IIDANNOUNCES JUDGES FOR 2011 GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

October 19, 2011, Chicago, IL – The International Interior Design Association is proud to announce the judges for the 2011 Global Excellence Awards, the second annual international competition honoring the best interior design projects from outside the United States, which is now open for submissions. The global design competition, presented in conjunction with BMW Group DesignworksUSA, highlights outstanding originality and excellence in the creation of international interior design and architecture projects.

This year’s panel of judges includes design professionals with strong international experience.

- Mari Balestrazzi, Senior Vice President of Design at Morgans Hotel Group.
- Julio Braga, Design Director/Principal at IA Interior Architects.
- Patrick McEnany, Creative Director of BMW Group DesignworksUSA.
- Joey Shimoda, IIDA, CEO of Shimoda Design Group.

“The judges this year are extremely gifted design experts that have an array of knowledge and expertise in the international interior design field,” said Cheryl Durst, Hon. FIIDA, Executive Vice President and CEO of IIDA. “Their broad career experience and valuable insights will provide a strong platform for the competition.”

Mari Balestrazzi is Morgans Hotel Group’s Senior Vice President of Design where she is responsible for overseeing all design for the company, including the renovation of existing properties and development of new projects. Mari joined Morgans’ team from Starwood Hotels and Resorts, where she was Director of Design for St. Regis Hotels. Prior to Starwood, Mari was Studio Director for Aero Studios Limited, where she managed new construction and renovation projects for both private residences and commercial projects, including 60 Thompson Hotel and Giorgio Armani’s private residence in New York. Mari has a master’s degree in architecture from Harvard University and an A.B. in architecture from UC Berkeley.

Julio Braga established Braga Oris Associates in 1999, a multi-disciplinary design firm, which Contract Magazine named an up-and-coming Design Firm of the Year in 2004. His design of a new-concept store for Ford Motor Company won Institute of Store Planners’ Specialty Store of the Year Award in 2002 and was published in Beyond Logos: New Definitions of Corporate Identity. In 2005, he joined IA Interior Architects as Design Director/Principal of the NYC office. At IA, he oversees a staff of 30, and sets design direction for all office projects. In 2008, his design of the NY office for Interior Architects won the IFMA Design Excellence Award. In 2009, his headquarters project for Bancolombia in Medellin, Colombia won Interior Design Magazine’s Best of the

-more-
Year Award, CoreNet CA Chapter Innovation Award, IIDA NY Chapter Lester Dundee Award and IIDA Global Design Excellence Award. He received his diploma in architecture from the Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Patrick McEneany is a Creative Director at BMW Group DesignworksUSA, a strategic design consultancy providing creative services to the BMW brands and some of the world’s most successful companies. He has contributed to a wide range of programs including furniture, appliance, and consumer electronics design, corporate and commercial plane interiors, cruise ships, retail spaces, and prefabricated housing. He has a master's degree in architecture from University of California, Los Angeles and a bachelor's of fine arts from The Cooper Union in New York City.

Joey N. Shimoda, CEO of Shimoda Design Group, has worked internationally in Florence with Christiano Toralda di Francia of Superstudio and in London with Buros von Bolles + Wilson. He worked closely with Peter Wilson of Buros von Bolles + Wilson to design the winning entry for the Shinkenshiku competition, “Comfort in the Metropolis.” He was also a project manager at DMJM where he worked on the building renovation for Rolex in Beverly Hills which has garnered four design excellence awards. In 2000, he founded Shimoda Design Group, a studio that seeks to bring quality design, innovation and technical excellence in projects of every scale. He has taught at the Southern California Institute of Architecture and continues to participate in symposiums and student reviews at USC, UCLA, SCI-ARC, Art Center and Woodbury University. He has a bachelor degree in architecture from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

Check out last year's winner. For more information on the Global Excellence Awards, contact Jenny Palmer at 312-379-5177.

###

**About International Interior Design Association**

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is a professional networking and educational association with more than 12,000 Members practicing worldwide in more than 50 countries. IIDA is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in Interior Design and advancing Interior Design through knowledge, value and community. IIDA advocates for Interior Design excellence; nurtures a global Interior Design community; maintains high educational standards; and supports its Members and the Profession with visionary leadership. For more than 38 years, IIDA has helped reveal new Design talent through a variety of education initiatives and Interior Design/Architecture competitions honoring local talent, including the Interior Design Competition, Smart Environments Awards and Sustainable Leadership Awards. [www.iida.org](http://www.iida.org).

**About BMW Group DesignworksUSA**

BMW Group DesignworksUSA provides design strategy, research, design development, sustainability consulting, brand communications, 3D modeling, and color, materials, and finish to many of the world’s great brands. In addition to being the creative partner to BMW Group, which includes BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, additional DesignworksUSA clients include Boeing Business Jets, HEAD, Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, Saeco, and Sony. The company was founded in 1972 by Charles W. Pelly in Malibu, California, and acquired by BMW Group in 1995. Since December 2009, President Laurenz Schaffer has led DesignworksUSA’s strategy and operations, which includes studios in Los Angeles, Munich, and Singapore. With global resources and clients across a spectrum of forward-thinking industries, DesignworksUSA has an unparalleled understanding of consumers and the world of design that surrounds them, both today and many years into the future. In 2010, Fast Company magazine ranked DesignworksUSA as the world’s “#1 Most Innovative Company in Design,” and among the “Most Innovative Companies for 2010.” [www.designworksusa.com](http://www.designworksusa.com).