IIDA BOARD MEMBER NAMED DIRECTOR OF DESIGN FOR MGM/MIRAGE, LAS VEGAS

November 1, 2006, Chicago, IL – The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is proud to announce that its Vice President of Communications on the International Board of Directors, Brian G. Thornton, IIDA, AIA of Silver Spring, MD, has recently been named the Director of Design by MGM/MIRAGE Design Group in Las Vegas, Nevada. He will be responsible for managing the Architectural and Interior Design activities associated with Capital Improvement Projects for MGM/MIRAGE properties including Bellagio, Mandalay Bay, MGM Grand, New York-New York, Mirage, Treasure Island, among others. In addition to managing the Architectural Design, he will also be responsible for the overall administration of the Design Department, including operations and staff.

Mr. Thornton was most recently the founding principal of Brian G. Thornton Designs, LLC. The studio has completed executive homes in tony communities such as Gibson Island, MD; Old Town and Rosemont, Alexandria, VA; Spring Valley and Wesley Heights in the District of Columbia. BGTD has also renovated a residence and designed the Greenworks boutique for Millennium Partner’s Ritz Carlton West End in NW, Washington, DC. In 2005 Thornton contributed to the planning for an unbadged hotel project in Dubai, UAE with Perkins + Will. His Red Dog Café in Silver Spring, MD is a bronze winner in the IIDA 2006 Mid Atlantic Chapter Hospitality Design Awards.

Mr. Thornton is a former visiting Professor in architecture at Hampton University, in Hampton, Virginia, his alma mater. He began interior architecture projects nearly two decades ago while doing specialty retail centers for RTKL in Baltimore, MD including the first bi-level IKEA store in the USA at White Marsh, MD. He has led and contributed to several award-winning projects in Puerto Rico, Canada, and the USA. In 1991, he was recognized by the International Conference of Shopping Centers for the renovation of Cumberland Mall in Atlanta, Ga. In 1992 following the presidential elections, he was the principal designer for former President Bill Clinton’s groundbreaking Inaugural Commemoratives retail outlet store in the nation’s capital.

Simultaneously in 1992, he was one of three designers selected to design former President, George Herbert Walker Bush’s Transitional Offices in Houston, Texas. His contributions with Gensler Architecture, Design, and Planning Worldwide led to an International Interior Design Award (IIDA 2001) for the COEX InterContinental Hotel and Retail Concourse in Seoul, Korea. That same studio created the Summit Conference Center at the Korean World Trade Center designed to host the Asia-European Conference in 2000. On the entertainment front, Thornton designed two regional-themed casinos and gaming facilities on the east coast, and the keynote to the $300 million Downtown Silver Spring Redevelopment - The American Film Institute/Silver Theater Renovation that opened to high praise in Silver Spring, MD in April 2003.

Mr. Thornton is Past President, and currently sits on the Executive Board of Directors for the Washington D.C. chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In addition to AIA, he is also a member of the International Interior Design Association and was the National Retail Forum Advisor 2005-'06. He is currently international Vice President for Communications for IIDA based in Chicago. His contributions as
Director of Intern Programs both at RTKL and Gensler led to a National AIA award for the programs he directed. His projects have been published in Interior Design magazine, The Virginia Record, and Building, Design, and Construction, and The Washington Post.

###

The **International Interior Design Association** (IIDA) works to enhance quality of life through excellence in interior design and to advance interior design through knowledge, value and community. IIDA is a professional networking and educational association of 12,000 Members in nine specialty Forums in 30 Chapters around the world. Additional information is available on IIDA’s website [www.iida.org](http://www.iida.org).