footrest in the same material as the seat.

Reader Service No. 277

### 2. Magis: Officina

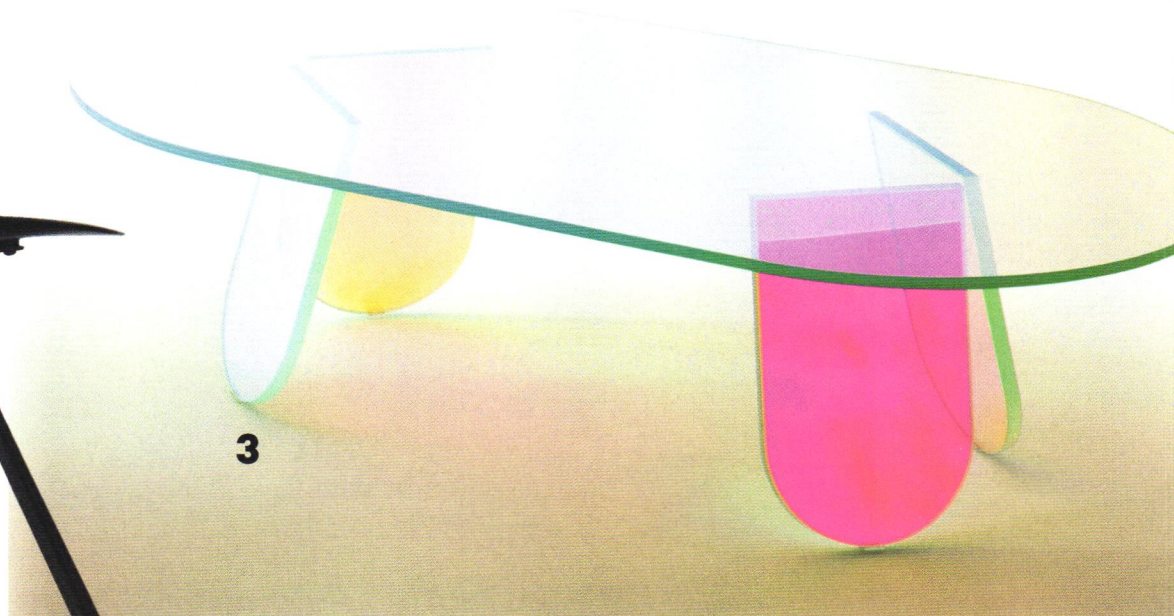
For Magis, brothers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec have added the Officina chair (pictured) and stool to the collection that began with tables last year. Working with wrought iron hammering and the same construction geometry as the tables, the Bouroullecs devised a system of forged legs with a geometrical shape. The seat and back are available in plastic or leather wrapping a plastic shell. The minimalist design combines raw material and an industrial feel with a refined and elegant sensibility.

Reader Service No. 278

### 3. Glas Italia: Shimmer

Patricia Urquiola had a number of new releases at Salone, including the table Shimmer for Glas Italia. Available as either a low table at approximately 14 or 16 inches tall (pictured) or a high table of 18 or 20 inches tall, Shimmer is made of laminated, glued glass with a special iridescent, multichromatic finish. The nuanced look varies according to the angle of the light source and the vantage point. Also available as shelves with a similar appearance, Shimmer can be composed of opaque or transparent glass. The transparent glass has an optional microdot pattern.

Reader Service No. 279



6

**6. Modus: Lily**

The Lily compact sofa by Michael Sodeau for Modus takes its name from the calla lily flower. Inspired by purity in form and gracious curves, the sofa is constructed with a cradling mono shell that is covered in finely detailed upholstery. A high level of craft is evident in the pinched detail at the arms and oak detail at the base. Available in multiple fabrics or leather, the 5-foot-wide sofa seats two.

Reader Service No. 282

4

**4. Alias: Twig**

Combining solid ash wood, plastic, and aluminum in various forms, the five variations of the Twig chair by Nendo for Alias turned heads at Salone. The most striking is Twig 4 (pictured), in which the backrest and the arms are interrupted—a look that is intentionally bewildering. Twig is available with backrests in natural ash wood, an ash or Kvadrat-upholstered seat, and a polished, anodized, or white-painted structure.

Reader Service No. 280

**5. Danskina: Fringe**

Danskina introduced three rugs at Salone, including Fringe (pictured), which was designed by Paris-based Daniel Costa. Brightly colored wool yarns in straightforward colors are woven with charcoal and lighter smoke hues. The raw gray tones are seen at the edges of the rug in a long, tactile fringe. Woven by skilled artisans from India, the rug is approximately 160 inches by 400 inches at its maximum size, and it is available in five colors.

Reader Service No. 281

5

**7. Ercol: Flow**

Architect and designer Tomoko Azumi created the Flow chair for Ercol. Elegant in its simplicity and curvaceous with sweeping lines, the stackable Flow is available in natural solid beech or painted black or white. Azumi leads a London-based firm, t.n.a. design studio, that is focused on furniture, household and electrical products, and lighting, as well as interiors and exhibition displays.

Reader Service No. 283

7



8

**8. Tom Dixon: Melt**

British designer Tom Dixon, who collaborated with Swedish design collective FRONT, experimented in the technologically advanced field of vacuum metalization to create Melt, his latest pendant fixture. With a distorted globe, the light bounces and reflects around the uneven surface to create a dramatic melting-hot-blown-glass effect. Melt is translucent when on and mirror-finish when off (as seen here). Its internal luminosity is visible in full daylight. It is available in copper, gold, and silver and in two sizes: approximately 12 and 20 inches in diameter.

Reader Service No. 284

9

**9. Lasvit: Das Pop Light**

Designer Maarten Baas has developed Das Pop Light, which incorporates hand-blown glass, stainless steel, and black clay in unique pendant forms. This is a joint venture with the glass expertise of Lasvit, the sculptural expertise of Baas, and Baas's production team from Den Herder Production House. Each glass pendant, with an imperfect, almost-comical shape, holds a halogen bulb and is approximately 6 inches to 7 inches in diameter.

Reader Service No. 285



48

**10. Ingo Maurer: Max. Floor**

Max. Floor, an adaption of the table lamp Max. Kugler, is equipped with LEDs for energy efficiency and very high color rendering. The lamp, which is approximately 67 inches tall, is composed of stainless steel and aluminum, and a ball joint makes it possible to turn and tilt the lamp in all directions. The reflector, which also comes in black, can be swiveled in any direction. The dimmer has a slide control.

Reader Service No. 286



10

**12. FLOS: Superloon**

Using a new LED technology with a ring of LEDs that appears to be a flat white disc, Superloon is a new lamp by Jasper Morrison for FLOS. The round light can be rotated 360 degrees on a gyroscopic axis, and the three-leg stand is available in chrome, black, or white. The light is broad and diffused but can be adjusted in intensity and temperature, from warm to very warm, with an optical sensor on one of the legs.

Reader Service No. 288

11

**11. Foscari: Caigo**

Caigo is a suspension lamp designed by Marco Zito for Foscari. The blown glass is crafted in a unique fusion of white and transparent glass to achieve the desired shaded nuance. Caigo combines ambient light with down lighting, making it perfect over a worktable or a study desk. The glass lamp with aluminium base is 11½ inches high and 9½ inches in diameter.

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12

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## Nanimarquina Introduces the Mélange Collection

Nanimarquina, the Barcelona-based designer rug company led by Nani Marquina, introduced the Mélange collection at Salone del Mobile in Milan. Spanish fashion designer Sybilla collaborated with Marquina on the line's four models, a total of 20 designs. The pieces are handwoven from 100 percent hand-spun Afghan wool and allow for tremendous variety. The models Zoom and Stripes are noted for amplified graphics, Color is a study of proportions among colored surfaces, and Pattern features prints in white, black, and red. The carpets, shown here in an assortment of combinations, are meant to be overlaid for the desired patchwork effect.

Marquina visited the weavers in person (below) in Pakistan. The weaving was completed in Pakistan and Turkey, primarily by weavers who are refugees from Afghanistan.

Traditional in technique but contemporary in design, the Mélange collection also includes an ottoman covered in one of the rugs with legs of ash wood. —JOHN CZARNECKI

[nanimarquina.com](http://nanimarquina.com)

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## Overarching Principle

With the Aalto legacy for Artek in mind, the Bouroullec brothers introduce the Kaari Collection



In their first collaboration with the Finnish furniture company Artek, French designers Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec (pictured) created a new collection called Kaari, which includes rectangular and round tables, a desk, a wall console, a small round shelf, and larger shelves.

Kaari debuted at the Artek booth at Salone del Mobile in Milan. There, Ronan Bouroullec described to *Contract* the challenges of introducing a new family of products for a company so well known for its Alvar Aalto legacy. Aalto's furnishings have a strong underlying principle based on a technical approach to the geometries, so "to add something new [to the Artek brand] is not easy," Bouroullec said. "Then the pressure is a national pressure. In Finland, this company is very important. People are looking in a very hard way at what we are doing."

Aalto traditionally used birch for his furniture, but the Bouroullec brothers chose oak—either natural or painted black—for Kaari. Bouroullec explained that the combination of oak and steel is more

pleasing and calmer than birch with steel, which would be too sharp. And oak has a more precise color. "You know what you will get," Bouroullec said.

Kaari means arch in Finnish, and each table in the collection has oak structural supports surrounded by a bent-steel banding that provides diagonal support, a unifying approach for the collection akin to Aalto's use of an L-leg on a variety of items. In addition to the tables, the Bouroullecs designed legs with a single wing-shaped support on one side for desks, and wall-mounted tables and shelves are created with the same principle. The tabletops and shelves are covered in either matte linoleum or glossy high-pressure laminate. Those materials were chosen because they can develop an attractive patina with time and wear. —JOHN CZARNECKI

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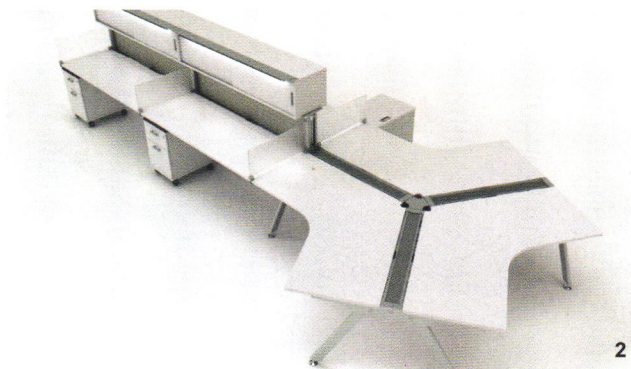
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## New to Market

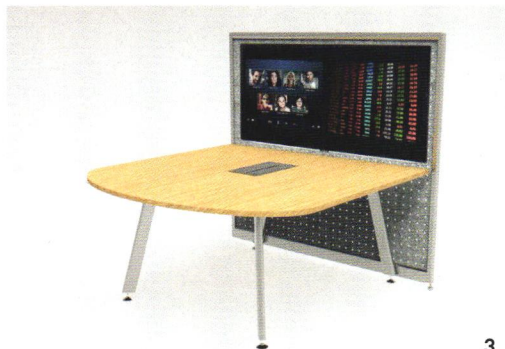
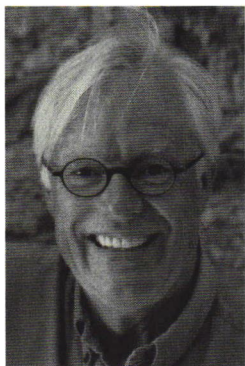
For idesk, a new Cherryman family of products, legend Carl Magnusson leads the brand direction and design of many of the initial office furnishings



1



2



3



4



5

Cherryman Industries, a commercial furniture company founded more than a decade ago, introduces the brand idesk. Entering the market, idesk is touting its in-stock availability and customization capacity supported by five nationwide regional facilities. Carl Gustav Magnusson (pictured above), *Contract's* 2012 Legend Award winner, is providing design direction for idesk.

At NeoCon®, idesk will present a comprehensive line designed by Magnusson as well as Claudio Bellini, Bartoli Design, HanYi Huang, and Alexandros Stasinopoulos. The products include benching and desking, conference and height-adjustable tables, media centers, storage solutions, a range of task and lounge seating options (5), and LED lighting.

Magnusson's design approach for idesk focused on visually simplified forms that translate well to many scales. His idesk Lounge

Seating System (1) for reception and collaborative areas incorporates surfaces for both laptops and tablets. He also contributed the idesk Benching System (2)—its variety of configurations include back-to-back and single straight runs, as well as 90- or 120-degree layouts in fixed or height-adjustable modes—and the idesk Media Center (3), a four-legged table with a power and data-outlet box connecting to OEM interfaces. Another Magnusson design, the idesk Desking System (4), features work tops tied to a central spine storage system and glass or felt screens for privacy.

The idesk furnishings and lighting will debut at NeoCon® in the idesk space 7-2130. —MURRYE BERNARD

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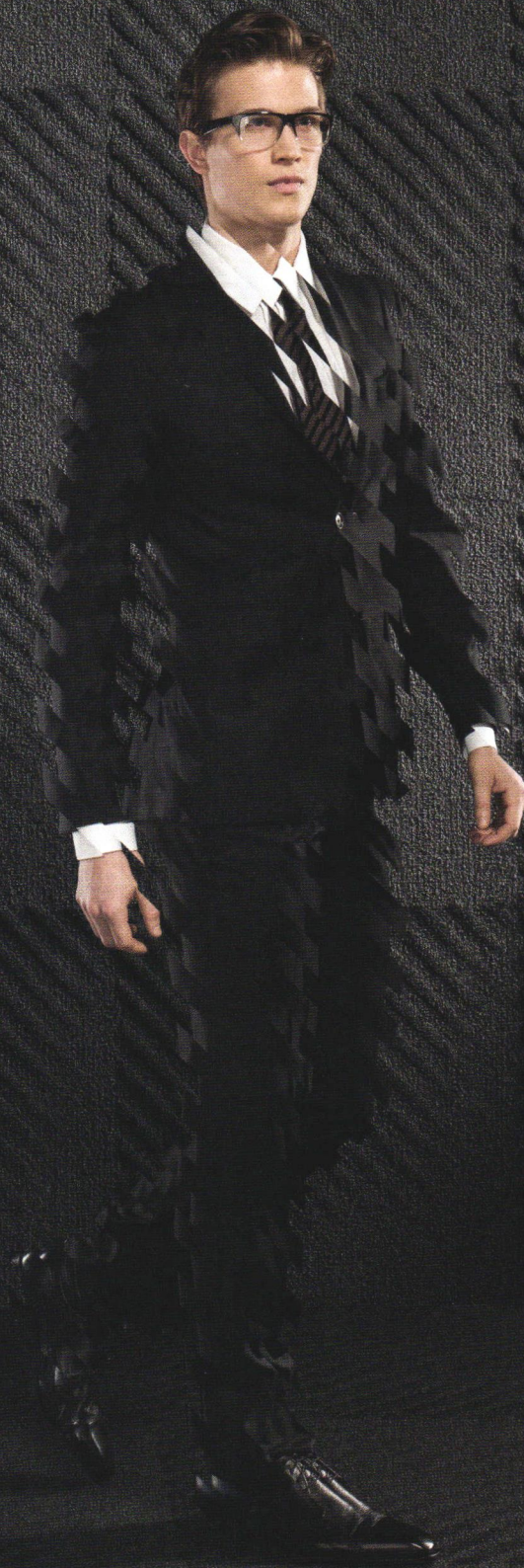
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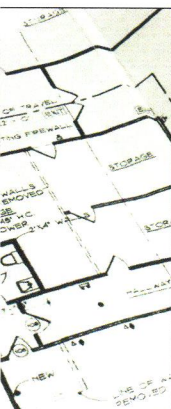


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An overhead view of two women sitting on modern, green, curved armchairs. They are positioned on a large carpet with a bold, abstract pattern of yellow and grey horizontal stripes. The woman on the left is wearing a white dress and white heels, while the woman on the right is also in a white dress and dark heels. They are both looking down at their hands, which are resting on their laps. The overall composition is centered and balanced.

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