Good design from Herman Miller

GMD is pleased to host Good Design: Stories from Herman Miller, an exhibition that explores the collaborative problem-solving design process employed at the world-renowned furniture company, Herman Miller, Inc. Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art in collaboration with The Henry Ford (THF), Dearborn, Michigan, the exhibition draws upon THF’s Herman Miller Design Collection, a comprehensive archive of the company’s innovative processes and products which have never before been exhibited.

The inspiration for the exhibition came from Herman Miller: The Purpose of Design by design scholar and authority John R. Berry, first published by Rizzoli International in 2004. Berry also served as the exhibition’s guest curator.

Commenting on the idea behind the exhibition, Berry observed, “Many people are confused by the difference between art and design. Design is a noun, a verb, and a problem-solving process. It is art with a purpose. Good design requires a clear understanding of the particular need, conditions, constraints, and opportunities. Good design does not happen in a vacuum.”

Berry explained the exhibition’s organization: “Each object grouping started with identifying a need—to furnish a new type of living space, for healthier seating, to effectively communicate a message, or to support new kinds of work.” The exhibition uses drawings, models, prototypes, photographs, oral histories, and original designed objects to showcase the creation and evolution of many masterpieces of 20th and 21st century design by such artists as Gilbert Rohde, Ray & Charles Eames, George Nelson, Alexander Girard, Robert Probst, Steve Frykholm, Bill Stumpf and Don Chadwick, and others.

“What I know for sure is that behind every catastrophe, there are great lessons to be learned.”

—Oprah Winfrey

The holistic nature of the economic downturn affected all areas and GMD was no exception. The combination of a cut in college support (due to the University’s request that the College of Design make up a deficit developed during its formation) and the loss of investment fund interest necessitated significant changes. Office administrator Barbara Porwit was laid off and we thanked her for three years of dedicated service. All remaining staff took reductions from 10–100%. Any travel or professional development is now paid personally, three newsletters will be produced per year instead of four, and print versions will be minimized in favor of electronic communication.

In this disarray stands the strength that GMD has developed through partnerships with the Friends of GMD and the Twin Cities’ design and cultural community. As we define the meaning of this new financial reality, GMD enthusiastically embraces its passionate partners and volunteers. These dedicated advocates spill their enthusiasm for the museum into the community, infecting others as surely as a virus.

Winston Churchill stated, “If we are together, nothing is impossible.” GMD can be your center for reflection about the current situation, a site for escape, a thoughtful environment for wonder, or an opportunity to identify with people from other times and cultures. This may be the lasting lesson of this financial downturn: GMD exists in partnership with supportive communities to bring inspiration and memory alive. Thank you for your support!

Yours in design,
Lin Nelson-Mayson

Intersections: Where Art and Fashion Meet

July 11—November 1, 2009

Co-curators: Barbara Heinemann, PhD, and Mark Schultz, MA.
Consultant: Margot Siegel

Intersections: Where Art and Fashion Meet is an unprecedented exhibition for the GMD through the pairing of important works of art with significant designer fashion from the collection. Inspired by journalist and Friends of the Goldstein founder Margot Siegel and her immersion in both fashion and art, this exhibition celebrates the fluid relationship between the two worlds and celebrates the exuberance of art, fashion, and popular culture.

Sponsored by an anonymous donor; Macy’s and Bloomingdales, the University of Minnesota Summer Session, Summer Cultural Programs; Fashion Group International of Minneapolis/Saint Paul, Inc.; Craig F. Starr Gallery; Friends of the Goldstein Museum of Design; JB Hudson Jewelers; the College of Design; and generous individuals.

Attendees donate 90 pounds of food

The opening reception for Intersections: Where Art Meets Fashion was a hit with 250 attendees. Guests enjoyed food that pops, including popcorn and lollipops. Margot Siegel spoke about her life and how it inspired the exhibition. Co-curators Barbara Heinemann, PhD, and Mark Schultz, MA, gave a gallery tour of the exhibition.

Guests were asked to bring non-perishable food to donate to Second Harvest Heartland. As a result, GMD donated over 90 lbs of food to this non-profit organization that aims to end hunger in the American Midwest by 2017. GMD intends to aid them in this admirable goal by collecting food donations at future exhibition openings. To read more about Second Harvest Heartland, visit www.2harvest.org.
New Acquisition

One-hundred ninety-eight objects were accessioned into GMD’s collection at a committee meeting in May 2009. Apparel and accessories, textiles, decorative arts, and graphic design objects were donated in the last fiscal year.

Nancy Rose donated two pieces of Catalina pottery: a coffee carafe and a dinner plate. Catalina pottery was produced in Catalina Island, off the coast of southern California, from 1927-37. Originally, all materials used to make Catalina pottery were native to the island, including brown burning clay, which was used to make tiles, tiled furniture, and tableware. This continued until 1932 when the Santa Catalina Island Company began using white burning clay from Lincoln, California. Catalina pottery was sold to a competitor, Gladding-McBean, in 1937. Both objects donated by Rose were made when Catalina pottery was still being produced by the Santa Catalina Island Company. The dinner plate was made between 1930 and 1932 and is Toyon Red made with brown burning clay. The coffee pot was made of white burning clay produced between 1932 and 1937. It has a wood and copper handle and is Descanso green.

Thank you to all of our donors. GMD depends on your donations to expand the depth of its collection. If you have an object you would like to donate, contact Assistant Curator Jean McElvain at 612-625-2737 or jmcelvai@umn.edu.

Sources:
Dear Friends

PRECIOUS MOMENTS IN TIME

I attended the Friends JB Hudson event, “Six Suite Stories,” on August 18 at the Goldstein. What a wonderful evening it was! Seeing Margot Siegal and Dolly Fiterman together again sharing hugs and memories of days gone by was absolutely precious. Smiles and laughter filled the room as we sampled the evening’s specialty, Margotinis. Later on, I saw one of our student volunteers in conversation with Margot about the latest trends and I soon realized that this is what being a Goldstein Friend is all about—making connections, sharing stories, and spreading the word of the marvelous exhibitions at this small but very special gallery. I spoke to the student the next day, and she was thrilled to have had her photo taken with Margot. I expect one day she will look back on that evening and recall it as one of those precious moments in time.

The “Come Together” Macy’s event September 10 was very successful, with $2,000 in donations collected for the Goldstein. More than 100 attendees came to hear Melissa Colbert from Mpls/St. Paul Magazine present the hottest trends. Our very own Friends founder, Margot Siegel, commentated as well.

Eastcliff, home to University President Robert Bruininks and Dr. Susan Hagstrum, was the site for the Friends Membership Reception on September 17. The weather couldn’t have been better for this annual event and the spectacular gardens provided the perfect backdrop for the short program featuring MN Fashion designers Amanda Christine and Allison Quinnell. The local designers unveiled selections from their current collections, available locally at Cliché and Design Collective and Drama.

As we go forward into the fall season, the Program Committee has been very busy orchestrating more amazing events that you should mark on your calendar. All of them are listed on the GMD website http://goldstein.design.umn.edu but I’d like to mention a few.

October brings the start of the Goldstein “Design After Dark” film series, an eight-part series that focuses on fashion designers, to be held the second Thursday of each month. Most of the films are free and will be held at the McNeal Auditorium.

Also in October, is the first Friends Close-Up with subject “Art Into Fashion, Fashion Into Art: Expanding the Visual Field.” Jean McElvain and Roslye Ualtan will speak on the importance of powerful patterns in apparel and accessories and repetitive imagery in Pop Art. This Close-Up will be held on October 22.

In partnership with the Weisman and JV & Company, the Friends invite you to an intimate evening with Yeohlee Teng, November 11 at JV & Company. You will see a sneak preview of the new YEOHLEE Spring 2010 collection.

I hope to see all of you at each of these events. Remember, the Goldstein needs your support. The Friends need you!

Until next time...

Linda Hersom
President, Friends of GMD

Linda Hersom and Margot Siegel, Macy’s

Linda Hersom and Margot Siegel, Macy’s

Delores Defore and Diane Hogan, Eastcliff

MN fashion designers, Eastcliff
The Goldstein Museum of Design acknowledges the following for their generous donations.

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EXHIBITIONS

INTERSECTIONS: WHERE ART AND FASHION MEET
On view through November 1, 2009
Curators: Barbara Heinemann, Ph.D. and Mark Schultz, M.A.

The line between fashion and art is blurry. Many fashion designers with fine arts backgrounds collaborate with artists and many artists who make art to wear or wearable art began their careers in fashion. Both regularly attend gallery openings and fashion shows. This exhibition shows how artists and fashion designers have influenced each other and how each has “crossed the line.”

GOOD DESIGN: STORIES FROM HERMAN MILLER
November 21, 2009–January 17, 2010
Opening November 20, 6–8 PM

“Good Design: Stories from Herman Miller,” explores the collaborative problem-solving design process employed at the world-renowned furniture company, Herman Miller, Inc. Organized by the Muskegon Museum of Art in collaboration with The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan, the exhibition draws upon that institution’s Herman Miller Design Collection—a comprehensive archive of the company’s innovative processes and products.

HGA GALLERY, RAPSON HALL
CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN WARSAW
On view through October 26, 2009
Organized by the Department of the Chief City Architect of Warsaw City Hall

This exhibition presents 20 works of recently-built architecture – public, commercial, and residential—that are a confirmation of Warsaw’s European aspirations. Reaction to these buildings ranges from respect and admiration to controversy and stormy debate. The exhibition features buildings financed through public as well as private funding. Most of the designs for public buildings were the result of architectural competitions, a practice deeply rooted in the architectural tradition of Europe. Co-sponsored by the Polish American Cultural Institute of Minnesota

DESIGN INABA 10X10 LOW COST HOUSING “THE SANDBAG HOUSE”
On view through October 26, 2009
Organized by MMA Architects, Luyanda Mpahlwa, Principal, Cape Town, South Africa

MMA’s contribution to the 2008 Indaba Expo was the Design Indaba 10x10 Low Cost House. MMA and nine other firms were commissioned by Design Indaba to design low-cost houses for the families in the Freedom Park community in the township of Mitchells Plein, Cape Town. The result was a sandbag house which is constructed with an Ecobeam timber frame structure, filled with sandbags, and plastered over. This exhibition showcases this innovative and dignified structure.

NOGUCHI: THE SETS FOR MARTHA GRAHAM
November 9–December 20, 2009
Organized with assistance and generosity of the Noguchi Museum
Isamu Noguchi (1904-1988), a prominent Japanese-American artist and landscape architect, designed over 20 innovative sets for original Martha Graham (1894-1991) dance productions. A ground-breaking dancer and choreographer, Graham defined the modern dance movement. This exhibition showcases over 30 years of collaboration and is presented in conjunction with Northrop’s November 12 restaging of Graham’s interpretation of Greek psychodrama Clytemnestra, a masterpiece of 20th century American modernist dance.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIENDS COLLECTION CLOSE-UP
“Art Into Fashion, Fashion Into Art: Expanding the Visual Field”, Thursday, October 22nd, 6:30 PM. 22 McNeal Hall. $10 students, $25 members, $35 guests, RSVP by Oct. 17 to Goldstein Office, 612.624.7434. Proceeds of tickets benefit the Goldstein.
Jean McElvain, GMD assistant curator, will reveal powerful patterns in apparel and accessories from the collection of the Goldstein Museum of Design. As a complement, 20th century art historian Roslye Ultan will discuss the importance of patterns and repetitive imagery in Pop Art.

AN EVENING WITH DESIGNER YEOHLEE
Wednesday, November 11th, 5:30–7:30 PM; J V & Company, 555 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, $50 each. Limited to 50 attendees.
Meet fashion designer Yehllee Teng, recipient of the 2004 Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for Fashion Design and renowned for dressing the “urban nomad.” See the new YEOHLEE Spring 2010 collection. Organized by the Friends of GMD, the Weisman Museum of Art, and JV & Company.

GOOD DESIGN STORIES: PANEL DISCUSSION
December 3, 6:30–8 PM; 144 McNeal Hall, $10 students, $25 members, $35 guests, RSVP by Dec. 1 to Goldstein office, 612.624.7434.
Join College of Design Dean Tom Fisher and three top design theorists/practitioners as they discuss questions related to design process and the ability of design to address the social problems of today’s consumers. The panel topic is inspired by the Herman Miller model for design problem-solving, which is the focus of the GMD exhibition. “Good Design: Stories from Herman Miller”
On August 18 JB Hudson Jewelers co-sponsored an event with the Goldstein titled Six Suite Stories. This early evening get-together featured six elegant designs from JB Hudson that were modeled by members of the Friends of the Goldstein. Proceeds from the evening brought in over $1,300, which directly benefits GMD. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the museum. A special thank you to JB Hudson Jewelers for their corporate sponsorship.

A view of the re-organized Research Center

Research Center reorganization

The GMD Research Center in 333 McNeal Hall recently underwent a reorganization that will increase the usability of the space. The cubicle space for work stations has been rearranged along the back wall to make the main space more open and inviting to visitors. The work table, where visitors are able to handle objects while wearing gloves, is now centrally located in the room, making it easier for large classes to view objects.

This space is at the heart of our mission to advance the appreciation of design through outreach and education. Students, researchers, design professionals, and other community members come here to examine design objects in person and to consult with our knowledgeable staff.

The next time you visit GMD’s exhibitions, make sure to visit the re-organized Research Center!

ADMISSION AND PARKING
Admission is free. Parking is available at the nearby Gortner Ramp located at 1395 Gortner Avenue. Public parking is available at a rate of $3 per hour up to a daily maximum of $12. Sundays parking is free (except for special events).

RAPSON–MINNEAPOLIS CAMPUS
The HGA Gallery is in the lobby and the Architecture and Landscape Architecture Library is in 210 Rapson Hall, 89 Church St.

HOURS
The HGA Gallery and Library are open Monday–Thursday 9 AM–9 PM, Friday 9 AM–6 PM, and weekends 1–5 pm.

ADMISSION AND PARKING
Admission is free. Parking is in the Church Street Ramp at 80 Church Street SE. Public parking is available at a rate of $3 per hour up to a daily maximum of $12. Sundays parking is free (except for special events).

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FAX 612.625.5762
WEB http://goldstein.design.umn.edu
E-MAIL gmd@umn.edu

MCNEAL–ST. PAUL CAMPUS
The Goldstein Museum’s gallery is in 241 McNeal Hall and the Research Center is in 333 McNeal, 1985 Buford Avenue.

HOURS
The gallery is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 AM–4 PM, Thursday 10 AM–8 PM and weekends 1:30–4:30 PM.

Design in the Dark: A Film Series

October 6 brought the start of Design in the Dark: A film series beginning with Coco Chanel. The 7-part series focuses on fashion design/designers. The Coco Chanel film was held at Oak Street Cinema, and the remaining six will be held the second Thursday of every month at McNeal Hall Auditorium, ground floor. All films at the Goldstein are FREE. Concessions will be for sale. Goldstein donations accepted. Go online for the complete schedule: http://goldstein.design.umn.edu.
GOOD DESIGN
STORIES FROM HERMAN MILLER
November 21, 2009–January 17, 2010