

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2007 ARIDO AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE HONOUR
ONTARIO'S TOP INTERIOR DESIGNERS**

*Luxury Retail, Nature-Inspired Artistry, Urban Originality and Sustainable Designs
Dominate 2007 Gala*

**Projects of the Year awarded for Niagara's Stratus Winery and Umbra Premiere
Retail Location**

Toronto, ON – September 28, 2007 – The Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) announces the winners of its 23rd annual Awards of Excellence, which were held during a gala dinner last night at the Direct Energy Centre as part of IIDEX/NeoCon Canada.

The prestigious award program, honouring creativity and professional achievement in the province's interior design industry, recognized 26 entries in 12 different categories. Among the winning entries, there were two Projects of the Year, four Awards of Excellence and twenty-one Awards of Merit.

“We are extremely proud of the achievement and professionalism of Ontario's interior design community,” says Peter Grimley, president of ARIDO. “While the awards recognize success on an individual and corporate level, they also serve to build public awareness of the power and effect of good interior design on business to remain competitive in today's economy.”

Judged by nine esteemed representatives from business, media and design, each entry was judged on its own merit and on the specific circumstances under which it was completed. In their submissions, entrants were asked to consider existing design elements, budget and project objectives, strategies employed, overall creativity, examples of project results, and sustainability and collaborative elements.

This year's show revealed a shifting emphasis on the re-design of public spaces, as the majority of awards were from commercial and retail-based sectors. The focus on retail was demonstrated by Diego Burdi of burdifilek design who won five awards in total: three Awards of Merit for spectacular luxury retail designs in Holt Renfrew, an Award of Excellence for his work in Capezio as well as the coveted Project of the Year for his design of the retail and tasting areas of Stratus Winery.



Christopher Wright of figure3 scored the other Project of the Year for his dramatic and interactive interpretation of Umbra's new flagship retail location in Toronto.

Indicative of the current commercial building boom, Anna Simone and Elaine Cecconi took an Award of Excellence for their sleek and fashionable Project "X" condominium sales centre.

The final Award of Excellence went to Carol Smith of SGH Design Partners who wowed judges with the subtle branding and natural elements found in the reception area, boardroom and salon of the marketing centre of hair care creator Ojon.

ARIDO congratulates all of the 2007 ARIDO Awards of Excellence recipients:

**INTERIOR DESIGNER/
DESIGN FIRM**

PROJECT

PROJECTS OF THE YEAR

Christopher Wright/
figure3

UMBRA Premiere Retail Location

Diego Burdi/
burdifilek

Stratus Winery

AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE

Diego Burdi/
burdifilek

Capezio

Elaine Cecconi and Anna Simone/
Cecconi Simone Inc.

"X" The Condominium

Carol Smith/
Smith Grimley Harris Design Partners

Ojon

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE - CONCEPT

Jenny Lee/
full scale + partners inc.

Offspring – Interior Design Show 2007

AWARDS OF MERIT

Elaine Cecconi/
Cecconi Simone Inc.

Private Residence



Diego Burdi/ burdifilek	Holt Renfrew Personal Shopping Suites
Diego Burdi/ burdifilek	Holt Renfrew Designer Collection Floor
Diego Burdi/ burdifilek	Holt Renfrew Designer Collection Floor – Feature Display Table
Donald Crichton/ HOK	MediaCom WWP
Christopher Wright/ figure3	Work Space on-Demand Office Model for IBM
Inger Bartlett/ Bartlett & Associates	George Weston Limited Lobby
Inger Bartlett/ Bartlett & Associates Ltd.	Saatchi & Saatchi workstation/exhibition furniture system
Trevor Kruse/ Hudson Kruse Design	The Laneway Mews Interior Design Show 2005
Gerry Anacleto/ Anacleto Design * (Received two Awards of Merit for this project for: Marketing Centre and Sustainability)	Re-imagine, Re-treat*
Jenny Lee/ full scale + partners inc.	Offspring – Interior Design Show 2007
Jenny Lee/ full scale + partners inc.	California Thai Fusion Restaurant
Brian Gluckstein/ Gluckstein Design Planning Inc.	Four Seasons Sales Office
Mike Niven/ Mike Niven Interior Design Inc.	9T6 St. Patrick Model Suite
Alex Chapman/ Chapman Design Group Ltd.	Park Place Condominium
Alex Chapman/ Chapman Design Group Ltd.	The Residences of College Park



Association
of Registered
Interior Designers
of Ontario

Ian Graham/
Oomph

Chaggar Dental

Valerie Gow/
Gow Hastings Architects

Humber College School of Spa Management

Susan Chang/
IBI Group

Sherbourne Health Centre

Ann Callaghan/
Callaghan Letellier Wiens Gibbons
Facility Planning and Design

Callaghan Letellier Wiens Gibbons

About ARIDO

ARIDO is currently a voluntary professional association for Interior Designers in Ontario. ARIDO's mandate is to serve the interests of both the public and the interior design industry. It does so by registering Interior Designers who voluntarily meet required standards of education, experience and examination. For more information on ARIDO, please visit www.arido.ca.