



BEST OF NEOCON UNVEILS 2023 JURY ROSTER

An Impressive Lineup of Industry Experts Will Judge the Distinguished Awards Program on Excellence and Innovation in Commercial Design

(Chicago, IL - April 27, 2023) NeoCon 2023 is just around the corner (June 12-14), and the show is proud to announce the jury for this year's edition of the Best of NeoCon Competition. The roster of forward-thinking industry professionals will represent a broad cross-section of the NeoCon community, including members of leading design associations such as ASID, IIDA, AIA, and the premier facility manager organization, IFMA. The jury features influential designers, architects, specifiers, facility managers, and decision-makers who have a deep understanding of the evolving needs and emerging trends in the commercial design industry. "Now in its 33rd year, Best of NeoCon continues its tradition of convening a first-rate jury, as evidenced by this year's roster," notes Best of NeoCon Director Eileen McMorrow.

The selected jurors are respected leaders in a range of industry verticals, from healthcare, hospitality, and education to workplace interiors. This year's distinguished jury features representatives from reputable firms in design, technology, and enterprise, including Gensler, Studio O+A, NELSON, CannonDesign, Oracle, NBBJ, HOK, SSM Health, and Studio GC, among others. For the full list of jurors, visit [the Best of NeoCon website](#).

"Our jurors, who are actively specifying for projects in commercial verticals, bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the judging process, and their diverse perspectives and insights help us recognize the most innovative and impactful products in the industry," McMorrow continues. "We have a mix of veteran jurors and new jurors who will work together to maintain the institutional wisdom of Best of NeoCon while also bringing fresh perspectives. I look forward to seeing all the innovative solutions that this year's jury will recognize as the 2023 Best of NeoCon Award winners."

"As a three-time veteran juror, I find this experience incredibly valuable, as it provides me with an in-depth look at top products that are relevant to my work and allows me to offer feedback that can help improve the product for specification," says Jennifer Cappella, Associate/Interior Designer at Ballinger. "I'm looking forward to networking

with manufacturer leadership, designers, technical teams, and fellow jurors to evaluate products from different perspectives, market sectors, and project backgrounds.”

In the days preceding the show, all jurors gather on-site at THE MART to thoroughly evaluate all Best of NeoCon entries. The jurors are divided into teams and visit all participating showrooms and booths to carefully assess submitted products. This approach affords both the jurors and exhibitors ample time for comprehensive evaluations. Winners will be unveiled during a live ceremony at THE MART on Monday, June 12, at 7:30AM, preceding the opening of the show. The winning manufacturers will be presented with a distinctive award, crafted by NeoCon partner and renowned graphic design firm Maiarelli Studio.

“Having attended NeoCon more than 15 times, I can't wait to see behind the curtain this year and serve as a juror for the Best of NeoCon Awards,” says Dianne Murata, Founding Principal of Kimiko Designs. “I'm a self-proclaimed 'furniture nerd' and have recently spent a significant amount of time focused on industry environmental and sustainable issues. I am keen to hear firsthand how manufacturers are addressing the needs and demands of facility owner and manager clients and bring this information back to members of Kimiko Green, our sustainability initiative.”

“Being able to participate in the lively dialogue between jurors and manufacturers was profoundly helpful to me professionally in 2022,” says Laura Leung, returning juror and Intermediate Interior Designer at IA Interior Architects. “I've built confidence in learning to ask better questions that are suited to my clients' needs and further define what makes good versus great design.”

The awards program recognizes superlative new products in 56 categories spanning workplace, healthcare, hospitality, and education sectors. A complete list of categories is available [here](#). Honors will be awarded for Gold, Silver, Innovation, Sustainability, as well as the singular honor of Best of Competition. New for 2023, jurors will also consider entries for a Business Impact Award, which will then be judged by a curated group of journalists from leading business publications including *Fast Company* and *Crain's*. Review the 2022 Best of NeoCon Gallery of Winners [here](#).

Exhibitors can submit entries through the Best of NeoCon [online portal](#) through May 19, 2023. Any new products introduced to the U.S. market since June 2022 that will be on display at NeoCon 2023 are eligible. Products that were entered in Best of NeoCon 2022 are not eligible. The remaining **submission deadlines** and entry fees are as follows:

Regular entry by May 5: \$800.00

Late entry by May 19: \$900.00

More details on the program and entry process can be found at www.neocon.com/features/best-of-neocon.

NeoCon will take place June 12-14 at THE MART in Chicago. The show is open to trade, C-Suite executives, and other industry-related professionals and registration is free for all attendees. Register [here](#). Stay tuned for more details on programming, product trends, and highlights ahead at NeoCon 2023!

For showroom, exhibitor, and general NeoCon news, images, and real-time information, follow NeoCon on: [Facebook \(@NeoConShows\)](#), [Twitter \(@NeoCon_Shows\)](#), [Instagram \(@NeoCon_Shows\)](#), and [LinkedIn \(@NeoCon-Shows\)](#).

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About NeoCon: NeoCon is the world's leading platform and most important event for the commercial interiors industry, held each year at THE MART in Chicago. Since launching in 1969, NeoCon has served as the annual gathering place for the commercial design world's manufacturers, dealers, architects, designers, end-users, design organizations and media. The three-day event showcases game-changing products and services from close to 500 leading and emerging companies—providing unparalleled access to the latest and most innovative solutions. A robust educational program of keynote presentations and CEU sessions offers world-class expertise and insight about today's most relevant topics as well as the future of commercial design. www.neocon.com

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About THE MART: THE MART is the largest privately held commercial building in the United States: it encompasses 4.2 million gross square feet, spans two city blocks, rises 25 stories, and is visited by an average of 30,000 people each business day (or nearly 10 million people annually).

THE MART serves as the home to Chicago's most creative and technologically innovative companies, including Motorola Mobility, 1871, Yelp, PayPal, and MATTER, as well as Fortune 500 companies Conagra Brands, Allstate, Medline Industries, Beam

Suntory, Avant and Grainger. It is also the largest and most important center for design in North America with more than 250 premier design showrooms offering the latest resources for both residential and commercial markets.