

Best of NeoCon 2022 Submissions Open March 1 Juried Awards Program Honors Innovation & Excellence

(Chicago, IL - February 2022) NeoCon is pleased to announce that the submission portal to the 2022 edition of the celebrated Best of NeoCon competition will open on March 1. A hallmark of the show since 1990, Best of NeoCon is NeoCon's official awards program recognizing exceptional new products in 54 categories from exhibiting companies across a wide cross-section of verticals.

Longtime Best of NeoCon Director Eileen McMorrow continues to manage the competition, recruiting new jurors with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise, who will join veteran jurors during in-person judging in the days prior to NeoCon, June 13-15 at theMART. The highly-qualified jury is composed of some of the industry's most distinguished design professionals and decision-makers including influential architects and designers, as well as prolific specifiers and facility managers. The jury nomination and recruitment process is well underway and a number of individuals from firms such as HOK, NELSON, IA, and Gensler have been confirmed so far. The final jury lineup and more details will be announced in April.

"As a juror I was able to see and experience the most cutting-edge products first-hand, before the show officially opened," remarks Best of NeoCon 2021 Juror Mike Johnson II, a senior associate|senior interior project manager at Perkins&Will. "Evaluating the new solutions alongside other experienced jurors with varying perspectives, while connecting in-depth with the manufacturers was a great highlight of my NeoCon experience. That mutually-beneficial connection is at the core of every NeoCon, and is brought to the forefront during Best of NeoCon—it's what makes the show and the awards program so valuable."

Best of NeoCon winners will be unveiled at a live event at theMART on the first day of NeoCon, Monday, June 13. To mark the achievement, winning companies will receive a distinctive award designed by NeoCon partner and award-winning design firm Maiarelli Studio and produced by NeoCon exhibitor 3form.

Exhibitors can submit entries through the <u>Best of NeoCon online portal</u> starting March 1, 2022. Any new products introduced to the U.S. market since June 1, 2021, that will be on display at NeoCon 2022, are eligible. Products that were entered in Best of NeoCon 2021 are not eligible. Submission deadlines and entry fees are as follows:

Early entry by April 14:\$700.00Regular entry by May 5:\$800.00Late entry by May 19:\$900.00

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

NeoCon will take place June 13-15. The show is open to trade, C-Suite executives, and other industry-related professionals at <u>www.neocon.com/register</u>. Credentialed members of the media can register for press passes <u>here</u>. Interviews with NeoCon leadership, exhibitors, and speakers are available. To set up an interview, or for more information and images please email <u>alexandra@novitapr.com</u>. Additional details for attending NeoCon can be found at <u>www.neocon.com</u>.

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).

Media Contacts: Novità Communications

<u>Alexandra Zwicky</u> / <u>Danielle McWilliams</u> / <u>Nicole Haddad</u> / <u>Emma Reuland</u> / <u>Katie</u> <u>Fosdick</u>

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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 theMART 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 both leading companies and emerging talent—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.

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About theMART: theMART (formerly The Merchandise Mart), located in the center of the sought-after River North submarket, is interwoven into the fabric of Chicago as an innovator in business, technology, culture, art, media and more. As the largest privately held commercial building in the United States, it is one of the world's leading commercial buildings, wholesale design centers and the preeminent international business location in Chicago. Encompassing 4.2 million gross square feet, theMART spans two city blocks, rises 25 stories, and is visited by an average of 30,000 people each business day and nearly 10 million people annually. Offering continuous innovation and creativity from leading manufacturers and design forward showrooms, theMART serves as the home to Chicago's most creative and technologically innovative companies.