IIDA FOUNDATION ESTABLISHES NEW PROGRAM SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE DESIGN EDUCATION / LEED REIMBURSEMENT

May 12, 2003, Chicago, IL – The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Foundation announces the creation of the Sustainable Design Education Fund made possible through the generosity of an inaugural donation by IIDA Industry Member Maharam. The IIDA Foundation's Sustainable Design Education Fund was established to offer IIDA Members and the interior design community an opportunity to apply for financial support to further one’s knowledge and to increase their environmental awareness about the importance and effect of Sustainable Design in everyday life.

The SDE Fund will provide financial assistance for activities including but not limited to:

- tuition reimbursement to IIDA members who pass the LEED Accredited Professional Exam;
- financial assistance to attend conferences, seminars and exhibitions (e.g. Greenbuild, Environ Design, etc.) whose primary focus and intent is devoted to Sustainable Design issues and providing learning opportunities to further one’s knowledge about Sustainable Design.

“The IIDA Foundation is excited about this opportunity to take the lead in institutionally recognizing the importance of accredited professionals, educated in the theory and practice of sustainable design, in the ongoing commitment to promoting informed environmental responsibility to the industry,” stated Cary Johnson, FIIDA, 2002-2003 Chair of the IIDA Foundation.

"We are living in a world with limited natural resources which are being squandered daily. Maharam is committed to being environmentally responsible and is making every reasonable effort to put our practices through an environmental filter, not only as a matter of being a good corporate citizen, but, simply put, because we believe that this is the right thing to do," stated Stephen Maharam, principal of Maharam and leader of the effort for ISO 14001 certification.

The IIDA Foundation Board of Trustees will entertain requests for funding beginning in Fall 2003. For updated information on the fund visit www.iida.org. For potential donor information, please contact dkrause@adelphia.net.

# # #
The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Foundation is a not-for-profit, philanthropic organization whose primary mission is to advance interior design through education, research, and knowledge to benefit IIDA and the interior design profession. Additional information is available on IIDA’s website www.iida.org.

The International Interior Design Association (IIDA) is a professional networking and educational association of more than 10,000 Members in eight specialty Forums, nine Regions, and more than 30 Chapters around the world. IIDA is committed to enhancing the quality of life through excellence in interior design and advancing interior design through knowledge. IIDA advocates for interior design excellence; provides superior industry information; nurtures a global interior design community; maintains educational standards; and responds to trends in business and design. Additional information is available on IIDA’s website www.iida.org.